

**COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8 BRONX  
MINUTES OF THE HEALTH, HOSPITALS & SOCIAL SERVICES  
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MAY 18TH, 2009**

**PRESENT**

Martin Katzenstein  
Philip Friedman  
Damian McShane  
Joyce Pilsner  
Martin Wolpoff  
Gertrude Chamlee  
Nick Judd  
Frances Savage

**AFFILIATION**

CB 8, Committee Chair  
CB 8, Committee Vice Chair  
CB 8  
CB 8  
CB 8  
  
Riverdale Press

**Chairperson's Report**

No Report

**Agenda Items**

St. Joseph's Satellite Methadone Maintenance Treatment Program  
Guest Speaker: Mary O'Mara

- Bronx Community Board No. 8 asked to support opening of satellite methadone maintenance treatment program conducted by St. Joseph's of Yonkers.
- Satellite program has been proposed for Terrace Health Care Center located at 2678 Kingsbridge Terrace.
- St. Joseph's currently operates a methadone clinic at it's facility in Yonkers (approximately 300 clients.) The satellite location would be used to serve existing clients of the clinic residing at Terrace Health Care Center.
- The satellite location would be a pilot program under state regulations.

**Letter from St. Joseph's read by Ms. O'Mara:**

- Satellite program would serve residents of Terrace Health Care.
- Currently it costs approximately \$50,000 per year for transportation of clients to St. Joseph's for treatment. This is cost incurred by the state.
- Transportation creates loss of dignity of clients.
- Transportation is also difficult for some clients who are in wheelchairs and utilize walkers.
- Vans used for transportation creates traffic.
- Satellite program would be capped at 100 clients.
- Letter concludes requesting CB8 support for the satellite clinic opening.
- All proposed clients currently reside at Terrace Health Care Center.
- Per Federal regulations, the program would have to serve local residents outside of Terrace Health Care, if requested. If this would occur, St. Josephs would attempt to limit to 6-8 outside clients.
- There are currently (50) methadone clients at Terrace Health Care Center (of approximately 250 residents.)
- A new administration in Albany is revamping health codes and regulations relating to methadone clinics.

- Currently methadone clinics have not been allowed within nursing homes - this satellite program would be a pilot program under revised regulations.
- Satellite clinic will have the same policies and rules as the main clinic at St. Joseph's.
- At Terrace Health Care Center - the satellite facility will be an office where the resident clients would come down and be treated.
- When clients are 'compliant' with respect to taking their medication, they are provided with 'take home' medication to minimize clinic visits.
- The satellite office is currently a garage being converted into an office. The office will have two entry doors; one from inside the health care center (for residents of the health care center), one from the street (for potential local residents that may be served at the clinic.)
- 'In-patients' (residents of the health care facility) and 'out-patients' (local residents served by the clinic) can not be treated at the same time or co-mingle within the office; thus the two separate entrances. When one entrance door is open, the other entrance door will be locked.
- Committee Chairperson expresses concern regarding physically ill patients at the satellite facility and how they would be dealt with. Ms. O'Mara states that they would contact 911 and have patient sent to nearest emergency room.
- With respect to concern of health of health care facility patients, Terrace Health Care has a medical director for health care assessments.
- Satellite location would also be providing counseling and other related services for clients.
- St. Joseph's would be billing for services separately from Terrace Health Care. Satellite facility would save the State approximately \$50,000 per year in transportation costs and assist with maintaining client's dignity.
- It is noted that the Jericho Project for Veterans is located across the street from Terrace Health Care.
- Chairperson and other committee member indicate they would like representatives of Terrace Health Care Center to discuss the proposed satellite facility with the Health, Hospitals and Social Services Committee.
- Chairperson indicates he would like to visit Terrace Health Care. Ms. O'Mara indicates that a visit can be arranged.
- Ms. O'Mara indicated that St. Joseph's has been serving clients for Terrace Health Care for (5) years.
- The satellite office will be staffed with a Registered Nurse 7 days/week, counselors 5 days/week, an M.D. visiting and a clerical person part-time.
- The 'break-even' number of clients for the satellite facility is approximately 75. It is anticipated that Terrace Health Care will admit more methadone patients for treatment at the satellite facility.
- Serving methadone clients within nursing homes will become more common and will have an increased need.
- Operating certificate for the satellite office will read 'methadone clinic.'
- Ms. O'Mara states that walk-in client's payments from the state is only \$15/week (non-nursing home clients.) It would be financially difficult for the satellite office to serve more than 6-8 'walk-in' clients. More than 6-8 'walk-in' clients could likely affect the financial viability of the satellite facility.
- It is noted that some 'walk-in's' are employed people.

- The St. Joseph's program has good reviews from the state commission. The person running the program has been running the program for approximately 30 years.
- A committee member expresses concern about the 100 client cap being increased and by the satellite clinic being used by clients outside of CB8.
- It is stated that the satellite clinic will pay rent to Terrace Health Care and will pay for its own utilities and be a separate entity from the nursing home.
- The satellite clinic would likely open in the fall. The satellite clinic has been considered by St. Joseph's for approximately (5) years.
- Terrace Health Care is building the space that the clinic will occupy. It is questioned if the clinic within the nursing home conforms to the local zoning.
- St. Joseph's wants community support for the facility. They have had positive support in Westchester.
- It is stated again that this would be the first methadone program within a nursing home.
- It is stated by a committee member that the community may be surprised at the number of methadone residents at Terrace Health Care.
- Ms. O'Mara states that all clinic medication will be controlled by St. Joseph's.
- It is stated by a committee member that it appears that the Terrace Health Care Center would be morphing into a business model for aging methadone clients.
- Ms. O'Mara states again that it is their intention to minimize 'walk-in' clients.
- Satellite clinic's operating hours will likely be 6:30AM - 2:30 PM (many clients stop by before work.)

### **Old Business**

No old business

### **New Business**

Committee will discuss swine flu at future meeting if residents within CB8 become infected.

Committee to coordinate with the Education Committee with respect to budget priorities relating to requests for an EMS station.

### **Announcements**

A local resident is in need of a kidney and is in end stage of renal failure. It is recommended that the announcement also be made during the Gallery Session of the next full board meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Submitted by,

Philip Friedman  
Vice-Chairperson  
Health, Hospitals & Social  
Services Committee