

**BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8**

**MINUTES OF THE HEALTH, HOSPITALS & SOCIAL SERVICES  
COMMITTEE MEETING, February 9, 2015**

**PRESENT**

Steven Froot  
Lisa Daub  
Michael Heller  
Beverly Fettman  
Laura Spalter

**AFFILIATION**

Committee Chair  
Committee Vice Chair  
CB 8 – Committee member  
CB 8 – Committee member  
CB 8

**The meeting was called to order at 7:45 p.m. at the Board Office.**

**Minutes**

- Due to the absence of a quorum at the November and December meetings, the minutes of the October 20, 2014 meeting were presented for approval, a quorum being present, and the minutes of the October 20, 2014 meeting were reviewed and approved.
- The minutes of the November 17 and December 15, 2014 meetings were prepared but not published on the Board website due to the absence of a quorum.

**Chair's Report**

- The Chair reported on the poor attendance at this year's meetings, the reasons for missed meetings in some cases, and the consequences for the Committee. The Chair has reached out or will reach out to those members who have missed three or more meetings this year. There was discussion of attracting new members to the Committee from among the current Board membership.
- The Chair mentioned the possibility of holding a joint meeting with Environment & Sanitation and Youth to discuss opportunities for Board involvement in activities relating to healthy eating and healthy living, with a focus on young people, perhaps in conjunction with Bon Secours Health System's "Healthy Communities" program.

**New Business**

- Riverdale Manor Adult Home, located on Broadway just above West 254<sup>th</sup> Street, had been invited to attend the meeting to inform the Committee about its history, operations and future plans. Although the Board Office had been in touch with the facility, no one from Riverdale Manor was able to attend.
- The Chair presented his research about residential facilities housing the adult mentally ill in New York State, specifically the lawsuit brought by a public interest group, later joined by

the U.S. Justice Department, in Brooklyn federal court a few years ago challenging the practice of housing mentally ill adults in restrictive institutional settings. Under a July 2013 settlement reached with New York State, residents will be given the option to move out of the institutions into supportive housing – their own apartments, where they would continue to receive specialized treatment and services – and commits the State to set up a minimum of 2000 supported housing units for this purpose. The New York State Office of Mental Health has up to five years to assess the most appropriate housing for each of the approximately 4000 individuals living in large group homes.

- Laura Spalter reported to the Committee from the perspective of a long-time North Riverdale resident about the interaction of the community with Riverdale Manor over the years. She indicated that many of the residents do not leave the facility, but some who do wander the streets, and a few have engaged in aggressive panhandling, littering and other undesirable behaviors. She stated that it was her understanding that most of the residents attend day programs operated by the social services agency FECS, which it was recently reported is shutting down.
- Mr. Froot indicated that he would schedule the next HHSS meeting for 6 pm in order to accommodate the schedule of Riverdale Manor's administrator so that she could attend. The Chair and Vice Chair offered to research the issues discussed prior to the next meeting.

### **Old Business**

Mr. Froot distributed the most recent summary listing of NY City Council legislation, proposed and recently passed, which was prepared by Board Vice Chair Rosemary Ginty. The Committee discussed those items that appear to fall within the purview of HHSS. The following members agreed to research the following proposed legislation:

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| 050-2014  | notification of community boards about methadone clinic applications (Heller) |
| 571A-2014 | early intervention programs under Division of Family & Child Health (Heller)  |
| 442-2014  | nutritional standards for incentive items to children (Daub)                  |
| 135-2014  | reporting fire & ambulance response times (Fettman)                           |

The Chair will contact the chairs of Education, Housing and Environment & Sanitation about certain of the proposed legislation that would appear to be of interest to other committees as well as HHSS.

### **The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.**

The Committee will hold its next meeting on Monday, March 16, 2015, at the Riverdale Mental Health Association second floor conference room, located above the Board Office at 5676 Riverdale Avenue.

Prepared by Steven Froot, Chair  
Health, Hospitals & Social Services Committee