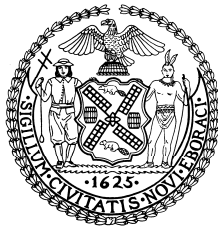


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The City of New York
Manhattan Community Board 8

HEALTH, SENIORS & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Lenox Hill Hospital
130 East 77th Street (Lexington-Park)
Robert Carmel Conference Room
Thursday, April 17, 2014
6:30PM

Community Board Members Present: David Liston, Jackie Ludorf, Ellen Polivy, Hattie Quarnstrom
Public Members Present: Jeffrey Ascherman

Edward Hill, Executive Director of Outreach and Strategic Coordination from the Mayors' office to Combat Domestic Violence, gave a presentation on the prevalence of domestic violence in our community, the services available to domestic violence survivors, and the opening of the Manhattan family Justice System. Tanya Apparicio, Deputy Unit Chief of the Domestic Violence Unit at the Manhattan D.A.'s Office, and Linda Jones-Janneh, Community Coordinator, Manhattan D.A.'s Office, discussed domestic violence as it is handled by the Manhattan D.A.'s office.

The reason Edward Hill wanted to speak to CB8 was there is a new Commissioner of the Mayors Domestic Violence, Rose Pierre Louie. She has asked her staff to go out into the community to tell about the services that are available for domestic violence victims. Domestic violence happens in every community. Last year there were 280,000 domestic violence calls made. To be classified as a, domestic violence, there must be a familial relationship between the people involved in the incident. This includes marriage, those who have a child together or have been living in a relationship for a long time. In CB8 there were 1,500 reported cases of domestic violence last year. That ranks 60th out of 77 in the city. The number of reported cases does not reflect reports from third parties who witness domestic violence and call 911, for example. The Police are required to fill out a form describing the people involved and the situation. There are probably more domestic violence issues but some people do not report them. For various reasons, many people do not wish to admit to being a victim of domestic violence. The hope is that the number of reported incidents will go up as that will mean more people are getting the services they need.

Director Hill then went on to describe some specific services available. He discussed the Family Justice Center which is located at 80 Centre Street on the fifth floor. The Center is operated in coordination with the D.A.'s office. Therefore a victim may talk to the Mayor's representative for domestic violence or to the D.A.'s office. They can also get counseling on the same floor. They can also get assistance with public benefits. There is a play room for the children so they don't have to be with the parents all the time. There is also a way to get help in applying for one's GED.

To receive the support of the Center, the victims do not have to identify their abuser. The Center is free. You can also get free advice and assistance regarding immigration issues. The Center is open from 9 to 5 Monday. The Center also helps clients find shelter. The location of the shelters is kept secret for the protection of the client. More often than not the client does not have contact with the DV office.

Housing and HRA services are also contacted as they have victim services staff that can help the clients process the information. Forty per cent of domestic violence happens in lower income neighborhoods which only comprise 20 percent of the population.

The Manhattan D.A.s representatives then spoke. The Manhattan Family Justice Center has a criminal side, and a civil side. The Center just opened on March 12th. Elder abuse, sex abuse, child abuse, domestic violence, and human trafficking are among the problems on which the Center is focused. There are five separate rooms where these issues can be discussed in private.

In many of the domestic violence cases handled by the D.A.'s Office, the victims have been controlled by relationships where control was emotional physical and financial. The victim's hardest time is when they are trying to leave. The batterer is usually so contrite; the victim feels if only she was better he would change. The batterer's family often pressures her to stay as others. Often after a short time the victim will go back to the batterer. The D.A.'s office can subpoena the victim. Often she will make up excuses why she got hurt. This all makes it very difficult for the D.A.'s office. Even a case cannot be prosecuted; at least the victims can work with the civil side to ensure they get some services.

Sometimes the D.A.'s Office prosecutes cases without the victim, just using 911 calls and other evidence but cases without a cooperative victim remain very difficult to get a conviction. The representatives of the D.A.'s Office also discussed other aspects of their work with domestic violence, including the fact that victims sometimes are afraid to come forward because of immigration concerns, or because they believe the batterer will change, or because they are financially or otherwise dependent on the batterer, or because they are afraid of retribution. They also described various ways in which the D.A.'s Office works to address these concerns. Among other things, they discussed how the D.A.'s Office can relocate victims for their safety and how the D.A.'s Office will sometimes agree

3. Joe Somali, Outreach Manager, for the World Trade Center Health Program made a presentation on the program's resources. This program is part of the Mental Health Association of New York City It deals with mental health after the 9/11 attacks. It is available for responders, workers and volunteers who helped with rescue, recovery and cleanup at the World Trade Center. It also provides services for survivors who lived worked or went to school in the New York City disaster area.

Why should you apply? If you have any illness because of 9/11 you will receive health care for that condition. This service is free. You will be eligible for medical care and health care and prescriptions for either care. Your treatment will be with a physician that is familiar with 9/11 issues.

There is also the Disaster Distress Helpline. Disasters have the potential to cause emotional distress. This is for anyone struggling after a disaster. Examples of disasters are Hurricane Katrina, and other disasters. Also things like the Newton Ct. shootings and the Boston bombings. Lifenet is a NYC helpline dealing with any mental issues. He also mentioned the Geriatric help line in dealing with any mental issues.

The emails for these services are disasterdistress.samhsa.gov and <http://mha-nyc.org/service/disaster-services.aspx#WTHealth>

David Liston and Jackie Ludorf
Co-Chairs, Health, Seniors, and Social Services Committee