

COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8 BRONX

**MINUTES OF THE AGING COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON MAY 26, 2009
AT THE BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8
BOARD OFFICE**

PRESENT

Karen Pesce
Anthony Creaney
Robert G. Abbott
Irving Ladimer
Baya Butler
Jeanette Cohen
Diane McTigue
Jane Reilly
Arlene Richman
Frances Savage

AFFILIATION

Committee Chairperson, CB#8
CB #8, Committee Vice Chair
CB #8
CB #8
AmPark NORC-BJCC
Kittay House
Associate Director, Kittay House
Park Gardens, LTHHCP
Director, Kittay House
UN Health

1. Minutes of previous meeting accepted as submitted.
2. Discussion
 - a. Senior Center RFP: to be available soon but no identified date. New DFTA Aging Commissioner is establishing priorities. By 2010-2011, "cookie cutter" senior centers, i.e. all the same basic pattern, will no longer be viable. They will be organized to meet the local community's needs and eliminated programs may be restored. A goal is to have senior centers cooperate between themselves. The old emphasis was on health, numbers of clients served which may not have been the best indicators for measuring successful function.
 - b. Case Management: clients may be screened in a timely manner but then may have to wait up to a year to get homecare, homemaker service and mental health services. For the latter, there is minimal funding which the Committee identified as a major shortcoming. Medicaid will cover cost of some programs; Medicare has a limited eligibility period.
 - c. Tax preparation help for Senior's: Baruch offered student help. DFTA had some sites, none of them in our service area.
 - d. Living Communities, i.e. helping Senior's age in place by staying in their own homes: there are those programs located in Westchester.
 - e. Directory of services for older adults: BRICA had planned to update but status of the project isn't known. As mentioned, services change and would need to be updated regularly, probably on a web site which many seniors don't access.

3. Report from Kittay House: it will sponsor a Community Health Fair, 6/11/09. DFTA will be present. This committee was invited to participate.
4. Expense Budget Priorities, 2011
 - a. Fund mental health services and intervention, both in home and through agencies serving older adults
 - b. Expand caregivers training and support; expand in home services
 - c. Continue the Adult Daycare Social Model
 - d. Funding for Geriatric Mental Health

Discussion: it was the Committee consensus that adoption of these requests would promote the ability of Senior's to remain independent in their own homes. It was anticipated that these programs would be partially channeled through Senior Centers. Other expense budget considerations were expanding case management to improve delivery of services, money management training for older adults and continuation of funding for elder abuse programs.

Submitted by,

Karen Pesce
Chairperson
Aging Committee

KP:db (June 1, 2009)