

COMMUNITY BOARD 9
890 NOSTRAND AVENUE
BROOKLYN, NY 11225

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING
HELD ON MAY 28, 2013
MIDDLE SCHOOL 61 AUDITORIUM
400 EMPIRE BOULEVARD, BROOKLYN, NY 11225

Members Present

Amy Albert
Stuart Balberg
Fred Baptiste
Warren Berke
Aldith Clarke
Josette Coicou-Brioche
Edmund Fanning
Shelia Foster-Golding
Flavia Francis
Rabbi Jacob Goldstein
Theopia Green
Aaron Hershkop
Ruby Hodge
Brenda Hutto-Lucas

Members Present

Samuel Marmulzsteyn
Carl Morgan
Frank Nicholas
Rosemarie Perry
Gerald President
Diana Richardson
Mary Rollerson-Blackett
Brenda Scott
Chanina Sperlin
Yvonne Straker
Timothy Thomas
Jacqueline Welch
Evelyn Williams
Laura Imperiale

Members Absent

Rev Phyllis Brown - sick
Michael Cetera, AIA
Veta May Clarke
Shirley Dor
Charlene Gayle
Rabbi Nochum Gross
Sylveta Hamilton-Gonzales
Daniel Ingvoldstad
Jacqueline Love
Karlene Robinson
Rabbi Joseph Spielman
Victoria St. Clair
Myra Holmes
Simone Bennett
Roosevelt Rose
Cedieu Gouin
Pastor Robert Ambrose
Tessa Hackett-Vieira
Dwayne Nicholson

Agency Representatives/Elected Officials Present

Arna Lipkind – Hon. Darlene Mealy
Boris Noble – Hon. Marty Markowitz
Andrea McKoy – Hon. Karim Camara

PUBLIC SESSION:

Ms. Tia Waddy, Director of Community Relations, NYC Administration for Children's Services (ACS) will present to the Board Phase II of "Close to Home" and the leasing of the residence at 1125 Carroll Street, Brooklyn for the placement of young people who are adjudicated as juvenile delinquents. Close to Home involves the transfer of responsibility for young people in non-secure placements to ACS instead of being placed in upstate sites far from their families and communities.

Ms. Tia Waddy, introduced her presentation by asking if anyone had heard of the Close to Home program? Last year, she said Governor Cuomo signed legislation for Close to Home. Under Close to Home, young people who commit a juvenile act, the New York City Family Court judge would place them in homes close to their homes. The Close to Home program is administered by the NYC Administration for Children's Services. Under this program instead of being placed in upstate, New York, miles and miles away from their homes, they would be placed in the Close to Home facility nearest to their families and communities. Phase I of the program involves the transfer of young people from maximum facilities to ACS facilities beginning September 1, 2012. We are working with eleven non-profit agencies to provide non-secure placement and services throughout the

five boroughs. The non-secure placement services are equipped with highly trained individuals who provide close intensive monitoring and supervision.

Phase II Close to Home, involves the transfer of young people into the facilities. The vast majority of youths will go into non-secure placement, youths 14-16 years of age within the system those who have been charged or committed an act prior to becoming a part of the system but because of the length of court time, they may be over 16 years of age. Like our non-secure placement provider, every limited secure placement provider will be required to implement a proven placement model, one which has demonstrated a proven outcome. Every child in placement will have a case worker from ACS to make sure every aspect of the program is covered. Staff and provider will work with the families to make sure they are kept.

Most of the young people will remain in residence for 4-7 months, followed by 4 months of structured and active supervision by the providers. Each site will likely house 15-24 youths, some will have individual rooms or dorm rooms, depending on the program model. All programs will have a minimum of one staff member per room and a minimum of two staff members per dorm.

There are four existing residences; one in the Bronx, one in Staten Island, one in Manhattan, and in Brooklyn at 1125 Carroll Street. The Brooklyn sites serves approximately 20 youths similar to the previous one that ran there under the Offices of Children and Family Services. As far as security is concerned, there is strict security which includes cameras, security fencing, security guards, etc. Most services will be provided onsite to prevent frequent transporting of the youths. Services will include onsite medical, dental, therapy, counseling, physical meeting rooms, place for attorneys, place for family meetings and so forth. Youngsters will receive Board of Education credits. School will be staffed with Board of Education teachers from District 79. Each school will have classrooms, libraries, administrative offices etc.

