

**COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8 BRONX**

**MINUTES OF THE AGING COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD ON FEBRUARY 26, 2008  
AT ATRIA RIVERDALE  
3718 HENRY HUDSON PARKWAY**

**PRESENT**

Karen Pesce  
Tom Durham  
Anthony Creaney  
Robert Fanuzzi  
Beverly Fettman  
Nadine Baker  
Joseph Facciola  
Ceil Gordet  
Kathy Gorup  
Constance Segal  
Manfred Segal  
Julia Schwartz-Leeper

**AFFILIATION**

Committee Chairperson, CB#8  
CB #8  
CB #8  
CB #8  
CB #8  
Schervier Nursing Care Center  
DFTA  
ARC  
Atria Riverdale  
AARP  
AARP  
Riverdale Senior Services

1. Minutes of previous meeting accepted as submitted.
2. Old Business
  - a. Resolution supporting Hebrew Home's application to expand Medicaid benefits to those living in its assisted living facility on Johnson Avenue. After discussion at the Executive Committee meeting of CB 8, we were asked to clarify whether the Hebrew Home wanted a letter of support or resolution. Chair to follow up. Resolution was not presented to the full Board.
  - b. Senior Services booklet: Public Advocate's office sent theirs for review. BRICA is working on revisions to which we can contribute for services in our area.

A map of CB 8 is needed by BRICA.
3. New Business
  - a. Wishes for a speedy recovery to Irving Ladimer who is currently at Schervier for rehabilitation after a fall.

- b. The new case coordination contract has been awarded to RAIN. Joseph Facciola of DFTA stated the new awardees would be encouraged to hire the existing staff, as needed, of the displaced agency (BJCC).
4. Speaker: Bob Fanuzzi of the Economic Development Committee, CB 8: the Committee is exploring and evaluating needed and current transportation in our immediate area, including reaching shopping areas. It has identified needs for service along east/west sides of Henry Hudson Parkway and to Kingsbridge. Service providers identified current operators of transportation services, often limited to their clients/residents: Riverdale Senior Services, YWHA, Schervier Apartments, Atria, Skyview, Classic Residence by Hyatt, Hebrew Home, Amalgamated Houses, Jewish Community Center, Access A Ride. Riverdale Senior Services will fund occasional taxis for medical appointments for those qualifying. Other transportation has a suggested nominal charge.

Noted transportation problems included: a shortage of drivers with Type 2 licensure (vehicles with capacity for more than 16 people); lack of drivers for late afternoon/evening hours; discounted taxi service for the elderly and disabled; high insurance costs; expense of storing bus when not in use; fuel costs; and environmental concerns when the bus isn't used to full capacity. Discussion included the potential of sharing resources to maximize usage and to make transportation available to more people. Durham will contact Liberty Bus Line to determine if retired bus drivers might be interested in providing staffing for expanded hours and vacation relief for those organizations whose programs have been limited by lack of transportation. Mr. Facciola of DFTA stated that Bronx Borough President Carrion has a committee on transportation. Funded by DFTA are transportation programs: Brooklyn Heights and Hill, Bay Ridge on the Move and Washington Heights. He also suggested that the transportation needs to be a budgeted Aging Committee item since many entities serving older adults are involved. Agencies would have to identify the transportation needs on their own budget requests also. Leased buses and group purchase of insurance might be more economical for all. Riverdale Senior Services is part of a group purchasing plan. Julia Schwartz Leeper will get information. Bronx Tourism Council's trolley is available for lease for events.

#### 5. Agency Reports

- a. DFTA: "Aging in Action will be held at Flushing Meadow Park, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM with education, arts, crafts. Mr. Facciola receives most of the complaint calls and has a few regarding the meals programs. If there are concerns, he should be notified for response. At this time, frozen meals are delivered twice weekly

unless the case manager determines the client is unable to reheat the food independently. Recipients of meals in senior centers has declined. The DFTA initiative is to encourage healthy aging, and funded agencies are being encouraged to devise programming to meet that goal, not limiting programming to Senior Centers' "four walls." The Senior Centers could act as hubs for activities. If new types/styles of programming is not developed by a Center, it will be imposed by DFTA if funding is to be continued.

- b. AARP: The tax refund bill has passed. 25% of Social Security recipients live on that amount only and do not pay taxes; they will qualify for refund only if they receive at least \$3000 in benefits. The program "Divided We Fail" to get petition signatures to send to Congress to get health care and other economic benefits to older adults is in full swing.
- c. Schervier: Gerontological Conference on Pain is scheduled for June 4, 2008 at Manhattan College.
- d. Riverdale Senior Services: DFTA and City Council funding is essential for the existence of the Center.

6. Other

- a. The Jericho Project for homeless veterans, 40 years plus, is in planning stages. 89 West Tremont is the model. The planned additional location planned for completion by 2010 is 79 Kingsbridge Terrace near the Veterans Hospital.
- b. Suggested speaker: rep. from Council on Senior Centers.

Next meeting is March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at 3:30 PM. Location to be announced.

Submitted by,

Karen Pesce  
Chairperson

KP:db (March 3<sup>rd</sup>)