

**COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8 BRONX
MINUTES OF THE HEALTH, HOSPITALS & SOCIAL SERVICES
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 17th, 2010**

PRESENT

Maria Khury
Phillip Friedman
Steven Balicer
Sylvia Alexander
Steven Froot
Bridget Maybury
Diana Mosquera
Bernice McFarline
Program Assistant
Bruce Zarett

AFFILIATION

Committee Chair
Committee Co-Chair
CB8
CB8
CB8
CB8
Bronx Health Reach
Bronx Health Reach
Bronx Health Reach
Kingsbridge Heights Rehab Care Ctr.

Excused:

Joyce M. Pilsner	CB8
Martin Wolpoff	CB8
Beverly Fettman	CB8

Introductions:

Guest Speakers: Diana Mosquera	Bronx Health Reach
Bernice McFarline	Bronx Health Reach
Program Assistant	Bronx Health Reach

Meeting called to order: 7:30PM

Agenda Items:

Bronx Health Reach – www.bronxhealthreach.org (*founded in 1999 – Based in Manhattan*)

Presentation

- Organization is a coalition of various public health offices.
- Is a centers for excellence – Addresses health issue disparages
- Programs: Youth, Community Health, Faith Based, Workshops, Advocacy, Bodega Initiatives.
- Health Disparity:
 - Shorter life spans for blacks vs. whites.
 - Larger incidence of AIDS in black females than white females.
 - Cancer survival rates are lower for blacks than for whites.
 - Similar statistics for Latino population.
 - Heart disease: Higher death rates in blacks than in whites.
- Reasons for Disparities:
 - Difference of care is provided based on insurance status – private insurances vs. public insurance.
 - Higher rate of uninsured minorities (*these uninsured individuals will usually end up in clinics and experience delayed health care.*)

- Data Source: www.nyc.gov/html/bxcb8/html/district/district_needs.shtml
- Biggest Health Issues in Bx CB8 (source: nyc.gov):
 - Cancer – 27%
 - Heart Disease – 17%
- Bx CB8 heart disease death rate is higher than that of NYC overall.
- Kingsbridge and Riverdale residences are less likely to be tested for HIV than others in the Bronx (41% of positive HIV test results are 'late; diagnoses.)
- Disparity of Health Care:

Faculty Practice

vs.

Clinics

Privately Insured

Uninsured or Medicaid

Bd Certified Doctors

Student/Resident/Fellow

Each Patient w/ Private Doctor

Rotating Group of Doctors

Good Reports – Dr's Wants Referrals

No Coord. or Comm.

Night Coverage

Would Need to Go To ER

Dr's Care for Own Patient in Hospital

Different Group of Dr's

- Hospitals that are federally funded can not discriminate but there may be cases where the individual doctors choose privately paid insurance patients.
- The major concern: How to provide equitable health care.
- Task: To raise awareness as much as possible (*this is the 2nd presentation to a community board.*)
- Approx. (60) churches and other organizations comprise of this health coalition.
- The coalition has not focused on longer term care disparities (i.e. elderly homes.)
- It is noted that there is a large senior population within CB8.
- It is noted that some elder care facilities will not consider Medicaid patients.
- Bronx Health Reach will be having an event to raise awareness in April.

Prior Meeting Minutes:

December 21st, 2009 meeting minutes reviewed and approved.

Chairperson's Report:

Health Care Reform (Federal) and Governor's proposed Budget cuts on Health:

- It is considered what the effects would be of health care reform passing.
- It is suggested that the H&H committee be proactive of the matter.

It is suggested that the committee develop a discussion forum between local politicians and health care facilities.

Chairperson requested a volunteer to begin brainstorming time/place/agenda and committee member Stephen Balicer has agreed to assist the Chair moving forward.

Old Business:

Tobacco Resolution from Queens, CB7 – Advertisements Appealing to Children within stores (2) feet or below from ground level and within (3) feet of candy

- Litigation has already limited size and location of cigarette ads on TV and other venues.
- (2) case studies are distributed to the committee; one from California, one from Australia (*source: Tobacco Free Kids.*)
- It is discussed whether the Queens CB 7 resolution should be replicated within Bx CB 8. It is suggested that this issue be further investigated and that the Youth, Education and Environment & Sanitation Committees be approached to assist with researching the matter.
- Researching the matter would entail conducting surveys of local stores to determine if tobacco signage is within the perimeters of the Queens CB 7 resolution.
- A survey is to be developed to conduct story visits by committee members.

Presentation and research material was reviewed and distributed by committee member Stephen Froot.

New Business:

Future HH&SS Meeting Events:

March: Riverdale Mental Health Association Presentation

April: Bronx Planning Council for the Disabled Presentation

Meeting Adjourned: 8:50PM

Respectfully submitted by,
Phil Friedman

Minutes were reviewed and approved by Maria Khury, Chairperson.