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The City of New York Manhattan Community Board 8

Health, Seniors, and Social Services Committee Meeting

Lenox Hill Hospital 130 East 77th Street New York, New York January 19, 2012, 6:30pm

Community Board members present: Molly Blayney, Mary Pike, Ellen Polivy, Hattie Quarnstrom, and Barbara Rudder

The meeting was not called to order until 6:50pm. When the evening's speaker, a member of the staff at Inwood House, had neither arrived nor been able to be contacted by telephone, the meeting was convened at that time. The speaker subsequently informed us an error had been made in entering the date of the committee's meeting on her calendar. She is receptive to having her appearance rescheduled; the new date will likely be in March.

The speaker was to have presented information on the programs and services Inwood House provides pregnant and parenting teens in foster care. In her absence, the committee and members of the public in attendance engaged in a general discussion of foster care and the special situations of teens in foster care who are pregnant and either about to become a parent or who are already parenting.

Based on the topics addressed and questions raised during the course of that discussion, it was decided a subsequent meeting would be held to enable the original subject to be addressed. In addition, a second speaker will be invited to provide information about what programs and services exist for young people who "age out" of foster care status. With respect to the latter, committee members and audience members expressed particular concerns about health insurance, housing, job training, and prospects for higher education.

Future Meeting Subjects:

At the meeting, the following topics were identified as likely topics in coming months, contingent on the availability of the speakers being sought:

February: Advocates for those in shelter housing and those who are homeless or about to become homeless discuss the available programs and services and how they function from their perspective.

March: Foster care: programs and services for pregnant and parenting teens in foster care and for young people about to "age out" of their foster care status.

April: Expanded programs and activities offered by the Center@ Lenox Hill Neighborhood House as part of the Innovative Senior Center pilot program, possibly paired with by a speaker who would present on behalf of the Age Friendly - NYC joint initiative of the Office of the Mayor, the New York City Council, and the New York Academy of Medicine.

With respect to additional topics that might possibly be the subject of future meetings, those in attendance had further discussion about ambulance transport. There continue to be questions and concerns about when and under what circumstances, how, and from whom to access it.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55pm.

Mary Pike and Ellen Polivy, Co-Chairs, Health, Seniors and Social Services Committee