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## COMMUNITY BOARD ELEVEN

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### Health & Human Services Committee

November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010

Community Board 11 Office

1664 Park Avenue

New York, NY 10035

Present: David L Giordano, Erik Mayor, Hans Desnoyers, Joseph Goldbloom, Willie Mae Goodman, Olga Ambert, Martin Garcia and Amie Kyros-Petrucci

Excuse: Jewel Jones, Monica Brown, Beverly Alston, Deborah Quinones and Johnny Rivera,

Guest(s): Solomon Escott, Frances Mastrota

### Opening Remarks:

The H&HS Committee Chair called meeting to order welcoming committee members and guests. The Committee Chair went over Agenda items to be discussed. The Committee had two presentations: one from Martin Garcia of HIV Network, Union Settlement, Board & Committee Member & Ingrid Gonzalez, New York City Dept of Health, District Public Office.

### Discussions and Presentations:

#### HIV Network

Ms. Martin Garcia led gave an enlightening presentation and discussion on the History and work of the HIV Network from its inception in the early 90's to unfortunately the current December 31<sup>st</sup> deadline ending the statewide service as they no longer have the money to fund the Network service. Mr. Garcia explained that the Health Networks have had to struggle and survive for the past 15 plus years with little funding, however, they can no longer obtain the funding needed to continue services past December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010. He did mention while there are many working hard to see if at least some of the services can still be provided or added to other existing services but the overall community immobilization piece will no longer be available to support the so many who need this connection and service. He did say that many from the field will still try to meet in some forums to advocate for the needs for services through different venues, coalitions etc.

During the presentation, there was a lot of discussion that centered on the HIV AIDS Illness, epidemic and the many successful advances in the medical treatment resulting in allowing people to live longer with the illness. It was noted that with all the much needed and great achievements and successes in the medical field and medical treatment, we are not necessarily preventing people from still becoming infected with the disease and that services also need to be increased around prevention. Information was presented that there is an increase in hetero sexual seniors and youth contracting the disease and that there needs to be more focus placed on increasing information and programs geared towards prevention of these populations. Mr. Garcia also shared as well as committee members many memorable moments and stories of the benefits and experiences in working with the HIV Network. Mr. Garcia suggested that we all advocate the message for the need of the services and

include HIV AIDS as major health issues at community forums and Health Fairs and to be resources of information on prevention and treatment and support with those living with this illness.

### **New York City Department of Health, Local District Office**

Ms. Ingrid Gonzalez presented an interesting power-point presentation on the NYCDOH's Sugar Sweat and Beverage Campaign. Ms. Gonzalez explained that NYCDOH's Campaign's goal is to reduce the consumption of sugar intake from sugar sweet beverages through educating everyone in the community on the effects of too much sugar consumption, which lead to other health concerns and issues such as obesity and diabetes, in order to reduce the consumption of sugar intake from beverages. She did inform the committee that she was not here to promote nor address the Sugar Tax but to promote reducing the sugar consumption of all people through promoting healthy choices based on education of the community. She also explained that NYCDOH District Office is seeking to partner and work with the community board to adopt a policy to reduce the consumption of sugar within our community. During the presentation, there was so much information regarding the amount of dangers of too much sugar intake that is contained in many beverages. As Ms. Gonzalez offered many facts regarding sugar amounts located in various beverages, there was much concern generated and addressed by all members regarding the high sweet drinks that are marketed in the our community such as the cheaper and high in sugar drinks: *Chubbies*, *Quarter Water*, *Tropical Fantasy Soda* which costs 50 cents and which all have No Nutritional Value. Ms. Gonzalez explained that anything you add sugar to – no matter what you call it, is a sugar sweet beverage. She further explained that any eight oz drink containing at least 25 grams of sugar is a Sugar Sweet Beverage. However, stressed that if you have to have your soda, better to drink diet drinks, but still promoting and advocating for healthy choices such as Water; wean off the sugars by mixing juices with club soda (It Tastes Great), balance between a little less sweet drinks and lots of water. She stressed that NYCDOH is promoting "Healthy Choices" by providing education and information; be better informed in order to have healthy options and make healthy choices. She is willing to work with other community groups and CBOs in addition to the Community Board in doing presentations.

### **Budget Priorities**

The Chair explained that at the last meeting there was the decision of the committee to stay with the two same budget priorities as last year but to put into action these priorities which is to: Increase the number of Doctors/Bi-Lingual Doctors servicing the CD 11 Community and Increase the number of Health Inspectors to address the Bed Bug problem and other infestations in the community. The chair suggested that due to the time and that all committee members were not present today as there was a rescheduling of this meeting with another community meeting in which several of this committee's members sit on, so that we would table the agenda item Budget Priorities to address at the next meeting. The Chair once again asked members to think about how they can step up and what role do they would like to play in each of these budget priorities and what assignments they are willing to take on, support and follow through on. The Chair then asked members to think about and prepare for the next meeting, how do we address and put into operation these budget priorities and move them from paper into action? The Chair expressed that it is important for everyone to step up and take on an assignment in support of these budget priorities in their commitment as committee members.

### **New Business: None**

## **Announcements**

1. Ms. Goodman announced that her daughter celebrated her 55<sup>th</sup> Birthday on October 26<sup>th</sup> and will be having a celebration at Terrance Cardinal Cook on November 6<sup>th</sup>.
2. Ms. Goodman mentioned that there is a big pest control problem in west Queens and the number of inspectors citywide is down.
3. Solomon Escott, The Institute for Family Health mentioned that December 1<sup>st</sup> 2010 is World's Aids Day- and his agency will be offering Free Testing-
4. Martin Garcia Union Settlement also mentioned services available at Union Settlement on Worlds Aids Day and that his program is still serving people until the December 31<sup>st</sup> so please continue to refer clients in need of service.

## **Adjournment**

Ms. Ambert moved to adjourn meeting. Seconded by Joe Goldbloom and passed unanimously.