

Committee for the Concerns for Aging
February 14, 2012
At Dyckman Senior Citizen Center
3754 Tenth Ave.

Committee Members

Gloria Vanterpool, Chair
Dr. Edgard Nau
Betty Lehman

Public Members

Norma De Candido

Guests: Bessie Robinson; Margaret Woolery; Norma Aquino; Yahaira Gutierrez; Katherine Chen; Ginna Addo; Viola Smith; Maria Gonzalez; Maria Vinas; Philip diaz; Alejandrina Gordon; Georginna Ridelich; Mireya Paena; Diana Hernandez.

Chairperson called the meeting to order at 10:30 am.

The Committee was introduced to all, and welcomed visiting social work students from Fordham University. A description of the Community Board's function was discussed in detail including the various committees within the Board. Descriptive brochures were distributed to everyone in the audience in English and Spanish.

It was mentioned that future meetings would be held at senior centers to insure that seniors would be informed about the issues that the community board is dealing with to address the concerns of older adults.

CD 12 Committee/ Other Org. Reports

Transportation & Traffic

Updates were shared concerning the Renovation of GWB Bus Terminal. A more descriptive plan is forth coming.

Health & Environment

The AIDS epidemic has increased amongst the older adults population. AIDS organizations are visiting senior centers to educate them about protective measures to take and encourage seniors to be tested and know their status. Please inform your neighbors.

Housing

The Aging Committee is partnering with the Housing Committee to have a Public Forum advocating for increase of more affordable housing in our district. This forum will also address the problems with the SCRIE funding to our older adults. The forum will take place this spring and more details will be forthcoming.

WHICOA

A speaker was present from the Alzheimer's Association and distributed Advancing Care materials which are available from their website, www.alznyc.org/LTC

In addition she distributed easy –to-use guides to help family caregivers and health care providers who offer services to chronically or seriously ill individuals. All the materials can be found on their web site. www.nextstepincare.org

Guest Speaker Diana Hernandez – ARC Senior Center

Ms. Hernandez spoke of the Transportation Program, COAST, which provides door-to-door service to all older adults needing transportation assistance to clinic appointments, personal shopping and special appointments. This service is provided at no cost to the individual. Further information may be obtained from Ms. Weeks the Dyckman Senior Center

Ms Hernandez mentioned a proposed bill that has been introduced into Congress regarding all social security checks. The bill would mandate that any individual living outside of the U.S. for more than three months would not receive checks while living outside the U.S. Seniors are strongly encouraged to speak with their Congressional representatives expressing their views about this possibility.

Dr. Edgard Nau, podiatrist

Dr. Nau led a discussion that stressed the importance of ongoing care of your feet especially those individuals with diabetes and poor circulatory problems. In addition; he discussed P.A.D. (peripheral arterial disease). Questions were taken from the floor and answered.

The meeting was called to a close at 11:25 am
Next meeting is scheduled March 13, 2012
Topic :SCRIE Funding

Announcement

Yeshiva University - Joanna Mellor Aging Conference Friday 3/30 from 08:30-1PM
Topic: The Changing Face of Aging. For registration and details visit the website at www.yu.edu/wurtzweiler

Committee for the Concerns for Aging
March 13, 2012
@ Community Board #12 M
711 West 168th Street
New York, N.Y.

Committee Members

Gloria Vanterpool, Chair
Dr. Edgard Nau
Betty Lehman

Public Member

Norma De Candido

Guests: Alpha Sesay - City College; Laurie York MSW - Isabella Geriatric Center;
Emily Duran - Isabella Geriatric Center; Ginna Addo; Fern Hertzberg - ARC XVI Ft.
Washington.

