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THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD SIX  
211 EAST 43RD STREET, SUITE 1404  
NEW YORK, NY 10017

**Health & Education Committee**  
**May 22, 2018, 6:30 pm**  
**433 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, New York, NY 10010, Room 220**

**Meeting Minutes**

Present: Elvy Barroso (Chair), Carin van der Donk (Vice Chair), Claude L. Winfield, Ahsia Badi

Absent: David Tsin, John Keller, Karen Moore, Ava Goldman, Louise Dankberg

Guests: Gavin Shafron, Baruch College; Sarah Church, Elevate; Roberto Accuado, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH); Michael Cohen, member of the public; Joe Parrish, Manhattan Community Board 6 member; Eric Lugo, Baruch College; Kevin M. Fitzgerald, member of the public; Ronnie Rivas, member of the public

**Call to Order and Adoption of the Agenda/Previous Meeting's Minutes**

Elvy Barroso called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Elvy Barroso made a motion to adopt the agenda. The motion was seconded by Claude L. Winfield and passed.

Elvy Barroso made a motion to adopt the minutes from the April 24, 2018 meeting. The motion was seconded by Claude L. Winfield and passed.

**Committee Business**

Agenda Item #1: Presentation from Dr. Gavin Ryan Shafron, Prevention Coordinator at Baruch College

Dr. Shafron presented on the Baruch College Prevention Grant, a state-funded project designed to facilitate substance abuse prevention efforts. He aimed to bring awareness of the state-funded grant, bring awareness of the need for community involvement, and explain the need for support from the community board. A copy of his slide presentation is attached to these minutes as an addendum.

Some questions from the H&E Committee and guests included the following:

1. Is peer pressure a cause of binge drinking? Dr. Shafron noted the uniquely competitive and diverse student body that adds pressures beyond even those encountered by the average college student. This creates a culture where one needs to find a way to “blow off steam,” and often that includes alcohol.
2. Is there any contact with the Nightlife Mayor regarding the issue of binge drinking? Dr. Shafron said that contacting the Nightlife Mayor would be beneficial.
3. Can legalizing marijuana have an impact on binge drinking? Dr. Shafron thinks that the marijuana issue is completely separate from the alcohol issue, and legalizing marijuana would have no impact on alcohol consumption.
4. Where does most binge drinking taking place? Dr. Shafron said that all CUNY schools are commuter schools, so a lot of binge drinking may happen away from campus and closer to where the students live. The general “community” for Baruch is the Flatiron/Gramercy area; a lot of substance abuse takes place in the neighborhood surrounding campus.
5. Why was the grant awarded to Baruch? The presenter noted the very strong infrastructure Baruch College has to disseminate the services.
6. What is the legal age a person can buy alcohol? The legal age is 21, but the study looks at everyone from age 17 on up.
7. Do liquor stores require an ID to purchase alcohol? Dr. Shafron said that it is an excellent idea to see whether vendors of alcoholic beverages are responsible. Dr. Shafron added that he, the Associate Dean of Students at Baruch and the Director of Student Conduct at Baruch have discussed working with NYPD to check if students are buying alcohol with fake IDs.
8. What college levels are mostly involved in binge drinking? They see similar patterns in freshman and junior year, in large part because of all the transfers they get from community college students. Freshmen students are trying to get acclimated with the college environment around them so there is a high level of substance abuse among them, but juniors transferring from community college are also experiencing the same process of trying to get acclimated with the process and have substance abuse at that point of their academic careers. Then there’s a different set of drugs taken when students experience burnout (and want to land a job at the end of their college careers)—this is where drugs like Adderall come in.

9. How educated are the students on binge drinking? There are ongoing outreach initiatives, such as a student-led and designed campaign on substance abuse prevention. There are also bulletin boards and TV screens displaying important information on this subject.
10. Does social pressure also influence binge drinking? Dr. Shafron notes that social pressure plays a major role.

### **Old/New Business**

The committee started discussing the priorities of the H&E Committee for the next two years. One of the H&E Committee members, Ahsia Badi, suggested researching the validity of the results of the Community Health Profile for the community board since it is three years old. She said that we should speak to authors of the Community Health Profile at the Department of Health to inquire about actions taken to address the results.

### **Chair's Report**

Chair Barroso distributed an advisory from the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) regarding the "cluster of synthetic cannabinoid (K2)-related adverse events and emergency department visits." The DOHMH continues to monitor daily emergency department visits related to K2, which is illegal in New York State

CB6 member Joe Parrish added an additional item of New Business: since CB6 allowed the closing of Rutherford Place in front of Friends School for 10 months from September 2018 to June 2019 for a play area, why not continue to convert the space into a park and educational area? Chair Barroso suggested bringing this to the Executive Committee so other committees such as Parks and Transportation can get involved.

### **Adjournment**

Claude L. Winfield made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Ahsia Badi and passed. Elvy Barroso declared the meeting adjourned at 7:29 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Elvy Barroso