

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD No. 8
MINUTES OF THE HEALTH, HOSPITALS AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING
Held on Wednesday, March 13th, 2019
50th Police Precinct
3450 Kingsbridge Ave
Bronx, NY 10463

PRESENT

Omar Murray
Julia Gomez
Martin Gluck
Tao Moran
Karen Pesce

AFFILIATION

Chair, Health, Hospitals and Social Services Committee
Vice-Chair, Health, Hospitals and Social Services Committee
CB8- Committee Member
CB8- Committee Member
CB8- Committee Member

GUESTS

Andrew Cohen
Joseph D'Amore
Lisa Daub
Collette Dobbins
Rosemary Ginty
Stephanie Jimenez
Jeffrey Klein
Dan Padernacht
April Hinkle
Georgia Santiago
Laura Spalter
Sergio Villaverde

Councilman, NYC 11th District
Ekawa Rep
Secretary, Bronx Community Board 8
New York State Nurses Association
Chair, Bronx Community Board 8
Safe Horizon
Ekawa Rep
Chair, Traffic and Transportation Committee
Safe Horizon
Community Resident
Vice-Chair, Bronx Community Board 8
Chair, Economic Development Committee

ABSENT

Steve Froot

CB8- Committee Member

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 PM. Committee members and guests signed the attendance sheet on arrival. The meeting is started by Committee members and guests introducing themselves and their affiliation.

The previous meeting minutes of February 2019 was approved.

Vote:

Yes: 5
No: 0
Abs: 0

Presentation on EKAWA Drug Treatment Center by Joseph Francis D'Amore, Janet M. Lerner, and Drucilla Williams and Andrew Williams from EKAWA

There are currently 2.5 million people suffering from drug addiction. Only 500,000 are in treatment. There are currently 40 drug treatment programs in the Bronx. This proposed program would serve the middleclass population in this area. The proposed program would serve individuals sixteen years old and older, using a combination of medication assisted treatment, therapy, yoga, meditation, nutrition, and continuing education. There is no time limit for treatment and treatment will be individually tailored for each patient. There is no requirement for clean time, and they will refer to detox as needed. EKAWA believes that they will have a 50 – 80% reduction in addition.

EKAWA proposes to only accept private insurance or private pay. They deny that they will accept Medicaid even if there is low enrollment. They will be funded through private equity and will not accept state or city money. They will conduct ongoing recruitment until they reach their target of 150 people in treatment. This

recruitment will include outreach to hospitals, and schools, word of mouth, walk-ins, and referrals from doctors, detox and in-patient rehab. They propose to be open from 6 am – 2 pm Monday – Saturday although they state that some of the activities would be open to the public and occur after 2 pm. The proposed site is 10,000 square feet.

This will be the first site opened by EKAWA. There have been no applications filed with the city or state or with any insurances or drug companies yet. EKAWA states that for those who are treated with medication assisted treatment they will be required to have a conversation with the person administering the medication before they can leave the room.

The staffing will be 1 clinical counselor per 50 patients, LCSW, Psychiatrist, medical doctor, two nurses, an office manager. A medical director and a clinical director will be responsible for oversight. The program will have security 3 – 4 security officers some of which will walk a four-block radius around the program. The program will also have high resolution cameras.

The community expressed concerns about safety, EKAWA stated that most of the program will occur before there is much foot traffic on the street. Additionally, the program stated that they will have a monthly community meeting, that they will participate in the business improvement district community board 8, and the 50th precinct.

Currently it is not clear who owns EKAWA, who is on the board of directors and who the CEO is. EKAWA stated that they would send the committee the members of the board of directors, the lease, the length of the lease, which licenses they are applying for and with which agencies, and to make a corporate office available to ask questions. They anticipate being licensed in the next 3 – 4 months. An initial OASIS license is 9 months and then, based on performance, every 1 – 3 years.

Presentation on Potential Nurses strike

New York State Nurses association spoke at the meeting, asking for community support if they need to strike. They stated that the strike was regarding patient ratios. In case of a strike the nurses association will set up medical tents and committees for resuscitations.

Presentation on Safe Horizon Crime Victim Assistance

Safe Horizon will have a domestic violence advocate located in the 50th precinct Monday through Friday 12 pm – 8 pm, and a crime victim advocate Monday through Friday 8 am – 4 pm. They will offer voluntary assistance and client centered practice with clinicians who have a bachelor's degree. The staff will offer internal trainings, police department trainings, and will participate in 2 roll calls per month. The advocates will be advertised on the Safe Horizon and 50th precinct websites,

Next meeting 4/17/19

Recorded by
Julia Gomez
Vice-Chair,
Health, Hospitals and Social Services Committee

Submitted by
Omar Murray
Chair,
Health, Hospitals and Social Services Committee