There will be provision for individualized service plans according to the model decided upon to fulfill the Academic Service Plan. If they don't have a plan then they will work with the schools to provide one. Each limited secure service provider is required to have these services in place for each child as soon as the child enters placement. The average duration of care is 4-6 months. After-care plans are provided including an educational component plan, family services, healthcare services, academic support, vocational service assistance etc. To provide these services we link with CBO's and other providers. Providers will interface with the precincts, community boards, etc. about program development plans. By September 2013 providers will be in place.

Questions and answers:

Amy Albert – Will you have plans to house people from our community in the facility? Answer: The Brooklyn site will house 24 people. We try to house them closer to home.

Theopia Green – I understand you said that they are juveniles, what types of offenses might they have committed? Answer: The New York Family judge determines the level of the offense. He makes the decision; it could be jumping the turnstile; the offense varies. **Theopia Green** – you shared a lot of information with us; do you have a brochure and the address? Answer: the address is 1125 Carroll Street between Nostrand and Rogers Avenues. We do not have a brochure at this time. **Theopia Green** – As I recall at one time there was a facility there for young people. Answer: That is the same place, we are taking it over.

Chairman Goldstein – The facility there has been very quiet for many years. There are no incidents that I know of.

Community Resident – What age group are these young people? Does age matter for them to have a record? Answer: They are juveniles. Those who commit serious crimes will stay upstate; lesser crimes will be placed in “Close to Homes” facilities.

Brenda Scott – Is the facility co-ed? When do they go out? Answer: No, they do not go out. Everything is provided on site. It is a little different from the non-secure places. **Brenda Scott** – So when do they go out? Answer: They do not go out. Everything is being provided for them on site.

Tim Thomas – This juvenile detention was upstate; they come down here so that they could be near to their families, essentially, what has happened? What has changed? Answer: It was always there. **Tim Thomas** – If it was always there then what has changed? Answer: Management has changed. It is now run by the City instead of the State and the approach has changed. **Tim Thomas** – This means the most violent offenders remain upstate. These are the most rehabilitated ones who do not pose a danger to the community as the ones upstate. This is like low level jail. Answer: It is a placement.

Pearl Miles – Will ACS do ULURP? Ms. Waddy: This was written into the legislation for “Close to Home” so we are exempt from ULURP.

Pearl Miles - When the state ran the facility, I was on the Advisory Board. It was really secure; bars on the windows, locked doors, requirement for all visitors to sign in and out. If you were a visitor to the facility, you had to be signed in; you couldn't get past the front door. It was very secure. These youngsters had more individualized teaching than the children in regular schools. They had medical, etc.; at that time the clients were girls. The advisory board did a lot for the young ladies, including getting their hair done, celebrating their birthdays, graduation ceremonies, etc. There were never any problems there. The staff was approachable. There was nothing to worry about Tim, as far as my recollections of how the facility was run.

The numbers of young ladies needing placement began to dwindle; it was found that as those numbers became smaller the numbers for young men was growing. The State contracted with a group and many meetings were held to come up with the new model, which is now called Close to Home. The facility was closed for a few years for renovations, and now under the new program ACS will be the administrators of the facility.

Chairman Goldstein – In summation let me say that this was a well-run facility. I hope the provider will be someone who will be presented to us. Chairman Goldstein thanked Ms. Waddy for her presentation.

Mr. Kenneth Clark, Borough Agent for BigAppleRx, will present information on their prescription discount program for New York City residents. BigAppleRx is overseen by the Department of Health. Seniors, students, small businesses and individuals who have high co-pays are all able to benefit from the use of the card.

