



**THE CITY OF NEW YORK
BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 6**

1932 Arthur Avenue, Room 403-A, Bronx, NY 10457

Telephone: (718) 579-6990 Fax: (718) 579-6875 Email: Bronxcb6@bronzxcb6.org

Honorable Ruben Diaz Jr., Bronx Borough President

MS. EVONNE CAPERS
Board Chairperson

MR. JOHN SANCHEZ
District Manager

Health and Human Services Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 16, 2021

The Health and Human Services Committee met on Thursday, December 16, 2021 through Zoom Audio and Video Conference. The following board members were present at this meeting: Nicole Carter, Marilyn Gurley, Angela Hernandez, Matthew Martinez, Francene Miller, Reggie Powell, Divine Sikanku and Lillie Steed.

The following information was discussed:

- **Informational presentation by New York City Health and Hospital Gotham Health Tremont**

Gotham Health is an extension of New York City Health + Hospitals that serves New Yorkers. New York City Health + Hospitals/Gotham Health is a Federally Qualified Healthcare Provider formed in 2012 to enable individuals and families to address their health care needs in their own neighborhoods. Gotham Health provides easy-to-access, high-quality, affordable health care services with a focus on primary care. It is committed to promoting healthy lifestyles and building healthy communities, with a focus upon providing patients and families convenient access to high-quality preventive care, such as annual check-ups and immunizations. Health care teams are trained to help patients manage ongoing conditions, such as hypertension, diabetes, asthma, and heart disease. The committee was informed that Gotham Health Tremont Center of Excellence is located at the intersection of East Tremont and Webster Avenues. It was originally developed to address COVID-19 and currently, it is operating to address long-term COVID symptoms. The facility continues to aggressively adopt innovative health strategies to facilitate positive patient outcomes. The facility is open Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays from 8:30 AM - 7:00 PM. It is open Tuesday and Friday from 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM and on Saturdays it is open from 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM. The staff of the center are hired and recruited from the Bronx community. They have continual training on patient experience. The staff demographics are reflective of the demographics they serve and they are multilingual, attentive and culturally competent. Patients receive services in Pulmonology, Cardiology, Optometry, Podiatry, Mammography and more. They aim to follow the Medical Home Care Delivery model. They also have COVID testing and vaccination and have the ability to treat long-term COVID symptoms. The center provides many options for healthcare and provides care regardless of financial or immigration status. They accept most insurance plans and offer fee-scaling for the uninsured/under-insured. They also offer discounts on prescription medications which can be delivered directly to the site. The administration of the

center and the community affairs team are active in the community through outreach events, screenings and drivers. Individuals can call (646) 815-9700. They can contact administration via email at singh15@nychhc.org or albiosa@nychhc.org. They can contact community affairs via email at marshald6@nychhc.org or edulfo.cruz@nychhc.org via phone at (646) 498-1928 or (347) 392-8619.

- **Information presentation by LiveOnNY**

The committee was informed that LiveonNY's mission is to help save lives, provide comfort, and strengthen legacies through organ, eye, and tissue donation. They work with local hospitals and transplant centers to deliver the gift of life. They advocate on behalf of those who are waiting for a lifesaving transplant. They also educate the community about the power of organ, eye and tissue donation and care for the families of the organ and tissue donors who selflessly give the gift of life. The committee was also informed that in 2020, over 10,000 individuals in New York who are on the waiting list for organ transplant. In zip codes 10457, 10458 and 10460, 204 individuals are in need of an organ donation. One donor can save up to 8 lives through organ donation. One organ donor can save up to 75 lives through tissue donation. Only 43% of New Yorkers are organ donors. On average, 1 new yorker on the waiting list dies each day. In order to register on transplant waiting list you have to get a referral from doctor, you have to be referred as a potential transplant candidate, your medical history on transplant center and an evaluation appointment is required. If the individual is a good candidate for transplant after the evaluation, they get placed on the waiting list. Other things to consider is that the blood type has to be the same, BMI has to match and their rank on the waiting list. 1-2 hours to get organ to destination. In addition, a waiting list is just a number, status does not matter. The committee was encouraged to talk to their friends and family about organ donation. At the moment, no information on whether vaccines has impacted the donation process. No compensation to the donor or donor's family. No age limit on organ donation. No legislation that would opt anyone into donation without consent. Individuals can be on the waiting list for up to 5 years.