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EDUCATION, YOUTH & LIBRARIES

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 19, 2022

COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Stephanie Palmer, Milan Reed, Genisha Metcalf, Marquis Harrison, Daniel Patterson, Tamara Martin, Shawn Brannon, Crystal McKay, Dana Points,

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Jose Mendez, Oscar Bahena, Afrika Owes

COMMITTEE MEMBERS EXCUSED: Verna Diggs

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Karen Dixon, Dr. Maurice Franklin

STAFF: Jasmin Heatley

MEETING OVERVIEW

Members of the community often request the opportunity to speak with the Community board to request support for their programs, products and services targeted to children, youth and families. What standards should the Education, Youth and Libraries committee look for and promote to achieve the best possible outcomes for our community? The purpose of the meeting was to make committee members and the community aware of the vital work of child welfare/social service organizations in our community. In addition, we asked the presenters, who represented long serving and renowned not for profit organizations to share those characteristics of successful and effective not for profit organizations. The meeting also featured updates from key agencies and partners.

AGENDA ITEM: The Children's Aid Society, Phoebe Boyer, President/CEO, and Harlem Dowling Westside Center for Children and Families, Karen Dixon, Executive Director.

Key Discussion Points

Ms. Boyer spoke about her organization in the context of the power of nonprofits. The mission of CAS is to connect children with what they need to learn, grow and lead, making sure that all children can realize their potential. They work with the whole child starting often before birth. In addition to their impressive direct service programs, CAS believes that their policy agenda is key to their success, specifically, the ability to leverage and impact those complex systems that affect

children, youth and families, including the education system, the health care system and the child welfare system.

CAS is a community of 2000 employees They have been serving the Harlem Community for 70 of their 168 years of service. The Dun Levy Millbank Center is located at West 118th street. CAS is also present in the Taft, Drew Hamilton and Frederick Douglass Houses. In 2020 their moved their headquarters to 125th street in Central Harlem, where they have 300 Staff members.

Although they are funded by the government, they have a robust development arm to help fill the gaps that government does not fill. CAS currently has 145 positions available, and Ms. Boyer invited the community to visit their website to participate in upcoming virtual job fairs.

Ms. Dixon reported that the mission of Harlem Dowling Westside Center is to work with children and families in Harlem to develop confidence, educational support, family support, academic skill and resilience so that our children can become responsible self- sufficient adults.

HDWC 's primary goal is to keep families together. Although small in comparison to a Children's Aid Society, they have an impressive track record for longstanding service to children, youth and families in the Harlem community. What contributes to their success is the utilization of evidence-based practices and partnerships with institutions and organizations that allow them to expand their impact. Formerly known as the Colored Orphans Asylum, they have served the community for over 50 years. During COVID, they distributed food to over 10,000 families, a significant increase. Over last year. H DWC experienced an increase of donations during COVID which was critical because effective nonprofits cannot rely on city and state funding. They have 70 employees can in a small organization the Management staff has to wear many different hats in order to compete successfully with larger organization. Ms. Dixon concluded with making the community aware of the Summer Rising Program. They will serve over 300 children this summer through this city funded initiative.

Action Items:

The committee will share statistics shared about CAS Clients with the Community Board. Specifically, 46% of their family's rely on food supports, 68% had lost their jobs and 69% receive assistance.

The committee will follow up on the summer rising program with HDWC in the Fall

AGENDA ITEM: Alexander Betancourt, Department of Youth and Community Development Key Discussion Points

Mr. Betancourt had to leave the meeting but thanked the committee for supporting the Departments efforts to increase the number of youth applying to participate in the Summer Youth Employment Program. He informed the community that the deadline to complete the application was extended to May.

Action Items:

The committee will follow up to determine if the working papers and health requirements are a challenge to youth and families completing the SYEP application

AGENDA ITEM: Old Business

Key Discussion Points

District Superintendent, Robin Davson was unable to attend the committee meeting and there was no representative from the district to report.

In the absence of Verna Diggs, the committee chair provided an update regarding their request for a letter of support. Chair Palmer reminded the committee and the community that we did not receive the information from the Charter school that committee members requested during our

meeting with the school. We drafted and planned to send a follow up letter asking, once again, for specific information regarding the school's performance, parent involvement and satisfaction and a description of their curriculum of inclusion. The subcommittee wanted to review the requested information in order to move their request forward to be voted on by the committee. In the interim the charter school received a renewal by the state.

Committee member Tamara Martin provided an update on the planned Skilled Trade Fair for high school students. The date is June 21,2022, this will be our last Education, Youth and Libraries committee meeting for the season.

Genish Metcalf provided a timeline template for the committee and those of us working on the Harlem Holiday Toy Drive

Action Items:

The committee will reach out to the District Superintendent requesting her presence or a representative attend next month's meeting.

The committee will continue to explore the charter school issue and follow up with the Charter school. The committee Chair will follow up regarding the availability of the Schomberg for the event. The committee will help the partners in the Harlem Holiday Toy Drive develop the timeline at the upcoming meeting of the Toy Drive Task Force.