



East Harlem Center Community Advisory Committee Meeting

Meeting Notes

Thursday, May 16, 2019

6:00 pm to 7:30 pm

East Harlem Neighborhood Health Action Center

Advisory Committee Attendees:

- Chantanae Singletary, Office of Council Member Diana Ayala
- John Greene, Community Board 11 member and East Harlem resident
- Jose Rodriguez, East Harlem Center parent
- Michelle Booker, Office of Congressman Adriano Espaillat
- Nilsa Orama, Community Board 11 Chair and East Harlem resident
- Pennylane Ortiz, East Harlem Center parent and alum, resident, Children's Aid Trustee
- Pilar DeJesus, East Harlem community member
- Shana Harmongoff, Office of Senator Brian Benjamin
- Tammy Rodriguez, East Harlem Center parent

Advisory Committee Members Not Able to Attend:

- Denise (Mille) Jerez, East Harlem resident
- Gabrielle Hernandez, Office of Assembly Member Robert Rodriguez
- Ja'Nai Harris, East Harlem Center alumnus
- Matthew Washington, Office of Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer
- Neven Cepeda, East Harlem Center youth
- Raja Flores, Children's Aid alumnus

Children's Aid Staff:

- Ali Tan, Chief of Staff
- Amy Scharf, Chair of the Board of Trustees
- Anthony Ramos, VP of Marketing and Communications
- Christopher Rucas, Director of Marketing and Communications
- David Giordano, Director of the East Harlem Center
- David Sweeny, Assistant VP of Real Estate and Facilities
- Don Shacknai, Chief Operating Officer
- Courtenaye Jackson, General Counsel
- Keyla Espinal Antigua, Assistant Director of Public Policy
- Phoebe Boyer, President & CEO
- Sandra Escamilla, VP of Adolescence
- Yolanda McBride, Director of Public Policy

Meeting Notes

- Phoebe Boyer, President & CEO, opened the meeting and welcomed the members of the Advisory Committee members.
- Phoebe Boyer reviewed the agenda for the meeting, which included providing an overview of where Children's Aid landed on the programmatic and space needs for the new center and discussing next steps.
- Phoebe Boyer turned the meeting over to Sandra Escamilla, VP for Adolescence, and David Giordano, Director of the East Harlem Center, who shared the process that Children's Aid undertook to determine the programmatic needs for the new building.
 - The programmatic staff, members of the Early Childhood, School Age and Adolescent divisions, Facilities and East Harlem Center staff conducted a thorough analysis of Children's Aid's current and projected needs.
 - This process included a review of new RFPs (Request for Proposals) that are coming out within the next 2.5 years from the city, which will help determine the types and scale of Children's Aid services.
 - The analysis also included conversations with the principals in the schools where Children's Aid currently has services - Lexington Academy (PS/IS 72) and CPEII - and most importantly the community recommendations that were compiled in the final EHC Community Engagement summary report written by Hester Street.
- Based on this analysis, Sandra reviewed Children's Aid's plans for the new East Harlem Center:
 1. Children's Aid will offer services from zero through college.
 2. The new East Harlem Center plans to serve about 500 children and youth through early childhood education services, after-school and summer programming, and SYEP/workforce programming for youth.
 - ✓ 80 children in **Early Childhood Education**
 - ✓ 200 in **after school/summer** split between EHC & IS/PS72
 - ✓ 225 youth in **workforce programming**
 2. CPEII (Vito Marcantonio campus), where we transitioned our East Harlem Center early childhood education services to, is and will continue to be a community school that we operate. We've been at that location since 2001 and plan to remain.

- Don Shacknai, Chief Operating Officer, and David Sweeny, Assistant VP for Real Estate and Facilities, talked about the emerging design and space needs for the new center.
 - Based on the programmatic needs, Children's Aid anticipates the new building will be at least 12,000 square feet; flexibility of the space is critical.
 - There are specific space requirements for early childhood education programs but Children's Aid wants to ensure the spaces for after school and older youth are flexible.
 - Children's Aid anticipates they may need more than 10 classrooms to accommodate the programs.
 - Children's Aid worked with their architects and the developer's architects and are considering two options for the indoor/outdoor space.
 - OPTION 1: Build an indoor gymnasium (double the size of the old one) but with low ceiling height and have an outdoor Junior HS basketball court but no dedicated play space for the little ones. Their play space would be the gymnasium and the basketball court but it would be concrete flooring.
 - OPTION 2: Outdoor Junior HS sized basketball court that is enclosed but has doors (like garage doors) that open up in good weather, creating indoor/outdoor space.
 - OPTION 2 would have no gymnasium. The outdoor basketball court would have softer floors allowing for the little ones to play on it.
 - Don reviewed the updated schematics and provided members time to review them and ask questions.
 - Don said Children's Aid will begin the formal negotiations process over the next several months.
 - Yolanda closed the meeting by saying Children's Aid staff will be meeting with families to provide updates on the center at the following meetings:
 - ✓ Saturday, June 1 – Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program
 - ✓ Wednesday, June 19 – Lexington Academy – parents are signing up their youth for summer programming