

COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8 BRONX

**MINUTES OF THE AGING COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON SEPTEMBER 23RD, 2008
AT THE CLASSIC RESIDENCE BY HYATT
537 RIVERDALE AVENUE
YONKERS, NY**

PRESENT

Karen Pesce
Bob Abbott
Anthony Creaney
Thomas Durham
Alma Fana
Beverly Fettman
Nadine Baker
Grace Bova
Joseph Facciola
Julia Schwartz-Leeper

Sue Lobel
Jane Reilly

AFFILIATION

Committee Chairperson, CB#8
CB #8
CB #8, Committee Vice Chair
CB #8
CB #8
CB #8
Schervier Nursing Care Center
Interfaith
NYC Department for the Aging
Schervier Nursing Care Center
and Riverdale Senior Services
Classic Residency by Hyatt
Park Gardens LTHHCP

1. Minutes of previous meeting accepted as submitted.
2. Report on DFTA budget hearings

Funding the development of Livable Communities. The redesigned case management program is seen as a link to this concept. Redesigned home delivered meal program will give seniors the choice and flexibility in the type of meal received and frequency, after assessment by case manager. Senior Center Request for Proposals is scheduled for release October, 2008. Depression screening initiative is continuing.

Funding for development and coordination of a transportation system to provide east/west access for seniors in the community. Essentially the answer was use NYC Transit services and paratransit services, i.e. those available thru Tri Center Transportation, Riverdale Senior Services and Bronx Jewish Community Council. Fund a comprehensive system to identify and educate seniors on resources. Recommended by DFTA was to use 311 or nyc.gov/accessnyc.

3. Joe Facciola, DFTA representative for our area: Joe fields 20-30 calls each day, a portion of those referred by 311. Occasionally the calls are from staff

members inquiring about their agencies, salaries, etc. Ten business days are allowed for follow-up. Calls from seniors frequently relate to housing issues and elder abuse. Section 8 housing subsidies are no longer available except for homeless and domestic violence victims. Foreclosure issues will be discussed in a DFTA program in the fall. DFTA anticipates a possible deficit of \$12 million. DFTA isn't dealing with transportation issues. As one member suggested, taxi vouchers should be made available for those who can't get Access-A-Ride at certain evening hours. Access-A-Ride now goes to Mt. Vernon.

4. Volunteer opportunities: area agencies are being asked to identify volunteer opportunities which can benefit seniors or provide service opportunities for them. The Riverdale Press has expressed interest in publicizing, possibly monthly. Information was distributed.

5. Agency Reports

- a. Schervier will do a fashion show fundraiser October 25, 2008, 4:30 PM, \$65.00.
- b. Park Garden LTC has openings for clients and is now serving 25 people. The Lombardi program is available as a "nursing home without walls" for those whose income is \$13,000 or less.
- c. Riverdale Senior Services is sponsoring monthly art exhibits in its Center. There are also dinners with authors at private homes, a fundraiser. A Bazaar will be held November 2nd, 2008 with the sale of jewelry and knickknacks. Julia is working with Bob Fanuzzi, Chair of Economic Development Committee to determine a method of sharing bus service by those agencies providing transportation.
- d. Irving Ladimer is working on legislation to provide some form of caregiver reimbursement. It is supported by Assemblyman Dinowitz and Jim Higgins, CEO of Schervier-BonSecour.
- e. The Methodist Home for Aging is sponsoring a community health fair at its facility, October 1st, 2008, 10 AM to 4 PM. The Aging Committee was asked to participate but no materials for distribution are available. DFTA has some and with more notice, could provide those.
- f. Beverly Fettman recognized the need to publicize programs for Seniors. Assemblyman Dinowitz' office may maintain a calendar of events. There should be a site to donate equipment (canes, walkers, wheelchairs, etc.) and distribute it to the needy. Joe of DFTA mentioned a new electric hospital bed which can be given to someone.
- g. Bob Abbott, Chair of Libraries and Cultural affairs committee reported on a mid-Manhattan Library Fair, 40th Street and 5th Avenue, September 27th, 10 AM to 3 PM, for those 50+.

- h. Interfaith Caregivers Program is closing at end of this year due to lack of funding. St. Gabriel's Church has agreed to try to fill the gap with Senior coordinating.
- i. Miscellaneous
Senior Community Employment Program (SCSEP) sponsored by DFTA provides employment and training opportunities for those 55 years and older. Trainees receive a stipend of \$7.15/hour for 20 hours/week. The phone number is (212) 442-1355/56. Requirements: low income, unemployed, interested in obtaining job.

Annual Plan for services under Older Americans Act and Services. For elderly and expanded in-home services for the elderly, Thursday, October 30th, 2008 at Lincoln Medical and Mental Health Center, Auditorium, 234 East 149th St., Bronx, 10 AM to Noon.

Mayoral Conference on Alzheimer 's disease, Friday, October 31st, 2008. Details by calling 311.

"Senior Stroll" sponsored by DFTA. Details by calling 311.

NY Botanical Garden is seeking volunteers for several opportunities.

Guide for Aging Resources is available from the Chairperson.

- j. Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 28th, 2008. Location to be announced.

Submitted by,

Karen Pesce
Chairperson
Aging Committee

KP:db (September 28, 2008)