

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8

MINUTES OF THE HEALTH, HOSPITALS & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING, September 8, 2014

PRESENT

Steven Froot
Lisa Daub
Michael Heller
Julia Gomez
Soji Adu

AFFILIATION

Committee Chair
CB 8 – Committee member
CB 8 – Committee member
Community Committee member
Bronx Independent Living Services

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

Minutes: no review of June meeting minutes due to lack of a quorum

Chair's Report

The Chair welcomed Committee members, and announced that the appointed HHSS Community Committee Members were Julia Gomez and Stan Cohen.

Mr. Froot distributed a resolution memorializing the Committee's vote on June 30, 2014, immediately following a public hearing, to recommend approval, under the Padavan Law, of the proposal by Special Citizens Futures Unlimited ("SCFU") to establish an Individual Residential Alternative ("IRA") group home, located on the second floor of a two-family corner house at 251 West 261st Street at Huxley Avenue, which would house four individuals with disabilities on the autism spectrum, which is the population served by SCFU at other locations in the Bronx and Westchester. The Chair also reported (1) that SCFU had promptly complied with the Committee's request that it notify the day care center occupying the first floor of the house, and (2) that because the Board did not meet over the summer and vote on the Committee's recommendation, the resolution would be brought before the full Board at the September 10, 2014 meeting. The Chair thanked Lisa Daub for agreeing to introduce the resolution at the Board meeting in the Chair's absence.

Presentation: **Soji Adu, Director of Core Programs**
 Bronx Independent Living Services

Mr. Adu provided background on the independent living movement in the United States and its philosophy. Bronx Independent Living, located in the Fordham section of the Bronx (4419 Third Avenue), is one of 36 independent living centers in NYC and approximately 500 in the U.S. It provides direct services to those with some form of disability in the following areas: restitution, counseling, peer support and representation to crime victims and domestic violence victims; a deaf services program; youth services

(assistance with Individual Education Plans, advocacy for rights under the Rehabilitation Act, career development); an employment program for individuals receiving SSI; and assistance with housing (eviction prevention, housing/shelter search, qualification for disability rent increase stabilization (DRIE)). Bronx Independent Living also engages in community assistance advocacy, including notifying businesses, hospitals and schools about access for the disabled and compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (for example, installing ramps at entrances). It serves those in all income levels, and does not charge for its services. Funding is provided by the Department of Justice Office of Victims Services, the federal Department of Health & Human Services, and the New York State Adult Career and Continuing Education Services (ACCES).

New Business

Ms. Gomez suggested, and the Committee discussed, the possibility of compiling a resource directory of social services available in the community, or at least creating a list of such facilities and locations. Ms. Daub indicated that the Aging Committee, of which she serves as Vice Chair, is working on a resource directory of its own. The Chair pointed out that there are a number of social service facilities located in the community that provide services to people from all over the Bronx and in some cases New York City, such as Riverdale Mental Health Association and the Jewish Board's Ittlelson Center. The Committee agreed to discuss the matter further.

The Chair asked members to give some thought to projects, including possible community forums, such as last year's forum on underage drinking, that the Committee might undertake this year.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9 pm.

The Committee will hold its next meeting on Monday, October 20, 2014. The location is yet to be determined.

Prepared by Steven Froot, Chair
Health, Hospitals & Social Services Committee