

PENDING COMMITTEE APPROVAL

MINUTES OF HEALTH, HOSPITALS AND SOCIAL SERVICE COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD ON MAY 17, 2016 at
Citadel Rehabilitation & Nursing Center
3400 Cannon Place (at Giles Place)

Present: S. Froot, M. Heller, N. Friedman, K. Pesce

Absent: L. Croft, O. Murray, J. Gomez

- Citadel Rehab and Nursing Center report and site of the meeting was provided by Nathan Freund, Administrator. Citadel corporate entity took over and moved the facility from involuntary receivership into voluntary receivership, 2/15. There have been labor issues in the past with history of employee strike; contract with 1199 union is renewed every couple years. There were several outstanding violations due to lack of updating of the facility. With new ownership, the Health Department requires full ADA compliance: maximum of two beds per room, and new bathrooms; wanderguard. At this time there are 400 beds in this currently for profit organization with a goal of improving current facility and focusing on serving area residents; facility has had full occupancy for past 6 months and is a less expensive option than a hospital stay with reimbursement based on hospital bundling rate. Most residents are long term with diagnoses of Alzheimer's/dementia (the latter integrated into residential areas), heart disease and other ailments. During renovation, 15 beds are reserved to transfer residents. Rehab unit will house 20-25 residents when completed. Corporate is buying nursing homes in the Bronx (46) with plans to add a few more in the area. Citadel's location in a residential area provides challenges: designated parking is available at shift changes, 15 minutes prior and 15 minutes for 35 staff cars supervised by staff; uncertain how many of the 400 staff members, all shifts, drive to Citadel and park in area. A.C. generator is being moved to soundproof building on roof to decrease neighborhood noise; supply and construction material delivery will continue to be an issue. Smoking by staff and limited residents is across the street and not welcome by neighbors. Sam Gut, overall project manager, stated most of building will be resurfaced with stucco and landscaping improved.

- **Concerns:** Should taxpayer dollars (government grant) be used on a for-profit entity? As of 2/15 all patients on Medicaid will be assigned to a Managed Care Plan, part of a 3 year pilot program.
- **Emergency vehicle flashing lights:** drivers have been asked to turn off lights so area residents aren't disturbed during the night but safety on the street is a consideration.
- Minutes of 2/1/16 approved as submitted: agree-S. Froot, N. Friedman, M. Heller, K. Pesce. Against: 0, Abstentions: 0.
- ThriveNYC Mental Health Initiative to be held 6/20 at Amalgamated Houses, Vladeck Hall. Time? Councilman Cohen is Chair of City Council Mental Health Committee. Shirley McCray may attend.
- Ambulance service: Mt. Sinai ambulance service will replace TransCare which had bankruptcy. EMS from FDNY and hospital ambulances is temporarily filling in. One ALS and one BLS on each ambulance. An anonymous letter of support was requested to which the committee decided not to respond.
- Affinity Health Plan, a 30 year old managed care not for profit plan, plans a fair in Van Cortlandt Park, a 5 hour event, 12-5PM. 50th Precinct is requesting a letter of support from this Committee. S. Froot will check references and, if positive, write letter of support.
- **Bon Secour:** Ian Christner reported the initiative will be funded this year. He suggested hiring a consultant to study the need for public health needs in CB8 and Manhattan.
- **Budget priorities:**
Capital: restocking station for EMS
Expense: fund geriatric mental health needs
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