Chairperson called the meeting to order at 10:20 AM

The Committee was introduced to all and a special welcome was given to visiting social work students from Isabella Geriatric and CUNY City College

Committee Reports

@ Health – Edgard Nau

An announcement was made about the “Big Apple Prescription Discount Card” that is available to all for use when purchasing your prescription. To price your prescription or locate a participating pharmacy –visit BigAppleRx.com or call 311 or 1-800-697-6974

A discussion arose from the floor on the expansion of an emerging model of care that allows many elderly patients to remain in their homes and receive the medical and social services that heretofore have only been offered in nursing homes. The Affordable Care Act has freed up \$3 billion in grant money that is available to states that wish to assist elderly and disabled individuals out of long-term care facilities. (See an article for details, <http://www.mcknights.com/affordable-care-act-authorizes-3-billion-to-keep-elderly-and-disabled-out-of-nursing-homes/article/230502/>)

Betty Lehman, committee member and Director of Marketing and Communications at Isabella Geriatric Center informed us that Isabella offers this service to residents in our community. Elderly individuals have been provided with transportation that goes to their homes and brings the client to their adult day care center where they are serviced by a teams of doctors, physical and occupational therapists, social workers and other specialists. At the close of the day, the client is returned to his or her home. Studies suggest that this model of managed care can be less expensive than traditional nursing homes while providing better medical outcomes. A word of caution was offered that further action on the Affordable Care Act would move slowly until the Supreme Court decides upon certain issues regarding the act which are before the court. We all agreed that future action should be watched carefully.

@Housing

The Chairperson was asked by the Housing Committee about the possibility for the Aging Committee co-host a Community Festival. It would be held at a community site in order to publicize the services available in the community, including the role and service of the Community Board.. Further planning will be done with the committee and information will be distributed.

@Traffic & Transportation

A resolution was presented which the Board adopted at their February meeting in supports the redevelopment project of the George Washington Bridge Bus Terminal with specific recommendations that are included in the plan. Work continues on this resolution and a final version will be presented at the next general meeting of the Community Board.

M4 Bus Service – Bunching

A letter is to be written demanding an MTA representative be present at our next meeting to address this and other ongoing problems.

SCRIE FUNDING (Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption)

If a NYC tenant or tenant's spouse is 62 years of age or older and is living in a rent regulated apartment, and the combined household income is at or below the income eligibility level and they are paying at least 1/3 of their disposable income toward their rent, the senior citizen tenant may apply for the SCRIE PROGRAM

Fern Hertzberg, Executive Director of ARC Senior Center came to the meeting to inform the committee of the serious backlog in expediting approvals and renewals notices to seniors who have applied. There have also been delays in receiving the funds. This has caused untold stress and anxiety on our senior residents who are experiencing harassment and threats of eviction by landlords for those who have not received approval notices. This program is administered by the Dept. of Finance with Dept. for Aging. Ms. Hertzberg asked for the Committee's support. It was decided that with the Housing Committee, we would draft a resolution for the Community Board support and request letters and petitions be sent to City Hall from those in our community. Ms. Hertzberg spoke at the NYC Council Hearing on March 2 @ 250 Broadway and the chairperson. Of the Aging Committee was present.

Guest Speaker, Mr. Reyes

Alzheimer 's Foundation provides optional care and services to individuals confronting dementia, and to their caregivers and families. Mr. Reyes explained his role as a Care Consultant in which he gives direct service to the family of the individual as well as the patient. He is seeking assistance in being directed to families that would like to speak to a professional Care Consultant who would give them an in-depth discussion regarding how to cope with a diagnosis of dementia in their family. The Association has a 24-hour Helpline @ 1-800-272-3900, or send e-mail to: helpline @alz.org/nyc. He distributed an information packet to all those present.

- Our next meeting will be at the ARC Senior Center on Apr. 5th 2012 at 7pm.

- Topic: SCRIE and other Housing issues. Representative from Dept of Finance, speaker

Community Board 12Manahttan
Joint Committee Meeting

Housing & Humans Services/ Committee of the Aging
April 5, 2012

Present

George Fernandez, Chair
Alyce Smith
Richard Lewis
Gabriela Rosa

Absent

Carol Mulligan
Melanie Hidalgo

Excused

Betty Lehman
Edgard Nau

Committee of the Aging

Gloria Vanterpool, Chair

Staff Member: Ebenezer Smith, District Manager

CB12M Public Members:

Diana. L Hernández- COA
Nancy Decandido- COA

The meeting was conducted at ARC Senior Center, 4110 Broadway. Many thanks to Fern Hertzberg Executive Director of ARC for allowing the committees to host their meeting at their Facility.

