

**BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8
MINUTES OF THE AGING COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON NOVEMBER 15, 2016 AT
METHODIST HOME FOR NURSING & REHABILITATION**

PRESENT

Lisa Daub
Anthony Creaney
Amy Joy Robateau
I.W. Stone
Sharon Asherman
Enrie Morales
Francine Scherer
John Cochran
Suad Hassan
Caryn Resnick
Lourdes Santacruz

AFFILIATION

CB8 Committee Chair
CB8 Committee Vice Chair
CB8 Committee Member
CB8 Committee Member
Community Committee Member, Riverdale Y
Community Committee Member, Right at Home
Community Committee Member, Resident
NYS Office for the Aging (SOFA)
Senator Klein's Office & NIDC
NYC Dept. for the Aging (DFTA)
Methodist Home

Not Present:

Marvin Goodman
Irving Ladimer
Karen Pesce
Georgia Santiago

CB8 Committee Member
CB8 Committee Member
CB8 Committee Member, CB8 Secretary
CB8 Committee Member

The meeting was delayed for participant arrivals and started at 2:50 pm. Introductions commenced with arrival of speakers.

Minutes – Approval of September 20th and October 20th meetings are deferred until a quorum meets. Chair asked the three community committee members to share their notes to assist with minutes.

New Business – Ms. Scherer introduced the idea of inviting Assemblyman Dinowitz to speak at an Aging Committee meeting to discuss steps being taken in Albany to protect the safety net for seniors.

Introductions

- Welcome – Chair thanked Lourdes Santacruz and Methodist Home for hosting the meeting
- Participants and today's speakers introduced themselves. Ms. Resnick is Deputy Commissioner for External Affairs, NYC Dept for the Aging (DFTA). She noted that Ms. Ventura, also scheduled, could not attend. Mr. Cochran is Deputy Director, NYS Office for the Aging (SOFA). While in NYC, he took the opportunity to join Ms. Resnick to meet with our committee. We are pleased that both senior level officials from key agencies could join us today.

Speakers – Caryn Resnick (DFTA) and John Cochran (SOFA)

Ms. Resnick introduced the Agency, its funding relationship and a few of DFTA's programs. The NYC Department for the Aging is responsible for budget & legislative agenda on aging, and funding / oversight of community based organizations that deliver essential services and needed programs to older adults (60+) throughout the five boroughs. Older Americans Act funding from federal government is distributed to each State. The NY State Office for the Aging allocates funds and provides oversight to the area agencies for aging. DFTA is the largest agency in the country.

DFTA supports 265 senior centers with at least one located in each community board district, providing no-cost services to people age 60+, with an average member age of 77. DFTA is moving towards more evidence-based programming to improve health and reduce social isolation and chronic disease. New innovative center programming may also attract adults soon after retirement. Funding is not keeping up with the needs of our diverse aging population.

DFTA supports people who are homebound through 23 case management agencies, providing assessments, benefits, modest homemaker hours and meals. Meals-on-Wheels is currently at capacity serving 18,000 clients, with only 2% receiving frozen meals. They are looking at other meal delivery methods, weighing with social service component. DFTA is part of Thrive NYC, partnering with geriatric mental health providers to provide services in senior centers. Also, agencies (large catchment areas) oversee trained volunteers for friendly visiting to reduce isolation and help mitigate depression. DFTA has a large role in Age Friendly NYC and is advocating each city agency to put on an “age-friendly lens” to embed in their programs. Housing initiatives include promotion of affordable senior housing and building owners / landlords use of the new Aging in Place Guide. The arts & aging Su Casa program places an artist in residence in senior centers. The Centers apply, DFTA approves, and in CB8, the Bronx Arts Council selects the artists. The community transportation RFP may be awarded in July, offering individual rides with more flexible boundaries. The federal 5310 grant is to pilot app based door to door rides, similar to ride-share services but with call-in ability. They also engage school buses during down-time for short runs.

In response to a question regarding the possible impact of the election, Mr. Cochran cited areas to watch including recent fiduciary rule regulations, Medicare vouchers, push towards Medicare Advantage plans, and privatization of social security. Colorado has the fastest growing aging population and we may see further reallocation of federal funding to the west.

Mr. Cochran stressed the need to leverage facts - older adults are a significant source of economic, social, and intellectual capital. In NYS, 700,000 older adults volunteer 119M hours valued at \$3.35B. The market value is \$32B from 4.1M unpaid caregivers with average age of 64 provide the bulk of long term care. 64 percent of homeowners aged 60+ have no mortgage and pay property taxes. As the fastest growth cohort, older adults are important to economic development – they are more loyal to local businesses and services, providing a stable economic base to their communities. DFTA now includes countering ageism in its mission statement.

The Committee will hold its **next meeting on Tuesday December 20th** at 2:30 at Ft. Independence Senior Center. RAIN, Inc. will discuss their services. In January, our Senior Center roundtable meeting will be held at Christ Church.

The Chair thanked participants and also expressed her disappointment in today’s low attendance, especially for this informative meeting with key agencies. The meeting adjourned at 4:20 pm.

Prepared by L. Daub - *with thanks to Ms. Scherer, Ms. Asherman and Ms. Morales/Ms. Hassan*
Submitted by Lisa Daub, Chair, Aging Committee