



Lilliam Barrios-Paoli
Commissioner

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SENIOR ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, March 7, 2013
2 Lafayette Street 7th Floor
Janet Sainer Conference room
9:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Members Present:

Dr. Philip Brickner, Carol Dunn, David Gillcrist, Katherine Martinez, Mary Mayer, Marcia Stein, Louis Vazquez, Rabbi Moshe Wiener (8)

Members Absent:

Michael Adams, Doralina Colón, Claire Hall, Gladys Joyner, Evelyn Laureano, Hattie Lucas, Stacy Shuchter-Gomez, Daniel Simmons, Eartha Thompson-Washington, Marjorie Tiven, Leonora Vaccaro, Gloria Lind Vanterpool, Nancy Wackstein, Doris Williams (14)

DFTA Staff Present:

Commissioner Lilliam Barrios-Paoli, Verna Arthur, Michael Bosnick, Bill Chong, Steven Foo, Colicia Hercules, Jeanette Reed, Caryn Resnick, Marah Rhoades, Jennine Ventura, Linda Whitaker (11)

PROCEEDINGS

Commissioner Lilliam Barrios-Paoli called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m.

Dr. Brickner made a motion for approval of the December 6, 2012 minutes. The motion passed.

COMMISSIONER’S REPORT

Budget

- The Commissioner expressed concern about the possibility of sequestration. The Commissioner further stated that if sequestration goes into effect, it is likely that DFTA would lose \$1 million for nutrition, home delivered meals, and senior centers, and \$4 million under the Title XX program.
- Joy Wang, Assistant Commissioner of Budget and Fiscal Operations, is part of a task force from the Mayor’s Office, on looking at tapping into funding streams for the Department.

Innovative Senior Centers

- The Commissioner reported that Innovative Senior Centers have received funding to assist with their programs.
- Currently, there are 10 ISCs. These centers have an extensive budget with fewer restrictions and a wide array of creativity. ISC directors meet on a monthly basis to exchange experiences and ideas. By conducting monthly meetings, these centers are afforded the opportunity to enhance their programs.
- The Commissioner had a conversation with OMB requesting funding to open 10 more ISCs. The response was positive. Existing centers with adequate space that are already functioning on the level of ISCs, though not being called ISCs, could be converted into ISCs. There would be an RFP process, geared toward existing senior centers, soliciting proposals on programs they would provide and funding they would need if they were given the opportunity to become an ISC.

Neighborhood Senior Centers Request for Proposals

- The Commissioner mentioned that DFTA issued a re-solicitation for Neighborhood Senior Centers in four community districts because there were not enough viable proposals to cover the need in these areas. They are as follows:
 - CD 6 -----Brooklyn
 - CD 10 -----Bronx
 - CDs 9 and 10---Manhattan

Social Adult Day Care:

- Because of changes made through the Governor’s Medicaid Redesign Team process, some Social Adult Day Care Centers have sprung up. Social Adult Day Care programs, whose clientele should be comprised only of frail elderly, are allegedly recruiting ‘healthy’ seniors to their programs. Some of these programs are attracting seniors by offering gifts, special meals, and other perks when they enroll, with emphasis being placed on Medicaid/dual eligible seniors.
- As a result of many complaints that have been brought to DFTA’s attention regarding these new “pop-up” Social Adult Day Care programs and their practices, Deputy Mayor Linda Gibbs and the Commissioner met, which resulted in preliminary discussions regarding the possibility of DFTA becoming an ombudsman with the authority to look into problems when seniors’ issues and complaints are brought to the Department’s attention.

Advisory Council Membership Status

- Letters were sent to Advisory Council Members concerning their membership term limits. Some members expressed interest in staying on, while others made the decision to honor their expired terms and no longer serve on the Advisory Council. Recommendations for new members are in process.

Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities

- In the absence of new funding, DFTA wanted to create a vehicle to RFP with different models of NORCs; therefore, a couple of alternatives were provided to traditional NORCs, such as a Hybrid NORC that collaborates with a nearby senior center. We are urging providers to apply. The NORC providers met with the Commissioner requesting that the RFP be released before the end of the Administration.

Presentation**Michael Bosnick, Assistant Commissioner – Planning Division**

- Health Indicators were developed by the United Hospital Fund to look at issues in the community. For example, falls, diabetes, and heart disease are serious health issues. Health indicator data helps to inform providers about the health status of seniors.
- Center for Medicare/Medicaid Services is overseeing a number of programs that have been funded through the Affordable Care Act.

One of these programs is the Community Care Transition Program (CCTP). This program is comprised of a network of collaborations across the country that are being funded to use evidence based models to work with discharged patients from hospitals who are Medicare recipients. The purpose of this is to see if, in collaboration with community based organizations, efforts could be made immediately after discharge from a hospital to address the prevention of re-admission. This process could become cost effective for Medicare. CCTP is a 30-day intervention program known as the Coleman Model. This model empowers patients to educate themselves about their discharge plan. It is not a standard social work model.

The idea behind the CCTP is to help foster visibility for DFTA to be seen as a key player in the health care arena -- as an agency that is building bridges between aging services and the health care world. \$5.6 million has been put into the Affordable Care Act to test different programs.

- DFTA was granted one of the CCT Programs. This program is being conducted in five hospitals in Queens:
 - 2 --- HHC hospitals in Elmhurst,
 - 1 --- NY Hospital,
 - 1 --- Jamaica Hospital, and
 - 1 --- Flushing Hospital.

Comments/Concerns

- **Dr. Brickner** suggested advocating for legitimate media coverage on the social adult day care centers issue. The **Commissioner** informed members that Gale Brewer is working on getting the press involved. We can also look at the possibility of having Bobbie Sackman weigh in on this issue.
- **Marcia Stein** asked how many health promotion programs are being conducted in the ISCs. **Marah Rhoades** informed members that there are many health promotions programs, and these programs are becoming evidence based, thus making the programs more credible.

Announcements

- **Michael Bosnick** informed members that he will bring a copy of the game, *Age Tasking*, to the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 10:53 a.m.

Next meeting: Thursday, June 6 at 9:30 a.m.