

SENIOR ISSUES MEETING MINUTES FOR MARCH 2, 2021

In attendance: Hon. Martin Wallace, Hon. Walter T. Alexander, Verna Arthur (Dept for the Aging), Ana Garcia (NY Presbyterian), Kyshia Smith (Mark Levine's Office), Fern Hertzberg (ARC Senior Centers), Betty Lehman, Ameenah Muhammed, Bessie Davis, Iretha Fletcher, Cora Gilmore, Ann Burley, Lorraine Wilbourne, Gail Powell, Lillian Doctor, Mary Goodman

I-Call to Order @11:10am

II-Adopted Agenda

III-Adopted Minutes

IV-Discussion

Verna Arthur-Contact number is (212) 244-6269 or nyc.gov/aging.

Ana Garcia-Available COVID vaccine appointments for residents of upper Manhattan at the Armory on 168th Street can be made by phone at (646) 838-0319

Gail-Why do I have to pay \$2.75 instead of half fare in Access-A-Ride?

Verna-MTA will have to explain this. DFTA doesn't regulate this.

Lillian-Does the Armory cover all of Manhattan?

Ana-The Armory handles all residents north of 110th Street.

Lillian-Does the Armory accept walk-ins?

Ana-It would be best if you called the special number (above) set aside for seniors in CB9, CB10, CB12, and the South Bronx.

Anthony-CB9 is working hard to establish other sites (such as Convent Ave). Contact the CB9 office for further information.

Annie-Manhattanville Post Office only had Christmas stamps!

Anthony-That is not something that CB9 handles.

Fern-Whist Transportation will transport people to the vaccine sites. Contact number is (929) 431-5128.

Fern-70% of people served at the Armory has been upper Manhattan residents. Can you confirm?

Ana-I don't have that information at hand.

Anthony-Can you please forward the flyer with the information to Martin Wallace for our minutes?

Ana-Yes, I will.

Mary-Is there a geriatrics center closer than the Allen Pavilion?

Ana-reach out to me for the information.

Ann-Mt. Sinai has a geriatric center as well at 99th Street and Madison Ave.

Betty Lehman-Isabella Nursing Home

We will soon be able to provide visiting patients in the nursing homes. We are waiting for clearance from the Dept of Health. We are carefully monitoring visitors for COVID before visiting. Most of our patients have or will have gotten their vaccines from Eldercare and SOMOS. We are remotely dealing with client through our Benefits Enrollment Centers-phone number is (212) 342-9619

Martin-Is there a high turnover at the nursing homes?

Betty-There are strict protocols at the nursing homes. The State and the Federal Governments is cutting Medicaid rates which affects the salaries of our employees.

Anthony-Are there ratings for nursing homes?

Betty-The source for this information is Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services. and staffing ratios.

Fern-Best way is for the family is to visit the facility.

Lillian-My husband was in the hospital and we weren't able to make a choice which nursing home the client went to. The social worker had two choices and I had to pick one.

Fern-You have a right to refuse the hospital's choice. You have five choices in this situation. It takes an advocate to inform you of your rights.

Lillian-Are deaths at nursing homes reported?

Betty-Statistics are reported daily to the City and State Departments of Health, and then reported to the Federal Government.

Lillian-What happens if the State does not report statistics to the Federal government?

Anthony-This can result in a lawsuit against the State government. The State is obligated to report this information.

Ann-When a patient is in a nursing home and discharged to the hospital is this information recorded?

Lillian-Yes, this information is reported daily.

Iretha-I've had some horrible experiences with nursing homes.

Lillian-Since I didn't know my rights, I had a bad experience as well.

Gail-I was in three nursing homes. If no one advocates for you you are at their mercy.

Kyshia Smith-Since Mark Levine chairs the Health Committee, I have been taking notes regarding the vaccination process. We know this process has caused a lot of anxiety. We are working on adding sites in upper Manhattan. If you have any questions please call us at (212) 928-6814.

Gail-I have been calling your office and have not had a return call yet. I had to call Al Taylor's office. Also, call Palante at (212) 491-2541. They were very helpful in getting appointments and transportation for vaccines.

Martin-Is there anything on the federal level to assist with connectivity for seniors?

Kyshia-Not to my knowledge.

Martin-I am particularly talking about hardware and internet access.

Kyshia-Let's talk offline regarding this.

Gail-Why can't seniors get tablets since the children got them?

Kyshia-That's a good point!

Mary-Who is doing the free tax filing as the libraries aren't doing them this year?

Martin-This information will be sent as soon as I get it.

Armory Vaccine number (646) 697-8222

March 16th is the Senior Hour

Old/New Business-none

Next Meeting is April 6th

