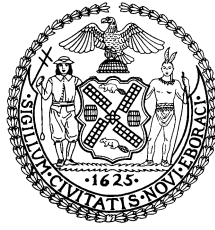


Russell Squire
Chair

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District Manager



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**The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan
Health, Seniors, and Social Services Committee
Tuesday, February 9, 2021 - 6:30 PM
Conducted Remotely via Zoom**

Minutes

Present: Lori Bores, Meryl Brodsky*, Brian Correia, Rebecca Dangoor, Billy Freeland, Wilma Johnson, Barbara Rudder, Tricia Shimamura, Cos Spagnoletti

* Public Member

Item 1 - Presentation by Elana Koenig, 12 yr. old cancer survivor and founder of the Koenig Childhood Cancer Foundation, and Dr. Julia Kearney, Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist at Memorial Sloan Kettering.

The Koenig Childhood Foundation was established by the Koenig family after Elana, an Upper East Side 12-year-old, was declared cancer free. Elana told her story of the physical and emotional pain she and her family endured for years, and once she recovered, wanted to help other families. Their foundation has volunteers from around the globe and helps those families with a child battling cancer with financial and emotional help.

Dr. Kearney is a member of the foundation's board, and a therapist for stricken families. She told of the grave long-lasting effects on these children and their families, who suffer tremendous financial reversal, marital tensions, sibling neglect, and how this foundation is helping families heal.

Item 2 - What went wrong with the vaccine rollout?

Pauline Ferrante, from DOMH's Office of External Affairs, listened to the community's frustrations about the vaccine rollout: the difficulty navigating the websites, the lack of vaccine availability, and the lack of access to the sites. Ms. Ferrante hoped that these frustrations will be eased when vaccines become more available.

Dr. Susan Clark Ball, Office of External Affairs, Weill Cornell, stressed the importance of getting vaccinated. She assured its safety, but warned that it is still necessary to follow the basic rules of washing hands, socially distance, and wearing masks. She warned that those that have severe allergies should consult their doctor for advice before getting vaccinated, and it is now recommended that pregnant women receive the vaccine. Once vaccinated, it is believed that new strains may not protect fully against COVID, but the symptoms will be much milder.

Rebecca Dangoor, Wilma Johnson, and Barbara Rudder, Co-Chairs