Mr. Kenneth Clark informed that specifically the card is geared towards people with high co-pays but also works well with individuals who do not have a health plan or if they have prescriptions which are not covered under the health plan and you have to pay cash for it. The card works excellent for those people. You can use it at any pharmacy, the discount varies. There is information on the back of the card; it is useful in getting the best deal for your prescription. There is a website at the back of the card that you can type in for the best pharmacies in your community. The card is good for one family, good in all fifty states. It is also good for pets. It is sponsored by the City of New York by Mayor Bloomberg. This is to help the cost of the skyrocketing of drugs in the city.

Questions and answers:

Theopia Green – Is there a means test to qualify for the program? Answer: No, there is no means qualification.

Janie Johnson – Is there an expiration date on the card? Answer: No, there is no expiration date on the card. It is used in all fifty states and Puerto Rico.

Community Resident – Do you have to register for the card? Answer: No, you can use this card. There are cards in the back you can use them, also dial 311 tell them you need to have a BigAppleRx card or go to the website BigAppleRx.com or go to the website BigAppleRx.com.

Community Resident – I have two cats and dogs if they get sick can I use it for them? Answer: No, you are not getting it for them. Most cats and dogs have their prescription from the Vet. **Question** – Can I take it to the pharmacy to be filled? Answer: Yes, if you have any questions call (347) 512-7013.

Ruby Hodge – Can you use it with other cards? Answer: No, you cannot double dip. Check the website to see what is the best one for you, which card had the less co-pay.

Aldith Clark – What is the discount? Answer: The discount varies on whether you use the generic brand or the name brand prescription. For generics you are looking at approximately 50%; for name brand about 15%. Also, the discount varies on the prescription. Again go to the website or dial 311, tell them the prescription and they will tell you about the pharmacy in the area and the price they charge.

Community Resident – Do all pharmacies including Mom and Pop pharmacies use this card? Answer: All major pharmacies including Mom and Pop pharmacies accept the card.

Chairman Goldstein – This is a good service for the people in our community. If you know of anyone that needs this card please tell them about it.

Perfect Attendance Awards

Mr. Boris Noble presented perfect attendance awards from Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz to board members who attended all the meetings for the year 2012. The following members received certificates for perfect attendance: Chairman Rabbi Jacob Goldstein, Reverend Robert Ambrose, Mr. Maurice Jean Baptiste, Mr. Carl Morgan and Ms. Ruby Hodge.

Mr. Noble also advised that there will be a swearing in ceremony for new and re-appointed board members at Borough Hall on June 26, 2013 at 6:00 PM. Also, on June 20, 2013 will be the Caribbean-American Heritage Celebration at Borough Hall from 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM.

BUSINESS SESSION:

The business session began at 8:00 PM, with 33 members present.

Minutes of April 2013 Meeting.

The minutes of the April 2013 meeting were presented for correction and adoption. The minutes were adopted on a motion by Fred Baptiste, seconded by Carl Morgan.

District Manager's Report

The District Manager, Pearl Miles Lee, reported on the following:

- Community District 9 will be getting another City Bench at 313 Rogers Avenue between Montgomery and Crown Streets.
- **City Racks** – Community District 9 will be one of the first districts in Brooklyn for the installation of City Racks. The Transportation Committee Chair along with the District Manager attended several meetings when they were looking for sites in the community. Recommendations were made for sites during those preliminary meetings. These are the initial sites that have been approved. The initial sites are:
 - Eastern Parkway by Franklin Avenue Station; install on the N/E median.
 - Eastern Parkway by Franklin Avenue Station; install on the S/E median.
 - Eastern Parkway by Kingston Avenue Station; install on S/E median.
 - Eastern Parkway by Crown Heights Utica Avenue Station; install on S/E median.
 - Eastern Parkway by Crown Heights Utica Avenue Station; install on the S/W median
 - President Street by the President Street Station.
- **Apartments at 690-738 Albany Avenue** are ready for rental occupancy in October. There are 24 one bedroom, 25 two bedrooms and 12 three bedrooms. See the flyers at the back of the room. It will give all the information on how to apply. Deadline is July 12, 2013. HPD has changed the application process. The last time we were able to hand out the application at the office, now you will have to go online.
- **The Police Department announced their Summer Youth Academy.** If you know of children who might benefit from this, please take an application from the back of the room.
- **Kudos to the 71 Precinct,** earlier this month on the execution of a search warrant at 950 Washington Avenue, the police confiscated: four guns, a kilo of heroin, eleven ounces of crack and one arrest of the individual who was in the apartment at the time. Be diligent the police need our help to clean up our community.

