

PENDING COMMITTEE APPROVAL

**BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 8
MINUTES OF THE AGING COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON MAY 10, 2021 – VIDEO CONFERENCE**

Committee Members Present: Marvin Goodman, Dan Padernacht, Karen Pesce, Rita Pochter
Lowe

Committee Members Absent: Margaret Della

Guests: Miryam Rabner – MJHS, Julie Dalton – RSS, Lisa Nicotra – Mosholu Montefiore Sr Ctr,
Ofelia Palacio – Ft. Independence Sr Ctr, Judy Green, Audrey Bleir, NYC Council Member Eric
Dinowitz

Speakers: Josue Melendez – DFTA Government Affairs Officer, Joseph Jenkins – DFTA
MyRide Implementation Manager

Meeting Facilitators: Lisa Daub – CB8 Secretary, Tania Ochoteco – CB8 Community
Coordinator

Lisa Daub opened the meeting at 4:00pm. Participants introduced themselves. Welcome to Ft. Independence senior center's new program director, Ofelia Palacio.

MyRide – Joseph Jenkins presented MyRide, a 3-year pilot program that should begin late summer and is designed to help older adults (60+) and people with disabilities stay mobile for increased health and independence. Residents of four Bronx community board districts, including CB8 residents (plus a few districts in Queens and Brooklyn) will be eligible to be selected via lottery to participate for approximately 8 months. Participants can avail of free on-demand car service, within an allotment, via app and/or phone for rides throughout NYC, Nassau and Westchester. DFTA will announce the program this summer and supply details and application process. Plan is to reach eligible adults who may be more isolated and do not regularly attend senior centers. We will help spread the word.

Grab & Go Meals – Josue Melendez noted that Grab & Go meals are starting back up and senior centers can opt-in to participate. Centers are preparing their kitchens to re-start food distribution – a first step to ease into congregate meals and reopening within health guidelines. RSS and Mosholu Montefiore will opt in for Grab & Go.

Community Care Plan – Josue Melendez presented on the 5-year investment framework for older adult services that was recently announced by the Mayor with the goal to support aging in place and reducing the need for institutional care. It includes FY22 funding for additional centers and NORCs and funding, transportation, and outreach to reach more socially isolated and diverse populations. Future goals include funding for increased case management, home care and home delivered meals, caregiver support, technology and virtual programming.

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DFTA partners with the Veterans Administration. Veterans receive assistance through the VA as well as case management funded through DFTA. Aging and special Veterans committees may partner on initiatives. The 2015 meeting on older veterans was noted.

Council Member Eric Dinowitz joined the meeting. He is on several NYC council committees including Aging and is also the new chair of Veterans Affairs committee.

Old Business

L. Daub noted that the recording from the April meeting confirmed approval of the following:

- March meeting minutes were approved with one correction in attendance. She will notify the office.
- Expense Budget requests for FY23 were confirmed:

1.Aging- DFTA – Senior Center Funding – Funding for virtual/in-person hybrid senior center models which will need additional financial support for both in-person and virtual programming and services, including training and staff.

2.Aging- DFTA – Technology– Technology upgrades to senior centers, and personal devices for older adults, including education for older adults to use these devices to remotely access programs offered by the senior centers to facilitate aging in place.

3.Aging- DFTA – Mental Health Services – Mental health service needs have significantly increased. Funding for geriatric community-based mental health services need to reflect this increase

4.Aging- DFTA – Food Programs– Increased funding for congregate food programs including meals for individuals who are temporarily homebound

5.Aging- MTA – Access-A-Ride– Increased funding for access-a-ride for older adults with disabilities within Community Board 8 because of its particularly hilly topography

- Committee approved holding regular meetings on the second Monday of the month at 4:00pm.

New Business

- L. Nicotra and O. Palacio noted that older adults are anxious to meet again in person, the centers are starting to gear up and look forward to coming back stronger. Hybrid model of in-person and virtual gatherings is the go-forward model so tech training is important.
- M. Goodman provided brief history of Marble Hill.

As is tradition, the committee agreed not to meet in June unless an important issue arises. Next meeting is the 2nd Monday in September at 4:00pm.

Meeting adjourned at 5:05pm

Prepared and submitted by:
Lisa Daub & Karen Pesce