

COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8 BRONX

**MINUTES OF THE AGING COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON SEPTEMBER 22, 2009
AT THE RIVERDALE HOUSING FOR THE ELDERLY
6477 BROADWAY**

PRESENT

Karen Pesce
Robert G. Abbott
Steven Balicer
Anthony Creaney
Beverly Fettman
Irving Ladimer
Lee Furman
Mildred Rezman

AFFILIATION

Committee Chairperson, CB#8
CB #8
CB #8
CB #8, Committee Vice Chair
CB #8
CB #8
Riverdale Mental Health

1. Minutes of previous meeting reviewed and approved as submitted.
2. Speaker: to be rescheduled.
3. Report on Department for Aging Budget Hearings

No funding stream for mental health services at this time, but the Commissioner is exploring homebound seniors' needs.

DFTA is experimenting with "virtual senior centers" to promote interaction for homebound elderly. Will ask Joe Facciola, our representative, for information.

There is recognized need to have outreach to those who aren't gregarious and don't participate in Senior Center activities.

There is need to ask seniors what their needs/wants are.

Many people are dissatisfied with Access- A-Ride; there is consideration of a debit type card for usage with livery cabs.

Funding for senior centers has been fully restored.

There is consideration of "charter centers," in addition to current centers, 1-2 in every borough. There would be open competition.

Mayor Bloomberg made a commitment of \$25 million for senior programs with \$10-15 million available by 2010.

Elder abuse intervention programs have been fully restored.

Social Adult Daycare has experienced a 10-15% cut but some programs had already been eliminated due to projected funding cuts, allowing those still functioning to share in the available monies.

DFTA is working with AARP to provide financial management and bill paying for those unable to do so independently.

Census data is being evaluated to determine highest concentration of older adults for best locations for senior centers.

Queens and Bronx not as well served as other boroughs. In NYC wide, 1/3 of seniors are poor.

Meals on Wheels: additional providers are being considered to meet dietary needs.

Suggestion was that Senior Centers and NORCs work cooperatively if they aren't already doing so.

4. Miscellaneous

Classes in various subjects are available at senior centers and libraries. Mayor's Office on Disability provides info. Emerald Isle has call in center for services. Neighborhood House has program for youth helping older adults. Bronx Jewish Community Center (?) funds NORCs and provides referral info. Ellen Koladny of the Bronx District Attorney's office has service directory of programs/services available for older adults.

5. Agency/Individual reports

- a) Steve: Medicare Part D for open/change of enrollment begins 11/15. Emergency room visits for those with Blue Cross/Blue Shield is \$50 unless admitted to hosp.
- b) Irving: Riverdale Senior Services is having a bazaar. There are programs for vision, hard of hearing, bereavement. 14 people are participating in Adult Social Daycare; funding is needed. RSS has interns from Hunter College, School of Social Work. Atria of Riverdale, new administrator, Larry Tolamy. Schervier is proposing a study with chronic illness monitor for those with diabetes and heart problems. Participants would enter daily levels and be monitored by two physicians. Mildred reported she'd participated in a similar study through Montefiore.
- c) Lee reported that outreach programs with senior centers are in place with psychosocial educational meetings and medical management at Riverdale Senior Services.
- d) Beverly: express bus interior signs and driver announcements need to indicate next stop. Lighting on West Side Highway aren't illuminated at night despite calls to 311.

6. Mission Statement: need to distribute and revise, as needed.

Submitted by:

Karen Pesce
Chairperson
Aging Committee

Next meeting: Tuesday, October 27th, 2009, 3:30PM. Location to be announced.