



# THE CITY OF NEW YORK

## BOROUGH OF THE BRONX

### COMMUNITY BOARD 7



RUBEN DIAZ, JR., BOROUGH PRESIDENT

ADALINE WALKER-SANTIAGO, CHAIRPERSON

## HEALTH & HOSPITALS COMMITTEE MINUTES

### Monday, November 23, 2015 @ 6:00PM

#### I. Attendance sheet filed

- A. Members in Attendance: Gregory Clarke Sr., Alora Bailey, Gloria Bent, Helene Hartman-Kutnowsky & Ruth Santana
- B. Excused Members: Nilsa Cintron, Alfred Grant & Cynthia O'Neal-Riley
- C. Non-Committee Members in Attendance: Adaline Walker-Santiago, Samelys Lopez & Robyn Saunders
- D. Guests: Wendell Alexis & Melissa Cebollero from Montefiore, Karen Jarrett & Marisol Alcantara from NYSNA
- E. Community Members: Sheila Sanchez & Anthony Riveccio

#### II. Topics on the Agenda:

- A. Montefiore Hospital's Attendance to share Updates to Concerns from the Committee
- B. Creating a Dialogue to Facilitate Action on Behalf of the Community At Large by this Committee's Involvement

#### III. Montefiore's Attendance at the Committee Meeting

- A. Committee Chair Gregory Clarke Sr. welcomed everyone to the meeting and during this time, everyone who was in attendance introduced themselves and their affiliation to the community or organization for the record.
- B. Mr. Wendell Alexis & Ms. Melissa Cebollero from the Community Affairs Department of the Montefiore Hospital Group began to share in reference to the availability of the response to the 13 Points that were shared with Montefiore from March of 2015. It was noted that Ms. Cebollero has been in her position for approximately 3 weeks so Mr. Alexis was the responsible party to answer the concerns of the Committee, the representatives from NYSNA, board members & community members as well.
- C. Various questions and concerns were presented at large including Ms. Bailey's concern of proper interpretation services for the diverse population of Community Board 7. Also, it was brought to the attention of Mr. Alexis from Ms. Gloria Bent that the responses to the concerns of the committee have been mute as best due to clear breakdowns in communication.
- D. Ms. Alcantara from NYSNA addressed Mr. Alexis in reference to the conditions that nurses have had to endure in working at the facilities that Montefiore operated within the Community Board area. When it comes to staffing concerns and how since March of this year, those concerns have not been addressed and that patient care is not at the forefront for members of the community.
- E. Community Members Sheila Sanchez & Anthony Riveccio addressed Mr. Alexis in reference to patients being left in hallways for 12 hours after a transplant and inquired about the employee who was found deceased five (5) days later in an emergency room



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- bathroom. Ms. Cebollero informed everyone in attendance that due to the family of the employee's right to not have the incident discussed at length; specifics could not be shared.
- F. Adaline Walker-Santiago addressed to Mr. Alexis & Ms. Cebollero the frustration of receiving the information from Dr. Peter Semczuk from Montefiore and the lack of formal communication involved to receive answers. Ms. Cebollero stated that at this time that Dr. Semczuk's schedule is not available (tentatively) for him to appear in person until Tuesday, January 12, 2016 to speak about the PowerPoint presentation to address the 13 concerns submitted.
- G. The Committee came to a collective conclusion (with those in attendance) that Montefiore has taken an extreme and exorbitant time to address the concerns of the community at large to this point. With a vote of 4 Yays, 0 Nos and 1 Abstinance, for the information that is allegedly prepared to be forwarded to this committee by Monday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015 by the end of business that day. The Committee also stated that we still expect Dr. Semczuk to share in person and meet with the Board so that these issues can be properly discussed.
- H. It was further shared that Montefiore has a Community Advisory Board which meets at the Moses Campus and that we should have a member of the Board to be a member as well. It was suggested by Mr. Alexis that Mr. Gregory Clarke Sr. should inquire about joining this board to facilitate how Montefiore can be proactive in their community involvement. This will be done with the involvement of the full Health & Hospitals Committee.
- I. Ms. Jarrett of NYSNA presented to the committee and to those in attendance how SentosaCare is tentatively in the process of purchasing the Jewish Home Nursing Health Center on West Kingsbridge Road and their record of patient care and how it may erode even further how patients will be treated once SentosaCare takes over. She shared articles that were independent from NYSNA and the reports described evidence of patient harm in facilities that this firm has administered in the recent past. It was also shared that NYSNA will like to have a Town Hall Meeting with the community at large tentatively scheduled for January 2016.

IV. Meeting adjourned