



Chairman Nicholas Himidian & District Manager William Rivera  
Social Service & Housing Committee Meeting **Minutes**  
**November 7, 2017**

**Meeting Location:** BRONX CB9 OFFICE

**Meeting Start Time:** 7:04 PM

**Board Members Present:** Committee Chair Rosemary Ordonez-Jenkins, Committee Vice Chair Justin Westbrook-Lowery, Danny Porro, Nelson Peralta, Mohammed Mujumder Chairperson Nicholas Himidian Jr.

**Board Members Absent:** Loretta Masterson, James Tynan

### **Introduction**

A. Committee Chair, Board Members & Guest

B. 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.

### **Speakers**

A. **Mr. Manuel Lopez, Marketing Associate for Cocoon Homecare**

- Based in Jamaica, Queens more specifically Ozone Park
- Gives services in 5 boroughs
- Not like traditional homecare agencies; Markets CDPAP (Consumer Directed Personal Assistant Program), in which now family, friends and neighbors can take care of loved one and get compensated with salary and benefits. The traditional way is your doctor writing a prescription and the insurance company would send an agency for a set time frame. This Medicaid program still sends nurses to do evaluations but you can manage and direct hours of homecare; consumer has to have on active Medicaid or Medicare. They can have anyone and multiple caretakers; any family member except a legally married spouse. Children 18 and over can take care of parents; parents can take care of children but they have to be 21 and over. Anyone can be a caregiver but needs to take a physical exam; should take up to 3 to 8 weeks but it can take longer. Doctors aren't needed for prescriptions. You can transfer hours from prescription of homecare by doctors to hours in cocoon.
- You don't have to sacrifice time from work to take care of loved one because you can manage and direct your hours; if you don't have Medicaid or Medicare, they work with four 3<sup>rd</sup> party vendors to help you qualify for Medicaid and cocoon provides paperwork and let them know about the different programs available to them. Medicaid will allow you to participate in 2 or 3 programs

with full benefits even if you don't have Medicaid; there's a consumer advocate who would be there every step of the way. Compensation for caregiver is \$13/hr paid weekly every Friday and gets benefits such as, vacation days, personal days and sick days. Consumers are responsible for hiring caretakers; Cocoon is payroll processor and reports everything to Medicaid; once incorporated into program no need to sign in but you need to let the company know, whoever you want to be your caretaker as.

- Doctors may have to be changed depending on medical insurance; some of them don't participate
- Cocoon works with 4 other agencies (Home First, Integra, Village Care and Senior Home Health) and if the doctors are in there they can be switched. No one is ever changed without notice.

## **New Business**

### **A. Resolution Proposed for Local Post Services**

- Justin Westbrook Lowery attended a meeting regarding postal service. One of the big issues that post offices are having is access to buildings, so the mailman's can deliver mail to people.
- Mailman can't get into buildings, or have a key keeper. This is what causes people to go to the post offices which causes long lines. Building owners/management has to provide access to mailman so their tenants can get their mail, it is city law but no enforcement is taken. Roughly 300 buildings in CB9 in the Bronx that don't have access to buildings. Mr. Lowery's resolution is to call on the council members that represent our area to go ahead and draft legislation telling building owners to put mail reciprocals in their building or provide access, telling them this is city law. Mr. Lowery says there has to be a penalty of some kind. Nelson Peralta ask about the current obligations, which is to provide legal mailboxes. Multiple dwellings law says you have to provide access. Mr. Himidian (Chairman) ask Mr. Lowery if he has a list of all the buildings that don't have access to mailman's and recommends that the Board write a letter to the building owners. Mr. Peralta suggests to find out who is supposed to enforce this and why they aren't. Mr. Lowery says he thinks his resolution should be passed by the committee and CB9 and take it to Council members to draft legislations. Mr. Himidian says he is in favor for this and suggest Mr. Lowery have everyone read it in CB9 so everyone can understand and with a little more supporting documentation. Mr. Lowery says he will send out an email before the General Board meeting explaining what the resolution is.
- Committee decided to wait till the General Board meeting for more information is attached.

## **Old Business**

### **A. Mental Health, Disability & Health Fair Planning**

- Planning on table set up, tables across the white wall
- Where vendors will be set, blood pressure screenings were advised to be lower than upper deck so it could be more accessible
- Brown chairs for panel discussion
- First even, not sure of the turnout
- Montefiore will provide a donation towards the event. Phipps Neighborhoods agreed to be the fiscal conduit. The funds will be utilized to purchase, fruits, veggie platter, water, granola bars, and other healthy snacks. Rosemary will go shopping to get all the items needed.
- Committee suggested bags of apples and carrots. Mr. Peralta suggests staying away from apples (unless they are sliced) and recommended bananas, oranges, tangerines.

\*Rogier Van Vlissingen announces event on November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017 he's doing a communal wholefoods plant base supper at St. Helena's church. Then on November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017 a movie screening will be held at Parkchester Library "Soul food junkies" and that evening is the regular monthly wholefoods dinner on Westchester Ave.

\*Nicholas Himidian talks about helping with the needs of the Sotomayor center and thinks that as a community we should keep up with that. This will be discussed at the next meeting with details. Mr. Peralta says we can get the Supreme Court Justice involved in this. Mr. Himidian also says we should get a program involved in there that helps to get food for the kids there.

**Meeting Adjourned: 8:20 PM**

Minutes transcribed by CB9 Office Staff

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