

**FULL BOARD MEETING**  
BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #1  
3024 Third Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10455  
January 31, 2013  
Mr. George Rodriguez – Chairman  
6:00 PM

**MINUTES**

**Attendance:** George Rodriguez, Ngande Ambroise, Carmen Aquino, Maria Garcia Baltazar, Robert H. Barnes, Carol Boddie, Josephine Fernandez Byrne, Betty Bryant, Maura Cosme, Gloria Cruz, Linda Duke, Isabel Figueroa, Linda D. Gaines, Brenda Goodwin, Lucas Henriquez, Richard Iyasere, A. Mychal Johnson, John Lemon, Nellie McKay, Evelyn Munoz, Walter C. Nash, Arline Parks, Freddy Perez, Jr., Justino Rodriguez, Carmen Santos, Alice Simmons, Marcelo Villagran, Betty Wessley, Maria Davis Wilson, Tracy Alecia Woodall, Delores Waller Worrell.

**Absent:** Silverio Guzman, John Johnson, Jorge Leon, Theresa Marrero, Freddy Pina, Justo Torres.

**No Public Session**

**The Chairman called for the roll.**

There were twenty-seven members present constituting a quorum.

**The Chairman called for a motion on the agenda.**

Motion made to approve the agenda as presented. Motion duly seconded. Called and passed unanimously.

**The Chairman called for a motion on the prior meeting minutes.**

Motion made to approve the prior meeting minutes as presented. Motion duly seconded. Called and passed with seven-abstentions.

**Salvation Army**

Mr. Mike Burgos, Director of Family Shelters for the Salvation Army. The Salvation Army was founded in 1865 they had their initial experience running private shelters beginning in 1891 starting in Greenwich Village.

Currently we have six shelters that we're operating at this time. The first one is the Kingsboro men shelter the Army has operated this shelter in Brooklyn since 1997 it has the capacity of 80 adults initially and was expanded by DHS in 2009 to 118 clients, again in 2010 to 126 clients, and again in 2013 to 141 clients. This shelter serves homeless men and women who are mentally ill and chemically addicted. We also run a shelter here in the Bronx the Franklin Women's Assessment Shelter designed to assess the needs of homeless women and develop plans to refer them to appropriate transitional settings also any needed services like medical programs, substance abuse treatment and programs in housing within twenty-one days. Franklin provides medical services and psychiatric evaluations as part of its in-depth client assessment.

The Salvation Army has been operating shelters since 2000 initially Franklin was a 100 bed shelter and in November of 2005 DHS increased the capacity to 200 beds. DHS just asked the Salvation Army recently to provide shelter support for the population made by super storm Sandy. Our next shelter is Northport Veteran Shelter located in the center of Northport, Long Island with a capacity of 51 male and female adults serving veterans from Nassau and Suffolk counties. Services offered to Northport veteran shelter include case management, money management programs, recovery groups, employment training and other referrals for permanent housing.

We have currently three family shelters that we're operating two are located in Queens the first one is Briarwood Family Shelter in Jamaica, Queens a 91 bed facility for families very similar to the Jackson Shelter in the Bronx. We have another one similar to that in the Springfield area of Queens and that house's 82 beds for women and children. Recently it was a typical Tier II Family Shelter but beginning in February of 2012 DHS asked us if this facility could be transitioned to a next step shelter. A next step shelter is a more intense shelter for families who are characterized as not compliant for families that have been in shelters 12 months plus and not compliant in a number of areas can be referred to a next step shelter. We provide more intense case management and case involvement. We also operate another Tier II Family Shelter in the Bushwick area of Brooklyn, New York an 87 bed unit very similar to Briarwood.

I do want to say that we're running three family shelters so we've created a centralized management structure meaning that we have a team of Directors that actually function in all three sites. I as the Executive Leader am overseeing all three shelters but we also have a Director of Operations that provides directions, procedures and quality assurance to ensure that we are operating under the guidelines of DHS and the State. We also have a Director of Social Services providing leadership for a huge Social Service Team that we have at all three sites and also ensuring that we are operating and running the shelter in the model that is prescribed by DHS. We have a Director of Facilities responsible for the facility itself the infrastructure and working with DHS to repair any discrepancies that may occur.

