

**COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8 BRONX
MINUTES OF THE HEALTH, HOSPITALS & SOCIAL SERVICES
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2009**

PRESENT

Maria Khury
Alma Fana
Philip Friedman
Steven Froot
Joyce Pilsner
Connor Boals
Bruce Zarret

AFFILIATION

Chairperson
CB 8
Committee Vice Chair
CB 8
CB 8
Columbia University Journalism School
Kingsbridge Heights Rehabilitation Care Ctr.

Chairperson's Report

- New Chairperson introduces herself.
- Asks committee members to provide constructive criticism of her leadership.

Introductions

- All attendees introduce and provide synapses of themselves.

Agenda Items

Terrace Health Care Center:

- The Chairperson interfaced with representatives of Terrace Health Care/St. Joseph's and determined there is no new information relative to plans for the satellite methadone clinic. Projected opening of clinic has been pushed back to Fall 2010.
- Due to lack of news information, though invited to attend the meeting, Terrace Health Care & St. Joseph's are not in attendance.
- Moment of Silence for recently deceased board member Cassandra Prentice.

Mission Statement:

- Draft of mission statement read to committee.
- Committee members offer additions/amendments to draft statement
- Final version of mission statement as follows:

"The Health, Hospital and Social Services Committee "HH&SS" addresses issues that impact the health and social services provided by the institutions that are located in Bronx Community Board No. 8.

We evaluate, review, and make assessments with respect to medical and non-medical welfare care of the people residing in our community, including services for health, youth, senior citizens, infants, homeless, and the disabled.

We will collaborate with health care providers, city agencies, elected officials, the board, and other committees as needed, to obtain and assure that the best possible pertinent health and social services are made available to BXC8."

Old Business**Budget:**

- Committee's prior submissions for 2011 budget capital and expense requests are reviewed.
- Chairperson queries the committee for any recommended changes to the budget request items.
- Board member explains the NYC budget process to the meeting attendees.
- Board member summarizes by stating that it is a lengthy process to obtain budget request items but it is important to put those items on the table.
- It is mentioned that budget cuts have taken money from local senior services/programs. It is further mentioned that private funding was provided to some of these programs.
- The Health & Hospital Corporation (HHC) is mentioned. It is explained that the HHC is a quasi-entity whose funding does not go through the city budget.

Miscellaneous:

- Chairperson polls attendees if 7:30PM is a better time for the committee meetings than 7PM. The consensus is that 7:30PM is more convenient.
- Chairperson states committee meetings will be held monthly on the 3rd Monday of each month starting in November (October's meeting will be held jointly with the Education committee.)

New Business

- The committee will meet jointly with the Education committee on October 27th.
- Guest speakers will be of interest to both committees.
- Chairperson indicates she wants the committee to collaborate with the Laws, Rules and Ethics committee relative to budget cuts relating to senior services.
- Chairperson indicates she would like to co-host a meeting with the Aging committee. A common time convenient to both committees will have to be determined since Aging usually meets in afternoons instead of evenings.
- Chairperson requests to be emailed by attendees relative to further topics of interest and collaborations.
- Board member provides idea of inviting relevant local agencies to committee meetings.

H1N1 Virus:

- Chairperson attended H1N1 presentation held at Lincoln Hospital. States that there shouldn't be any more concern relative to this strain of virus verses the 'seasonal' flu virus.
- Chairperson states she had attended a recent Education committee meeting where the guest speaker was a physician (Dr. Jane Bedell) who discussed H1N1 thus much of the Lincoln Hospital presentation was redundant.
- Chairperson states that it was good she attended the Lincoln Hospital presentation to show the community board's interest in such events. The physician at the

Lincoln Hospital presentation was the same as who attended the Education committee meeting. The physician recognized the committee Chairperson from that prior meeting.

- Chairperson states there were 54 deaths related to the H1N1 virus but 94% of these cases had underlying health issues.
- From information obtained, Chairperson states that the age group most affected by H1N1 is 5-17. Vaccinations should be given to the high risk group. Also states the same group who gets the 'regular'/seasonal flu vaccine should get the H1N1 vaccine.
- Additional information regarding the H1N1 virus can be viewed at www.nyc.gov/flu.
- Publication Ready NY flu flyer is circulated.
- Prevention of the flu is stressed. Additional flyers/handouts are distributed to attendees regarding H1N1: who should get vaccine, hospitals H1N1 plans, what New Yorkers need to know.
- It is explained that there are two vaccines: one for the seasonal flu, one for the H1N1 flu; people should be aware of this fact. It is again stated that persons in high-risk groups should get both vaccinations.
- Chairperson polls attendees on how many people get the seasonal flu vaccine.
- Chairperson indicates she does not get the yearly 'seasonal' flu vaccine.
- The question is posed whether health care professionals are required to take the flu vaccinations.
- The upcoming event: 9th Annual Health Seniors Week at Allen Pavilion is mentioned.
- Chairperson appoints a second Vice-Chairperson, Board & committee member Alma Fana. Chairperson explains the 2nd Vice-Chairperson is to assist with attending committee related fairs and events. Chairperson further explains that having a presence at committee related events is important and shows the Board's interest.

Kingsbridge Heights Rehabilitation Care Center (KHRCC):

- Mr. Bruce Zarett, an attendee at the committee meeting provided a short overview of KHRCC.
- It is mentioned that a 6 month strike at the facility ended approximately one year ago. Mr. Zarett became Administrator of the facility approximately 1-1/2 weeks before end of strike.
had been removed. It is asked whose license the facility is operating under. Mr. Zarett states that the facility is operating under the state (NYS.)
- It is mentioned that the strike was over the issue of employee benefits.
- The facility has open beds, possibly due to a tarnished image relating to the 6-month strike. The 400 bed facility currently has 310 beds filled.
- Mr. Zarett explains his facility is trying to partner with the community. He describes concerns of neighbors relating to a boarded up house owned by the same family formerly operating KHRCC. His facility had the boards removed and the house painted for the benefit of their neighbors. Mr. Zarett explains though the

boarded house was not KHRCC's responsibility, he still mitigated the house to address the concerns of the community.

- Mr. Zarett states that the employees were happy he took over as Administrator at the end of the strike; that he has good relations with the employees and welcomed them back after the strike.
- Mr. Zarett mentions his facility has a conference room that is available for a future committee meeting/community use; seats approximately 20. Also has a recreation room which may be reserved when available for larger meetings.
- Mr. Zarett mentions his facility also operates a Long Term Home Health Care Program. The program operates from a building on W231st Street. The programs have a dedicated Spanish speaking unit.
- Mr. Zarett reiterates that he wishes to spread the word that KHRCC is a good facility.
- Chairperson invites Mr. Zarett back to provide a formal presentation regarding his facility.
- Committee member suggests that Mr. Zarett sign up to speak regarding his facility at the gallery session at full Board meeting.

Announcements:

No Announcements
Meeting End – 8:30PM

Submitted by:

Philip Friedman
Vice Chairman
Health, Hospitals and Social
Services Committee

Approved by Maria Khury, Chairperson

PF:db (October 5, 2009)