

**COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8 BRONX  
MINUTES OF THE HEALTH, HOSPITALS & SOCIAL SERVICES  
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 10, 2011**

**PRESENT**

Steven Froot  
Michael Heller  
Steve Balicer  
Karen Pesce  
Beverly Fettman  
Sylvia Alexander

**AFFILIATION**

Committee Chair  
Committee Vice Chair  
CB8  
CB8  
CB8  
CB8

**Chairperson's Report**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:40 pm.

It was announced that the rare diseases resolution was passed at the last full board meeting after being read by Ms. Fettman. Mr. Froot explained that the resolution was fast tracked, *i.e.*, introduced at the Executive Committee meeting and proposed at the general Board meeting in the absence of Committee action, due to lack of time prior to the end of the month.

The Chair announced that a new youth market (a farmer's market operated by young people) is going to be opened adjacent to the Armory on Jerome Avenue. Mr. Froot also discussed a community food assessment being funded by Schervier/Bon Secours that will develop a profile of the Marble Hill, Kingsbridge and Kingsbridge Heights neighborhoods. The study will cover community food resources, household food security and food resource accessibility. Mike Heller inquired whether the study would duplicate inquiries conducted by public agencies. The Chair indicated he would contact the Project Consultant to introduce the Committee and to raise this question.

A short discussion took place about the kinds of individuals who would be candidates for the UHF Community Service award, for which nominations are being sought. Candidates would need to be volunteers, not employees, who had a significant impact on delivery of health care services, such as a person who had been instrumental in starting a new program.

**The minutes of the January 10, 2011 meeting were considered and approved.**

**Follow-up Business**

**Capital budget discussion:** A request for a new ambulance for the 50<sup>th</sup> Precinct EMS outpost has previously been a priority item. The committee discussed whether to continue to pursue the purchase of a new ambulance or have another ambulance assigned to the community. Mr. Heller described how hospital-operated ambulances are assigned 911 EMS runs as part of the EMS system, and stated his view that the Fire Department, the agency to which the budget request is directed, has a regular

ambulance replacement cycle. Ms. Pesce said that local response times may be increased due to the time required re-stocking at a distant location. She added that when FDNY serves as a first responder, this may divert fire trucks away from rapidly responding to fires, which leads to the question of how the ambulance response time in our Community Board area compares to the response times in other areas. Before considering again including this capital request, the Chair indicated his view that the Committee should review this situation and requested that Ms. Pesce speak with Nicole Stent and Phil Friedman to research response time issues and the history of this budget request. The goal of the additional research, which had been suggested in Budget Committee Chair Phil Friedman's presentation at the last HHSS meeting, is to try to avoid having the Board make budget requests that are unrealistic or cover items that are already planned

### **Expense budget discussion -- last years' Items:**

- The request for a restocking station at the 50<sup>th</sup> PCT or the new shopping center was discussed. It was mentioned this request, which falls within FDNY's purview, apparently may be off the table, since a new restocking station is planned for the closed fire house on East 233rd Street. Karen Pesce also agreed to look at this issue, as it may relate to the ambulance needs.
- Mr. Froot will contact the YMHA special needs children's program in order to determine how it came to be included as an expense budget proposal last year and what their current needs are. This is a request to the Department of Health and Mental Health (DOHMH).
- The Chair will ask Joyce Pilsner to make inquiry regarding Riverdale Mental Health geriatric program that also appeared last year as an expense budget request under DOHMH's jurisdiction. It was noted that the Committee did not duplicate its request with the Aging Committee last year with respect to this request.
- Mr. Froot stated that he would inquire of last year's HHSS Chair with respect to how the general expense budget request for organizations that serve individuals with psychiatric, physical and autistic disabilities came to be on the list of expense budget priorities under DOHMH. This request does not appear to be geared to any specific program.

### **-- potential new requests:**

Ms. Fettman stated she would like to see CPR education programs funded in the community. The ensuing discussion focused on the need to identify which specific CPR education providers would agree to create additional programs if funding were made available. Ms. Fettman said she would investigate how such programs are established. A discussion also took place about the installation of defibrillators on private property.

It was also discussed that perhaps the Committee's efforts should be focused on identifying programs that fill health service gaps within the Board. The community health assessments conducted by DOHMH several years ago identified disparities within each board, showing that certain neighborhoods have worse health outcomes and more illness. This would be an innovative use of Committee budget

recommendations, but it was agreed research was required. It was suggested that certain community centers and community based organizations might be knowledgeable about programs they offer that need funding or about off-site programs that need funding or about health needs that are now unmet or insufficiently met that could be funded through a new program. The following individual Committee members were asked to make inquiries of various community organizations: St. Stephens Church (Ms. Pesce); Riverdale Neighborhood House, Ethical Culture Society Homeless Project, Bronx Jewish Community Council (Ms. Fettman); Mosholu-Montefiore Community Center (Mr. Heller); Church of the Mediator/Food Pantry, Kingsbridge Heights Community Center, Marble Hill Community Center (Mr. Balicer).

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Next month's meeting will take place on Monday March 21, 2011, at the Board office.

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