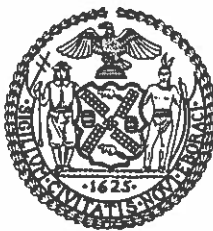


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**The City of New York
Manhattan Community Board 8**

HEALTH, SENIORS, & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE FORUM ON VAPING

Thursday, May 17, 2018 – 6:30PM
The New York Blood Center, Auditorium
310 East 67th Street

MINUTES

Barbara Rudder introduced the speakers.

Barbara said that Rebecca Seawright brought this to our attention as several parents were concerned that their children were vaping. Audrey Tannen spoke for Rebecca Seawright. She said that several of the stores are doing a great business selling e-cigarettes. The original purpose of e-cigarettes was to help people quit smoking. The biggest population of users is teenagers. She demonstrated the different types of e-cigarettes and explained that the pods contain toxins and nicotine which is addictive. Even though the legal age to buy the product is 21, middle and high schoolers find it easy to obtain.

Dr. Donna Shelly served as Director of the Tobacco Control Program at the NYC Department of Health where she passed smoke-free policies. As the founder and director of NYU Langone's Tobacco Cessation Program she helps people with nicotine addiction quit smoking. Dr. Shelley discussed the dichotomy of e-cigarettes in that they are better than cigarettes for adults that are already smoking, but there is a concern this is a gateway drug for many youngsters who've never smoked before. There are well over 100 types of e-cigarettes including juuls but they all have a battery, heating element, and a place to put liquid. The liquid includes flavoring and chemicals which vary from one device to another. The FDA has not been able to regulate the chemicals in these products. E-cigarettes can also be used to deliver marijuana. She discussed several studies that are on-going but they are not conclusive yet.

Dr. Achala Talati serves as the Medical Specialist focusing on tobacco control issues in the City's Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and statistically demonstrated the rise of usage. In spite of the fact that e-cigarettes have been around for only ten years, 17.3 percent of high school students are said to be users.

Kevin Schroth is the Senior Legal Counsel for tobacco control in the City's Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. He develops policies aimed at reducing tobacco use. During his tenure, the City has passed 14 tobacco control laws, including Tobacco 21, minimum price laws, and a comprehensive plan that bans pharmacies from selling tobacco and e-cigarettes. He mentioned the two laws that were passed. One was Tobacco 21 which prohibits sales of cigars and e-cigarettes to people less than 21 years of age. The second bill was to limit the number of licenses to smoke shops to sell the product. Finally, a middle school parent discussed her experience dealing with this issue.

Submitted by,

David Liston, Jacqueline Ludorf, and Barbara Rudder, Co-Chairs