

**BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8  
MINUTES OF THE AGING COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD ON DECEMBER 20, 2016 AT  
FT. INDEPENDENCE SENIOR CENTER**

**PRESENT**

Lisa Daub  
Anthony Creaney  
Karen Pesce  
Amy Joy Robateau  
Georgia Santiago  
I.W. Stone  
Sharon Asherman  
Shirley G.  
Selina Ng  
Maritza Ortiz  
Lourdes Santacruz  
Julio Gonzalez  
Jeff Lucas  
Alison Ortiz  
Pamela Vega Watler

**AFFILIATION**

CB8 Committee Chair  
CB8 Committee Vice Chair  
CB8 Committee Member, CB8 Secretary  
CB8 Committee Member  
CB8 Committee Member  
CB8 Committee Member  
Community Committee Member, Riverdale Y  
Ft. Independence Senior Center Member  
Riverdale Senior Services  
Ft. Independence Senior Center  
Methodist Home  
RAIN – Link Program  
RAIN – Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program  
RAIN – One Stop  
RAIN – Multi Services for Seniors

**Not Present:**

Irving Ladimer  
Enrie Morales  
Francine Scherer

CB8 Committee Member  
Community Committee Member, Right at Home  
Community Committee Member, Resident

The meeting started at 2:45 pm.

**Introductions**

- Welcome – Thanks to Maritza Ortiz and Ft. Independence Senior Center for hosting the meeting
- Participants and today's speakers introduced themselves. Distributed info packets
- Due to conflicting schedules, Marvin Goodman stepped aside from Aging Committee membership but will participate in meetings when possible
- Thanks to Ms. Asherman, Ms. Scherer, and Ms. Morales/Ms.Hassan for sharing their notes from last meeting to assist with minutes

**Speakers from Regional Aid for Interim Needs, inc. (RAIN)**

**Ms. Pamela Vega Watler, Director RAIN Multi Services for Seniors; Alison Ortiz, Director RAIN One-Stop; Jeff Lucas, Manager Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program; Julio Gonzalez, Manager, Alzheimer's Caregiver Link Program**

RAIN offices and centers are located outside of our district, but the organization provides several important services to older residents of CB8. Eligibility criteria for case management, case assistance, home delivered meals, medical transportation, home care and other programs vary with services and are provided on a sliding scale or at no cost.

DFTA funds case management which provides an assessment for homebound individuals and connects them with services to enable safe living at home. Case managers include 25 social workers plus grad students. SOFA determines formula for income sliding scale cost. Since August, there is a state-wide waiting list for home care and housekeeping service. There is no waiting list for home delivered meals, information, benefits enrollment and referrals.

RAIN One Stop is the first point of contact to connect with information and services throughout the Bronx. Case workers provide intake by phone<sup>i</sup> or at RAIN locations for services, including most benefit programs, home delivered meals, transportation – including reduced fares, passport help, tax prep (AARP) , adult social day, homelessness prevention, etc.. Some enrollments are onsite only by HRA representatives on Tuesdays and Thursdays. RAIN will look into including a CB8 Senior Resource Guide with orientation materials.

The Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program recently started under a federal grant to promote wellness and healthy aging, in partnership with NYU and Hartford schools of nursing and Montefiore. The program provides education to workers in the field of geriatric home health, case management and dementia care. Bronx Health Corps recruits and trains volunteers to educate older residents on Asthma management, living with dementias, healthy heart, healthy diet, exercise, stress management and sexuality.

The Alzheimer's Caregiver Link program is NYS funded and facilitates support groups at multiple Bronx locations for people caring for loved ones with Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia. Link groups are offered in English and Spanish and support caregiver spouses, adult children and young adults ages 18-29.

Participants mentioned additional caregiver support groups offered by PHI, Sunnyside (at RSS), as well as Methodist Home. Methodist will soon start a stroke support group. Also discussed consumer directed Medicaid funded pay for family/friend caregivers.

### **Minutes**

- Minutes of September 20<sup>th</sup> meeting approved (7/0/0)
- Minutes of October 20<sup>th</sup> meeting approved (7/0/0)
- Minutes of November 15<sup>th</sup> meeting approved (7/0/0)

**New Business** – At our last meeting, Ms. Scherer introduced the idea of inviting Assemblyman Dinowitz to speak at an Aging Committee meeting to discuss steps being taken in Albany to protect the safety net for seniors. Chair will invite and schedule this for an upcoming meeting. Participants suggested our hosting a dementia care provider roundtable.

The Committee will hold its **next meeting on Tuesday January 17<sup>th</sup>** at 2:30 at Christ Church. This is our Senior Center Roundtable meeting and we look forward to seeing representatives from each center. Depending on speaker schedules and weather, we may (or may not) cancel the February 21<sup>st</sup> committee meeting.

Meeting ended at 4:00pm

Prepared and submitted by  
Lisa Daub, Chair, Aging Committee

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<sup>i</sup> One Stop Phone: (718) 239-4358