



*Chairman Nicholas Himidian & District Manager William Rivera*

## Social Service & Housing Committee Meeting **Minutes**

**January 2, 2018**

**Meeting Location:** BRONX CB9 OFFICE

**Meeting Start Time:** 7:00 PM

**Board Members Present:** Committee Chair Rosemary Ordonez-Jenkins, Committee Vice Chair Justin Westbrook-Lowery, Danny Porro

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

- **Introduction**

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.

### **New Business**

#### **Senior Symposium**

Rev. Sidney Hargrave talks about the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Senior Symposium, he mentions combining the Mental Health Fair with Senior Symposium since it was cancelled but Rosemary stated there is already a tentative date for the Mental Health Fair which is March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Justin Westbrook-Lowery says all sponsors have been told to wait on standby for the set day. Rosemary also stated a combination of both events for 2019 would be a great idea. Rev. Hargrave stated he wants to cut down on the awards, no more than 4 no less than 3. He also mentions adding Jacobi hospital and adding another speaker, a senior who is a breast cancer survivor and she started an agency called "love my breast". Rev. Hargrave also mentioned that Ruben Diaz Sr. would be a great keynote speaker.

\*Rosemary stated they will follow-up next month and start making calls to sponsors.

**Location:** Sotomayor

**Date:** April 20, 2018

**Time:** 12 P.M-3P.M

### **Speakers/Presentations**

- A. Aurora Zepeda- 1600 Randal Ave Proposed Transitional Housing Presentation-** Ms. Zepeda starts off presentation by talking about CRC development, which is networks of organizations that are all connected to each other. The type of parent organization is ICPH (institute for children poverty and homeless services) and addresses all kinds of issues (poverty, health, etc.) Ms. Zepeda says they currently work in 2 locations in the Bronx and in Queens and are very involved in the community. They don't make their services seem like a shelter but somewhere that's for children and their families. A program is available for parents who have trouble with ACS, they are able to go in with their children and get help. This organization is not tied to

government grounds. They don't want to be known as a shelter but as a Community residential resource center. This organization is going to be applying for DHS funding to cover staff salaries like case managers, housing specialist, security and director.

- Couple of sister agencies all under a network
- Summer camps are offered and always kids from the Bronx are always recruited. The length is 17 days which is all paid for. 3 sessions are open over the summer and over 600 kids are recruited a year.
- Senior independent living
- 1600 Randall Avenue will be a 5 story building (99 units, the location in Queens is larger). Families can stay until they find housing about 10-14 months, some families stay a little longer like about a year and a half. The site will have 10 case managers along with the director. Security will be working 24/7, along with cameras and motion lights. If anyone is threatened they will be exited out of the facility, this is a violation free facility so children and staff can feel safe. A Community Advisory Board will be developed and members of CB9 will be invited to participate as members. The first 2 floors will be services for families who will live there and services for the community. They are going to teach people to work and will have culinary arts classes which will be open to the community and families who live there. Many programs will be available such as the following:
  - Early learn programs
  - Community garden on side
  - Afterschool programs
  - Conference rooms
  - 3 floors of residential space for families not singles, work with children and their families. The goal is to create an education employment based approach
  - Dance classes and yoga classes available for children and have been successful
  - visitor center
  - Counseling
  - Teen leaders program

\*Ms. Zepeda will email information so the community can blast it out to different organizations and she says once they are built they want to have open houses. CB9 will be invited for a site visit, and the common space will be open to CB9 for meetings.

## **B. Gabrielle Torres, Urban Health Plan**

Ms. Torres states they are focused on getting individuals and families' health insurance, even those who are undocumented. They are funded through 2 grants through the state. Right now there is an open enrollment period for those that their income guideline that doesn't make them qualified for a Medicaid plan. Those who do not get insured by January 31<sup>st</sup> will get fined through their income taxes. Those who have not had insurance for over 6 months will get fined. Trumps new insurance policy to not get fined has been passed but won't take effect till 2019. Special enrollment period for those who are working. People can enroll at any of their centers. Justin Westbrook-Lowery mentions getting coverage out to Public Housing Developments and 1 and 2 story homes.

### **• Old Business**

- A. Resolution on Postal Service in Bronx Community District 9 (Letter attached) – Rosemary stated there aren't enough Board Members to vote on this so it will be tabled for the next month.

**Meeting Adjourned: 8:14 P.M**

Minutes Transcribed by CB9 Staff