

## COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8 BRONX

### MINUTES OF THE AGING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 27, 2009 AT THE RIVERDALE HOUSING FOR THE ELDERLY 6477 BROADWAY

#### PRESENT

Karen Pesce  
Anthony Creaney  
Thomas Durham  
Irving Ladimer  
Judy Guariglia  
JoAnn Landers  
Frances Savage  
Manfred Segal

#### AFFILIATION

Committee Chairperson, CB#8  
CB #8, Committee Vice Chair  
CB #8  
CB #8  
Peters Veterans Administration  
Methodist Home  
United Health Care  
AARP

1. Minutes of previous meeting accepted as submitted.

2. Speaker: Judy Guariglia, Peters Veteran Administration. The James J. Peters Veterans Affairs Medical Center programs provide primary care for those with chronic diseases and goes to clients' homes. Long term needs are met by the program with short term needs provided by VNS which sees clients for a few weeks. Services include psychological, nursing, physical therapy and counseling with physician visits limited to a specific physician's practice. Average client age for the veterans is 75-80 years. Veterans from any branch of service are eligible. Peters Veterans Administrations, a catchment area is within a 50 mile radius. Every client has a primary physician with the VA who oversees and coordinates all treatments, including those in the community. The program isn't widely known and differs for those in New Jersey, Brooklyn and rural communities. If clients need daily care, i.e. seven days/week, they would be referred to VNS or sent to a hospital since VA's services are available Mon-Friday. There is a program for veterans aimed at home inspections for safety, a grant program through OEF and OIF; the supplies department goes to homes to assess needs such as those for ramps and prostheses.

3. Agency/individual reports

a. Frances Savage, United Healthcare: the open enrollment period for making changes in supplementary health care providers (in addition to Medicare), begins November 15<sup>th</sup>. People are complaining about exclusions from insurance plans. Among the most popular plans are United Healthcare, Humana, Blue Cross-Blue Shield. There will be a supplement change 5/10 for all plans. Travel outside U.S. requires additional Health insurance.

b. JoAnne Landers, Methodist Home: Name change to Methodist Home for Nursing and Rehabilitation. It is launching new sites to post outreach, newsletter and partners in the community. Geriatric long term care component continues, but emphasis is on short term care

for rehab with no minimum age requirement. The facility has been rated 5 star quality by Medicare.

c. Tom Durham, Housing Chairperson, CB 8: Hudson Terrace, Johnson Avenue across from Key Food parking lot; there are very few tenants in the building and Hebrew Home, the owner, is asking for letter of support to convert it to assisted senior housing which will qualify for 421A tax exempt. (Tom Durham to give details). No letter of support drafted; Land Use/Housing Committees will consider. Marble Hill Housing will now accept only Section 8, subsidized applicants.

d. Manny Segal, AARP: Uncertain about support of alternative plans for healthcare reform proposals. Most people will probably opt to stay with current plan for supplemental insurance, covering medical/pharmaceutical coverage, since it's easier.

e. Irving Ladimer, Law, Rules and Ethics Committee Chairperson: Schervier will provide two weeks of pet food, free of charge, for homebound with pets. A "flea market" bazaar will be held 11/17 to raise funds for the project. Allen Pavilion's new name, effective immediately, is Allen Hospital.

Next meeting: Tuesday, 11/24/09 3:30pm at the Atria Riverdale.

Submitted by,

Karen Pesce  
Chairperson

KP:db (November 4, 2009)