



# COMMUNITY BOARD ELEVEN

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Nilsa Orama  
Chair

Angel D. Mescain  
District Manager

**Human Services**  
**May 11, 2020, 6:00 p.m.**  
**Zoom Webinar**

**\*\*\* Minutes \*\*\***

Present: Denilyn Arciaga, Xavier Santiago, Isaac Scott, Robin Strashun, Vincent Torres, Angel Mescain (staff), Marline Pierre (Staff)

Absent: Wendy Ferreira, Kamwa Jean – Pierre

Excused:

Guests: Monica Barraza, Sheryl Douglas, Matteo Halbert, Julia Chang, Candi Halbert, Valerie Hepburn, Earlene Hernandez, Megan Helvie, Shawn Hill, Ty Howell, Richard Kaplan, Carey King, Rafael Landeiro, Violeta Lisowska, Virginia Little, Lewis Long, Georg Lytle, Natalia Shurigina-Orlando, Diana Ortiz, debra paylor, Jelena Pasic, Farhad Roshanaiae, Geoffrey, Sonia Mendoza, Mariely Moronta – Sanchez, Tony Shaw, Less Weiss, Katrin Zimmerman, Mark Nixdorf, David, Lauren Flanigan, Gisela Soto, Janice Payne, Madlyn Stokely, dustin Rubenstein, Karla Chrzanowski, Gary Bimblick, Hallia Baker, Yoni Piolet, Arthur Spears, Heidi Vejlgard, Derrick Taitt, andrea prestinario, Diane Collier, Oba Battle, Lula Urquhart, Beverly Pabon, Syderia Asberry-Chresfield, Shonique Hill, Johnny Rivera, Katharine staelin, Kate Neuman, Gregory Baggett, nina saxon, Dan Wong, Ila Gupta, Ysabel Abreu, Philip Kelly, John Koeppel, William Rohlfing, Jane Oberle, Elisia Abrams, Maria Granville, Victor Edwards, Maggie McDermott, Deborah Skakel, Ny Whitaker, Tahanie aboushi, Jose Rodriguez, Carol Bryce-Buchanan, Keri Landeiro, Jessica Martinez, Dennis Decker, Jennifer Meyer,

1. Call to Order– Meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m.
2. Adoption of the Agenda – Motion to adopt the agenda made by Isaac Scott, second by Denilyn Arciaga, passed unanimously.
3. Informational Updates
4. Announcements
5. Presentations & Discussion
  - a. Human Services Consortium of East Harlem
    - i. COVID – 19 Resource Guide  
Human Services Consortium representative <insert name> was invited to offer a

Covid-19 Resource Guide but instead gave a presentation on what the Consortium was. Although it was not what he was invited for and due to technical difficulties, we could not address Covid-19. He will be invited at a later time to update the committee. In the mean time, please see his presentation.

- b. Shawn Hill – Harlem Neighborhood Block Association (10 minutes)
  - i. Concentration/ Saturation of treatment facilities in East Harlem. Shawn Hill gave a presentation on the medical redlining occurring within northern Manhattan and in East Harlem. Please see attached report. His data driven report left many committee members with outstanding policy questions for OASAS. Several members were left perplexed as to why so many methadone and “counseling” centers are concentrated in East Harlem when many centers service people from outside the community. The committee discussed how landlords often will take a guaranteed rent over community concerns. Further questions were raised with the ratios of those receiving services in a community they work in versus a community they live in. Mr. Hill expressed that those data points are not available but based on the available data, chances are that people are receiving services closer to where they work than where they live. Committee members were dismayed to see the disparity of distribution. A significant area of interest was the 125<sup>th</sup> Street corridor and the overall impact to businesses and surrounding streets and their residents.
  
- c. Lee Weiss – Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Elev8 Wellness Center of New York
  - i. New outpatient counseling center in the Lee Building on 125<sup>th</sup> Street  
Mr. Weiss gave a presentation for a new center to be located in East Harlem. With services provided in central Harlem and other areas of northern Manhattan, the Bronx and elsewhere, they desired to expand this counseling center believing it would be of service to East Harlem. Several committee members expressed their concerns over yet another center coming to our community. Many of the questions revolved around saturation and “the need” for expansion. Mr. Weiss finally expressed that if the community does not desire Elev8 to expand in this district, he would respect that request and withdraw pursuing a letter.  
UPDATE: Subsequent to our meeting, Mr. Weiss has withdrawn his request.
  
- d. Diana Ortiz – Vice President of the Wellness Center & Upstate Offices of Exodus Transitional Community, Inc. (10 minutes)
  - i. Requesting letter of support to expand facility to service additional clients with dual diagnoses.  
Ms. Ortiz presented a request for additional supportive services covering mental health. She discussed how many of those receiving services from Exodus often have issues with mental health and well being. She explained that this wouldn’t an expansion of individuals treated but rather additional services for existing clientele. Committee members had additional questions regarding the increase in head count as Exodus is capped at approximately 270 people. One member of the committee opined that there is a definitive benefit as they service approximately 85% East Harlem residents.

With so many remaining questions, the attendees were asked to place their questions into the Q&A and the chat to be answered by the presenters. The committee will vote in June on both requests. Please see responses in the June Minutes.

6. General Updates/ Discussion on COVID – 19 – General updates as advised by the BP's office and Gov. Cuomo were addressed. Everyone was advised to observe the medical advice of wearing masks and gloves and maintain best practices. Also, members were asked to inform the leadership and office staff if seniors or others required PPE, meals, etc.
7. Social Distancing Enforcement – members had concerns regarding social distancing enforcement and believe that equitable enforcement should occur. However, members had concerns on community members relaxing observance by not wearing masks properly if at all. Please remain vigilant when outdoors and inside public spaces.
8. FY21 Executive Budget - The committee will begin working over the summer to prioritize the needs of the community given the incoming budget cuts.
9. Adjournment – Meeting was adjourned at 8:43 P.M.