

HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – February 2, 2017

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Steve Simon (Chair), Mitchell Glenn (Asst. Chair), Richard Allman, Daryl Cochrane, Wanda Garcia, Javier Trejo, Beatrice Hall (Public Member).

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT (all Excused): Andrea Kornbluth, Elizabeth Lehmann, Javier Trejo.

OTHER BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Osi Kaminer.

GUESTS: Andria Reyes, Alejandro Cruz and Sandra Harris, Columbia University Medical Center (CUMC); Mercedes Bazan, Northern Manhattan Improvement Corp.; Steven Chang and Julio Batista, NY-Presbyterian Hospital (NYPH); Claudia Carias, rep. for State Senator Alcantara; Anthony Ciampa and Julia Symborski, NYS Nurses Assn.; Ting Barrow; Jeffrey Imwold; Arden Walentowski; Catarina Rivera, City Harvest/WHIN Food Council; Maximo Javier, CLOTH.

S. Simon, chair, called the meeting to order at 7:16 p.m. and introduced the committee members.

1. **Educational workshop on Cancer and Genetics** – Andria Reyes, M.A., Administrative Manager/Community Health Educator, Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center, CUMC, gave a Powerpoint presentation regarding cancer, genetics and on personalized medicine, which uses information about a person's genes to treat cancer. Committee members and others in attendance were asked to take a short pre-test and a test afterwards to determine what they learned as a result of the presentation. She has given this workshop to about 25 groups in the community and is looking to give it to others as well. She promised to return in the fall to report on the results of this research project.
2. **The REACH Collaborative: community partnerships to end the HIV and Hepatitis C epidemics** -- Steven Chang, MPH, ANP, Clinical Manager, Comprehensive Health Program, NY-Presbyterian Hospital, gave the following presentation:
 - He is a Nurse Practitioner who has been treating people with HIUV for 15 years
 - The REACH Collaborative includes 6 community partners – Washington Heights Corner Project, Dominican Women's Development Center, The Alliance for Positive Change (formerly ASCNYC), Harlem United, Argus Community and Village Care.
 - They are working to help fulfill the goal announced by Governor Cuomo to reduce HIV infections in NY State to 750/year by 2020. In 2014, there were approximately 3,000.
 - They provide Pre-exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP), Truvada, a pill taken daily to prevent HIV. NYPH is the second largest provider of PrEP in the city (250 people).
 - The number of Hepatitis C cases has exceeded HIV since 2011. Drugs are now available that cure 90% of these cases. People born between 1945-65 should be tested. It is one of the most easily transmitted blood-borne pathogens, usually from sharing needles or unprotected sex. There has been an increase in cases because of opioid injections. Hundreds of thousands of NYC residents are believed to have undiagnosed cases. Screening has been increased by 50% at the Ambulatory Care Network sites.
 - Funding for this initiative comes through the state's Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP) Program as well as City funds, which pay for community health workers, health navigators and peers.
 - The idea is to "push care out to where people are already receiving care" in the community, instead of inside the hospital setting.
3. **Columbia University Medical Center Report** – Sandra Harris, Assistant Vice President, Government & Community Affairs, reported as follows:
 - Students are holding a rally tomorrow in support of the Affordable Care Act and immigration
 - 49 college presidents, including Lee Bollinger of Columbia, sent a letter to President Trump calling upon him to rescind his executive order on immigration. It has affected students at the Mailman School of Public Health and at the main campus with visas who were stranded overseas.
4. **NY Health Act** – Ting Barrow, Uptown Single Payer Committee, and Julia Symborski, RN, NYS Nurses Assn., briefly discussed pending legislation in Albany to create a single-payer health insurance system in NY State. They distributed copies of a fact sheet. As previously agreed, they will be coming to the March meeting for a full discussion of the topic.

5. **NY-Presbyterian Hospital Report** -- Julio Batista, Director of Community Affairs, reported as follows:
 - Four of the Ambulatory Care Network practices will have extended hours on Saturdays 9 AM – 2 PM: 21 Audubon Ave., Broadway (Inwood), Washington Heights Family Practice (W. 181st Street) and the Rangel Center (W. 135th Street).
 - An amputee support group meets the first Friday of every month.
 - Various activities are planned for Heart Month in February, including a presentation about heart disease to the community in Spanish on Feb. 23.

6. **Old Business** – S. Simon reported as follows:
 - The community achieved 100% for both Street and Sidewalk Cleanliness in the most recent Scorecard ratings available (November 2016).
 - He distributed a report from DEP on the Top 30 complaints from CB 12 residents in December. The leading complaints involved construction noise before/after hours (30) and dirty water (26).
 - He also distributed a map showing active DOT and DEP infrastructure projects in the CB 12 area, including several water main and sewer projects. He pointed out that this was the committee's and the board's #1 capital budget request for FY 18.

7. **New Business** – Catarina Rivera reported as follows:
 - City Harvest is sponsoring a "shopping tour" in the Super Foodtown at W. 160th Street and Broadway, on March 11. There will be five stations in the store, and \$10 coupons will be given to people who take the tour.
 - City Harvest is working with Northern Manhattan Improvement Corp. on nutrition education.
 - They are looking into the possibility of having a floating barge on which food is grown dock at the NY Restoration Project boathouse at Swindler Cove.
 - The WH-I Food Council meets the fourth Thursday of every month. They have applied for a garden plot at Swindler Cove.

8. **Next meeting: Thursday, March 2** – Manhattan Solid Waste Advisory Board Priorities for 2017; Presentation on the NY Health Act

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.
Respectfully submitted, Steve Simon.