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

Health and Education Committee
Tuesday, April 23rd 2019, 6:30 PM
433 1st Avenue (NYU School of Dentistry), Room 210

Meeting Minutes

Present: Elvy Barroso (Chair), Ahsia Badi, Dan Devine, Abigail Krusemark, Seema Shah, Claude L. Winfield

Excused: Rich Mintz

Absent: John Keller (Vice Chair), Paige Judge, Carin van der Donk

Guests: Barbara Guinan, member of the public; John McBride; member of the public; Molly Hollister, Manhattan Community Board Six (CB6) Chair; Pei Ling He, member of the public; Ellen Schonfeld, member of the public; Gabe Herman, *The Villager*; Asher Baumrin, Senator Brad Hoylman's office; Brice Peyre, Assembly Member Richard Gottfried's office; Assembly Member Richard Gottfried; Mike Shatskin, member of the public; Terry Grace, member of the public; Jesus Perez, CB6 District Manager; Brendan Birth, CB6 Staff

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

Elvy Barroso called the meeting to order at 6:39 PM.

Chair Barroso made a motion to adopt the agenda. There were no objections to the motion and it passed.

Chair Barroso made a motion to adopt the minutes from the Tuesday, March 26, 2019 meeting. There were no objections to the motion and passed.

Committee Business

Agenda Item #1: Discussion on the New York Health Act (State Senate Bill S3577/State Assembly Bill A5248), a bill that would establish a state-wide single payer health care system

State Assembly Member Richard Gottfried spoke on the New York Health Act, a piece of legislation that he is a primary sponsor of. The New York Health Act would create a statewide, single-payer, government-administered healthcare system. The bill has been in the New York State Assembly for many years, but with the new Democratic majority

Assembly Member Gottfried is more enthusiastic about the chances of it being passed. He recently updated the bill to include coverage for long-term healthcare.

Representative Gottfried cited many statistics and features of the plan:

Medical Statistics-

- Medical costs are the #1 cause for personal bankruptcy.
- 40% of American households cannot come up with \$400 for an unanticipated medical expense.
- The average deductible for a family plan is \$3200.

Features of the New York Health Act-

- The plan would have net savings of \$11 billion for the taxpayers of New York. Assembly Member Gottfried claimed part of this would include \$20 billion saved on marketing and administrative costs that currently come as an expense for private insurance companies.
- By enrolling everyone in New York State, New York would have negotiating power greater than what any individual insurance company currently has.
- The plan would be paid for by taxes: 1- payroll income (where employers would pay about 4/5 of the tax) and 2- taxes on dividends and capital gains. Assets that are currently not taxed by the state, such as municipal bonds, would continue to be untaxed.
- Mayor Bill De Blasio supports the bill.

There were several questions from members of the community and members of the Health and Education Committee.

Chair Barroso said that in CB6 only three percent of members don't have health insurance, the lowest of 59 Community Districts in New York City. Therefore, she asked, what benefits would such a plan provide for CB6 members? Assembly Member Gottfried said that only approximately 1 million of 20 million residents in New York State do not have insurance, including 500,000 residents who are eligible for insurance but opt out of it. Also, he said that millions of New Yorkers have health coverage but also have premiums so large they opt out of seeking medical assistance or seek it and suffer onerous medical bills.

Committee Member Dan Devine asked that, if the plan is supposed to save \$11 billion in healthcare costs, why additional taxes would be needed to pay for it.

A community member asked how this proposal is similar or different than Massachusetts's coverage. Assembly Member Gottfried said that this proposal would have everyone in New York covered by insurance, whereas Massachusetts's plan is for only those not covered by an employer or other means. Another question by a community member was if the proposed health care could operate without getting a federal Medicare and Medicaid waiver (the answer is yes). Another community member

asked for clarification about if the Health Act applied to people living in New York and working out of state (it does).

Agenda Item #2: Updates from Committee Leads: Health, Education, Policy/Resolution Writing

Seema Shah shared an update on education: The New York State Assembly Standing Committee on Education will hold a hearing on Specialized High schools on May 10th.

Old/New Business

There's was no old/new business.

Chair's Report

Chair Elvy Barroso waived her report.

Adjournment

A motion was made, seconded, and adopted to adjourn the meeting. Chair Barroso declared the meeting adjourned at 7:42 PM.

Minutes submitted by: Dan Devine