

**BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8**

**MINUTES OF THE HEALTH, HOSPITALS & SOCIAL SERVICES  
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MARCH 19, 2012**

PRESENT

Michael Heller  
Sylvia Alexander  
Steven Balicer  
Andrew Cohen  
Beverly Fettman  
Nils Graham  
Karen Pesce  
Joyce Pilsner  
Xaxia Sanchez  
Dana Lennon  
Josiris Urena  
Guillermo Rodriguez

AFFILIATION

Committee Vice Chair  
CB8  
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Community member  
Community Affairs Rep. NYS Senator Rivera

The meeting was chaired by Vice Chair Mike Heller in the chairperson's absence.

Minutes of the February 29, 2012 meeting were accepted as submitted.

**Follow-Up Business**

- a) **PS 7 Health and Nutrition Fair:** Possible date is Saturday, May 12, 2012 – the day before Mother's Day. Could be a model for other schools. Question raised as to whether students going to be given advance information with school curricula and whether there will be external providers? Ms. Urena said that Senator Rivera would welcome the opportunity to link his "Bronx Can" health initiative to schools. RKA MS/HS 141 held health fair on March 22. Representatives of other elementary schools could be invited. A committee member said that N. Stent is developing a healthy cooking demonstration to be part of this fair.
- b) **Health Screening at Riverfest:** Madeline Ginzburg, DDS, is arranging for dental screening. Materials for distribution could be obtained from the NYC Department of Health & Mental Health and Health & Hospitals Corporation. Materials describing function of CB8 may be available through Board Office.
- c) **Underage Drinking Forum:** Potentially scheduled for October or November 2012; target audience would be middle/high school educators and parents to focus on safety issues. S. Froot currently making inquiries regarding possible panelists.

- d) **Budget Priorities:** Capital request is a local EMS restocking station to be established in CB8, to be resubmitted once again; expense items will include support for Riverdale Mental Health's program targeting seniors. It was suggested that HHSS committee make a joint request with the Aging Committee to restore funding for adult social daycare to serve those unable to be alone during day/night. K. Pesce will find out how many programs there are and how many people are served. Preliminary council budget hearings have already been held, although there may be additional opportunities to testify. There was a general consensus that a joint request would be appropriate.

Consider a forum at Kingsbridge Heights Community Center to identify needs; perhaps physicians who will treat Medicare/Medicaid recipients could be identified. Fate of the Affordable Health Care Act in the courts is unknown at this time.

### **New Business**

- a) The Bronx Borough President held a Medicaid Rights Forum and Disability Resource Fair on March 15, 2012 in response to the NYS Medicaid 1115 Demonstration Project waiver, which would move disability programs to managed care. The Bronx Borough President's office filmed the presentation. S. Balicer will make contact to determine if the film can be screened by this committee.
- b) A discussion of the utility of the CB8 website took place. There was a suggestion that the web site should be expanded with links/contacts to other organizations/government agencies (e.g., CDC, FDA, American Cancer Society). Other suggestions can be emailed to M. Heller or S. Balicer. M. Heller will contact R. Fanuzzi, D. McShane (who is said to be working on modifying the existing website) and N. Stent regarding opportunities to expand the Committee's presence on the website.
- c) Ms. Urena of Senator Rivera's office reported he is continuing the "Bronx Can" health initiative, incorporating establishment of youth markets, promotion of exercise and dissemination of diet information.

**NEXT MEETING:** Monday, April 16, 2012 at 7:30 PM, location to be determined.

Prepared by Karen Pesce, Acting Secretary  
Approved by Michael Heller, Vice Chair  
Reviewed by Steven Froot, Chair