

Minutes of the Public Hearing for Health, Hospitals and Social Services Committee
Held on
Monday, November 20, 2017
Riverdale Neighborhood House
5521 Mosholu Ave
Bronx, NY 10471

Present

Affiliation

Omar Murray	Chair- Health, Hospitals and Social Service Committee
Julia Gomez	Vice Chair- Health, Hospitals and Social Services Committee
Lisa Doub	Committee Member
Steve Froot	Committee Member

Absent

Tao Moran	Committee Member
Karen Pesce	Committee Member

Guest (s)

Richard Baldwin	Community Resident
Susan Baldwin	Community Resident
Doris Figueroa	Vice President of Developmental Disabilities, Services for the Underserved
Rosemary Ginty	Chair, Bronx Community Board Number 8
Tara McMaster	Community Resident

Meeting called to order at 7:37 pm

- I. Welcome by Chair
- II. Presentation by Doris Figueroa for 8 bed IRA run by Services for the Under Served (SUS)
 - a. Populations would be developmentally delayed adults over the age of 21 who are returning from out of state schools to their borough of origin
 - b. Weekends would be spent in the community doing recreation activities and activities of daily living
 - c. Senior managers and the Office of People with Developmental Disabilities conduct unannounced visits where they check on the property physically, assess the noise level, speak to neighbors.
 - d. The agency tries to hire from the neighborhoods where the program will be located

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- e. Goals of the housing program is family reunification and learning appropriate leisure skills

III. Questions

- a. Are all the residents screened? – Yes the screening happens at the schools and the potential staff members meet with the potential residents before hand to ensure a good fit. The families are also involved. All of this is to ensure as smooth a transition as possible. Additionally, the agency tries to ‘make friends’ with the community and the residents’ by having a meet and greet
- b. How long have the residents been out of the community? – It varies, however most of the boys left the community around middle/high school age
- c. Will the residents have meals together? – The residents will have the option of eating together but they can refuse
- d. How will the house be structured – there will be eight clients, all in shared rooms. The room assignments are chosen based on the client needs, similar likes, behavior, level of functioning, and shared agreement. There will be office space and a recreation room in the basement, shared space on the first floor and living space on the second.
- e. What will the staffing be? – There will be 24/7 staffing – a Program Director (7 am – 3 pm), a shift supervisor for each shift (7 am – 3 pm, 3 pm – 11 pm, and 11 pm – 7 am). There is a nurse that stops by once per week. There is a 3:1 staff ratio so there are 3 line staff on per shift and a total of 5 – 6 staff total per shift. All of the management staff has a college degree
- f. Will this cause a parking issue for the area? – Most of the staff takes public transportation. Clinical staff does drive but they do not normally spend the entire shift at one location. There will be a program van, which will be unmarked, at the program five days a week. There is also a garage attached to the house.
- g. How many other IRAs does SUS have in the Bronx? – 10
- h. (Gallery Question) – what is the age group due to the size of the house? Also this gallery member expressed concern due to the location of the house and the population – The age group is 21 – 24, all screened for ability to live together, all want to share and have a similar functioning level, and many already know each other. None of the identified residents have any current behaviors for running away but if a concern arises a one to one staff can be provided. SUS is also aware of the state of the house that a pipe burst and that there is black mold. Mold and asbestos abatement are scheduled.
- i. Community member expressed shock at how many people would be living in that house (the house is 3,750 square feet)
- j. Estimated date of opening is 12 – 18 months.
- k. The residents will be escorted around the community
- l. OPWDD did a saturation check before approving the project

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- m. SUS is willing and prepared to set up a community action board (CAB)
- IV. Chair made motion to vote, seconded by Julia
 - a. Voting results – 4 in favor and none against – Motion passed
- V. Meeting adjourned

Prepared By: Julia Gomez
Vice-Chair Health, Hospitals and Social Services Committee

Submitted By: Omar Murray
Chair Health, Hospitals and Social Services Committee