

**COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8 BRONX
MINUTES OF THE HEALTH, HOSPITALS & SOCIAL SERVICES
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON APRIL 19TH, 2010**

PRESENT	AFFILIATION
Maria Khury	Committee, Chair
Phillip Friedman	Committee, Co-Chair
Sylvia Alexander	CB8
Steven Froot	CB8
Irving Ladimer	CB8
Bridget Maybury	CB8
Joyce Pilsner	CB8
Sergio Villaverde	CB8
Martin Wolpoff	CB8
Alan Mucatel	Committee Member
Mary O'Mara	St. Joseph's Medical Center
Dr. Barry Perlman	St. Joseph's Medical Center
Susan Anderson	St. Joseph's Medical Center
Dan Froot	Tobacco Survey Volunteer
Richard Yarmel	St. Joseph's Medical Center

**I. St. Joseph's Hospital Methadone Sub-Clinic at Terrace Health Care Center
(Originally presented May 2009)**

- Seeks to establish Methadone Clinic at Terrace Health Care Center
- Purpose of the clinic is to allow for treatment on site (no more bad weather transport, compromised privacy, etc.)
- Currently: Terrace Health Care Center clients are transported to St. Joseph's several times a week

(Handout)

- 60 patients for 1st 6 months, after 6 months 100 patient's with 90% within Terrace Health Care, 0-10% community patients by federal regulations.
- Currently 48 Terrace Health Care Patients on Methadone
- Methadone patients aging – requesting nursing home care
- Nursing home capacity = 240 – 250
- Cost to State is more than \$100,000 for Terrace Health Care patient transport to St. Joseph's
- Clinic spaces will open up at St. Josephs for Yonkers and Northwest Bronx residents.
- Some Terrace Health Care patients are short term and when discharged may become outpatients – part of allowed outpatient percentage.
- Doctors prescribe methadone as a pain medication, not drug substitute
- Terrace Health Care Center selected for pilot program because they already have a resident population requiring methadone maintenance services
- Board members requested that:
 - St. Josephs remain in contact with Committee and report to CB 8 annually as to status of and changes in program
 - St. Joseph's have an advisory committee of community members
 - St. Joseph's use state-of-the-art methods of treatment
 - Recommended clinic publishing results of clinics activities and continued patient education
- Board members asked about:
 - **preventative programs** - If there are any planned

- **education** – staff, community, themselves and health and hospitals
- **intervention** – the clinic is the intervention
- **innovation** – what will they do to improve
- St. Joseph's is not a research hospital and has large number of indigent patients
- Methadone is highly regulated via NYS and federal government – Clinic's activities are heavily regulated (clearly outlined and specified)
- St. Joseph's Methadone program is more than 40 years old
- In Government regulations – patient to staff ratios are 3 nurses per 300 patients, 1 doctor per 300 patients, 1 program director, 1 full time counselor per 50 patients, 1 supervisor for counselor, 1 supervisor for nurse
- 97% of clients, during program, free of illicit drugs; attendance checked
- Every patient has to be evaluated – must be long term heroin user, must be able to identify self and cannot be recent addiction
- Strict rules for being in methadone program – attendance, clean of other drugs, no loitering

Pilot program (Sub-Clinic) at Terrace Health Care Center

- Terrace Health Care is only a nursing home – St. Joseph's buses patients
- Satellite program to be open 7 days/week, approximately 7 hours a day, opens approximately 8:00 AM
- All staff at satellite methadone clinic will be St. Joseph's personnel
- At clinic, methadone is kept in safe
- 90% + financed via Medicaid – increasing population in NY of aging methadone users
- Only location of such clinic in a nursing home
- Patients within nursing home are particularly easy to work with – fewer outside stressors
 - Differences between male and female patients?
 - Patient family participation: Not much
- Patients are randomly urine tested – initially once a week, then every 2 weeks
- Patient does not see counselor daily
- Patients doing well in treatment can take several days worth of methadone with them and not have to come to clinic every day (methadone kept in narcotic locker on patient floor)
- Opening of sub-clinic is 3 months after government approval – anticipated in fall 2010
- Clinic staff check streets for loitering – loitering a reason for discharge from program
- Vast majority of St. Joseph's methadone clients are older (average age 45)
- Federal law requires 10% of clinic to be open to the community (open access); Board member requested citation provision of law mandating same
- St. Joseph's requests Bronx Community Board No. 8's support for a state-sponsored onsite Methadone Maintenance Satellite Program (letter to health Department and Government)
- Board member requested yearly reports to community board of statistics/patients served/percentage of outside patients
- Board members unlimited access to visit Terrace site
- St. Joseph's does annual report for clinic
- St. Joseph's will email responses to questions tomorrow re citation in federal and NYS regulations

