

HEALTH AND HOSPITALS COMMITTEE

May 16, 2005 MEETING MINUTES

Raccoon Problem

- In the past year, of the five boroughs, only The Bronx had rabid animal cases.
- The Bronx has had 10 rabid animal cases in the past year, 8 of which occurred in Community Board #8.
- Recently three residents in North Riverdale were attacked by a rabid raccoon.
- Committee Chairman attempting to determine which city agency to consult with respect to the raccoon problem.
- Committee Chairman would like to assemble a plan for dealing with and reducing the occurrence of rabid animals in Community Board #8.
- CB#8 has contacted the Bronx Zoo for advice with regard to dealing with rabid animals.
- Handout provided at meeting: information regarding rabies in an effort to educate public.

CB #8 Defibrillator

- Community Board #8 has purchased a defibrillator which will be brought to general board meetings.
- Next Health & Hospitals Committee meeting to be dedicated to teaching the use of the office defibrillator.

Budget Items

- Committee requests Capital funding for construction, outfitting and staffing of an EMS station within Community Board #8.
- Riverdale Mental Health Center

FDNY Responses to Medical Emergencies

- During a discussion at the April full board meeting it was suggested that it may be inappropriate for the Fire Department (i.e. Engine and/or Ladder Companies), to respond to medical emergencies. This assertion was made with respect to an incident which occurred in November 2004 where a FDNY engine responded to a nursing home medical emergency at approximately the same time a fire occurred within the jurisdiction of the engine in which two children died.

It is the Health and Hospital Committee's belief that the assertion made at the full Board meeting is incorrect and that it is important to allow the FDNY to determine how they respond to emergencies.

Montefiore Hospital Presentation

- Montefiore operates a satellite medical facility on Johnson Avenue and a Women's Health Clinic at the Whitehall.
- Montefiore Hospital operates the 7th busiest E.R. in the nation as quoted from Crain's Magazine.
- Montefiore which operates the two aforementioned facilities is looking to expand service in the Riverdale area.

Johnson Avenue Facility

- Primary care facility for preventative care (belief that primary care contributes to improved quality of life).
- Montefiore is building a partnership with “The Atria” as a model program between the hospital and a senior care facility.
- Geriatrics is treated as a specialty.
- The senior population in Riverdale appears to be, as a whole, healthier than most other communities.
- The Johnson Avenue facility schedule is flexible for urgent cases, patients should always call first.
- The wait for a regular appointment is approximately one week.
- The wait for a full physical (much more comprehensive) exam is approximately two to three weeks.
- Due to its success, the Johnson Avenue facility which is currently staffed with two physicians and will be adding a third Doctor. This should decrease the waiting time for an appointment.
- Referrals, when necessary, are provided mostly to Montefiore Hospital physicians though geographical considerations with regard to the patient’s home location are taken.
- Montefiore Hospital uses modern computerized data systems to maintain patient records. Information gathered at satellite facilities (i.e. Johnson Avenue facility) is automatically provided to the main hospital if a patient requires admission. This helps assure the best patient care possible.

Women’s Health Clinic

- Facility located in the Whitehall and has been operating since December 2004.
- Riverdale used to be an older population, clinic is seeing shift to younger demographic.
- Clinic handles all female patients from start of child cycle to senior years.

Emergency Preparedness

- City has plan for emergency drill in near future.