

**COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8 BRONX
MINUTES OF THE HEALTH, HOSPITALS & SOCIAL SERVICES
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MARCH 15TH, 2010**

PRESENT	AFFILIATION
Maria Khury	Committee, Chair
Phillip Friedman	Committee, Co-Chair
Sylvia Alexander	CB8
Steven Froot	CB8
Bridget Maybury	CB8
Daniel Padernacht	CB8
Martin Wolpoff	CB8
Alan Mucatel	Committee Memeber
Andrew Meyers	RMHA
Rob Brewster	RMHA
Basya Kenner	LIU

Excused:

Joyce M. Pilsner	CB8
Beverly Fettman	CB8
Steven Balicer	CB8

Meeting called to order: 7:30PM

Introductions:

Guest Speakers:

Riverdale Mental Health Association (RMHA)

- Operates a wide range of programs and services.
- Facility's goal: To help people in and outside of RMHA facility.
- RMHA operates a (30) bed supportive housing facility near Montefiore Hospital.
 - It is noted that due to a recent court decision, more supportive housing facilities may be needed in the near term to replace facilities similar to Riverdale Manor on Broadway.
- RMHA operates a program called 'Chances for Children' for ages (0-3 years). Consists of videos to assist training of caregivers of children who may have minor developmental issues.
- Hispanic community and people who wouldn't go into 'mental health' facilities – go into elder care facilities.
- RMHA conducts depression screenings on all people they see.
- RMHA participates in a statewide program for schools, 'clinics plus', with poverty & low graduation rates to observe and assist students before they come onto the 'mental

health radar.' Children enter the program under parental permission. The participating schools (ex: JFK, M.S. 20, etc.) have mental health services at the school similar to mini-clinics. This program is two years old. Files on participants are kept confidential and kept on-site at the school. The thought behind the project is that the earlier the intervention, the better.

- RMHA maintains a bi-lingual staff for clients and/or parents.
- It is a challenge for RMHA to advertise their services – there is a question of what is appropriate. It is difficult to parade around success stories.
- RMHA has a website – www.RMHA.org (site went live the day of the committee meeting.)
- There is discussion of the 'parity law' – Insurance companies have to provide comparable mental health services as they do for physical services.
- There is discussion regarding 'Timothy's Law', a law backed by State Senator Jeff Klein (*regarding a child whose health insurance ran out and was discharged from a mental health facility and went on to hang himself.*)
- RMHA Clients: 2/3 on Medicaid and live outside of 10471 area.
- RMHA Staff: approximately 80 members.
- RMHA Budget: approximately \$5-6 million.
- RMHA Psychiatrists: approximately 5
- RMHA Clinical Social Workers: approximately 15-18
- RMHA also has graduate students who work at the facility.
- RMHA also participates in:
 - Innovative Services for Seniors (ISS)
 - Vocational Services (*job placement, supported employment*)
 - Resolve Center (Licensed by OASIS) – drug treatment and vocational services
- It is stated that the best advocates for RMHA are the clients; some speak at the October Board Meeting.
- It is stated that RMHA has residential services; the Joyce M. Pilsner home; a 15 bed facility where residents can stay for up to two years. They then transition to supported apartment programs. It is further mentioned that there are numerous patient discharges by the state where further support is not provided.
- RMHA sets up and manages supportive housing; they work with certain landlords who are cooperative. It is stated that the State can not mandate a landlord to rent apartments for supportive housing, that the landlords must be willing to participate. Again it is stated that a recent court decision sided in favor of supportive housing over facilities similar to Riverdale Manor. The point being not to concentrate the population in need, but to distribute throughout the community into smaller, more home-like facilities.
- The effects/concerns relative to NYS/NYC health budget cuts are discussed.
 - Clinic restructuring: 30% cut (July 1) in reimbursement rates to care facilities.

- If agencies like RMHA closes, the result would be more ER visits, more hospitalizations and higher overall expenses.
- Audits are occurring of facilities accepting Medicaid. It is stated that there is a mandate to recover Medicaid funds for the federal government. (*Office of Medicaid Inspector General - OMIG.*)
- OMIG is looking for fraud & invoicing mistakes, including data errors (i.e. doctor forgetting to write type of degree at end of signature.)
- Similar to other institution, RMHA will have to give money back to the government but at this time does not know how much; could be hundreds of thousands of dollars.
- RMHA asks for assistance in finding donors and getting the word out on how to make contributions.
- RMHA asks for assistance spreading the word regarding their new website – www.RMHA.org
- RMHA is holding an event on April 18th, a free event at the Riverdale Y

Miscellaneous:

Alan Mucatel Executive Director of Leake & Watts has joined the committee.

Previous meeting minutes approved with corrections:

- Tobacco advertisements being considered for targeting is to be 6 inches, not 3 feet from candy.
- The correction of the word ‘disparages’ within the first line of the meeting minutes.

A New York Times article is mentioned which had stated it costs approximately \$7,500 less to house in group homes than in homeless shelters (*article to be forwarded to committee members.*)

Budget Priorities Recap of FY 2010:

Capital:

1. New Ambulance for 50th Precinct Outpost.

Expense:

1. Full funding for 50th Precinct EMS Outpost .– Not Submitted to OMB
2. Continued funding for Riverdale Mental Health geriatric programs. – Not Submitted to OMB
3. Funding for new special needs child program at Riverdale YMHA. – Submitted to OMB - #8

Budget priorities from FY 2010 will be emailed to committee members for consideration in FY 2011 budget priorities to be submitted.

Old Business:

- Tobacco Resolution.

- Committee holding a forum for health budget cuts and the affect on CB#8.
 - Committee to consider holding an outreach for participation in the forum.
 - Committee to decide on when and where the forum would occur.
 - Committee to assemble a press release to gain as many participants as possible.
 - Target audience would be seniors and politicians.
 - Chairperson requests that committee member email her with further thoughts and/or ideas.

- St. Joseph's Methadone Clinic at Terrace Health Care Center
 - The lawyer representing St. Joseph's contacted the Chairperson and indicated that the clinic would possibly open during Summer 2010.
 - From previous meeting minutes: A total of 100 clients, initial start-up with 60 clients for the first (6) months
 - 90% Terrace Health Care clients
 - 10% Community clients.
 - Implementation of the on-site clinic will no longer necessitate transportation for Terrace Health Care clients and is considered to be, overall, a better experience for the clients.
 - It is noted from previous meeting minutes that St. Joseph's can not limit the number of community patients within the clinic.

- Leake & Watts Update:
 - Construction is moving forward.
 - The NYC Department of Buildings will not allow for construction of a wheelchair accessible ramp.

Meeting Adjourned 9:14PM

Respectfully submitted by Phillip Friedman

Approved by Maria Khury