

COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8 BRONX

**MINUTES OF THE AGING COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON FEBRUARY 24, 2009
AT THE ATRIA RIVERDALE**

PRESENT

Karen Pesce
Anthony Creaney
Irving Ladimer (excused)
Nadine Baker
Joseph Facciola
Bella Kirschner
Andrea Marais
Roisin Rogers, RN

AFFILIATION

Committee Chairperson, CB#8
CB #8, Committee Vice Chair
CB #8
Schervier
DFTA
Atria Riverdale
Hebrew Home
Visiting Nurse Service

1. Minutes of previous meeting held jointly with Library and Cultural Affairs approved as submitted.
2. Speaker to be rescheduled due to conflict.
3. Reports
 - a. Joe Facciola, Department for Aging: Commissioner Santiago has resigned. His replacement is Lillian Barrios-Paoli. RFP's for Senior Centers (326 affected) and Home Delivered Meals have been withdrawn. The new Commissioner is reviewing the proposals. The Meals on Wheels program in Queens is now in transition with fewer suppliers. During hiatus with other contracts, service is being provided by prior contractors. There is a new NYS program promoting "living in place," one of this committee's expense budget items. Details will be provided as available. He will identify who is providing free tax preparation.
 - b. VNS of NY: a separate organization from VNA. VNS has skilled care with no wait list. Important programs are those for congestive heart failure working with the client's physician for identified outcomes, falls prevention and safety inspection of client's home, charitable care.
 - c. AARP: supports living community proposal; wants bill passed to prohibit pharmaceutical companies from gifting to physicians to enhance sales of certain drugs; recommends bulk buying of medications by NYS to get better rebates. Communication between members: instead of mailing, members could contact others via email despite not all members having access.

- d. Schervier/Bon Secour: petitions have been submitted to Governor Patterson regarding proposed funding cuts in health services to older adults. A well attended seminar addressed these issues. There are 72 rehabilitation beds.
- e. Hebrew Home: Andrea Marais, Director Of Marketing, has new phone number (718) 514-2117. Hebrew Home has grant through Brookdale for alternative therapies for people with dementia to reduce the need for traditional medication. Short term rehab is being expanded to 90 beds. Admission age is 50-55 years for all stays.
- f. Methodist Home: despite no representation, many compliments for Eileen Sinatra.
- g. Access A Ride is now providing more transportation with cabs instead of vans, a suggestion of B. Fettman.
- h. Volunteer requests were submitted to R. Press and are now being printed in short columns rather than the suggested profile of the organization and volunteer opportunities.

Association has links for resources.

- i. Elected officials may have funding for small program helping older adults.
- j. Repairs to older adult's homes may be available through Bronx Shepherds (Joe of DFTA has contact), Hearts and Hammers (RAIN) and Bronx Community Board 5, Carmen Cruise.
- k. BRICA will host meeting 3/9/09 regarding hoarding.
- l. Suggestion: invite residents of hosting facility to meeting of Aging Committee.
- m. Needs: develop Mission Statement for the Committee; anticipate expense budget requests for 2011.

Submitted by:

Karen Pesce
Chairperson
Aging Committee