SPEAKING OUT

ESSENTIAL NOT EXPENDABLE
#TheSystemIsBroken

Nurses across New York rally for ‘seat at table’ on healthcare reform
Page 4
Sector councils meet to begin talk of reopening NYC

BY ALEJANDRA O’CONNELL-DOMENECH
alejandra.occ@amny.com

Six of the 10 sector advisory councils that Mayor Bill de Blasio ap-
pointed to advise on an orderly reopening of New York City’s econ-
omy met Thursday for the first time.

The remaining four will meet within the next several days in or-
der to help the city re-
open and recover from the coronavirus pand-
emic.

Each group will have be-
 tween 20 and 40 mem-
bers, the mayor said, and
will be led by a deputy mayor or head of a city agency. The new advisory councils are on small business, large business, labor and workforce de-
velopment, arts, culture and tourism, faith-based organizations, construction and real estate, non-
profits and social services, public health and healthcare, education and vocational training and surface transporta-
tion.

De Blasio only an-
ounced one advisory council leader, Deputy Mayor Phil Thompson will head the Small Busi-
ness Council, during his novel coronavirus press conference on Wednes-
day punting to his office stating that they would release names after the briefing.

The new advisory councils add to a long list of novel coronavi-
rus related councils. Last month, Mayor de Blasio announced that his ad-
ministration would cre-
ate a task force of racial inclusion and equity.

In April, the mayor announced that his wife Chirlane McCray would lead the racial inequity coronavirus taskforce to ensure that city’s hardest-hit commu-

nities by the pandemic, along with minority and women-owned busi-

neces and community

health care providers,
would get what they need.

De Blasio also an-
ounced the creation of the fair recovery task-
force which has been tasked with putting to-
gether the city’s novel coronavirus pandemic “recovery roadmap.” The
group will be made up of President Open Soci-
ety Foundation Patrick Gaspard, CEO Federa-
tion of Protestant Welfare Agencies Jennifer Jones Austin, Former Lieutenant Governor of New York State Richard Ravitch, Senior Advi-
sor, HRA Advisors Carl Weisbrod, Executive Di-
rector of DC37 Henry Garrido, Vice President for US Programs Ford Foundation Maria Torres Springer, CEO Great Per-
formance Liz Neumark and Partner of Union Square Ventures Fred Wilson.

Both of these task forces will have to re-
port to the mayor by early June.

So far, the mayor has appointed members to the Labor and Workforce Sector Advisory Coun-
cil, the Large Business Sector Advisory Coun-
cil, the Small Business Sector Advisory Council and the Arts, Culture and Entertainment Advi-
sory Council. Member-
ship of the councils on Faith, Construction and Real Estate, Non-Profits and Social Services, Pub-
lic Health and Healthcare, Education and Voc-
ational Training, and Surface Transportation will be announced in the coming days, accord-
ing to de Blasio spokes-
person Jane Meyer.

A full list of the coun-
cil members can be found online on our web-

site, amny.com.

Particularly essential during the corona-
virus pandemic, PHP offers telemedicine services so members can receive medi-
cal care without leaving their homes or residen-

ces.

To join the Plan, an individual must:

• Be over the age of 21
• Have Medicaid and Medicare (parts A & B)
• Be eligible for NY State OPWDD waiver services – $455 (x)
• Live within one of the following counties: Nassau, Suffolk, Richmond, Kings, Queens, Bronx, NY/
Manhattan, Westchester or Rockland

To learn more about enrolling in PHP Care Complete FIDA-IDD Plan, please call the Participant Services staff seven days a week at 1-855-747-5483 or TTY/TDD: 711 or visit www.phpcares.org

The State of New York has created a Participant Ombudsman Program called the Independent Consumer Advocacy Network (ICAN) to provide participants, confidential assistance on any services offered by Partners Health Plan, ICAN may be reached toll-free at 1-866-654-8800 (TTY users call 711, then follow the prompts to dial 866-654-8800) or online at icansyn.org.

Partners Health Plan (PHP Care Complete FIDA-IDD [Medicare-Medicaid] Plan), is a non-profit plan which was created to spe-
cifically support people who have intellec-
tual and developmental disabilities (IDD). PHP manages a specialized population, many of whom are considered high-risk for COVID-19 because of their age or medical comorbidities. During these unprecedented times, PHP’s top prior-
ity is ensuring a con-
tinuation of services to all members, utilizing virtual connections and I telemedicine to main-
tain proper social distancing, while still en-
gaging in social interactions, and obtaining clinical and medical care.

“We are dedicated to keeping each of our participants healthy, happy and as inde-
pendent as possible during this challenging time,” said Kerry Delaney, CEO of Partners Health Plan. “Working in close collabora-
tion with families and other members of the community, we will continue the proud NYSARC/ADAPT tradition of supporting the unique needs and wishes of the indi-

viduals in their care, fully integrating their supports and services, advocating on their behalf, and assisting participants through-
out their lives. happy and as independent as possible during this challenging time,” said Kerry Delaney, CEO of Partners Health Plan. “Working in close collabora-
tion with families and other members of the community, we will continue the proud NYSARC/ADAPT tradition of supporting the unique needs and wishes of the indi-

viduals in their care, fully integrating their supports and services, advocating on their behalf, and assisting participants throughout their lives.”