

**CB9M**

16-18 Old Broadway
New York, New York 10027
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COMMUNITY BOARD #9, MANHATTAN

**SENIOR ISSUES COMMITTEE
MINUTES
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2010**

Scott Stringer
President, Borough of Manhattan

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Eutha Prince
District Manager

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Ernestine Welch, Chair, **Present**

Cora Gilmore, **Present**

Georgiette Morgan-Thomas, **Excused**

Anthony Fletcher, **Present**

OTHER ATTENDEES PRESENT

Miranda Murray, George Bruce Library

LaQuita Henry, Heritage Health

Florence M. Rice, Tenant's & Landlord Rec.

Mark Bowes, Visions

David Currier, Upper Manhattan Mental Health

Zonia Bucknor, Hamilton Grange Senior Center

Diane Blundage

Ginia Addo

Joyce Garrett

Verna Arthur, Dept. For The Aging

Gisele Guerre

PUBLIC MEMBERS:

G. Marilyn Alexander, **Excused**

Wanda Capan, **Present**

Laenoria Conyers, **Present**

Bessie Davis, **Present**

Ruther Miller, **Present**

Virginia Lee, **Present**

Ruth Lewis, Dir. of Amsterdam
Adult Day

Care, **Excused**

Inez Woodhouse, **Present**

Vanisha Taylor, **Excused**

Nazarene Robinson, **Excused**

Dothe Rudolph, **Present**

The meeting was held on Tuesday, November 9, 2010 at the George Bruce Library, 518 West 125th Street, New York, NY 10027

Ernestine Welch, Chair called the meeting to order at 11:00 A.M.

The agenda was adopted as stated and minutes accepted with any necessary corrections and to be submitted to the CB9M district office at a later date.

Correction:

Wanda Capan was present at the last month's meeting (October 5, 2010)

Update/Report:

Upper Manhattan Partnership for Senior Independence – Isabella

Noel Graziani, Project Director reported that Isabella provided home assessment, adult day care, expanded in home services for the elderly, and meals on wheels services to homebound seniors but due to budget cuts the adult day care and expanded in home services for the elderly services were eliminated. The home assessment and meals on wheels still continue to be provided to seniors.

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Case Management:

- Serves homebound and frail seniors.
- Case management personnel perform home assessment and a care plan is created to address the needs of that individual senior.
- Assist in basic needs such as preparing meals; doctor's appointments; laundry and shopping.

Home Care:

- Consist of housekeeping and personal care.
(Client cannot have both services)

Caregiver Program:

- Provide free home care services such as cleaning; cooking; shopping, etc.
- These services are provided for 3-6 months.

Ms. Graziani encouraged seniors to join Isabella mailing list to be informed about up-coming events, services provided and participate in the Walking Makes Wonders.

Mr. David Currier, Upper Manhattan Mental Health Center

Reported that upper Manhattan Mental Health Center has a Geriatric Outreach Program that offers mental health and links older adults 60 years and older to mental health and other services such as applying for food stamps; soup kitchens; pantries etc. (See attached)

Department For The Aging:

Verna Arthur, Director of Community Outreach gave an update on:

- Home Energy Assistance Program is accepting applications
- The DFTA walking program has stopped as of November 1, 2010 (by appointment only) if you need assistance.
- Mayor Bloomberg's Silver Alert System has been implemented to locate seniors suffering from dementia (Police, DFTA, EOM, City Council are informed) the information is transmitted wirelessly to taxis citywide.
- Starting mid November Wilson Major Morris Senior Center will provide meals to seniors.
- Innovative Senior Centers Initiative pre-qualify PRF applications are being accepted. For further information can be access at www.nyc.gov/aging

Old Business:

Anthony Fletcher updated on CB9 funds regarding senior projects.

- Stated that CB9 received 10,000 from Councilmember Inez Dickens to provide Health and Recreation Services.
- Senior monthly refreshment funds cannot be provided due to the Comptroller's Directives regulations. Refreshments can only be provided for special meetings such as Senior's Month, Health Fair etc.
- Preliminary submission of Senior Issues Committee proposal to be presented to the Executive Committee. (See attached)

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Hleziphi Zita stated that Robert Benneton, NYCHA Greening Department confirmed that an application for a basic garden next to George Bruce Library was submitted by Grant Houses Tenants Association and NYCHA will provide technical support and plants for the garden. The project will start in the spring season.

Suggestions:

- Payment of prescription drugs for seniors from Councilmember Inez Dickens' discretionary funds.
- Contact Mr. Michael Alvarez, Library Supervisor to further discuss the possibility of the Library involvement regarding the Senior Reading Garden Project next to George Bruce Library.

Continued Senior Problems:

1. Transportation
 - To and from Senior Centers
 - Need use of vans/small buses etc. for group trips to Important Community Hearings.
 - Improved MTA Bus and Subway Services
 - Need Access-A-Ride Visit.
2. Consumer Needs
 - Food Survey needed.
 - Invite City Advocate – Invite to monthly meeting.
3. Follow-up on Senior Housing Harassment Plans
4. Follow-up on Telephone Services for Seniors.
5. Other

Adjournment: 12:30 P.M.

The next meeting will be held on December 7, 2010, George Bruce Library at 11:00 A.M.

Prepared by: Hleziphi Zita, Community Associate



Geriatric Outreach Project

Emma L. Bowen Community
Service Center
(Upper Manhattan Mental Health Center)

About the Project

The Project links older adults, 60 plus, to mental health or other concrete services. These services can include:

- Assessment (diagnostic evaluation)
- Medication therapy
- Individual, group psychotherapy, and crisis intervention
- Case management
- Access to benefits and entitlements
- Referrals to detoxification, housing, and other concrete services

How the Project works

Experienced social workers will meet with you to discuss the needs of seniors at your church, senior center, or medical facility. Then, our staff will develop a mutually agreed upon plan of activities that may include:

- Presenting to seniors at your organization. Topics may include dealing with grief, family relationships, the connection between physical illness and mental health.
- Counseling seniors at your site.
- Referring seniors for specific concrete services, such as transportation, emergency food, housing, etc.
- Training your staff on how to recognize depression and how to encourage seniors to seek help.

About Emma L. Bowen Community Service Center

The Center is a nonprofit organization that has worked in Harlem for more than 30 years. Noted for quality and comprehensiveness of services, the Center helps people of all ages to meet the many challenges within today's scope of "problems of living." A staff of 150 healthcare providers, including psychiatrists, psychologists, nurse practitioners, social workers, vocational rehab counselors, and case managers, deliver care to more than 40,000 clients yearly.

For more information, please call ~~Mimi Grinker at 917-282-8826~~

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