



# THE CITY OF NEW YORK

## BOROUGH OF THE BRONX

### COMMUNITY BOARD 7



RUBEN DIAZ, JR., BOROUGH PRESIDENT

ADALINE WALKER-SANTIAGO, CHAIRPERSON

ANDREW SANDLER, DISTRICT MANAGER

## VETERANS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

### Thursday · February 11, 2016 @ 7:00 PM

#### I. Committee Members In Attendance:

A) Jeffrey Hunter · Carlos Gonzalez

#### Committee Members Absent:

A) Helene Hartman Kutnowsky · Velvet Ross · Shanequa Charles · Ischia Bravo

#### Attendees:

A) Andrew Sandler, CB7 District Manager

B) Lowell Green · Sheila Sanchez · David Mendez

#### II. Minutes Review:

a. Minutes, reviewed and discussed from January's Committee Meeting.

#### III. Open Discussion:

##### a. Addressing Meaningful Goals:

Robyn L. Saunders, Chairperson explained that the committee's goals should seek to establish opportunities for networking, resource sharing, referrals and advocacy for local Veterans and their families.

##### b. Identifying Viable Resources · Referral Sources:

Members collectively agreed that a the committee's goals should be to identify or conduct an inventory of existing services and identify the gaps in those services for Veterans.

##### c. Identifying Ways To Increase Veteran Participation

i. Andrew Sandler, CB7 District Manager suggested committee should reach to a representative at the James J. Peters VA Medical Center to speak with Veteran's directly, in an effort to increase participation.

ii. Robyn Saunders, Chairperson will reach out to Shawn Kingston, Bronx VA Medical Center and Lyn Johnson, a USMC Veteran, VA Outreach Specialist and Minority Veteran's Coordinator to come and make a presentation to community and committee members about services, referrals and opportunities for Veteran's and their families.

iii. Committee agrees to distribute flyers widely, in an effort to increase awareness; additional methods are posting Meetings, Events, Services,



# THE CITY OF NEW YORK

## BOROUGH OF THE BRONX

### COMMUNITY BOARD 7



RUBEN DIAZ, JR., BOROUGH PRESIDENT

ADALINE WALKER-SANTIAGO, CHAIRPERSON

ANDREW SANDLER, DISTRICT MANAGER

Information and Resources in Social Media, Print and other news related platforms;

**d. Veteran's Housing Resources - Information:**

Jeffrey Hunter, Committee Member expressed his concern about the current intake process for homeless Veterans. Many are referred to Bellevue Hospital, The Bedford/Atlantic Men's Shelter or Ward's Island for processing, which does more harm than good for Veterans.

According to Mr. Hunter, new methods for processing Homeless Veteran's should be explored and identified including the formation of a new Reception Facility, independent from the NYC Department of Homeless Services.

Mr. Hunter distributed handouts of the "Comptroller Stringer Audit: NYCHA Renovations Keep Apartments Vacant For An Average of Seven Years" detailing a number of apartments were left vacant over a decade. Additionally, NYCHA has discontinued transferring veteran's (with more than one year on their vouchers) to NYCHA housing and there is a lack of current affordable housing within the HUD-VASH Program.

**HUD-VASH:** The HUD-VASH Program is a joint effort between HUD and VA to move Veterans and their families out of homelessness and into permanent housing. Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH); includes affordable (subsidized) housing plus individualized support services.

HUD provides housing assistance through its Housing Choice Voucher Program (Section 8) that allows homeless Veterans to rent privately owned and public housing. The Veteran's Administration offers eligible homeless Veterans clinical and supportive services through its health care system.

**Existing Eligibility Criteria:**

- Veteran must be in need of case management services and eligible for VA Health Care; active duty in the U.S. Military
- Any discharge other than dishonorable: Must have service for 24 uninterrupted months or have been discharged due to a service connected disability or for hardship
- Must meet HUD section 8 eligibility requirements; income eligibility

All in attendance agreed to identify available resources and discuss further at the next Committee Meeting.

**e. Veteran's - Community Career Fair 2016**

CB7 - Bronx Library Center will host Veteran's - Community Career Fair on Friday, June 24th, 2016 from 10-4pm

**f. Upcoming Career Fairs, Trainings, Workshops, Resources and Information:**



# THE CITY OF NEW YORK

## BOROUGH OF THE BRONX

### COMMUNITY BOARD 7



RUBEN DIAZ, JR., BOROUGH PRESIDENT

ADALINE WALKER-SANTIAGO, CHAIRPERSON

ANDREW SANDLER, DISTRICT MANAGER

#### **Workforce 1:**

Recently extended the State's "Experience Counts" Initiative so that recently separated Veterans' with experience driving commercial motor vehicles in the military receive a skills test waiver, and obtain their Class A, B, or C Commercial Driver's License for FREE. Interested Candidates can call (718) 577-2126 to verify eligibility. *(flyers distributed)*.

#### **Training Vouchers For Veteran's Through Workforce 1:**

Veterans can apply for a training grant for any of the following occupations: Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks, Certified Nursing Assistant, Clinical Medical Assistants, Computer Support Specialists, Network and Computer Systems Administrators, and Security Guards (Armed and Unarmed). *(flyers distributed)*.

#### **Workforce 1 Veteran's Resource Guide:**

Offers priority services to help veterans and their spouses explore career paths, develop resumes, prepare for interviews, and identify education opportunities, training initiatives, and other support services designed specifically for veterans. *(Resource Guide distributed)*.

*Resource Guide Link:*

<http://www.nyc.gov/html/sbs/wf1/downloads/pdf/VeteransResourceGuide.pdf>

#### **IV. Local Events**

- i) **NYPL (CEIS) Career, Education and Information Services**, recently wrapped up their Mini College and Career Fair Series, a huge success and several candidates were interviewed and hired on the spot.
- ii) Bronx Library Center will view the movie, "Guess Who's Coming To Dinner" on Saturday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 2pm
- iii) If you would like to learn more about or brush up on your computer skills, Bronx Library Center has classes on Monday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016 at 2pm and 6pm.

#### **V. Meeting adjourned.**

Next Committee Meeting scheduled, Thursday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016