**Community Board 17**

**Social Services Committee Virtual Meeting**

**Wednesday, June 1, 2022**

**Present: Guests:**

Janice Reid Karen Lopez-Rivera,

Jorge Tait Diaspora Community Services

Monica McKain-Brown Lisa Simms,

Diana Gay MetroPlus Health Plans

Sabine Jacques CK Price

Muline Mickle

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The **Social Services Committee** virtual meeting was held on **Wednesday, June 1, 2022 at 7:30pm.**

**Ms. Janice Reid** called the June 1, 2022 Social Services meeting to order at 7:39pm.

**Roll Call-**Janice Reid, Jorge Tait, Monica McKain-Brown, Diana Gay, Muline Mickle, Sabine Jacques, Karen Lopez-Rivera, Lisa Simms

**Ms. Reid** said for the approval of the April 6th & May 4th minutes, they will table them for the next meeting because they do not have quorum.

**Chairperson’s Report**

**Ms. Reid** said she was unable to attend the OBH Brookdale CAB meeting in May. The next meeting will be held on June 6th and that report will be submitted for the September meeting.

OBH Brookdale will be holding their annual Community Health Fair on Saturday, June 11th from 11am to 4pm on Rockaway Parkway between Church Avenue and Linden Blvd. They will have free health screening, community resources, clothing and grocery giveaways and a classic car show.

Community Board 17’s health Fair will be held on Saturday, June 18th and the permit was approved for the plaza area of Paerdegat Park, from 10am to 4pm. There will be no balloons or amplified sound. There will be posters hung around the park and they have a Social Services banner to be hung at the entrance to the park and will be used for future Social Services events. She will use a boom box with Bluetooth speakers for the music and sound.

She met with the subcommittee on May 19th to provide an update and plan for the day. They will need volunteers to help with the set-up and registration for the day. The subcommittee will assist with some of these tasks. They also need volunteers to help pack the tote bags provided by the Board office. They have PPE provided by the Dept. of Health. They will pack the bags on June 13th at the Board office, and they can also pick up their tee shirts.

They have 27 vendors that have confirmed their attendance for the event. There will be representatives from area hospitals, non-profits, Government and City agencies, health insurance companies, etc. They need to secure some tables for the vendors, so she asked the vendors if they could bring their own tables. She needs to find out how many people are coming so refreshments can be provided for them.

She did hear from the NYC Dept. of Health COVID-19 Testing and Vaccine Unit and they have confirmed, and they will be providing the Rapid and PCR tests, available to ages 4 and up. They will also be providing the Pfizer vaccine for ages 12 and up, including first time vaccines and the boosters.

Letters were sent to the elected officials in the district to invite them and request donations of water and any food for the volunteers and vendors. The flyer was also sent to them and she is waiting for a response.

The permit does not allow food distribution in the park to the attendees.

She will ask Ms. Fraser to make some copies of the flyer to be handed out at the General Board meeting, since it will be an in-person meeting. The flyer was also posted on the CB 17 Facebook page. She also shared flyer with her Church, friends, family and the community and she is encouraging the members to do the same. This is the first event in 3 years, since the COVID-19 lockdown. There will be lots of giveaways from the vendors for the community.

Some doctors will be attending to do screenings for diabetes and also some nurses from the community will be attending. Looking at the response, there will be quite a diverse group of attendees and they hope that the information that will be given will be beneficial to the community and that everyone can get something from what is being offered.

The Housing Committee will also be holding a Housing Fair in the park on the same day from 12pm to 5pm and they will be on the Foster Avenue side of the park. They will be giving free information to homeowners and renters and will also have giveaways.

She will try to get tables for the vendors, even if she has to borrow them from friends and family.

She asked if there was any unfinished or new business to discuss?

**Ms. Karen Lopez-Rivera** said Diaspora Community Services will be holding their 2nd Community Day on Friday, June 3, 2022, 12-4pm outside their office at 921-B East New York Avenue, next to the White Castle and everyone is invited to attend. She would like to attend their health fair and she drop by and leave some information about their services.

**Ms. Lisa Simms** said she is with MetroPlus Health Plans, a health insurance company, a NYC Health Agency, and they work under HHC. They service the 5 boroughs. She is responsible for Central East Brooklyn territory and she also partners in other areas such as Brownsville. It is always of interest to her as to how they can help people. She manages a group of 10 enrollers, and they educate individuals on health insurance and they also link them to other support services. She has mostly Veterans on her team. They have links to SNAP and other service programs that people might be interested in. She has also been trying to loop in Alexis Davis at Kings County Hospital because most of her staff operates out of Kings County Hospital and she actually partners with and engage with other organizations because she thinks they would be a good resource for them to have and be a part of the committee.

**Mr. Jorge Tait** said on Saturday, June 4th, the Parks & Beautification Committee be having a Paerdegat Park Clean-Up Day from 9am to 1pm. They will be cleaning the park and planting flowers. If anyone is interested, let him know and he will send them the flyer. They will be planting a combination of annuals and perennials.

**Ms. Reid** said Ms. Simms and Ms. Lopez-Rivera reached out to her because they want to be a part of the committee because they can use some more partnerships and involvement. Social Services is not only in terms of health and it affects a lot of other areas as well as other social arenas. It is good to partner with these other agencies to let them know what is going on in the community, whether it is mental health, social services for the elderly, HIV counselling, for the youth and even partner with some of the hospital. Moving forward, it would be good to get that involvement.

She thanked the members that consistently attended the meetings and thanked them for their support during her tenure and running this committee. She wished everyone a safe and enjoyable summer.

She asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

**Mr. Tait** made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:21pm.

**Ms. Diana Gay** seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned.