

**COMMUNITY BOARD 9  
890 NOSTRAND AVENUE  
BROOKLYN, NY 11225**

**MINUTES OF THE  
COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING  
HELD ON JANUARY 27, 2009  
MIDDLE SCHOOL 61 AUDITORIUM  
400 EMPIRE BOULEVARD, BROOKLYN, NY 11225**

**Board Members Present**

Gwen Carter  
Michael Cetera, AIA  
Aldith Clarke  
Chaz Crowder  
Geraldine Dease  
Sheila Foster-Golding  
Rabbi Jacob Goldstein  
Theopia Green  
Rabbi Nochum Gross  
Tessa Hacket-Vieira  
Sylveta Hamilton-Gonzales  
Aaron Hershkop  
Maurice Jean-Baptiste  
Denise Mann  
Samuel Marmulzsteyn  
Gary Marshall  
Allan Martin, Jr

**Board Members Present**

Marco Mason  
Alice Mitchell  
Carl Morgan  
Frank Nicholas  
Dwayne Nicholson  
Rosemarie Perry  
Romania Roachford  
Myrtle Roberson  
Karlene Robinson  
Eleanor Rollins  
Brenda Hutto  
Roosevelt Rose  
Brenda Scott  
Yvonne Straker  
Denise Thomas  
Jacqueline Welch

**Board Members Absent**

Mary Allman  
Dion Ashman  
Stuart Balberg  
Jacinta Blackburn  
Rev. Phyllis Brown  
Joan Gill  
Ruby Hodge  
Jannie Johnson  
Rabbi Joseph Speilman

**Elected Officials/Agency Representatives Present**

Hon. Michael Bloomberg – Carolyn Sanders-James  
Hon. Marty Markowitz – Ann Marie Adamson  
Hon. Eric Adams – Reuven Lipkind  
Hon. Karim Camara – Wanda Gebrehinot

Hon. Darlene Mealy – Isiah R. Hall  
Kings County Hospital – Denise Peterson  
Hon. Letitia James – Mark Callender

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**PUBLIC SESSION**

**Mr. Ajamu Brown Outreach Coordinator, State of New York Department Of Health will advise the community on the “Connections to Coverage” Campaign. Over 2.6 million New Yorkers live without health insurance. The Connections to Coverage campaign aims to enroll nearly every uninsured child and teen, and more than one-third of adults in New York into public insurance.**

Mr. Brown informed that the Town Hall notification on Medicaid with Childcare Plus has been expanded. It started last year September, 2008. Governor Patterson he understands will provide a deal for families to enroll. The eligibility will be from \$250.00 a year. A family of four making over eighty thousand a year \$80,000

will not be eligible. His job is to go to various communities to raise their awareness of the policies, and the program. If they are residents of the state they will be allowed to get insurance, and to work with the communities to get families who are not enrolled to be enrolled in this public Health Insurance.

During the summer of 2008, the state put out millions of dollars for advertisement. However, the way the program is set up; many families lose coverage because of the certification process. He's here to work with the community in educating people regarding the resources already in the community to get them enrolled, to keep them enrolled.

All are aware of the condition of the economy. It is important for working families to know about these services and how to keep these services when they have them because when they lose their jobs they also lose their health insurance. In these cases people forego their medical insurance because they have other bills to pay. This is very important that families know that this health insurance is available to them. Flyers are available at the back or one can call (800) 698-4543.

Anyone affiliated with a church or community organizations should contact Mr. Brown, is willing to come out to organizations and make presentations. He can be reached at (212) 417-6201.

### **Questions and Answers**

What happens to families who might make a dollar over the allocated amount? Answer: These are policy issues that are being looked at right now. They don't look at the whole family as a unit like your child can get child plus and the parent can get family plus. It is very complicated. "My only suggestion at this time is that there are specialists at this time who know how to maneuver the system."

Is your program working with schools to know the children who might be eligible for this program? Answer: I am basically calling schools to find out what is their referral system. This is the kind of detective work that I have to do on my part. There are many of these services throughout New York state. There are people in the program that are paid to get the message out in different languages.

One works in a corporation for many years until retirement then finds out he/she has no insurance that should not be the case, when you retire your insurance lapsed.

Is the State planning to extend the program in light of the budget cuts? Answer - In spite of the budget cuts we are happy to facilitate the amount we have now.

Chairman Goldstein thanked Mr. Brown for the presentation and suggested to the community as a follow up to invite to their organizations to learn more about the program.

### **BUSINESS SESSION**

The business session began at 7:40 pm with 33 members present.

### **Minutes of the January 27, 2009 Meeting**

The minutes of the January 27, 2009 board meeting was presented for correction and adoption. Motion to accept the minutes was made by Eleanor Rollins and seconded by Gwen Carter.

## District Manager's Report

District Manager Pearl Miles welcomed everyone back for the new year. She then gave the following report:

**Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Center** is closing their health center on Eastern Parkway. The Pierre Toussaint Center will be closed down on February 27. This center was acquired by Kingsbrook when St. Mary's Hospital closed their doors. Anyone wanting to continue to use Kingsbrook's services can now go to the hospital. On the other hand if one doesn't want to go to Kingsbrook their records will be transferred to the hospital of their choice.

**Garden Apprentice Program** - Parents with children are invited to get their children involved in the great youth internship program at the Botanic Garden. It is called the Garden Apprentice Program. The program begins in June and ends in December 2009. It enlists children from grades 8 and up. There will be three different phases of the program. The first phase, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders learn about the Brooklyn Botanic Garden inside and out. They will learn about urban gardening, conservation, how to interact with other children and gardening instructors. The second phase is the Garden Core. They will learn how to explore horticulture, science, and job skills. The third phase of the program, they will learn how to become facilitators and educators, designing and leading discovery programs at the Garden to relate to younger children; also public speaking and communications, teaching leadership skills, etc. There will be an open house for the program on Saturday February 7, 2009 from 1:00 – 3:00 pm at the Garden's atrium – 1000 Washington Avenue. If anyone is interested email [gap@bbg.org](mailto:gap@bbg.org) or call (718) 623-7253.

**Job Training for Women** – there will be a three week job training program. Requirements – high school graduate or GED diploma. Must be able to speak English. Have authorization to work in the United States, must go to school for fifteen weeks. Computer is not a requirement. Within the program one will learn resume writing, reading, and writing skills management, etc. If interested, one can register on January 28, 2009 at 11:00 am at 25 West 43<sup>rd</sup> Street between 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Avenues on the 19<sup>th</sup> floor. No appointment is necessary. Just show up.

**The Demise of Stanley Harwich** – Ms. Miles expressed her sorrow over the passing of board member Stanley Harwich. She was always there for Stanley during his illness. She spoke to him every week. Stanley was alone. His only relative alive is his sister Florence who is in a nursing home. She is saddened because it was only on Thursday when she spoke to him that she promised to go shopping to get him the digital box for his television so that he could watch his programs when the televisions change on February 17, 2009. Monday was a holiday, the office was closed. When she returned to work she heard Stanley had passed. Ms. Miles asked members who live alone to let her know, let us know, who their family members are so that someone can be contacted in case of emergencies.

## Committees' Reports

There were no committee reports.

## Chairman's Report

**Chairman Jacob Goldstein** welcomed everyone back and wished that all had a happy new year. The chairman then announced that last week for those who may not have heard one of our long time board members Stanley Harwich passed away. One of our board members was involved with the city's medical examiner

through a Jewish organization called the Hebrew Burial Society since he had no known survivor. Mr. Hershkop along with the District Manager Pearl Miles made arrangements for the burial of Stanley.

For those members who were not on the board long to know Stanley, to have the blessings of his knowledge, it is difficult to explain. Stanley had the knowledge and understood zoning like only a few people can understand. He was an engineer by profession. He understood so many aspects of the board. He was really helpful to the board in so many things. He served with Mr. Marmulzsteyn and the late Constantine Hall on the Transportation Committee for many years and accomplished a lot for this district. He will be greatly missed.

**Roosevelt Rose** commented on the idea that after someone contributed so much to the country that the family is given two hundred and fifty dollars for burial. **Rabbi Goldstein** informed that this was not the situation in the case of Stanley Harwich. His burial was taken care of by the Jewish organization.

**Carolyn Sanders James** from the Mayor's office informed that HRA, Human Resources Administration has a burial unit which could be contacted in such cases. **Chairman Goldstein** – We do appreciate the information but in the case of Stanley, he had to be buried according to the Jewish stipulations. Burial was taken care of in that manner.

