PENDING COMMITTEE APPROVAL

Bronx Community Board No. 8

Minutes of the Health, Hospitals and Social Services Committee

Held on Wednesday, December 13th, 2023, at 7:30pm

BXCB8 Office – Conference Room

Meeting Recording

Welcome and Roll Call

The committee meeting began at 7:30pm promptly. Rabbi Kaplan makes a statement about AI (Artificial Intelligence) and takes Roll Call.

Present (7): Rabbi Bob Kaplan (Chair), Barbara Kail, Sebastian Chittilappilly, Margaret Della, Josh Land (EC): Steven Froot, Omar Murray

Announcement of Members Participating due to Extraordinary Circumstances (EC) Rabbi Kaplan

Approval of Committee Meeting Minutes: September 13, 2023 & October 11, 2023

The committee unanimously voted in favor.

Chairperson's Report

At a holiday party held in the EmblemHealth Office, Rabbi Kaplan met with the CEO of EmblemHealth. The CEO informed Rabbi Kaplan that she had appointed someone (George Hulse) from her team to identify speakers to address our committee. They will offer insights into the present state of Managed Care. At the event, Rabbi Kaplan also met:

-Director of Community Outreach for Healthfirst. Healhfirst would like to come in and have a discussion with us. They have a specialty in new products around medicaid and medicare

-The new director for faith based initiatives for DOHMH (Department of Mental Health and Hygiene). Interested in coming in and talking to us about various initiatives that they are putting out through DOHMH for standard and mental health care.

Rabbi Kaplan met with our former Borough President, Rubén Díaz Jr., at a conference in Puerto Rico. Rubén Díaz Jr. is New Executive Director of Community Outreach for Montefiore, he has agreed to come in with his staff to speak about Montefirore's plans.

Rabbi Kaplan wants to look at healthcare as a human right. He will reach out to the Commissioner on Human rights and see if they can bring a presentation to our committee regarding the Bronx being 62 out of 62. Will also speak to the office to find out where the individual community boards are.

Rabbi Kaplan wants us to examine the relationship between elevated COVID-19 rates and the zip codes in the northern regions of the Bronx.

Old Business
Areas of Exploration
Margaret Della introduced the idea of the impact of hate on health, and what it does to a person's body. For example, the relationship between one's feelings and their cortisol levels, risk for certain cancers, and other psychological factors.

Possibly speak with:
-Medical Professional.
-Someone from DOHMH.
-Religious and faith based leaders.

New Business
Rabbi Kaplan believes a mission statement would be powerful for the committee. There is currently a long draft of the mission statement, Rabbi Kaplan asked everyone to read it and make suggestions.

Rabbi Kaplan appointed Josh as the Vice Chair of the committee.

Adjournment
Meeting adjourned at 8:24pm.

Minutes recorded by Taya Jackson
Reviewed by Rabbi Bob Kaplan, Chair