



COMMUNITY PLANNING BOARD # 11, THE BRONX
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- Youth Services Planning

MINUTES OF YOUTH SERVICES PLANNING COMMITTEE
 MEETING OF NOVEMBER 21, 1994 AT BRONX HOUSE

PRESENT: Linda White; Madeline Saltaformaggio; John Cifichiello; Mauro Fanelli; David Leavitt; Lori Motta; Robert Potter; Robert Gregory (for Heidi Abrams); Thal Davis; Michael Calderon; Harold Chilton; Doris Leggett (for Kristine Haag); Louvenia Jackson.

ABSENT: Mordechai Twersky; Patricia Crowell; Laura Fishman; Rhoda Gogatz (Excused); Leslie McHenry (Excused); Mark Shkreli; Patrick Torney; Andrew Udin; Joseph Barone (Excused); Cynthia Doyle (Excused); Police Officer David Goldenberg; Annette Ladue (Excused); Anthony Morante; Laurie Palmieri; Keith Ramsey.

STAFF & GUESTS: Richard Mancuso (Youth Coordinator); Natasha Smith (NIDC Teen Center); Kevin Smith (Pathways For Youth); Hamin Beyah (Salvation Army Group Home).

Meeting was called to order at 7:45 PM by Linda White YSPC Chairperson. Minutes were read and accepted as a motion was made by Ms. Davis and seconded by Mr. Fanelli. Ms. White stated that the meeting agenda would change as Mr. Barone would not attend due to illness. Also, guest speaker Mr. Kevin Smith from pathways For Youth was delayed and would address the committee upon his arrival.

1. CHAIRPERSON REPORT:

Ms. White said her report would include details of the recent Joint Planning Committee meeting and budget matters pertaining to youth services. Any questions can be answered at the end of the chairperson report. The Joint Planning Committee met on November 9 at the Department Of youth Services where the state comprehensive plan and other matters about youth service cutbacks were discussed. She said the Bronx was represented well. At the meeting, DYS commissioner Mr. Curtis stated that his attitude was hopefully no youth coordinators or programs will be eliminated in the budget modification plan. Other details from the meeting included the cutbacks, that could be detrimental to youth services. Nothing has been declared sacred, with the exception of beacon schools. New York City Youthline will also remain. The current letter of agreement with community boards, the youth coordinator and DYS was also discussed. This expires on December 31. Cutbacks are severe according to the budget modification submitted by

Mayor Giuliani. This includes a possible loss of our community board youth coordinator and reductions in many of our programs. The City Council once again has been approached for assistance in stopping the cuts and we urge committee members to continue and lobby to save what we have in the community, for the future of our young people. The Department Of Youth Services expects an 81 percent reduction in allocations for programs and staff. If no money is replaced under the budget modification, programs will have to close. They will give 30 days notice to DYS and all appropriate staff involved. FY'94-95 contracts to agencies have still not been paid and the situation at this point in time is very bleak. We all have to work together at this tough time and continue whatever efforts we have left. Ms White further explained that the FY'95 process was further complicated by the school board involvement in the process and that the Morris Park Community Association was still being questioned about their huge allocation. She said the association funded other sites under their umbrella with the additional money. Ms. White said the loss of our youth coordinator is very possible and that will further deter our efforts in youth services for the community. She said Rich Mancuso is also assisting community board 10 with some program monitoring because the Department Of Youth Services has minimal staff and CB 10 lost their youth coordinator in June due to severance. She said the committee will be updated as developments warrant and requested that the YSPC meet in December as scheduled. We are in a crisis stage and every moment counts for the future of youth services. We have to work together and make sure that the programs remaining will operate efficiently. She said Mr. Mancuso would update the committee about his situation and the impending RFP that will be released to agencies soon for FY'96. Ms. White said the RFP process should be changed. For new agencies applying in the community there has to be a way to look at their past history. She cited the DARE program in the community that was receiving tax levy money for a drug program. Ms. White said she and Mr. Mancuso have made numerous visits to the site and nobody is ever there. Ms. White announced new appointments at the Department Of Youth Services and concluded her report by stating that another meeting of the Joint Planning Committee would set in January.

2. YOUTH COORDINATOR REPORT:

Mr. Mancuso said he would not take severance offered by the city and will operate daily as youth coordinator for the community board unless otherwise told. The budget modification submitted by the mayor is all spelled out. Youth Services is not an agenda of this administration. Mr. Mancuso said discussions with council reps in the area indicate that restorations of programs has been called for, however, restorations of the youth coordinator position are not in the council plan. The final budget is supposed to be set for vote in the council next week. All indications are the council will reject the modification and the mayor will probably reject the council. In essence either plan does not call for youth coordinator positions. Mr. Mancuso read excerpts of Mr. Curtis' testimony to the city council at the hearings last week. He emphasized Mr. Curtis is committed to youth services, but has to answer to his mayor. Mr. Mancuso said programs could cease operations if the budget matter is not solved. They are already operating at a deficit. The understanding is another RFP. FY'96 is scheduled to be released in a matter of