Chairs George Fernandez and Gloria Vanterpool began meeting at 7:15 pm. They welcomed everyone and thank them for attending the meeting. Chair George Fernandez went on to explain the meetings agenda and it importance to the community. Items on the Agenda were, Intro 477 Tenants Bill of Rights, SCRIE (Senior Citizens Rent Increase Exemption Program and DRIE (Disability Rent Increase Exemption Program) and Affordable Housing for the residence of community district 12M.

Chair George Fernandez went on to introduce Guest speakers Fern Hertzberg, Director the ARC, Senior Center and Edith Prentiss board member of CB12M and Vice Chair for Disabled. She was their Representing as VP of Legislative Affairs for Disabled In Action of Metropolitan New York.

Fern Hertz Berg - provided a an over view of the SCRIE and spoke about the service it provides for senior citizens in NYC and explained in order for them to be eligible they needed to be 62 years of age and receiving total house hold income of 29, 000+ and that this program freezes their rent.

Went on to explain the program is overseen by the Department of Finance who handles the tax exemptions part for landlords and 3 years ago the Mayor's office transferred the SCRIE application out of the Department of Aging to consolidate the tax exemption part of program, and they would add the personnel needed to run the program. Through out its inception it was discovered the application process has slowed down. Went on to explain the process for new applicants took about 6-8 weeks and now the process takes 3-6 months and for a new application,. New application is taking about 6-12 months to process.

Fern Hertzberg: went on to mention that when DOA had oversight they were 39 staff members dedicated to providing, outreach, case managers, handed out flyers and gave update about program and now that DOF has the program there is no out reach going on at minimum and no packages being sent out.

Fern Hertzberg- also stated that she attended the city council hearing about 6 weeks ago, where a discussion was held about SCRIE and council members stated they are being inundated with complaints from their constituents about the SCRIE program and that they are frustrated, senior's complaints when received by 311 are taking 2-4 weeks to get a response from DOF.

Edith Prentiss -VR for of Legislative Affairs for Disabled In Action of Metropolitan New York provided an overview about DRIE. Ms. Prentiss went on to state that individuals with disabilities are not getting their rent freezes, she went to explain how she pays 1000 dollar in rent and that she has been collecting been collecting disability for 12 years and that if the state would have passed the program at the same they passed SCRIE her rent would not be at the rate it is now. Also that in order to be eligible for DRIE you must be under 65 and have total income f 19, 000+. She also stated that there is no other agency in the city of New York , only The Mayors office for people with disabilities and that it she ran under the that unit. Furthermore that the state assembly has made many promises about SCRIE and DRIE

Edit Prentiss- Vice chair of Legislative Affairs for Disabled In Action of Metropolitan New York. Introduced her self and began speaking about DRIE and mentioned that SCRIE #'s dwarf DRIE applications because of income eligibility and that the department of finance is not doing a great job handling DRIE applications, its taking up to one year and there are major disparities between the programs. More people with disabilities and seniors are surviving now.

Juan Felix – Representative of Washington Heights Inwood Coalition introduced himself and spoke about how is agency is understaffed (from 3 down to 1) and they are seeing more and more seniors who are being pressure by landlords and the impact on non- English speaking clients.

Richard Lewis- “IF tenants are not receiving their leases than they can get a RA 990 form failure landlord renewal form will substitute the lease for renewal process. Mr. Felix went on to explain that it is not easy for seniors; especially non- English speaking.

Alyce Smith- HHS committee member asked Mr. Felix to describe how is WIC servicing seniors? Felix” I am helping them to process SCRIE applications”.

Fern -“commented that the renewal process for DRIE will not remove DRIE applicants from program rather that they will do a retro active application process for DRIE applicants stay in program. Also, that the New York City Council has pending legislation requesting for SCRIE to be returned to the department aging.

During the meeting further discussion was held about seniors and people with disabilities; longer for the approval of applications for tenants and landlords not getting their tax abatements. As well that tenants (SCRIE) are loosing their benefits, some landlord are not filling lease for seniors , as well that not many seniors or DRIE applicant are familiar with DHCR web sites where they retrieve the necessary document if a landlord fails to give lease.

