

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8

MINUTES OF THE HEALTH, HOSPITALS & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING, March 18, 2013

PRESENT

Steve Froot
Michael Heller
Sylvia Alexander
Beverly Fettman
Diane Lennon
Joyce Pilsner
Peter Dolan
Antonio Gianfresco

AFFILIATION

Committee Chair
Committee Vice Chair
CB8
CB8
CB8
CB8
Services for the Developmentally Challenged
Services for the Developmentally Challenged

The meeting was called to order at 7:42 p.m.

Approval of minutes from last meeting

No minutes have yet been prepared from the February 7, 2013 meeting at the Francis Schervier Apartments, which did not have a quorum. Minutes will be prepared and circulated to the Committee.

In the absence of the minutes, Vice Chair Heller, who chaired the meeting, reported on (1) a presentation by Leo Trevino of the Montefiore's Organ Donation Initiative, an "altruistic" kidney donation program; and (2) a presentation by Emma Rodgers of Bronx Health Reach and Sarah Shaikh of Bon Secours regarding the "Play Streets" program proposed for the street in front of Kingsbridge Heights Community Center, which would close the street for organized play for neighborhood children and be scheduled to coincide with the Youth Market at that location. Play Streets is sponsored by a number of organizations, including Transportation Alternatives.

Presentation: Peter Dolan, Services for the Developmentally Challenged ("SDC")

SDC's main office is at 5475 Fieldston Road. They intend to open a group home at 3001 Independence Avenue, currently an unoccupied home adjacent to the Schervier campus. It will serve six young adults who suffer from Prader-Willi Syndrome, a rare genetic disorder that affects 1 in 13,000 people. In Prader-Willi, the hypothalamus does not signal that the person is full so he or she will over-eat, unless closely supervised, causing obesity and death. The condition is normally accompanied by reduced mental acuity and low muscle tone. SDC has been working with the NY State OPWDD for several years to set up a residential program for patients suffering from this syndrome. Staffing is

expected to be four persons during the day and two overnight. The home has five bedrooms plus large areas, and does not require major renovation.

This will be the only voluntary-operated home of this type in the five boroughs. Residents would likely work in either paid or volunteer employment or attend day programs, fully supervised. The six persons to be housed are aged 18 to 35, of mixed gender, all of whom currently are cared for at home. One is from Community Board 8 but lives out of state. There will be a medical coordinator and clinical staff on site. Most adults with this syndrome can go on to lead productive lives with jobs. The committee asked questions about funding the purchase of the home, as well as funding sources for operations. SDC is in the process of purchasing the property. Parking is ample on site to meet the facility's needs.

SDC operates two other homes in Riverdale for older adults with developmental disabilities. The proposed home will be subject to the Padavan Law, requiring a public hearing. Mr. Froot requested that SDC submit a printout showing locations of other group homes operating in the vicinity, including the SDC facilities, so that the Committee can evaluate saturation, using the Google mapping function recently established by the Committee for this purpose. Mr. Froot alerted Mr. Dolan that because the Board does not meet in July or August, it would be best to receive formal notice of a request for approval before May 1, so that a public hearing could be scheduled by the Committee in May, prior to full Board consideration in June. [Note: SDC notified the Board by letter dated April 5, 2013, that the 3001 Independence Ave. is under contract to another buyer and may not be available.]

Chair's Report

Because there is insufficient time to plan and promote an April **Under-Age Drinking Forum**, the program will be slated for the fall. No date later than April is available at MS/HS 141 in the spring semester.

Committee members should reach out to community-based health and social service agencies to determine needs for city funding for potential new and existing programs. Final **budget requests** are due in June.

Joyce Pilsner asked whether this past year was the first time we did not make a capital request for the establishment of an **EMS re-stocking station in CB 8**, but Mr. Froot indicated the request was made, but that it was ranked lower this year than in past years as the agency had already indicated there was no chance of it being funded. Joyce also remarked that the expense request for **Riverdale Mental Health's geriatric mental health program** seems to have been re-directed from DOHMH to the Department for the Aging, which is of concern as it might result in de-funding the program. The Chair will inquire of the Budget chair and the District Manager to get clarity on this development.

Vice Chair Heller will attend a March 20 **joint meeting of the Jacobi/North Central Bronx Hospital community advisory boards** to determine community needs in compliance with ACA requirements.

The **Bronx Health and Wellness summit** sponsored by the Borough President will take place at Fordham University Rose Hill campus on Saturday, April 6. Vice Chair Heller will attend as per his responsibilities at Einstein Medical School.

A reception at the Museum of the City of New York on Wednesday, March 27 will **celebrate 10 years of smoking control programs under the NYC Smoke-Free Air Act.**

Meeting adjourned 8:50 pm.

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