Senior Issues Committee Meeting Minutes – May 7th, 2019

Present: Anthony Fletcher; Martin Wallace
Absent: Rev. Georgiette Morgan-Thomas; Marti Cummings

Meeting Called to Attn: at ca. 12:30

Approved amended agenda

First Presentation: Snapilicious

Ms. Sally Ann Velez-Gutierrez presents on behalf of Health Solutions Organization re. Snapilicious

Org. addresses problem of isolated seniors needing help signing up for SNAP. We take documentation to sign up to seniors – dedicated to increasing enrollment.

(See Slide Presentation)

Offer cooking demos at senior centers; Farm Share Food boxes delivered to NYCHA at discounted cost (can pay with SNAP); Peer to Peer outreach; Referral and linkage to partner orgs. All about Access.

Income limit is $2,000/mo. Averaged over 3 mo. Period – for 65 or older.

AF: How did you get involved in program?

Ms. Gutierrez Working here since OCT, Urban Farmer in Boston for 10 years providing food access.

Second Presentation: Medicare 101 - Michael Walker presenting

Walker runs not-for-profit at Kennedy Center – Co-founded by Rev. M-T.

ABC&D’s of Medicare.

5 parts in Medicare

They do not replace original Medicare.
They also are offered by private ins. cos.
Designed to fill in some or all gaps in Medicare depending on plan you select. 10 plans are available.
Extra Help – EPIC – income based. 0-$20 for prescription. Sometimes generic meds aren’t an option. Allergies, etc.

**How to Enroll**

**Part A** – Automatic at 65 or disabled for 24 months and on disability. No monthly premium.
Qualifying on basis of Age –
1) US Citizen 2) Perm. Legal – greencard – 5 years in US 3) Greencard Holder married to fully insured citizen/greencard holder for a year 4) 40 quarters of work credit – 10 years enrollment

Qualifying on basis of Disability –
1) Kidney failure (end stage renal disease) 2) Lou Geherig’s Disease

**Part B** – Not automatic – requires a monthly premium 2019 premium is $135. Typically the amount is based on income. Penatly of 10%/year for not signing up on time

Working beyond 65 – 20 or more employees – don’t need to pay part B. Income related monthly adjustment. 185,000/yr = $135/mo

**Medicare Advantage plans**
Medicare approved private ins. Cos.
-Must include all benefits
-Replace Medicare A & B
-Offer prescription drugs and addl. Benefits dental; vision; hearing aides; silver sneakers

**Enrollment & Cost**

- Age 65 or receiving SSI
- 7 months to enroll when you turn 65
- 3 months before month of birthday and 3 months after. Penalty if enroll one month after birthday!

Better to enroll before.

**Part A** – Automatic and free
**Part B** - $135 deducted from SS Check or billed every three. Months. Not automatic.

**Freelancers**

- Not on payroll – Use 1099
- Accountant is responsible for making sure you pay Medicare Tax

Open Enrollment Period – Jan 1st through March 31st.

**Options**

Leave MAPD and return to original Medicare and Part D
Switch to Different MAPD
Switch from Medicare/MapD to a Med. Adv. Plan w/o RX
One Time only in this period.

DONUT HOLE – 2021 will go away
4 stages involved in prescription drugs
1) Deductible - $250/yr
2) Initial Coverage Limit - $3820
3) Coverage Gap - $3,821 until you reach $5,100
4) Catastrophic – Pay 3.40 for generic and 8>50 for brand name drugs

What about Drug and Alcohol abuse? Inpatient and outpatient available.

**Third Presentation from Migdalia Rodriguez – Skills Training Center**

Senior Summer Program starting – 120 hours at $15/hr
Deadline: May 8th, 2019 to apply – Age 55+
Phone Number 646-518-4760

Fourth Presentation – Miss Sandra Cobb on Dr. Melissa M. Freeman

Honoring her work – asking for proclamation from CB9 honoring her hours of dedication and lifetime of service. Worked on front lines of Opioid crisis – 1st to treat woman with methadone. Practice is at 407 west 147th street. Phone number: 212-281-5613

**Motion passed to honor Dr. Freeman**

Eutha Prince – at office. M-F 10AM to 6PM. Chair of board thanks seniors for service. They provide to community. He will join us in June. Happy Mother’s Day! Thanks to Ms. Zita and 26th Precinct.
Thanks for food. Mo’s Korean; V & T pizza; West Side Market; Altina’s Restaurant

**Ms. Gwen Black – Visual Artist**

June 14-15 at Riverbank Park – event: Visual Arts and Jazz day 10AM to 4PM. Painting, Arts, Story Telling, Music – Stanley Banks
June 15th – Tribute to Randy Westin

Michael – Career Recruitment Seminar Thursday, May 9th. Training to do what I do – spread word about Medicare

275 Lenox Ae Harlem Business Alliance. 2nd Floor Conference Room 11AM to 1PM

April Tyler – Centering

Motion to adjourn. Ca. 1:30 PM