

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8

MINUTES OF THE HEALTH, HOSPITALS & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING, June 17, 2013

PRESENT

Steven Froot
Michael Heller
Sylvia Alexander
Karen Pesce
Dana Lennon
Lisa Daub
Jill Krauss
James Boyd Jr.

AFFILIATION

Chair
Vice-Chair
CB8 – Committee member
CB8 – Committee member
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ACS
ACS

The meeting was held at the Horace Mann School, Fisher Hall – Faculty Dining Room, and called to order at 7:35 p.m.

Minutes: The minutes of the May 20, 2013 meeting were accepted as submitted.

Presentation: **Jill Kraus, Esq., Director of Intergovernmental Affairs**
 James Boyd Jr., Intergovernmental Associate
 Administration for Children’s Services (ACS)

Ms. Kraus outlined the work of ACS in three principal areas: Child Welfare (includes protection of children from abuse, as well as foster care); Juvenile Justice; Early Care & Education (including 110,000 children in *Head Start*). There are both preventive (KHCC) and foster care (Catholic Guardian & Home Bureau) located in CB 8.

She noted that there were 14,000 children in foster care today, compared to over 50,000 children in the 1990s. ACS is trying to broaden the population of foster care parents, while at the same time expanding “kinship care” – allowing relatives to be foster parents. Some children are placed with families, while others live in supervised group homes. There are more teenagers than babies in foster care, and many of the children are developmentally disabled. One problem with foster care is that when kids “age out” at 18 they often lack a support system or sufficient education or skills, which leads to bad results. ACS is now administering a 30-day program for youth between 16-21 (“housing academy collaborative”) that attempts to address issues such as jobs, a GED and NYCHA qualification.

In 2010, ACS took over responsibility for juvenile justice from the former Department of Juvenile Justice. ACS operates secure and non-secure detention facilities, as well as alternatives to detention. Beginning in 2012, youth who have been adjudicated delinquent in Family Court gradually will not be sent Upstate, but rather will be situated in

small group homes throughout the five boroughs. Although serious offenders will still be sent to secure facilities Upstate, other juveniles 14-18 will eventually be located in non-secure (small home situations) and limited-secure (larger facilities) settings closer to their family homes, with the goal of maintaining family relationships and making transfer of education credits easier. Those residing in non-secure locations will attend two existing schools that specifically serve to this population in the Bronx and Brooklyn; those in limited-secure locations attend school on site.

Chair's Report

The Chair called to the Committee's attention that successful cooking classes focusing on healthy eating had been held at the Jerome Park and Kingsbridge Library branches with teens and families. It is hoped that the Committee will be able to assist in replicating such classes at other area libraries.

Follow-up Business

- **FY2015 Budget Priorities**

The Committee decided to resubmit the expense (DOHMH - funding for Geriatric program at Riverdale Mental Health) and capital (FDNY/EMS – acquisition of decontamination/restocking site in CB 8) priority request items from the prior year

- **Forum on Underage Drinking**

The goal is to hold the forum at MS/HS 141 auditorium in October or November 2013. We will arrange for a panel of speakers and perhaps show a short film. Panelists might include an ER physician, a mental health or substance abuse counselor, a representative of DOHMH, a police officer, an educator, and a health policy expert. The principal tasks are (1) recruiting the speakers; (2) the logistics of securing the location, as well as arranging everything from A/V to parking; and (3) publicity.

New Business

Committee members expressed interest in learning more about the volunteer ambulance service Hatzolah, which is staffed by Orthodox Jewish EMS technicians and paramedics and operates in an around CB 8.

The next meeting will be held at 7:30 pm on Monday, September 16, 2013, at the Board Office.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:30 pm.