



Chairman Brandon Ganaishlal - District Manager William Rivera

Social Services Committee Meeting Summary

May 3, 2022

Board Members Present: Daniel Porro, Doralina Colon, Miriam Sanchez, Md Alauddin, Sharyn Brown, Lena Johnson, Sarwar Jahan, Linda Soto, James Tynan, Alizia McMyers, Monique Farrington

1. Introduction

A. Committee Description: The social service & housing committee represents the community's interests with regards to social services including senior services, disability, veterans and housing concerns and acts as a liaison between community members and the NYC Human Resources Administration, Department of Homeless Services, Department of Aging, New York City Housing Authority, and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. The Disability Sub-Committee is under this committee.

2. Speakers

A. Nicole Dais, Bronx ACCES-VR

New York State Education Department (NYSED), ACCES-VR is tasked with assisting individuals with disabilities to obtain and maintain employment. In addition to providing services to participants, this org. also provide no-cost Business Services to employers, community based organizations, training programs and any other entities that may be interested. In addition, no-cost, customizable workshops (ADA and Disability Etiquette) can be provided to staff and the community. Other programs include WTO and OJT programs where employers can be reimbursed a candidate's first three months of salary for hiring Bronx ACCES-VR talent.

General information about ACCES-VR services: <http://www.acces.nysed.gov/vr>

Details on how to apply for services:

<http://www.acces.nysed.gov/vr/apply-vocational-rehabilitation-services>

Nicole Dais-Lewis, Business Relations Representative: Nicole.Dais-Lewis@nysed.gov.

B. Crispin Noelle Goytia, Mount Sinai Hospital, Long-Term Effects of Covid

Speaker was not present, CB9 will attempt to reschedule them for next month.

3. Old Business

A. Emergency Housing Summit

DM Rivera and ADM Alonzo had a virtual meeting with Congress Member AOC's Office and discussed the possibility of her office hosting a Housing Town Hall in the coming months.

- Topics for Discussion could include: High Cost of Living, Increasing SNAP, Increasing funding/stipends for individuals meeting poverty standards, Emergency Section 8 (HPD and NYCHA), Bill to protect low-income residents from market value rent, NYCHA excessively long waitlist, Housing Connect ADA Compliance, Housing Court eviction prevention for rent increases due to market rate, Lack of Adequate Healthcare (this may be a topic for a different forum), Maintaining Financial Poverty Program.
- Potential agencies to contact to engage in these conversations include: Congress Member AOC to discuss high cost of living, DHS and HRA to discuss increase in SNAP benefits and stipends/vouchers for individuals meeting poverty standards, HPD to discuss Section 8 and Housing Connect NYCHA to discuss Section 8 and long waitlists, Housing Court to discuss eviction prevention for rent increases due to market rate, Local Elected Officials to discuss bill to protect low-income residents from market value rent, Mayor's Affordable Housing Leadership Team (potential invite to discuss most of the matters listed)

4. New Business

A. June Agenda Items

- CB9 to connect with BP's potentially new Disability Taskforce
- Gov. Kathy Hochul appointed new Chief Disability Officer Kim Hill on Feb. 14, 2022, Committee would like to know what this new role entails?
- NYS Assembly has a Standing Committee on People with Disabilities. What role do they play within our communities?
- BM Porro would like to invite 311/911 calling system contact to speak at a future committee meeting
- Committee would like Self Defense Classes with NYPD, concerns regarding violence against women and elderly
- Committee would like speakers from the following agencies: Public Advocate, Housing Court, Human Rights Commission, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)

B. Announcements

- October is National Disability Employment Awareness (NDEAM) Month
- Social Security Administration resumes in person services, notice included CB9 email bulletin
- MTA Mobile Unit in front of Macy's from 11am-2:30pm
- Bronx Week Starts May 17th
- News 12 Ask the BP on May 23rd 7-8pm
- Seniors Connected Meeting Friday, May 20th at 10am at ShopRite Community Room

OFFICE INFO

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