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The City of New York Manhattan Community Board 8

Health, Seniors, and Social Services Committee Meeting
Lenox Hill Neighborhood House
331 East 70th Street
Auditorium
Wednesday, July 24, 2013
6:30PM

Community Board Members Present: Molly Blaney, Cory Evans, Jackie Ludorf, Ellen Polivy, Hattie Quarnstrom Excused Board Members: Jeffrey Ascherman, Barbara Rudder

1) Ariel Behr, Deputy Chief Program Officer and Sonja Rohde Program Director for the Care program at the Lenox Hill Neighborhood House made an introduction of the Care Program: an arts based social adult day care program for older adults with dementia.

Lenox Hill Neighborhood has been in existence for 119 years. They serve 20, 0000 people each year through several different programs. They have a Headstart program, they have a legal clinic that serves over 1,000 homebound seniors; they operate two senior centers and a homeless shelter at the Park Avenue Armory.

Tonight they are discussed their Care program which currently serves 20 people, about 10 each day. They have half day and full day sessions. The program is designed for people at all cognitive levels. Art is one of their favorite tools for participants in the program. They have a partnership with the NYU Art Therapy program. They also have an art therapist as a member of their staff. Music is also in the program. Music is a great unifier especially with people with dementia. The program is designed so there is no pressure.

They have art exhibitions, an annual operetta for participants, and they have celebrations. They feel this is a great opportunity for those who might be otherwise be home-bound. They also go to museums. They have room to expand the program. The cost is \$95.00 for five hours with some help available. To participate there has to be some dementia or memory loss.

- 2) Juan Carlos Payero, Program Coordinator, discussed the Buddy Program at The Family Center. The Family Center serves families in all five boroughs. Most of the families are single mothers with children. They provide social services to these families. Juan Carlos said he had a mentor which helped him become what he is today. He said children at risk need someone to talk to or a swift kick in the backside, the kids are 6-16. There is always a need for male mentors. The children come from families that are in the program. They do require an hour interview of each person, a five hour training session and a background check. Mentors have to be over 21 and have 6-10 hours per month. Mentors set up their own schedules and they require that the mentoring go on for at least one year. The program requires very little funds to operate.
- 3) Following Meetings Some time was spent discussing future topics for meetings.

Jackie Ludorf
Chair, Health, Seniors, and Social Services Committee