



**Department for  
the Aging**

Lilliam Barrios-Paoli  
Commissioner

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**SENIOR ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**Friday, December 9, 2011  
2 Lafayette Street, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor  
9:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon**

**Members Present:**

Suleika Cabrera-Drinane, Suzannah Chandler, David W. Gillcrist, Fatima Goldman, Hattie Lucas, Mary Mayer, Gloria Lind Vanterpool, Nancy Wackstein (by representative), Rabbi Moshe Wiener, Doris Williams (10)

**Members Absent:**

Michael Adams, Dr. Philip Brickner, Doralina Colón, Rose Dobrof, Carol Dunn, Claire Hall, Evelyn Laureano, Katherine Martinez, Cao K. O, Benjamin Pan, Raymond Raimundi, Stacy Shuchter-Gomez, Eartha Thompson-Washington, Marjorie Tiven, Leonora Vaccaro, Louis Vasquez (16)

**DFTA Staff:**

Commissioner Lilliam Barrios-Paoli, Verna Arthur, Bill Chong, Colicia Hercules, Chris Miller, Gabriel Oberfield, Caryn Resnick, Marah Rhoades (8)

**PROCEEDINGS**

The meeting was called to order by the Commissioner, and led by Doris Williams, co-chairperson of the Advisory Council. Ms Williams, along with other members, commended the Commissioner on naming DFTA's 7<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room, the **Janet Sainer Conference Room**. Members went around the room and introduced themselves.

**Commissioner's Report**

**Budget:**

- The Commissioner reported that the Mayor exempted DFTA from budget cuts for fiscal year 2012 and that the Mayor's decision was due to the strong advocacy of Deputy Mayor Linda Gibbs and Budget Director Mark Paige on DFTA's behalf. The decision was also made to annualize \$5 million for the Innovative Senior Centers initiative.
- The City Council voted to baseline \$14 million of City Council's funding into DFTA's budget.
- The Commissioner is scheduled to meet with State Senator Diane Savino and Bobbie Sackman (from the Council of Senior Centers and Services) to advocate for the restoration of Title XX funding from New York State.

**Innovative Senior Centers (ISC)**

After a competitive process, DFTA identified sponsoring organizations most qualified to enhance and transform the senior center network. The sponsors are: Lenox Hill Neighborhood House and Washington Heights YM-YWHA in Manhattan; Bronxworks in the Bronx; Selfhelp Ben Rosenthal Senior Center and SNAP in Queens; and the JCC of Staten Island, as well as two citywide organizations for special populations -- Visions and SAGE. The Request for Proposals (RFP) is being re-issued in Brooklyn to encourage a wider geographic base.

ISC's will be required to address five key areas: (1) nutrition, (2) socialization, (3) benefits and entitlements assistance, (4) linkages to community resources, and (5) health and wellness programming. Each ISC will be funded from \$650,000 up to \$1M to provide services.

DFTA has issued a solicitation for neighborhood senior center services. Proposals are due February 17. This solicitation offers flexibility to providers to consolidate and maximize resources across senior center programs within a borough to better serve seniors. In addition, the solicitation sets minimum requirements for number of seniors served (60 congregate meals daily or 75 unduplicated clients), education/recreation units (5 weekly), and health promotion services (4 weekly). Providers will also be allowed to propose up to 10% above their current DFTA budget, although the majority of the increases awarded are projected to be between 2% and 4%. DFTA is looking forward to strengthening the system, making it more vibrant and viable and service oriented.

**Home Delivered Meals Service**

DFTA has re-implemented Home Delivered Meals services in Queens as Visiting Nurse Service (VNS) has relinquished its contract that provided home delivered meals in that borough. Queens Community House, Peter Cardello, Catholic Charities and Florece E. Smith Senior Services have acquired the VNS contracts with approval from the Mayor's office of Contracts.

**Case Management**: A task force, facilitated by Dr. Manoj Pardasani of Fordham University to help define case management and its relationship to home delivered meals services, will be working with DFTA and providers to present several possible options for new models of service delivery.

**Meeting in Washington DC**

Plans are in the works to have Commissioner Barrios-Paoli attend a meeting in Washington DC to be hosted by Senators Kirsten Gillibrand and Kathy Greenlee to inform the White House of DFTA's services.

**Council of Senior Centers and Services (CSCS)**

DFTA has asked CSCS to explore health insurance options that will help offset the loss in City funding to the Central Insurance Plan for senior services providers.

CSCS received funding from a private donor to hire a consultant to negotiate with insurance companies on the most reasonable rates that would be available when senior services providers pool under one plan. Currently, only 50% of DFTA's contractors participate in the Central Insurance Plan. DFTA is hoping, with negotiations, rates would be more affordable.

**Member Reflection on 2011 and Forecast for 2012**

- A member pointed out that upon anniversary of the Commissioner's arrival to DFTA, the Commissioner came with an energy and sincerity that must be commended. The member also thanked the Commissioner for her advocacy approach for our seniors
- Another member stated that the Mayor has made a very wise choice in choosing the Commissioner to lead DFTA, and that DFTA and the Advisory Council has been very fortunate in his choice. The member also pointed out that the Commissioner has helped define DFTA again, in terms of where it is going, and has helped it survive and grow, despite the fact that the Commissioner has faced innumerable obstacles that would have been difficult for anyone. The member hoped that whoever becomes the next Mayor of New York sees it fit to keep the Commissioner on. Finally, the member pointed out that we must make sure that aging and older people are a part of the platform for the 2012 elections.
- Another member said they enjoy being a part of the Advisory Council, and appreciate the warmth the Commissioner showed them when she came on board.

**Announcements/Other Business:**

Suleika announced the Three Kings celebration slated for on January 6, 2012

Members received a holiday remembrance bag with DFTA "goodies."

The meeting adjourned at approximately 12 noon.