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Health, Human Services, Immigration & Seniors Committee Monday, September 12, 2016 Board Office

MINUTES

Present: D. Quinones, M. Brezin, R. Concepcion, W. Ferreira, L. Gonzalez, E. Grajales, R. Strashun

Excused: N/A

Absent: C. Diaz, J. Abdullah, M. Winfield

1. Call to Order– Adoption of the agenda, motion by R. Strashun and seconded by W. Ferreira.
2. Announcements
 - a. Sat 9/17 - Harvest Fair at Diamonte Garden at 117th St and 2nd PS 155.
 - b. Just Leadership USA is coordinating a March and Rally to close Riker Island and is working on prison reform.
3. Presentations & Discussions
 - a. Informational update on the East Harlem Community Health Committee & CB11 Health Committee's gentrification study's preliminary findings and discussion of ways to use the data gathered for an advocacy platform by Anna-Luisa Mirto and Ann-Gel Palermo.

The CDC has issued a statement on the health effect of gentrification where they identify changes in stress levels, injuries, violence and crime, mental health and social and environmental justice. It limits access to affordable healthy housing, healthy food choices, transportation choices, quality schools, bicycle and walking paths, exercise facilities and social networks.

The Health Committee wanted to explore the potential impact on East Harlem to begin to forge a link to other issues, begin dialogue, raise the issue of health in planning initiatives and identify advocacy opportunities. This is an exploratory project and collaboration with the East Harlem Community Health Committee and Mount Sinai Medical students working. The findings

challenge us to create an advocacy platform, act, collaborate and follow up. There is no formal hypothesis but declarative statements. Please review the attached power point.

A total of 27 community residents representing different community populations were interviewed and in a second round we hope to widen the representation. It was a semi-structured tool developed by Anna. The participants were mostly middle aged. After the interview she identified some themes that she hopes to share with the community. She also interviewed Artemis to get a developer view on the issue.

Preliminary Findings:

This topic is a new link to understating the impact of gentrification and platform for advocacy at all levels. First time thinking about this issue. Seeing changes but not understating what is really going on.

People feel a lack of connectedness, no voice or feel they have links to electeds.

Bigger player pulling the strings or see the larger goals they have

Some folks are happy to see more lights and crime going down.

New Services coming in but are they for long standing residents.

Influencing Factors and Outcomes:

Mental health

Displacement

Not a natural rate of progression rate of change is aggressive

Increase tensions among longtime residents feeling targeting by police

Issues of corruption and agendas moving forward

Unique Issues:

NYCHA

Seniors - No friends

Not connected to services

Home makers don't go out

Panic attacks

Loss of community

The choices you make are based on the choices you have.

Isolated destruction of the social fabric and lack of ownership to community spaces impacts community communication and access to information. Seeing changes that are not necessarily for them.

Next Steps:

Develop a dissemination plan and strategies for advocacy platform.

Integrate findings into Statement of District Needs and review opportunities to raise issues with other committees.

Connect with new health center to inform programming.

Explore another round of interviews to expand representation.

There were no NYCHA residents participated but Anna was directed to the NYCHA TA President Council and did not get a response. How can we get more youth involved in the process. Perhaps a second rounds.

- b. Anna Jankowski – Public Health intern presentation on sexual and reproductive health in East Harlem.

The four overarching categories that she focused on were HIV/AIDS, STI specifically Gonorrhea and Syphilis, Teen Pregnancy and Reproductive coercion. HIV /AIDS are a big problem in the community and there are programs working to address the issue. However she was alarmed at the high incidence among older people who are not testing and getting late diagnosis. We have spikes of increase cases of syphilis. Teen pregnancy is a high profile and past prevention campaigns that targeted the blame have failed. The city has a new IUD campaign that is getting some impact. A lot of young teens are getting pregnant from older men. More young women are complaining that their partners are trying to get them pregnant early in the relationship which can lead to birth control sabotage. It is when the male partner hides, destroys or alters the birth control product i.e. pokes hole in the condom. Shaming campaigns are not always successful and other issues must be address i.e. mental health and other social determinants of health. Birth control sabotage is a growing issue and there is not much research on this. As to why men engage in this is still very complicated and the same as to why young girls are with them. We can share this information.

Anna may be working to look into food security and immigration.

Policy Discussion– Anna

Anna will be on site one day a week and will work with Mahfuzur to review policy and legislation to continue to build advocacy efforts

- c. Committee discussion of FY18 Statement of District Needs and Budget Priorities.

List of Budget priorities that are forwarded to city agencies. If anyone has any comments please let the Chair know. We will work to include information from the survey. We will include TNR and Survey findings. Conduct internal working session to develop implementation strategies

- d. Continued advocacy for the Health & Seniors recommendations from the East Harlem Neighborhood Plan discussion.

EHNP moving forward we must connect with the agencies and Steering Committee lead will come and report their meeting with City agencies. We have to hold folks accountable for the work. They break out into Capital project, policy, projects and many partners and much work to do.

4. Health Committee working session

We want to look back at the NYC Thrive mental health initiative. Muhfuzur completed training over the summer and we should check in with new center at 115th.

5. Old Business

Ben Kallos has awarded us funds to develop the SOS (Spirit of Service). We need a workgroup and we will reach out to Johnson Center.

6. New Business

Mia announced her resignation and the committee thanked her for her work and wished her well.

Change about senior recertification for NYCHA mandate to occur online.

7. Adjournment