



COMMUNITY BOARD 11
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Health & Social Services Committee Meeting
Tuesday, March 12, 2019
Community Board Office

MINUTES

PRESENT: Joe Bacote, Chair; Sandra Unger, Co-chair; Marcy Gross; and Joanne Rubino.

GUESTS: Barbara Evans and Lora Jarabelo, Astor Family Services; Karine Raymond, Mischa Gaus and Janice Hackney, NYSNA (New York State Nurses Association); and Beverly Michaels and Mariela Salazar, Montefiore Health System.

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. Montefiore made a presentation regarding current conditions at WH (Weiler Hospital) and provided a description of the ED (Emergency Department), statistics that indicated a modest improvement in patient wait times. This was due to additional staff being assigned to streamline the discharge process, which will lead to more beds becoming available. Ms. Michaels described complex cases that cause long length of stays in the hospital, but also detailed the campus initiatives that have been implemented to reduce wait times and inpatient length of stays. Those complex cases include patients who are critically ill with co-morbidities, and patients who cannot be discharged to a safe environment, and other problems such as homelessness.
2. The NYSNA also presented and described ongoing problems at WH, including inadequate space in the ED, not enough beds available causing patients to remain in the hallways and inadequate staffing. Ms. Raymond and some members of the Committee stated that WSH (Westchester Square Hospital) had sufficient space to handle additional beds. Montefiore pointed out that NYS—as a result of the 2006 Berger Commission—closed nine hospitals and either merged, eliminated beds or changed the services of another 48 hospitals, including WSH. A 10 year review was issued in 2016 and still recommended less inpatient and ED care and more outpatient care. This, along with other NYS policies, tends to discourage the opening of new beds, as healthcare is shifting and moving towards providing more care in ambulatory settings. NYSNA representatives and committee members stated that an attempt to petition the State to increase beds and open up WSH should be revisited with the area's new representatives in the State Senate, Assembly, and City Council. A suggestion was made by Ms. Gaus and other representatives for all parties to work together, including Montefiore, clinical staff, elected officials and the

community board to petition the State to provide more beds to improve patient care.

Committee members agreed and will contact Board leadership to facilitate this.

3. The Health Fair was briefly discussed regarding needed paperwork to be disseminated to committee members, including the flyer and application, and an update on agencies and others who have agreed to participate.
4. Adjournment.
Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Minutes taken by Joanne Rubino, edited and formatted by staff.