



Ruben Diaz, Jr.
Borough President

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD No. 10

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Joseph Russo
Chairperson

Matthew Cruz
District Manager

Health and Human Services

Thursday, March 25 at 7:00 P.M.

Via CISCO WEBEX

Present: N. Rosario, D. Hunt, H. Acampora, R. Barbarelli, Colonel W.Chin, L. Council, M. Sajous, R. Bieder, T. Smith, M.J. Musano, M. Bufano

Absent: None

Guests: NYC ACS Nana Adwoa Darkwa, Carol Thomas

The meeting was opened by N. Rosario with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7 P.M. The committee elections were held. R. Bieder nominated N. Rosario for Chair. This was seconded by D. Hunt. All were in favor. R. Bieder nominated D. Hunt for Co-Chair. This was seconded by T. Smith All were in favor.

Nana Adwoa Darkwa (Manager) from NYC ACS gave a presentation about ACS and child protection services and the process for investigations of any issues. They evaluate risk and provide services. Most of their job is to support families and strengthen caretakes so that children are healthy and safe. If Child Protective Services (CPS) has to go to a home they have protective equipment and follow social distancing. Sometimes families do not let CPS workers in, but the child must be assessed at the door. They use phones to assess the environment. If there is COVID 19 positive case, a virtual visit is done.

Carol Thomas (Manager) discussed the processes. Domestic violence has increased. Major complaints from school staff about children not attending virtual classes. There remain challenges due to pandemic since Family Court is closed and many cases are being deferred. Services are still provided but they cannot mandate services for the perpetrator and the survivor may not accept the services. There have been some financial issues, but case workers are still in the field.

There are ways the community can help such as "Kinship." If someone suspects something, they can contact ACS so that interventions can take place. ACS would like to partner with community-based network to support families and spread the measure to demystify the issues surrounding children welfare. Their goal is for children to be with parents when it is a safe environment. ACS would like to know if we can partner with them and if any of our members can attend their meetings. Advised to send information to the board office.

Meeting closed at 7:48 P.M.

Carrol Thomas ACS (646)584-5173

Old Business None

New Business None

Meeting adjourned 7:55 pm