II. Cigarette/tobacco advertisement in stores survey (attached)

- Survey conducted at Committee's request was distributed to members (attached)
- Not a scientific sample of stores; attempt to canvas two commercial districts – lower Broadway and lower Riverdale Avenue/Johnson Avenue
- Survey prompted by Queens CB7 resolution that approved letter from that Community Board to local merchants requesting that cigarette/tobacco advertisements be removed from positions three feet from floor level or within 12 inches of candy displays
- Study done in Queens CB7: 48% within three feet of floor, 36% within 12" of candy
- Survey conducted in CB8 for the Committee revealed more instances of advertisements being at 3 foot height, as opposed to 6 " from candy displays
- Overall, advertisements directed to children do not seem to be a problem, partly as a result of the lack of places for advertising to be posted
- Smaller stores on Broadway have more of an issue than West 235th & Johnson Avenue
- Survey did not reveal advertising as targeting youth; often anti-smoking posters were prominently displayed
- "Paraphernalia" lighters, etc. might be near candy because of limited shelf space
- Chain drug stores sell cigarettes but do not post advertisements
- In the two areas canvassed, the issue of advertisements targeted at children does not seem to be a concern
- Committee concluded that based on survey results, no further action is necessary at this time

III. March 15th minutes – approved

IV. Chairperson's Report

- Terrace Health Care/St. Joseph's Methadone Clinic Resolution
- Concern – information not circulated sufficiently to surrounding neighborhood
- Health Forum will take place in the fall. Member S. Balicer is working with Chair in preparing outline and securing panelists. Forum to be diverse and interactive with detailed responses to attendees as to its implementation defining pros/cons of such.

V. Health Forum - Limited to 4 panelists

VI. Budget Priorities:

- a. **New Ideas:** Education funding for health (Bronx unhealthiest county in the USA)
- b. Maintain 2011 priorities

VII. Resolution regarding Terrace Health Care/St. Josephs Methadone Sub-Clinic drafted by M. Wolpoff unanimously approved.

VIII. Meeting Adjourned 9:48 PM

Respectfully submitted by Phillip Friedman
Approved by Maria Khury

ATTACHMENT

Bronx Community Board 8

Tobacco Advertisement Store Survey

March/April 2010

Store Name	Address	Store Type	6-inch Criterion	3-foot Criterion	Comments
Te-Amo Convenience Store	5582 Broadway	Convenience	None	3 instances	Smoking paraphernalia next to candy (no cigarettes)
JD Convenience	5595 Broadway	Convenience/Grocery	None	None	
Nobi Convenience Inc.	5565 Broadway	Convenience	None	None	
Jasper's Deli Inc.	434 West 238 th Street	Deli	None	None	
Three Stars Convenience	231 West 231 st Street	Convenience	None	3 instances	Upside down NYC lung health poster in window
Broadway Candy	249 West 231 st Street	Convenience	None	None	NYC lung health poster clearly displayed in window
Bus Stop Convenience Store	215 West 231 st Street	Convenience	2 instances	5 instances	
New Kingsbridge Deli Grocery	253 West 231 st Street	Deli	None	None	
Gift Shop	561A West 235 th Street	Convenience/Gift	None	None	

Cappy's Lucky Lotto	556 West 235 th Street	Lotto/Convenience/Gift	None	None	
Variety Convenience Store	585 West 235 th Street	Convenience/Gift	None	2 instances	
Riverdale Gourmet Deli	3543 Riverdale Avenue	Deli	None	1 instance	
The Riverdale Gourmet Deli	459 West 238 th Street	Deli	None	2 instances	
New Riverdale Deli	452 West 238 th Street	Deli	None	None	

6-inch criterion: tobacco advertising situated within 6 inches of candy

3-foot criterion: tobacco advertising situated up to 3 feet from the ground level

This survey sampled stores in three commercial areas located within Bronx Community Board 8. The three commercial areas were: (1) Broadway and 231st Street and the surrounding streets; (2) Johnson Avenue and 235th Street and surrounding streets; (3) lower Riverdale Avenue and surrounding streets. Conducting the survey in these three areas allowed for the sampling of a variety of stores.

The stores listed in the chart above fall under the convenience store and deli categories, because these were the only stores that sold cigarettes or tobacco of some kind. Nevertheless, in the course of the survey, many categories of stores were investigated, including liquor/wine shops, supermarkets, drug stores, internet cafes, green grocers, discount stores. The only exception was the category of chain drug stores (e.g., CVS), which sell cigarettes but do not display cigarette advertising; this explains this store category's absence from the chart.

A majority of the stores in the areas surveyed that sell cigarettes do not feature advertising that meets the criteria set out in the survey. These criteria are (1) that a cigarette advertisement is positioned within six inches of candy, and (2) that cigarette advertising is situated less than three feet off the ground. These criteria were drawn from studies furnished by TobaccoFreeKids and the resolution adopted by Queens Community Board 7.

Overall, there were few instances in which tobacco advertising was placed within six inches of candy. Such advertising was only present in 1 out of the 14 stores in the survey. This was almost an absolute, for candy in the stores surveyed was almost always located near the front of the store at the counter, where there is precious little space for posters and other such advertisements. The real issue is the height of the advertisements, wherever they may be; for the stores surveyed that had cigarette advertising at all, it was rare that a tobacco advertisement was much higher than three feet. As a result, 6 of the 14 stores in the survey (over 43%) displayed advertising less than 3 feet from the floor, and there were often multiple instances of such advertising in the same store.

Daniel D. Froot