Chairman Goldstein added that the Bike Racks which will be going up in our community will be on the median and not on the sidewalk.

COMMITTEES' REPORTS.

Youth Services – Ms. Amy Albert, Chairperson

Amy Albert said that before Hillary Papineau, former board member and chairperson of the Education Committee, left the district she was kind enough to put together a draft of the community board resource guide. The Youth Services Committee will be reviewing the resource guide at our next meeting; the committee invites anyone interested to join the committee. The Committee was pleased also that board member, Bishop Sylveta Hamilton-Gonzales had some of her students participate on the committee, she plans on having more students participate. We are excited to have the young people working with us.

Health and Social Services – Pastor Robert Ambrose, Chairperson

Rev. Ambrose reported that the committee was working diligently on organizing a Health Fair for the community on September 21st.

Nominations Committee – Mr. Maurice Jean-Baptiste, Chairperson

Mr. Maurice Jean-Baptiste informed that for the past two weeks the members of the Nominating Committee contacted and canvassed the entire membership body for the election of officers to Community Board 9. The following members have expressed their interest to run for office on the Board.

Rabbi Jacob Z. Goldstein – Chairperson; Michael Cetera – First Vice Chairperson; Demetrius Lawrence – Second Vice Chairperson; Shelia Foster-Golding – Secretary; Carl Morgan – Treasurer; Rosemarie Perry; Karlene Robinson; Shirley Dor; Evelyn Williams – Members at Large (2)

The process was opened for nominations from the floor; any board member wishing to run for one of the above positions could do so by nominating himself or herself. No other nominations came from the floor. The nominating process was closed. The election of officers will take place at the June 25, 2013 board meeting. The Committee will prepare the slate for the next meeting to be held on June 25, 2013.

Chairman's Report

Rabbi Jacob Z. Goldstein reported the following:

1. The Department of Youth and Community City Development invites the community to a public hearing on federal funding for community services. The meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 18, 2013 from 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm at the Crown Heights Library, New York Avenue and Maple Street. The meeting will deal with youth block grants. This is another forum where the community's needs can be heard.
2. Last month, I spoke about the lien sale for delinquent taxes, etc. The city went through with the sale. People who did not make good with the City now have an additional lien holder on your property. Please encourage anyone you know to take care of it immediately. The percentage rate is up from 11% to 25%. Automatically the interest doubles and the clock ticks. The Chairman explained that even if your mortgage is paid off, you still must pay your taxes; some people do not understand how important this is and sometimes ignore those letters that come in the mail.
3. June 2, 2013 will be the 71 Precinct Community Picnic at Hamilton Metz Park, all are invited.
4. Community Board 9's Envision II was held on Sunday, May 19, 2013 at the Jewish Children's Museum, Kingston Avenue and Eastern Parkway. Unfortunately, he was out of the country and could not be there. District Manager, Pearl Miles provided the following update on the event:

Ms. Miles informed that we had our second Envisioning session at the Jewish Children's Museum. The one we had in November at the Brooklyn Museum had a great turnout from the community. This one was not as well attended due in part to the inclement weather; however the people who attended discussed the issues they cared about and what they would like to see in their community. We are doing this is to hear from the community and to work with elected officials to improve the lives of residents. The notes taken at the meeting along with

those taken in November will be put together in order to determine what capital items could be addressed in our capital budget and also if there are complaints to be addressed. We hope to meet in the Fall in another part of the district. We would love to hear from you as to what you see as your district needs. Please call the Board's office for complaints about anything you see that you are concerned about or is undesirable in your community.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Evelyn Williams and seconded by Carl Morgan. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

**Respectfully submitted,
Shelia Foster-Golding, Secretary
June 25, 2013**