**Chairman Goldstein** asked that a moment of silence be observed for Stanley, may he rest in peace.

**Email Address** – The Chairman asked how many members have email addresses. How many members have access to someone with an email address, please let the District Manager have the email address. It has become very important, especially with budget cuts, that the email is the answer. We have to cut back on the mailing so the email is necessary. Before you leave please write your email and give to the District Manager. This will avoid making calls to members. The website is [www.communitybrd9bklyn.org](http://www.communitybrd9bklyn.org).

**Pierre Toussaint Center** – When Chairman Goldstein learned of the closing of the Pierre Toussaint site he called Dr. Brady for an update. He then found out that the site on Empire Boulevard and Brooklyn Avenue will also be closed. The reimbursements have dropped dramatically in the past two years, the hospitals which once had ten sites now have only two or three sites left. This is how drastic these cuts are. The situation is critical.

Rabbi Goldstein also learned that the site on Eastern Parkway was given to them when St. Mary's Hospital closed. The state did not want to close down their satellite off sites to the hospital, so they let them take it as a catchment site. Now they are closing. Given the reality of money and reimbursement, they are allowing these health sites to close. Their plan is to let patients go to the city hospitals.

Could we as a board encourage physicians to come in and occupy these sites by leasing the spaces? Chairman Goldstein: according to Dr. Brady this type of venture is welcomed.

With the passing of Stanley the board is now 42 members. There are members who are not attending meetings. Members with two consecutive absences are sent warning letters. The policy according to CB9's by law states that the absence of two consecutive meetings requires a warning letter, three absences results in removal from the board. In some cases members have excuses, in other cases there is no excuse. Letters are sent out to absentee members who do not take the time to contact the board regarding their reasons for being absent.

**Removal of board member Jacinta Blackburn** – Rabbi Goldstein read the letter that was sent to Ms. Blackburn who has been absent for six consecutive meetings and is also absent at this present meeting for a total of

seven meetings out of ten meetings for the year. Ms. Blackburn's name was placed before the Executive Committee at the monthly meeting. The Committee voted for removal. Her name is now placed before the entire membership for removal. Voting: Yes - 24, No - 2, Abstentions - 6. Jacinta Blackburn is removed from the board. The Borough President's office will be notified.

The Chairman acknowledged Carolyn Sanders-James representing Mayor Michael Bloomberg, Ann Marie Adamson representing Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz, Reuven Lipkind representing State Senator Eric Adams and Denise Peterson representing Kings County Hospital.

## **Announcements**

**Denise Peterson** of Kings County Hospital informed that Ms. Jean Leon will be retiring from Kings County Hospital as of Monday February 2, 2009 as President. Her successor will be Antonio Martin the Senior Vice President. Anyone wishing to congratulate Ms. Leon on her retirement may call Kings County Hospital and extend best wishes. Chairman Goldstein asked if there will be a reception for Ms. Leon. Answer: the reception will be sometime in March.

The "G" building will no longer be called the "G" building. It is now the "R" Building. This is newly constructed on Clarkson Avenue. Moving of patients and staff is in transition at this time.

**Ann Marie Adamson** reported that Community Board 9 is now short of 9 members out of 50 members. Applications are at the back, anyone who feels committed or know of someone please apply.

Members for reappointment should return their forms. Forms are also at the back as well, or they can be downloaded from the internet. Deadline for reappointment applications is February 13, 2009.

The Borough President's Valentine's Day party will be held on Friday February 13, 2009 at the Marriott Hotel, 333 Adams Street, for Brooklyn sweethearts married 50 + years. Time is from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. RSVP to (718) 802-4875 by February 6. Please don't arrive before 1:30 pm.

The Brooklyn Food Conference is a new program initiated by the Borough President. It is a local action for global change. We will be looking at our foods, where they come from, how healthy, etc. It will be held on May 2, 2009. (See flyers)

Chinese New Year is February 4, 2009. Please send in checks as soon as possible. The money is to a good cause.

Members were informed of the passing of Ann Marie's mother about three weeks ago. Please keep her in your prayers. Our condolences go out to Ann Marie Adamson and family on the passing of her mother.

## **Adjournment**

Since there was no further business for discussion the meeting was adjourned on a motion made by Eleanor Rollins and seconded by Aaron Hershkop. The meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

Respectfully submitted  
Shelia Foster-Golding  
February 18, 2009

