

**COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8 BRONX**

**MINUTES OF THE AGING COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD ON APRIL 22<sup>ND</sup>, 2008  
AT RIVERDALE SENIOR SERVICES CENTER  
2600 NETHERLAND AVENUE**

**PRESENT**

Karen Pesce  
Bob Abbott  
Anthony Creaney  
Tom Durham  
Pat Ardezzone  
  
Etti Bar-Shai  
Dan Eudene  
Ceil Gordet  
Judy Guariglia  
Judith Schwartz-Leeper  
Constance Segal  
Manfred Segal

**AFFILIATION**

Committee Chairperson, CB#8  
CB #8  
CB #8  
CB #8  
Kingsbridge Heights Community  
Center  
Riverdale Neighborhood House  
Riverdale Neighborhood House  
ARC  
VNSNY  
Riverdale Senior Services  
AARP  
AARP

1. Minutes of previous meeting accepted as submitted.
2. Speakers, Julia Schwartz-Leeper, Dan Eudene on livable communities, making aging in place, i.e. staying in your own home easier and less costly than long term care or assisted living. Riverdale Senior Services and Riverdale Neighborhood House are working together. A major initiative in Westchester, the CB 8 community was seen as a good area to expand the program and has been included in the Visiting Nurse Initiative. Based on pooling of resources by people of all ages to help each other; for teens it could provide an opportunity to fulfill service requirements. Suggested was developing a nonprofit to coordinate the effort; an annual charge could be asked of participants to get the non-specialized help needed, i.e. tying shoelaces, heating food from meals on wheels, serving as an advocate at medical appointments, or a "time bank" of service hours given/received which would require recordkeeping. As noted, small problems become major ones as the population ages. Need to identify goals, how to reach people with needs, how to coordinate available/potential exchangers of services. BRICA is hosting a Town Hall meeting, seeking ideas to make New York City a more age friendly location. The New York Academy of Medicine and WHO have prompted the Council of the City of New York to develop a constituent feedback form which appears to be targeted to the more mobile older population, transportation, employment opportunities, etc. Jessica Walker, a resource,

is a prime researcher in the area of reaching older adults and meeting needs.

Discussion: some older adults recognize that they need costly care in other settings, but prefer to stay in their own homes to conserve their resources. Transportation is an identified need. Does the committee need to do an assessment of needs or start with transportation? New York State budget may have targeted funds for the latter, thanks to Assemblyman Dinowitz, Chair of State's Aging Committee. Goals need to be developed. To reach shut-ins, Riverdale Neighborhood House telephone reassurance program, RSS case coordination, RAIN case management, YMHA, tenants' unions and supers may be resources. Need input from the healthy younger population, and have grass roots meetings to identify needs.

### 3. Old Business

- a. DFTA budget considerations developed by CSCS in consultation with organizations serving seniors were distributed as a springboard for our Aging Committees request. The goal is to coordinate requests made by local agencies.
- b. RFP's for reorganization of senior centers has been postponed to an unknown date. RFP for meal service at senior centers is due May 1st. Past changes in meals on wheels service may not have saved money, as had been suggested. Mr. Dinowitz has been very effective in suggesting that DFTA may not have done adequate research into proposed changes and the State needs to be a "watchdog" over city services for the aged population. Public Advocate Gotbaum has also questioned the proposed changes. A City Hall rally is planned for May 15th, 2008.

### 4. New Business

- a. Elder Abuse and the Family will be presented June 18, 2008, 8:30 AM - 2:30 PM at New School University, 66 West 12th Street, NYC.
- b. "Safe Streets for NY," a report on pedestrian fatalities, including age groups, issued by NYC is available from Chairperson.

### 5. Agency/Individual Reports

- a. AARP: prescription drug discounts will be available for singles with income less than \$35,000/year; for married, less than \$50,000/year. There is money in budget to send representatives to visit physicians to discourage prescribing of expensive medications.

Caregiver centers for education and training are planned; there are eight community empowerment zones in NYS. Driver safety initiative was recommended. Assembly passed majority of initiatives.

- b. T. Durham: television reception change: effective April 2009, televisions will require cable hook-up or satellite. Contact [dtv2009.gov](http://dtv2009.gov) for more information.
- c. Kingsbridge Heights Community Center: Older adults are discriminated against in employment search, despite Department of Labor rulings.

Submitted by,

Karen Pesce  
Chairperson  
Aging Committee

KP:db