Further discussion about how senior centers have SCRIE and that there is are no DRIE locations for people with disability and Edith Prentiss expressed that DRIE should be overseen by the Mayor office for people with disabilities and that there are not enough advocates working with people with disabilities. Ms. Prentiss went to explain that there are 6 Independent living centers in the 5 boroughs NYC that explain the service and that Manhattan has 2 staff, Brooklyn 1 Housing part-time personal and Harlem has part-time, 3 days a week

Fern- went on to explain that during the hearing the department of finance stated that they had one office on Manhattan that is providing service 3 days out of the week and is not a full day

Edith- preceding the city council hearing last year VITO Lopez and Joan Mill state assembly held hearings and the NYC council members testified because the tax issue funded out city real-estate dollars

Recommendation were suggested during the meeting

- George Fernandez and Gloria Vanterpool suggested that a collaborative project between CB12M, other CB'S, ARC Senior Center Action Committee, and other senior centers rally and have a demonstration calling for the necessary changes and to bring the awareness of the distress our seniors and people with disabilities are facing.
- That we include elected officials in the discussion of SCRIE and DRIE
- A community letter be sent to all seniors

- Gabriela Rosa- member of HHS recommended that the staff of elected officials could help out with the processing of the application.
- Mr. Vargas, resident of CD12M “there should be a subject of awareness for people disabilities; about resources.
- Chairs George Fernandez and Gloria Vanterpool indicated that they will need to speak with Pamela Palanque-North Chair of CB12M on April 9, 2012, before they could take action.
- *Diana L. Hernandez- ARC will get permits,*
- *Sound system from CB12M*

Two resolutions were presented during the meeting, below are the results

1- SCRIE

<u>Aging</u>	<u>Housing</u>	<u>CB12M Members</u>	<u>Public</u>
3	4	2	10
0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0

2- Affordable Housing (WAHI)

<u>Aging</u>	<u>Housing</u>	<u>CB12M Members</u>	<u>Public</u>
3	4	2	11
0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0

Comm. For Concerns for the Aging
Minutes
June 12, 2012
@ Community Board Office
711 w 168th Street

Committee Members

Gloria Vanterpool, Chair
Edgard Nau, Asst. Chair
Betty Lehman, Asst. Chair

Public Members

Norma De Candido
Diana Hernandez
Glenda Massa

Guests, Katherine Chen, George Espinal

Meeting called at 10:15am by Chairperson
Welcome extended to all

Vanderbilt Clinic

Committee was reminded about our Vanderbilt Clinic Follow-up Visit and the need to select a date. The chair asked for convenient days and times and this will be shared with Dr. Lantiqua. The final decision would be given to the committee in a future e-mail. We later discussed questions that would be asked and any additional questions would be forwarded to the chairperson, prior to the scheduled date. An invitation will be extended to all others who have expressed concern regarding the transfer of the clinic from 99 FW/Riverstone.

Essen Med (House Calls)

George Espinal reported on a new program offered in our community named Essen Med. This provides in home medical care to the elderly and other homebound individuals. It has been providing these services since 2005 (formerly House Call Medical Services of N.Y). He discussed the services offered which would include Cardiovascular care, Podiatry, Respiratory infections, pneumonia and others. Several questions were asked which he felt would require that he return at a later meeting with additional info regarding fiscal charges etc. It was also suggested that he visit the Health & Environment Committee.

Senior Citizen Center Survey

Since the committee will not meet in July & August officially, we will meet and informally develop an interest survey to be distributed to senior citizen centers prior to the resumption of scheduled meetings in the fall of 2012. This will enable us to address issues that are of interest to the older adults in our community.

CB12 Committee Reports

Health - Betty Lehman, Edgard Nau

They spoke of a presentation at the committee meeting where there was a discussion of a serious problem of rodent activity in the Washington Hgts. Area. There will be a series of seminars held throughout our district. Assistance is needed to distribute the info to all

for greater attendance at these seminars. It was requested that flyers be posted in apartment building lobbies.

Social Action Committee

Diane Hernandez of ARC reported that a Social Action Committee is being formed from the ARC Senior Center. They are proposing a community rally take place on July 13th to communicate to our legislative leaders and the community several issues affecting the seniors in our community including Affordable Housing, Scie/Drie funding etc. The committee requested that the Aging Committee co-sponsor this rally. This request was met with some resistance by the committee. The chair suggested that a further meeting with the newly formed Social Action committee should occur to discuss the full particulars. The results of that meeting will be shared with all.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:20am
Summer Break in July & August
Next meeting - September 11, 2012