The Salvation Army offers a lot more than that we have 140 programs throughout New York City they comprise daycare, after school programs, developmental disability services, emergency

disaster services, HIV services, hunger prevention services and a history of working with the poorest of the poor. We look forward to developing relationships in the Bronx District No. 1.

### **Bronxworks**

Mr. Ken Smalls said that he was the Development Director for Bronxworks the organization that many of you have known previously as Citizens Advice Bureau. I want to talk briefly about Bronxworks overall and a little bit in terms of the services that Bronxworks has provided at the Jackson Avenue Family Residence since it opened in 1995. Also have with me Mr. Thomas Lumpkin who is the Director of Security for the residence.

We have had a significant presence in Bronx Community Board 1 going back more than 20 years. We have a Senior Center in the Roberts Moore Houses that we been contracted with the Department for the Aging going back to the early 1990's. In addition Bronxworks has had a Workforce Development Center located on the 149<sup>th</sup> Street HUB that has been in operation way back to 1998. The Workforce Development Center last year engaged about 1600 persons and helped about 600 people find employment. We became the sponsor of the Betances Community Center as a result of getting a grant from the New York City Department of Youth and Community Development in 2010 providing services for children, young adults, working age adults as well as seniors. Those are some services that we have here in Community Board 1.

Bronxworks is the Bronx based organization that has responsibility for the Homeless Outreach Team. We've had the contract to provide Homeless Outreach Team Services going back to 1995. Between 2005 and 2012 here in the Bronx there's been a 71 percent decline in the number of street homeless persons and the Bronxworks Homeless Outreach Team is largely responsible for that decline. We're also the organization that is responsible for two of the largest eviction prevention programs here in the Bronx. The formerly eviction prevention subsidy program which some of you may know as Jiggets and some of you may know as the Homeless Prevention Program as a result of having this program over the last 20 years we have literally been able to keep tens of thousands of families out of the shelter system and into permanent housing. A similar program we've had now for about 5 years specifically targets families here in Community Board 1 as well as Community Board 4 that program is called Home Base and last year this program worked with 750 families and approximately 1700 people also keeping them in permanent housing and out of the shelter system.

Bronxworks has had the contract to provide services at the Jackson Avenue Family Residence since it opened in 1995. Wanda Cruz is the Director of the shelter there is also on site a Social Service Director. In addition Bronxworks has worked for a number of years with the organization Care for the Homeless to provide onsite medical care to the families who reside at the residence. As part of our transition process we work with the Morris Heights Health Center which has a location not too far from the shelter. We do provide additional Social Services on site we have a number of Case Managers on site that work very closely with the families to help them resolve whatever issues they may have. Of course with the shelter being a place that is

designed to move people into permanent housing our major concern is to see to it that those who are at the shelter not only find permanent housing but are able to stay in permanent housing. So we place a very heavy emphasis to seeing to it that those who are in the shelter when they leave that they have the appropriate benefits and supports to see to it that they and their family are able to realize self-sufficiency and not return to the Jackson or any other shelter in the system. We have educational and recreational services provided on site and we found our own money to build a playground for the shelter.

### **Questions and Answers**

A vote was taken on providing the Salvation Army with a letter of support. Vote taken was 2-yes, and 21-no, and 6-abstentions. The Board voted not to provide the Salvation Army with a letter of support for them to operate the Jackson Avenue Family Residence Shelter.

A vote was taken on providing Bronxworks with a letter of support. Vote taken was 23-yes, 2-no, and 4-abstentions. The Board voted unanimously to provide Bronxworks with a letter of support for them to continue to operate the Jackson Avenue Family Residence Shelter.

**Meeting Adjourned.**