

CB9 YEL Committee Minutes  
April 12, 2017

Meeting called to order at 6:50pm.

**Jennifer Araujo, DA's Office**, talked about the office's New Americans Hotline for immigrants who have been defrauded as part of the process (distributed flyer). Applications to the DA's summer internship program have been closed and are being reviewed.

On March 23, the office launched Hate Crimes campaign with CM Levine, covering what to do if you're a victim or witness, and how to report, including how to respond as a bystander. The campaign launched a "I'm a New Yorker. I'm too \_\_\_ to hate" campaign with accompanying postcards. As an example, the office indicted James Jackson for murdering Timothy Caughman for murder as a hate crime -- quick turnaround from recent (highly publicized) events. Schools program is "Kids against hate" poster contest with a cash prize for the school and visit from the DA.

The Criminal Justice Investment Initiative (CJII), which was discussed at last month's meeting, is up and running, making available new RFPs with information online ([cjii.org](http://cjii.org)) with deadline of May 26th. Some already awarded grants require a lot of partners, so there is still an opportunity to join. Reentry innovation hubs received several million dollar grants.

**Linda Genereux and Sofia Belimova, Citizen's Committee for Children**, presented on their organization's advocacy work and their Keeping Track database. CCC is an advocacy-only organization and has been operating for 70 years. Sofia is an 11th grade student and graduate of the CCC's Youth Community Leadership Course. The CCC offers student advocacy courses twice a year to teach 10th grade students about policy and how to lobby state and city lawmakers on their chosen issue.

Keeping Track is the largest municipal-level database of child well-being indicators in NYC. It's a large published book and an online database (<http://data.cccnewyork.org/>). It includes hundreds of data points for children in demographics, housing, health, and education. CCC looks at child wellbeing in NYC across geographic areas and over time. CCC has been collecting data for 30 years from a variety of sources, including the DOE (very frequently), other city agencies, Census, ACS. Maps available on the website allow users to customize views of risk factors for neighborhoods by Community District.

Particular statistics on CB9:

- 33.9% child poverty rate (28.6% for NYC overall)
- 5.9% teen idleness - teens not in school or employed (7.0% NYC)
- 14.9% youth unemployment - summer employment opportunities, programs in the parks (19.3% NYC)
- 9.8 teen birth rate (20.8 NYC)
- Grad Rate: 61.8% (SD5), 59.6% (SD6), 67.2% (NYC)
- ELA pass rate: 21.5% (SD5), 27.1% (SD6), 38% (NYC)
- Math pass rate: 16.6% (SD5), 24.3% (SD6), 36.4% (NYC)

Major advocacy issues included Raise the Age (big success -- passed with NYS budget), maintaining summer programs for NYC children, and supporting high quality early childhood education. CCC has an e-action network for people who want to keep informed about their activities.

**Melissa Koszer, George Bruce Library**, talked about upcoming library programs:

- Google CS First is a small program (8 kids per class, lots of individualized attention) with a curriculum Google developed based on an MIT program.
- Literature At Play for families is a program that combines literature and acting skills.

- Book clubs for different ages.
- Arts and crafts for teens.
- Poetry slam on April 18th for all ages.
- Writing challenge, themed "Our Voices", through AM O'Donnell's office, to encourage student writing, with a closing celebration on the 30th.
- Big family literacy event at the end of May (tentatively called "Camp out for literacy") to celebrate the early literacy season before summer reading.

**Dominique Jones** welcomed everyone to BGCH. She hopes the space will be a regular home for everyone here, including the YEL committee. In the middle of "teen break" to offer an array of programs, like job conversation with Starbucks employers.

**Alec Barrett** summarized our efforts on the TCCS/PS36 colocation proposal, which was officially pulled last week. One of the other positive upshots of the process was that the DOE promised in their written response to public comment that they would make improvements to PS36, and the YEL committee needs to hold them accountable for that. The recent WHDC presentation to the board showed that there is a lot of money from the

**Ken Miles** explained that BP Brewer's office is working on this issue. This issue is an example of a much larger conversation about space in our district. In particular, the number of children under 5 (as we learned in the CCC presentation). A positive upshot of the organizing that happened around the proposal is that parents on both sides were supportive of each other and united in their efforts, rather than adversarial.

**Deirdre McIntosh-Brown** pointed out the irony that one of the arguments against colocation was a Teachers College study showing the detriments of colocation. She added that a lot of Harlem is built on top of underground rivers.

**Judith Insell** (former YEL committee chair) explained that in the CBA, the school was always supposed to be pre-K to 8, but the current state might require separating the elementary and middle school parts. The committee should gather data on the number of middle schools in the district and use that information to argue for the need for that capacity in TCCS. We don't want our students to have to leave the district in order to attend school; we need middle school in this area, which was part of the original purpose of the CBA. The Columbia side always gets lost: they stay out of the conversation but the school is supposed to be part of their responsibility to make sure the school, in all of its grades, exists. And the community wants the school wants to stay together.

**Ken Miles** talked about the work of the WHDC's SYEEP project, which came out of WHDC's understanding of youth needs in our community, which were previously channeled through DYCD's summer programs. He recently presented about the program to students at A. Philip Randolph, though he noticed that many of the students were not CB9 residents. Enrichment will happen through Our Children's Foundation. One of the challenges is how to target youth based on residency, including by spreading word through tenants association and dealing with NYCHA rules for posting flyers. They're still accepting applications and will choose students by lottery.

The project managers are thinking about outcomes they want to have, e.g., for all students to be able to get a letter of recommendation by the end of the summer. Another is student self-assessment, like reflecting on their progress from the beginning to the end of the program. He spoke to WHDC to make

sure that they were committed to a pedagogically sound enrichment program for students. Areas of focus include literacy, math, computer skills/typing, arts (Joyce Adewumi, Arts chair will lead), and systems (which OCF has already been engaged in). Job placement sites include museums, non-profits, judicial institutions, community organizations, hospitals, ideally in the West Harlem area. Some will include WHDC grant recipients. Enrichment will be led by teachers and arts instructors, who are currently being identified.

Students aged 14-18 are eligible. Older students will spend 2 days working and 1 day in enrichment, while 14-16 year olds will spend 2 days per week in enrichment and 1 day working. Fridays will be reserved for community service and field trips. Job placement will happen by second week of May, and student selection by first week of June. Program starts in July.

Existing concerns include pedagogical elements, including perhaps not having fully understood in advance the extent of the responsibilities of the project managers for designing a sound educational experience. After speaking with a friend with experience in DOE schools, he realized the extent of the simultaneous challenges of getting students enrolled, having enough work sites, and designing an educational experience all on a fairly short timeline. It's extremely important for the first year to be successful in order for the program to be scalable in the future. The top concern was having the administrative capacity to ensure that the promise to all involved parties -- students and worksites -- could be fulfilled.

**Alec Barrett** talked about planning for two future YEL events: a summer opportunities fair and a parent empowerment training in collaboration with Joe Rogers from CEE.

**Stephen Cockrell** suggested on the summer opportunities fair thinking about ways to leverage a limited budget to partner with other organizations, or figure out if there are other organizations planning a similar project and serve as the coordinating body for other similar projects or try to convince them to join forces. On the parent empowerment training, he offered that some former colleagues have a playbook on parent training initiatives which he would be happy to contribute. He also suggested pairing some of the efforts to recruit students for SYEEP and parents for the training by working through the same schools.

**Judith Insell** suggested partnering with an existing fair given that it's already April. On parent training, Joe Rogers will bring a lot of data and facts.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.