

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8

MINUTES OF THE HEALTH, HOSPITALS & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON May 21, 2012

<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>AFFILIATION</u>
Steve Froot	Chair
Michael Heller	Vice Chair
Joyce Pilsner	CB8
Madeline Ginzburg	CB8
Beverly Fettman	CB8
Sylvia Alexander	CB8
Steven Balicer	CB8
Karen Pesce	CB8
Dana Lennon	Community resident member
Nils Graham	CB8
Philip Friedman	CB8

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m.

The minutes of the April 16, 2012 meeting were accepted as submitted with a correction by Joyce Pilsner to the spelling of the acronym for Riverdale Mental Health Association.

Chairperson's Report

- Riverdale Arts Festival on Johnson Avenue: The Chair complimented Montefiore staff and the medical group at 3510 Johnson Avenue for their participation in offering blood pressure screening. He also thanked the Vice Chair for arranging the screening. Mike Heller spoke briefly about Montefiore's creation of an Accountable Care Organization or "ACO." There was discussion of inviting Don Ashkenase to speak about managed care at a future Committee meeting.
- Riverdale Riverfest: Plans are in place for medical and dental health screening at Riverfest on June 24 with participation of the Bronx County Dental Association (arranged by Dr. Ginzburg) and the Visiting Nurse Service (arranged by the Chair).
- PS 7 Health & Nutrition Fair: Scheduled to take place Saturday, June 9, 2012. HHSS members will reach out by phone and email to inform local public and private elementary school principals about the Fair, so they can consider whether to replicate it at their schools in the future. **NOTE: Subsequently, it was announced that the Fair would be postponed until the fall of 2012.**
- Resolution opposing funding cuts for after-school programs: Reference was made to the resolution presented at the previous full board meeting to support

restoration of city funding for after school programs, which was sent to the Mayor on May 21. **NOTE: Subsequent to the board meeting, on June 5, Borough President Diaz sent his own letter opposing the Mayor's proposed cuts.**

- **Speaker**: DOHMH may present at the June meeting on the West Nile virus.

Follow-Up Business

The budget priorities previously discussed within the Committee were drafted by the Chair and circulated for review and comment prior to and during the meeting. An expense request pertaining to the geriatric mental health program administered by RMHA and a capital request concerning the establishment of an EMS restocking and decontamination station in CB 8 were accepted by the Committee subject to certain modifications.

Phil Friedman recommended that the Committee consider submitting an additional budget priority, and the Committee discussed a request to fund an obesity prevention program in schools. Discussion ensued regarding the need for a program to be in place to receive such funding or for an organization to have a plan to create a program, as well as the need to identify a city agency that would be a funding source. Mr. Friedman offered to research the basis for the need for an anti-obesity program in the Bronx, and the Chair offered to try to identify a program that could receive such funding.

New Business

Steve Balicer urged members to watch the HBO documentary "The Weight of the Nation" on causes, effects and prevention of obesity in the U.S. The Chair pointed out that the documentary, which is in several parts and runs several hours, can be accessed through HBO On Demand. The possibility of showing the documentary on tape in local physicians' and dentists' offices was suggested by Dr. Ginzburg. Mr. Balicer said he would contact HBO in order to obtain copies for distribution to make this possible.

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The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

The **next meeting** will be Monday, June 18, 2012 at 7:30 pm at the Kingsbridge Heights Rehabilitation and Care Center, 3400 Cannon Place (off Giles Place or West 239th Street). There are 10 parking spots available.

Prepared by Michael Heller, Vice Chair
Approved by Steven Froot, Chair
Health, Hospitals & Social Services Committee