



# THE CITY OF NEW YORK

## BOROUGH OF THE BRONX

### COMMUNITY BOARD 7



RUBEN DIAZ, JR., BOROUGH PRESIDENT

PAUL FOSTER, CHAIRMAN

FERNANDO P. TIRADO, DISTRICT MANAGER

## HEALTH & HOSPITALS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

### Wednesday, March 7, 2012 @ 6:30 PM

- I. Vision, Mission, Values Statements:
  - A. Draft handed out to committee members for review
- II. Area Hospitals Community Advisory Boards Reports:
  - A. At the North Central meeting on Thursday-02/02/12 RN Weber, NYS Nurses Association spoke of the future Privatization of Hemodialysis, which is the position the industry is thinking of adopting to minimize cost. The concern is that, by eliminating the nurse from the dialysis room and leaving only the machine technician with the patient, there is more room for medical errors. Unlike nurses, technicians cannot immediately assess the medical condition of the patient or interpret physical symptoms. This can, also, have a desensitizing effect on the patient because the technician is more concerned with the correct functioning of the dialysis machine, than on the patient's medical condition and comfort. The committee agreed to invite Nurse Weber to the meetings, so she gives us more informed details about this matter.
  - B. At the Montefiore Hospital meeting on Tuesday-02/14/12 Dr. Paone talked about the Abuse and Misuse of Prescription Drugs. The prevalence of use is in adults between the ages of 45 to 54 year olds; 1 in 20 people over the age of 14 years are affected; 1 in 9 die of overuse.
  - C. Colorectal Cancer Month-Remember to schedule colonoscopy
  - D. James J. Peters VA Hospital has no Community Advisory Board as per Jim Connell in the office of Community Affairs.
- III. Pharmacies Delivery to Residents/Seniors:
  - A. Pharmacy inquiry results:
    1. Leroy Pharmacy delivers medicines and other products - 204<sup>th</sup> Street between Perry and Hull Avenues; Lessel Drugs immediate area only, and only delivers medicines - 206<sup>th</sup> Street and Bainbridge Avenue; Jerome Pharmacy delivers medicines only - Jerome Avenue and Mosholu Parkway North. This inquiry was conducted due to complaints from the senior community about street safety.
- IV. Future Presentation on Food Stamps Program:
  - A. Lowell Green advised that Helene Harman might be interested in contacting a future speaker on the Food Stamps Application Process; otherwise, the Bronx Library Center has information on this topic and many resources for our residents
- V. James J. Peters VA Hospital Tour:
  - A. In our January meeting Lowell Green, Traffic and Transportation Committee Chair, asked our committee to look into the possibility of setting up a tour of the VA for our Board Members. Jim Connell in the office of Community Affairs stated that no tours are allowed at the hospital. The committee agreed to continue its effort to find out what services it can render to our veterans.



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VI. Public Forum on Mental Health:

- A. The committee agreed to partner with health organizations that may be holding events on Mental Health

VII. Other Issues:

- A. March is Colorectal Cancer month and the committee recommended that all participants remind their family members and friends not to put off getting a Colonoscopy, if advised by their medical provider
- B. Participants were given articles on:
  - 1. Raising the Minimum Wage
  - 2. A New Treatment for Skin Cancer
  - 3. Avoiding Medicare Fraud
  - 4. The Bronx Borough President Forum on Anti-Bullying and Medicaid Rights and Disability Resources
  - 5. "Spice" Drug (Synthetic Marihuana) which is producing kidney failure among users

VIII. Guests:

- A. Maryann Rosa, Community Liaison for Senator Rivera, invited the community residents to the meeting on the Redistricting Process at MMCC on 03/08/12 at 6 P.M.

IX. Adjournment

**Next Meeting Day and Date: Thursday, April 5, 2012**