

**COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8 BRONX
MINUTES OF THE HEALTH, HOSPITALS & SOCIAL SERVICES
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 20, 2010**

PRESENT	AFFILIATION
Steven Froot	Committee Chair
Maria Khury	CB8
Sylvia Alexander	CB8
Steve Balicer	CB8
Beverly Fettman	CB8
Philip Friedman	CB8
Michael Heller	CB8
Karen Pesce	CB8
Joyce Pilsner	CB8
Pamela Bryant, RN	Elder Serve Health
Tae Yeon Kim	Lehman College
Felix Sanchez	Elder Serve Health

Previous meeting minutes reviewed and approved

Chairperson's Report:

- Chairperson thanks previous chairperson, Maria Khury, for her leadership.
- Chairperson announces Vice-Chair is Michael Heller.
- Ideas for other meeting venues are requested – preferably within the Southern region of Community Board 8 (CB8.)

General:

- Mission statement reviewed and distributed.
- It is mentioned that there are no hospitals within CB8.
 - Further discussions will be held within the committee regarding having members volunteer on advisory councils of hospitals in adjacent areas.
 - Some satellite hospital centers/clinics within CB8 are itemized.
- The issue of PCB's in window caulking in older schools is briefly discussed. This issue is being carried by the Education Committee but will also be reviewed by the Health, Hospitals & Social Services (HHSS) committee.

Agenda Items:

ElderServe (Guests: Felix Sanchez & Pamela Bryant, RN)

- Chairperson welcomes guest speakers.
- Guests describe their organization as a not-for-profit, Medicaid-funded long term managed health care program.
- ElderServe is affiliated with the Hebrew Home for the Aged.
- ElderServe assists doctors by dealing with the "80/20" patients; the 20% of patients who can take up to 80% of a doctor's time. ElderServe tends to many of these patient's needs.
- ElderServe is currently located at 3247 Johnson Avenue, a federal housing facility for the elderly.
- ElderServe offered use of it's facility for holding future H&H meeting.
- ElderServe provides home care, dental and rehabilitation services to disabled persons 18+ who live independently and are Medicaid-eligible.
- ElderServe operates within the New York Metro area. They assist people to live/stay within their own homes.
- ElderServe provides social workers to help Medicaid-eligible people to get processed and obtain Medicaid. It provides this service for free.

- It is noted that supplemental insurance will not pay for ElderServe's service.
- The purpose of this presentation is to inform the community of the existence of managed care services, not just the existence of ElderServe.
- A question is posed:
 - Why is ElderServe based around Medicaid instead of, or inclusive of, private insurance?
 - Response: Hebrew Home chose to provide care to the neediest socio-economic group.
- ElderServe clients have choice of doctor, from ElderServe's list, paid directly by Medicaid.
- It is discussed that doctors are contracted through ElderServe. If a client joins ElderServe and is seeing a doctor or dentist already who is not contracted under ElderServe, ElderServe will contract with that doctor or dentist for duration of treatment. After treatment is completed the client would select a doctor/dentist on the ElderServe plan.
- Anyone Medicaid eligible can become an ElderServe client and can sign-up any time of the year. The one exception is for medication, where enrollment is once a year.
- ElderServe services attempt to decrease hospital visits & return visits via it's own nursing staff, social workers, nutritionists, et al. – Overall, services are similar to other agencies.
- Nurses are have client case loads, which can vary from 3 clients per month to 25-30 clients per month; depending on the needs of the clients.
- ElderServe is paid a lump sum per patient/client – regardless of the level of care needed.
- Semi-annual Assessments (SAM's) are conducted – patients/clients are charted for eligibility by their nurse case worker and are rated from 'high' to 'low' need. Regardless of being rated high or low, ElderServe receives the same lump sum fee per patient/client.
- ElderServe took its first patient/client September 1st. They only take referrals from the 1st to the 3rd of each month. Though ElderServe is an existing agency, managed long term care is new to the agency (the agency had long term care but not managed long term care.)

Old Business:

St. Joseph's Satellite Clinic Issue:

- A July 6, 2010 letter to St. Joseph's Hospital regarding their proposed methadone satellite clinic at Terrace Health Care Center is distributed.
 - Letter notes a significant opposition being expressed by the community.
 - Letter also acknowledges the efforts of St. Joseph's.
- Board Minutes for the June meeting, which were approved at the September full board meeting, noted that the HHSS committee had issued a letter recommending that the satellite clinic be established at Terrace. This statement was incorrect, as the letter took no position as to whether the facility should be located at that site. This is now duly noted in these HHSS committee minutes, which will be distributed to the full Board.

Leake & Watts:

- Item tabled for next meeting; Leak & Watts representative unable to attend meeting.

H&H Health Forum:

- HHSS will sponsor a Health Forum focusing on the new federal health care reform legislation on Wednesday, December 8th at 7PM.
- Possible venue for the event is the Manhattan College School of Engineering building.
- Some of the potential forum panelists are Rep. Elliot Engel, Elizabeth Benjamin (Community Service Society), Joe Baker (Medicare Rights Project) and a representative from Emblem Health Care.
- The importance of having the forum “accessible” is discussed. The option of hiring buses or vans was further discussed.
- The possibility of raising funds to pay for advertising in local papers (including Spanish papers), printing flyers and transportation is discussed.
- It is anticipated that the forum will be video taped

New Business:

Bronx Smoke-Free Partnership:

- A folder/handout was distributed. A presentation by the group was made to the Parks & Recreation Committee, with the HHSS committee chair in attendance.
- A short discussion of whether this issue is adequately addressed by Parks & Recreation. It is decided to review this item after further deliberation.

Announcements/Misc:

- Next meeting: guest speakers from Bronx Health REACH.
- Dengue Fever travel advisory – handout distributed and had been mentioned at full board meeting
- Sept 26th – Riverdale Mental Health Association Walk.
- “Light The Night” Leukemia & Lymphoma Society walk – to be held at South Street Seaport/Brooklyn Bridge.
- Oct 17th – American Cancer Society walk at Orchard Beach.
- Mosquito spraying tonight, 9/20, from 8PM – 6AM within 10463 & 10471 zip codes (as indicated by ‘Notify NYC.’)
- Next Meeting: October 18th

Meeting Adjourns 9:03PM

Prepared by Philip Friedman, Member

Approved by Steven Froot, Chair

Health, Hospitals & Social Services
Committee