

Minutes continued...

## NEW BUSINESS

Helma Weeks asked if something could be done by Drexel to open up the closed shortcut in the fencing between JFK Blvd and 32nd Street west of 30th Street Station. The sidewalks are closed due to construction and the conditions are unsafe for pedestrians who must walk on the street and over to Market Street which is a longer way around to get to Powelton Village on foot. Tom Cirone said he would follow up.

Larry Biond commented that an area of brick sidewalk on the 3400 block of Hamilton Street was replaced with a patch of concrete that was too white and unsightly. A member asked if the brick sidewalks were part of the historic district. The answer was not definitive.

Vanessa Karamanian reported that a third grader from the Powel School was recently hit by a trolley on 36th Street at Filbert Street. The child was hospitalized and was recovering. She expressed great concern that the accident occurred and would be looking into ways to keep it from happening again. Blaise Tobia also noted unsafe trolley drivers on Lancaster and Powelton Avenues.

Elaine Simon asked about the dumpsters on 36th Street outside Powel/SLAMS. Deb McCarty reported that she and Diane Pringle had met with School District and Wexford representatives in the fall about the dumpsters and that hopefully resolutions were in progress.

The meeting was ended by general consent.

Respectively submitted by  
Diane Pringle for  
Deborah Burnham  
Recording Secretary

## People with Hope Thrive! Local Groups Create New Non-profit HopePHL™

Press Release: January 27, 2023

Offering high quality programs and Services to 25,000 Philadelphians People's Emergency Center and Youth Service, Inc. announced their plan to integrate into one agency in November 2019. The two non-profit organizations officially began operating as a single organization, named HopePHL™ (pronounced "hopeful") on January 1, 2023.

The merger marked the conclusion of a three-year integration process that blended staff, organizational culture and programs into a new comprehensive service organization for families, youth and children across Philadelphia. Together, they were recognized for 120 combined years of service excellence in 2022.

HopePHL's mission is to inspire Philadelphia's children, youth, families and communities to thrive by providing housing, advocacy, and trauma-responsive social services designed to promote equity, resilience, autonomy, and well-being. "Together, we'll deliver many of the same services, and some new programs, supporting over 25,000 community members, residents, and students annually to reach their goals of safe homes, economically secure and healthy families, and thriving students and businesses," said Kathy Desmond, President of HopePHL, who led PEC for the past seven years. She is a child welfare and social work expert with three decades of experience in the non-profit sector.

The two agencies have already partnered for several years on parenting programs, respite shelter for young children, and services for youth and young adults experiencing homelessness. "As a combined entity, we can better share our complementary programs and expand services by combining our resources and leveraging each organization's specialized expertise," said Gwen Bailey, Vice President of Programs at HopePHL. Bailey led YSI as Executive Director since 2004, but first joined the agency in 1988.

HopePHL is committed to advancing equity and ending systemic racism. They seek to amplify diverse voices, champion issues of inequity, including accessible quality education, health-care, safety, and justice. Program offerings include:

- Children's Services, supporting the well-being, development and education of children from birth through high school in shelters, the West Philadelphia Promise Neighborhood, and at partnering School District of Philadelphia schools.
- Young Adult Services, offering respite, housing, education and access to technology, and support services for youth and young adults experiencing homelessness, financial instability, and traumatic events.
- Adult & Family Services, providing housing, social services, empowerment, reunification, and home visiting programs for families.
- Community Based Services such as homelessness prevention, art and culture programs, food relief, Lancaster Avenue commercial corridor support, and many other resources.
- Resident-Driven Community Development programs supporting real estate development, affordable housing, and partnerships with city and state agencies.
- Policy & Systems Advocacy initiatives, driving systems change to elevate issues impacting individuals and families at-risk of or who are currently experiencing homelessness.

For more information, visit [HopePHL.org](http://hopephl.org), contact Trish Downey at [tdowney@hopephl.org](mailto:tdowney@hopephl.org), or join their community on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and Twitter.

HopePHL's mission is to inspire Philadelphia's children, youth, families and communities to thrive by providing housing, advocacy, and trauma-responsive social services designed to promote equity, resilience, autonomy, and well-being. Our work impacts 25,000 people a year in Philadelphia. Visit [HopePHL.org](http://HopePHL.org).