

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8

**MINUTES OF THE HEALTH, HOSPITALS & SOCIAL SERVICES
COMMITTEE MEETING, May 19, 2014**

PRESENT

Steven Froot
Michael Heller
Lisa Daub
Dana Lennon
Herb Young
Stan Cohen
Mariela Gonzalez
Deborah Rivera Oquendo

AFFILIATION

Committee Chair
Committee Vice Chair
CB 8 – Committee member
CB 8 – Committee member
CB 8 member
Riverdale Urgent Care
Visiting Nurse Service of NY
Visiting Nurse Service of NY

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m. at the Board Office.

Minutes: pending

Presentation: Stan Cohen, Riverdale Urgent Care

Mr. Cohen is Practice Manager at Riverdale Urgent Care, 5665 Riverdale Avenue, in the Skyview Shopping Plaza. The location is a satellite of Throgs Neck Walk-In Medical Care PC., which operates four urgent care centers. The Riverdale location opened October 2012. Mr. Cohen informed the committee that urgent care is: walk-in; no appointment; providing care for acute but not life-threatening conditions beyond the scope of regular primary care. Available procedures include fracture and laceration care, with laboratory and imaging services available (blood draw & rapid testing for strep, mono, and flu is provided, although positive results must be cultured and sent out to a laboratory; digitally imaged x-rays will be sent out for reading by a radiologist within one hour; EKGs can be read on-site). The facility is staffed by MDs, physician assistants, and nurse practitioners, and is open nights and on weekends.

Mr. Cohen explained that conditions such as chest pain and head injuries require an emergency room visit. If urgent care sends a patient to a hospital ER, it is often possible to avoid triage procedure by calling ahead to provide a quick assessment. Testing is not available for measles or bleeding during pregnancy, and IV fluid treatments are not handled at the facility. Urgent care centers are cheaper and faster for patients than an emergency room visit, although more expensive than a scheduled visit to a physician's office. Committee members verified from personal experience that urgent care centers provide very quick care. By some estimates, 40% of all ER visits could be handled in an urgent care setting.

Urgent care centers accept most commercial insurance, Medicare and cash customers, but not Medicaid (except for the Affinity Plan). Travel medicine, as well as other inoculations, is available for certain diseases, such as typhoid, hepatitis A, MMR, tetanus, malaria, meningitis and shingles (yellow fever and smallpox is only available at one of the four locations). The facility is certified by Urgent Care Association of America.

Presentation: **Deborah Rivera Oquendo, Nurse Manager**
 Mariela Gonzalez, Community Outreach Liaison
 Visiting Nurse Service Nurse-Family Partnership of New York

The Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) is a federally funded program run by the NYC Department of Health & Mental Hygiene. Each borough has its own program manager; a non-profit subsidiary of Visiting Nurse Service of New York is the manager for the Bronx, based in Hutchinson Metro Center. The program partners first-time Medicaid-eligible mothers ages 13-44 with a registered nurse early in pregnancy, and involves individualized home visits until the child's second birthday. There are no citizenship requirements, and nurses speak French and Spanish. Funding is provided by Medicaid, WIC, as well as some foundation support.

775 families in the Bronx are currently enrolled in the program, although there is additional capacity. City-wide, 86% of participants are unmarried and 44% are under 18 years of age. NFP started 30 years ago in Denver. The assigned nurse monitors prenatal care and follows the lives of mothers and their children after birth. Although the two CB 8 zip codes 10471 and 10463 are not covered by the program, all mothers in the Bronx under age 18 are eligible regardless of zip code.

The details of the NFP are as follows:

- First 30 months of child's life is critical (including gestation).
- The program improves pregnancy outcomes for at-risk mothers
- A mother must sign on at not later than 28 weeks with one nurse
- Effort to ensure mother goes to prenatal care visits
- Assigned nurse serves as a case manager, connecting clients to various community services
- During pregnancy nurse looks at five domains – screening for wellness, nutrition, exercise, mental health assessment, drug abuse
- Participants in the program have higher full-term birth rates and higher breastfeeding rates,
- Fathers encouraged to participate and HS aged women are encouraged to remain in school
- Early identification of women facing domestic abuse results in referrals to services
- Show mothers how to set up homes for child safety and impart parenting skills
- Outreach – schools & hospitals are good referral sources, along with 311
- Positive results for four outcomes measured: days hospitalized, months between births, mothers on welfare, mothers on food stamps

Chair's Report

Mr. Froot passed out statistics on healthy eating from Bronx Health Reach.

New Business – Budget Priorities

The Chair indicated that the Committee would make final decisions at the June meeting. Discussion ensued about again including ISS program geriatric services from Riverdale Mental Health as an Expense Request, and whether to again submit a Capital Request for the establishment of a local EMS ambulance restocking & decontamination station. The Chair recalled that several years ago it appeared that FDNY might be prepared to support a facility near the stables in VC Park, just east of Broadway, but that such support was subsequently withdrawn. A short discussion on EMS response times and the relationship with the location of the restocking station was held. A discussion also took place about a lack of mental health services in the community. The Chair asked that members be prepared to propose additional funding requests at the June meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 pm.

The Committee will hold its next meeting on Monday, June 16, 2014, at 7:30 pm, at Manhattan College Resource and Learning Center, 3840 Corlear Avenue, Room 205.

Prepared by Michael Heller, Vice Chair
Approved by Steven Froot, Chair
Health, Hospitals & Social Services Committee