

**MINUTES OF THE AGING COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD TUESDAY, APRIL 24, 2007 AT THE
RIVERDALE SENIOR SERVICES
2600 NETHERLAND AVENUE**

PRESENT

Karen Pesce
Robert Abbott
Anthony Creaney
Tom Durham
Tracy Feerick
Beverly Fettman
Manfred Segal
Constance Segal
Sue Tozzi
Julia Schwartz-Leeper
Jane Reilly

Vincent Brown

AFFILIATION

Committee Chairperson CB #8
CB #8
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CB #8
AARP
AARP
BJCC
Riverdale Senior Services
Park Gardens Long Term
Home Health Care Program

1. Minutes of previous meeting accepted as submitted.
2. Speaker Vincent Brown on Medicare Special Needs Programs. Created in 2003, it covers those in health care facilities, those on Medicare and Medicaid, and those with chronic health needs. There are no age requirements and anyone who would be eligible for Medicare benefits, either on his own or through spouse who is/was Medicare eligible. Its goal is to provide better case management and services with nurses, physicians, health educators on the management team. People can enroll/disenroll at any time and most HMO structure programs have no premiums; costs are paid through the Medicare/Medicaid programs and benefits come through the plan. SNPs (special needs programs) have no hospital deductibles or co-pays. Services are provided through the HMO network.
3. Old Business
4. New Business
 - a. A representative from Hebrew Home's elder abuse center will be invited to present.
 - b. Training/service opportunities for those over 55 years were discussed.
 - c. Community Service Fair, 4/29: Tom Durham will represent us.
 - d. Assisted Living Regulations: were they passed? Karen Pesce will follow up.
 - e. Budget 2009: discussed agency needs for that fiscal year. Will continue planning at next meeting to have requests finalized by June, 2007.
 - f. Cable TV fees: prohibitively expensive for many seniors, especially those living alone. Senior Centers receive a small stipend from DFTA to pay for basic cable charges which doesn't include broadcast of ball games which many seniors enjoy.
 - g. Socially isolated adults: concern was expressed about those individuals who have a crisis in their homes and no one to report it. The US Postal Service may provide training for mail carriers to report instances where mail hasn't been picked up, creating suspicion of potential problems.
 - h. Suggested Aging meeting announcement be posted on Riverdale Shalom.

5. Agency/individual reports

a. AARP: prescription drug marketing reform bill (banning sale of information related to drugs being prescribed by physicians and drug companies' gifts to physicians) passed the Assembly but not the Senate. We are urged to contact our Senators at 1-800-869-5861 to identify support for this bill.

b. Park Gardens is starting a Lombardi program for outreach. BJCC also has one doing outreach in the Bronx.

c. Riverdale Senior Services has partnered with Riverdale Mental Health Association to provide limited mental health services at the Center. Mental Health needs are now part of the health assessment; many seniors deny having needs. "Adjusting to Change" is a newly developed program. More community programs, open to the public, are being presented in the evening.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, 5/22/07. Location to be announced.

Submitted by,

Karen Pesce
Chairperson
Aging Committee

KP:db