

## BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8

### MINUTES OF THE HEALTH, HOSPITALS & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING, OCTOBER 20, 2014

#### **PRESENT**

Steven Froot  
Sylvia Alexander  
Stan Cohen  
Lisa Daub  
Horace Earlington  
Julia Gomez  
Michael Heller  
Herb Young

#### **AFFILIATION**

Committee Chair  
CB8 – Committee Member  
Community Committee Member  
Committee Vice Chair  
Park Gardens Rehabilitation & Nursing Center  
Community Committee Member  
CB8 – Committee Member  
CB8 Member

**The meeting was called to order at 7:45 p.m. at the Board Office.**

#### **Minutes**

The Chair provided a recap of the three immediately preceding meetings, and the minutes were approved by all members present who were in attendance at the respective meetings.

[Abstentions noted due to absence]

- The minutes of the June 16, 2014 meeting were accepted as submitted.
- The minutes of the June 30, 2014 public hearing & meeting were accepted as submitted  
[J. Gomez – abstain]
- The minutes of the September 8, 2014 meeting were accepted as submitted  
[S. Alexander, S. Cohen – abstain]

Mr. Heller urged all committee members to try to attend each meeting.

#### **Chair's Report**

- The Chair announced that Lisa Daub had agreed to serve as Vice Chair of the Committee, and thanked Julia Gomez for agreeing to rotate responsibility for the taking the minutes with the Chair and Vice Chair.
- The Committee's single expense budget request is ranked #3 on Bronx CB8's final budget request list.
- The Chair thanked Ms. Daub for presenting at the September Board meeting the Committee's resolution recommending approval of Special Citizens Futures Unlimited's ("SCFU") proposal to establish an Individual Residential Alternative ("IRA") group home, located on the second floor of a two-family corner house at 251 West 261<sup>st</sup> Street at Huxley Avenue, which would house four individuals with disabilities on the autism spectrum. The resolution passed.

- The Chair thanked Stan Cohen for attending the Bronx Health Reach Coalition meeting on September 19, 2014 on behalf of the Committee. Mr. Cohen reported on the varied agenda, which included urban agriculture, farmers markets, smoke-free housing initiatives, Affordable Care Act updates, a hydroponic gardening program for schools and the People's Climate March. Mr. Cohen shared handouts from the meeting. Mr. Froot noted that the multi-million dollar Community Transformation Grant from the CDC that funded the Partnership for a Healthier NYC, which provided funds to Bronx Health Reach, was defunded by Congress this year, which will reduce programming in the areas of smoking, alcohol abuse, obesity and physical activity.
- Bon Secours sent the Committee a proposal regarding alcohol over-consumption by older adults, and we will monitor the progress to see how HHSS can assist.
- Mr. Heller will try to attend the October 30, 2014 Bronx County Centennial Symposium on Health, which will cover Bronx health care challenges and successes.

**Presentation:**           **Horace Earlington, Director of Community Relations  
Park Gardens Rehabilitation & Care Center**

Park Gardens Rehabilitation and Nursing Center, located at 6585 Broadway between West 260<sup>th</sup> and 361<sup>st</sup> Streets, has operated in Riverdale for 54 years. It is a 200-bed for-profit facility, including two dementia units, one all-female and one all-male floor, and a rehabilitation unit. Each floor has 40 beds and is generally at or near full occupancy. Park Gardens also operates a home care agency, employing RN's, aides, and other personnel.

### **New Business**

- As a follow-up to the last meeting, Ms. Gomez prepared a list of community agencies and resources that presented at HHSS meetings since January 2012. The listings included service descriptions and contact information obtained from committee minutes and websites. All agreed that the listings will be a useful resource and thanked Ms. Gomez for her fine work. She agreed to update with earlier meeting presenters dating back to 2010. The Chair asked all Committee members to come up with 2-5 additional organizations that are not on the list and email to the Chair to include in the resource listings. Mr. Cohen suggested that the committee set this up on Google Docs to facilitate updates.
- Mr. Froot noted that CB8 Vice Chair Rosemary Ginty had prepared a summary of NY City Council legislation, including laws passed, proposed and in committee, covering a range of issues, some of which appear to fall within HHSS purview. He will scan and highlight legislation that may be relevant to the Committee, which could alert HHSS to new areas in which the Committee may become involved, for example the issue of transitional housing.
- Mr. Cohen announced a community blood drive that Riverdale Urgent Care is hosting on October 26, 2014, and distributed flyers. He also noted that NYC contacted all health

providers to give direction on protocols dealing with Ebola. His facility has instituted all safety protocols. Mr. Froot will circulate Ebola fact sheets.

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.**

The Committee will hold its next meeting on Monday November 17, 2014, at the Marble Hill Community Center, 5365 Broadway (entrance on Broadway in the middle of the block between West 228th and 230th (closer to West 228th).

Prepared by Lisa Daub, Vice Chair  
Approved by Steven Froot, Chair  
Health, Hospitals & Social Services Committee