Bronx Community Board No. 8
Minutes of the Health, Hospitals and Social Services Committee
Held on Wednesday, February 14th, 2024, at 7:00pm
BXCB8 Office – Conference Room
Meeting Recording

Welcome and Roll Call
The committee meeting began at 7:12pm.

Present(3): Rabbi Bob Kaplan, Chair, Barbara Kail, Omar Murray (EC)
Absent (4): Sebastian Chittilappily, Margaret Della, Steven Froot, Josh Land

Guest: Hassan Naveed, Director of the Office for the Prevention of Hate Crime

Announcement of Members Participating due to Extraordinary Circumstances

Approval of Committee Minutes n/a

Chairperson's Report
Rabbi Kaplan acknowledges that Margeret Della led us into a good, unusual space, which is the impact of hate.

In regard to the importance of discussing trauma and hate and its impact upon health, Rabbi Kaplan mentions that he met with a friend, Talia Levanov, CEO of the Israel Trauma Coalition (ITC). ITC shows that the impact of trauma on one's physical and mental health is tremendous.

According to Talia Levanov
-About 80% of people who experience trauma, while it affects them both physically and mentally, they are able to cope with it and get over it. (This does not make the individual any stronger or less stronger than another.)

-About 20% of people who experience trauma, it affects them physically and mentally, and they are not able to get over it. Instead, they have serious side effects from the trauma.

In a New York State Department of Human Rights Zoom meeting earlier, Rabbi Kaplan heard from someone who runs an organization in Staten Island. They reported that the immigrant population in Staten Island, particularly those from Central America, "are feeling traumatized all the time". They are traumatized for several reasons, some includes: fears of being deported and people in Staten Island are protesting against them. This impacts both their physical and mental health. There are consistent acts of hate against all of these populations, and no one reports it, due to fears of being deported.

Rabbi Kaplan mentions “The trauma of hate is, unfortunately, one that we’re experiencing in deeper ways within our city.”

Rabbi Kaplan introduces Hassan Naveed as the Director of the Office for the Prevention of Hate Crime (OPHC). Rabbi Kaplan also mentions the organization Partners Against the Hate (P.A.T.H.). P.A.T.H was established to address bias-motivated incidents and hate crimes in New York City. There are currently six partners (Some include, the Jewish, Latino, and LGBTQ community) all of whom are deeply impacted by hate in our city.

Margaret suggested the forum that we are going to engage in, but first we want to get a baseline understanding, on these topics, from Hassan Naveed. What does hate look like in our city? How prevalent is it? What is the difference between a hate incident and a hate crime?

Hassan Naveed:
Hassan Naveed mentions that OPHC was created in 2019 due to the ongoing rise of hate, hate crimes and bias incidents. There are three pillars that “drive the efforts of their office”. The pillars are interagency coordination, education, and community relations. The strength of their programming is at the community level, which is P.A.T.H.

OPHC engages with communities who underreport and those hesitant to approach the police. These include individuals who are concerned with their immigration status, previous bad experience(s) with police, things such as language barriers and a variety of other factors. OPHC wants to address issues holistically.

Information about the three pillars:

1) Interagency Coordination - Addresses the issue of mental health and the impact of it on communities. OPHC works with city agencies; including the Department of Mental Health and Hygiene (DOHMH) and Immigrant Affairs to ensure they are comprehensively approaching these issues.

2) Education - OPHC created a hate crime curriculum, which is part of the larger efforts of the Department of Education (DOE). They also provide resources, relating to the issues of mental health, for people who speak different languages. They teach people how to report instances of hate crimes, as well as the differences between a bias incident and a hate crime. OPHC engages with various communities impacted by hate through outreach and they have a presentation called “Preventing Hate Together”.

3) Community Relations - There are seventy organizations involved that OPHC funds. Work with commission on Human rights. OPHC also provides community project grants, there is an opportunity for people to apply for up to ten thousand dollars of funding with relation to their programming (Pipeline is currently closed). OPHC Sponsorships, are sponsored events throughout the city focused on fighting hate as well as educating the public on what hate crimes/bias incidents are. OPHC wants to engage with communities

and have these events throughout the city that works towards addressing the issues of hate.

Old Business

New Business
Bronx Fellowship Against Hate will launch in a few weeks from now.

• Capital & Expense Budget Priorities for FY 2026

Adjournment Meeting adjourned at 7:44p.m.

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