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April 9, 2013 Health & Social Services Committee Meeting Minutes

PRESENT: Joseph Bacote, Chair; Dr. Mahendra Patel, Co-chair; and Sandra Unger.

ABSENT: Rosemary Durso and Pat Quaranta.

EXCUSED: Marcy Gross and Martin Sacewicz.

GUEST(S): Patrick Dolan, CB11 Board Member; Chris Kirka, CB11 Community Associate; Roberto S. Garcia, Montefiore; Hannah Moreira, Albert Einstein College of Medicine; Lynn Richmond, Montefiore; and Milagros Sanchez.

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM by Chairman Joe Bacote.

Bacote introduced Montefiore Medical Center Senior Director of Community & Government Relations Roberto Garcia and Senior Vice President and Chief of Staff Lynn Richmond.

Mr. Garcia thanked Community Board 11 and Mr. Bacote for working with him.

Lynn Richmond spoke about what is going on at Westchester Square hospital. She described the transformation from Westchester Square Hospital to Montefiore. Ms. Richmond spoke about how most of the staff that is currently there was previously employed by Westchester Square Hospital. Also, she described how patients that need to be hospitalized were moved to the Wakefield or Moses Campuses of Montefiore.

Bacote asked about a Community Advisory Board. They are not committed to having one at the facility.

Pat Dolan questioned what was happening to staff from Westchester Square Hospital and employment opportunities. Ms. Richmond described how

employment opportunities were offered and accepted. Some former employees have retired; others still work at other campuses.

Dr. Patel asked about plans for the Hutch-Metro Center. He asked what will happen to Westchester Square Hospital and Ms. Richmond stated that each facility will stand alone and will not impact on the others. Emergency services are needed in the Westchester Square area and this hospital will remain open. Trans-Care Inc. does the moving of patients if they need to be admitted.

Various questions were asked about infection control. Ms. Richmond stated that the hospital is monitored and precautions are taken.

A question was asked about wait time at the Weiler Hospital Emergency Room. The new hospital had not impacted the Emergency Room wait time.

Also, Dr. Patel asked if a patient was in the Emergency Room and was transported to a campus site are they automatically admitted to the hospital and get a room.

Ms. Richmond has stated that many primary specialty care offices will be established.

Mr. Garcia stated that Montefiore is part of the community and hopes to be here for the long run. He again thanked the Community Board for its help.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Minutes taken by Sandra Unger.