Human Services
April 8, 2019, 6:00 p.m.
Board Office

*** Minutes ***

Present:  Lilybelle Gonzalez, Jarquay Abdullah, Robin Strashun, Diane Collier, Mahfuzur Rahman, Wendy Ferreira (PM), Jean-Pierre Kamwa, Jason Wu

Absent:  Huma Ashraf, Davon Woodley

Excused:  Elsie Encarnacion, Adriane Mack

Guests:  Jaime Gutierrez, DOHMH; Aura Gutierrez; Shawn Hall; Robin Rivera; George Rivera; Julia Camagong; Mapole Teter; Ann Marie Greene; Jackie Lopez-Gopie; Monica Barraza

1. Call to Order– Adoption of the Agenda

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm No quorum was available.

2. Announcements

   Spirit of Service Festival is going to be held April 27 at Dream Chart School 11am to 1pm

3. Presentations & Discussions

   a. Informational presentation on the nurses strike by Mount Sinai Hospital

      i. Brad Beckstrom, Mount Sinai Hospital

      The New York State Nurses Associations are threatening to strike over contract renewals and appropriate nurse to patient ratios. Beckstrom states that Mt. Sinai is part of NY Hospital Alliance negotiating with them. The board had in the previous month voted in favor of a resolution calling for both sides to come to a mutual agreement. He lastly answered committee questions in regard to what happens in a strike scenario. Insurance agreements of patients will remain covered. Planning of surgeries will halt. Patients may opt to going to Metropolitan Hospital and other facilities.
b. Informational presentation by Odyssey House re: new treatment facility on Wards Island

   i. Isobelle Surface, Odyssey House

   ii. Durga Vallabane, Odyssey House

   iii. Annisse Weaver, Odyssey House

Odyssey Houses plans to close their Greenwich Village location and construct a new self-contained treatment center on Ward's Island adjacent to their women and children facility. They plan to have 60 beds for young men 18 to 55 years old for short term stays. They project completion to be done within 12 months. Because they own the site and applied through OASAS, they are able to build as of right. There were about 30 members of the public present at the meeting as well as liaisons for various elected officials, and the item was discussed at length for an hour and a half. Groups such as Harlem Neighborhood United questioned why such a need for a center was there when there was so many available on 125th. Additionally, given the voluntary entry and leave for the programs, community members were concerned about additional quality of life nuances on 126th. Odyssey Houses hopes to continuing it services to all those who need it.

c. Informational presentation from the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene on the Teaching Kitchen that will be a part of the Action Center at 158 East 115th Street-POSTPONED UNTIL MAY

4. New Business

5. Old Business

   a. Continuing discussion on District Needs and Budget Requests

      The committee has submitted its requested to the Mayor for procurement in the executive budget. The committee will now commence work on the 2021-2022 budgets.

   b. Spirit of Service

      The committee discussed plans for outreach and logistical support needed for the event. Committee members agreed to reach out to their networks and spread the flyers about the event.

6. Adjournment

   The meeting ended at 8:30pm