

COMMUNITY BOARD #3

655 Rossville Avenue
Staten Island, N. Y. 10309

Human Resources Committee

February 3, 2009

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

*** denotes Committee members**

Frank Morano, Chairman of the Board

John Cassese, Chairman*

Diane Peruggia*

Dawn Raner*

Frank Contrera

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Dan Ajello

Amy Maniscalco

John Reilly

Todd Tabacco

GUESTS:

Richard P. Fraciaco

James Stanley, Staten Island Developmental Disabilities Service Office

Kan Byalin, The Verrazano Foundation

James Stanley, Director of the Staten Island Developmental Disabilities Service Office under the auspice of the NYS Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities.

Mr. Stanley brought the Committee up to date on the 2009 financial status and OMRDD's future plans for Community Board #3. Diane Peruggia requested that Mr. Stanley have OMRDD create an informative flyer that the Committee could distribute to area residents giving them advance notice of proposed group homes. Mr. Frank Contrera appealed Mr. Stanley to be more straightforward and informative when addressing the community at a public hearing to alleviate their fears.

Kenneth Byalin, the founder and President of the Verrazano Foundation, a non-profit organization, spoke on the topic of "stigma and discrimination against people living with mental illness." Mr. Byalin explained how the Foundation creates opportunities for people in recovery to contribute to society. Mr. Byalin also spoke about the new charter School "The John W. Lavelle Preparatory Charter School" for grades 6 through 12 that will open in September. The school will be supported by the Verrazano Foundation and will be the first of its type in the city and the first charter school on Staten Island. The school will be located at the old Seaview Hospital site on Brielle Avenue.

Richard Fragiaco told the Committee about "The Living Room", a group that meets at the South Beach Psychiatric Center that is comprised of people with psychiatric disabilities. This group on September 14, 2008 organized, financed and orchestrated a barbecue on the ground of the South Beach Psychiatric Center.

NEW BUSINESS:

- February 24, 2009 – General Board Meeting, CYO-MIV Center, 6451 Hylan Blvd. 7:30 pm
- March 3, 2009 – Human Resources Committee Meeting, Board Office, 7:30 pm

Meeting adjourned 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Cassese
Chairman, Human Resources Committee