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**67-2022**

**For Immediate Release**

**June 23, 2022**

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY DARCEL D. CLARK HOLDS BRONX MENTAL  
HEALTH AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE SUMMIT**  
**Some 75 Stakeholders Strategized on Solutions to Address the Mental Health  
Crisis in the Bronx**

Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark held the first Bronx Mental Health and Criminal Justice Summit on Tuesday, June 21, 2022, gathering representatives from state and city agencies, the courts, prosecution, defense, corrections, and mental health experts and boots-on-the-ground providers of crisis care to find solutions to the emergency in our Bronx communities.

District Attorney Clark addressed the participants: "Each of us, from our own perspectives, has seen this heartbreaking situation unfolding in our beloved borough, not in terms of statistics but in the human beings we encounter.

"I want to see a criminal justice system in the Bronx that provides treatment and services to people with mental health disorders and collaborates with community partners and clinicians to provide mental health services BEFORE they enter the criminal justice system."

Attendees/presenters were from Bronx Psychiatric Center, Office of Court Administration, Montefiore Medical Center, NYS Office of Mental Health, Suffolk County District Attorney's Office, NYC Health + Hospitals, CUCS Academy for Justice Informed Practice, The Bridge, NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, NYC Justice Peer Initiative, The Legal Aid Society, CASES, District Attorneys Association of the State of New York, Services for the UnderServed, Inc., BronxWorks, Bronx TASC Mental Health Court Program, Office of Crisis Services, and the Mayor's Office of Community Mental Health.

There were panel discussions on community outreach and crisis care; crisis response; hearings, detention, and courts; and a prosecutor's perspective. Participants established networking relationships and discussed next steps.

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District Attorney Clark said, “I declare this summit a success. This is the start of effective partnerships. This will be continued. I am not going to wait for the city to come up with a solution. We will continue to collaborate with all the organizations who took part in this summit, to come up with long-term beneficial solutions to keep the Bronx safe.”

District Attorney Clark thanked Montefiore Medical Center for its support, and the Bronx Zoo for providing space for the summit.

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