



Manhattan Community Board 9

Serving Hamilton Heights, Manhattanville and Morningside Heights

SENIOR ISSUES COMMITTEE

MINUTES

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2015

Committee Members

Hon. Rev. Georgiette Morgan-Thomas, Chair, **Present**

Hon. Anthony Fletcher, **Present**; Hon. Theodore Kovaleff, **Excused**; Hon. Martin Wallace, **Excused**;
Hon. Ernestine Welch

Public Members

G. Wanda Capan, **Present** Laenoria Conyers, **Excused**; Bessie Davis, **Excused**; Inez Woodhouse,
Present; Cora Gilmore, **Present**; Ruther Miller, **Present**; Lillian Doctor, **Excused**;

Other Attendees: Junelle Carter-Bowman, Librarian Manager, George Bruce Library; Danny Perry, Director, Community Engagement, Independence Care System; Jennifer Araujo, Community Liaison, District Attorney's Office; Verna Arthur, Community Outreach Director; Corey Ortega, West Harlem Democrats Club; Bill Garrett, West Harlem Democrats Club; Zonia Bucknor

The meeting was held on Tuesday, October 6th, 2015 at Broadway Housing, 583 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10031.

Chair, Rev. Georgiette Morgan-Thomas called the meeting to order 11:30 a.m. and welcomed everyone. She reported that Access-A-ride was scheduled to present, but didn't show or call to cancel.

The Agenda was adopted with amendments and minutes were accepted with any necessary corrections and send to the district office.

Reports:

Independence Care System:

Mr. Danny Perry, Director of Community Management and stated that his agency is a community-based, non for profit serving the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan and Queens. It is dedicated to supporting senior adults with physical disabilities and chronic condition to live at home and participate fully in community life. The agency offers two distinct plans:

- i. **Community Care MLTC Services:** a traditional Medicaid managed long-term plan. This plan includes dental care, eye exams, medical supplies, physical therapy, and transportation.
- ii. **Community Care Plus FIDA-MMP Services:** it is a plan for recipients of both Medicaid and Medicare who reside in the four boroughs of New York City, Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan and Queens. The plan is designed to customize and coordinate a full range of home care, health care, and social services. The goal is to keep clients healthy, safe and independent.

SENIOR ISSUES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Page 2 October 6, 2015

There following are six characteristics of the Independence Care System Care:

- i. Responsive
- ii. Coordinate
- iii. Expert
- iv. Empowering
- v. Respectful
- vi. Flexible

Medicaid Surplus pooled trust account offers a safe and legal alternative that allows recipients to keep their surplus and better control their funds. The New York State Medicaid Program sets the limit based on the number of members in the family and if the income is above the required limit, Medicaid considers it as excess income and often referred to as 'surplus'. As a recipient of Medicaid any surplus income by law the recipient is required to give the money to Medicaid or use it to pay medical expenses in order to stay in the Medicaid Program. A Medicaid recipient can choose to enroll in a pooled trust account, and can utilize the funds for a variety of needs, such as paying rent, utilities, cable, groceries, clothing, personal care, traveling etc. A Medicaid recipient enrolled in a pooled trust, Medicaid will continue to pay for homecare and other long-term care services. If one has a surplus and is not enrolled with the pooled trust account Medicaid requires one to give the entire surplus to the health plan to assist in paying for one's medical expenses; otherwise one lose their Medicaid eligibility.

The New York City Department For The Aging:

Verna Arthur, Community Outreach Director reported that DFTA just had budget consultation and on October 26th, 2015 there will be public hearing and seniors are invited to participate; bring all their concerns and needs. Encouraged seniors to send someone on their behalf or send a written statement to the Commissioner.

The George Bruce Library:

Ms. Junelle Carter-Bowman, Library Manager stated that computers have been updated and computer training program will resume from basic computer skills to a customized computer training program. The senior computer program is still available and seniors are welcome to register. The library has added board games and movies to their programs.

Announcement(s):

Corey Ortega and Bill Garrett from the West Harlem Democratic Club announced that on Wednesday October 14th, 2015 there will be a march re: **Take Bold Action on Climate Change** in front of the Harlem State Office Building, 163 West 125th Street @ 5:00 p.m. Urged everyone to participate and spread the word around.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 P.M.

Prepared by: Hleziphi Zita, Community Associate