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**The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan
Health, Seniors, and Social Services Committee
Tuesday, March 21, 2023 – 6:30 PM
Conducted Remotely on Zoom**

Minutes

Board Members Present: Meryl Brodsky*, Rebecca Dangoor, Wilma Johnson, Valerie Mason, Barbara Rudder, Judith Schneider.

* - Public Member

This meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM.

Item 1: Information discussion with the office of Congressman Jerrold Nadler about the high cost of prescription medication.

Representatives from Congressman Jerrold Nadler's office, Andrew Heineman, Legislative Director, and Alison Cohen, Legislative aide for health policy, informed the community about pending and existing legislation that will limit the cost of prescription drugs.

Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)

The original Build Back Better Act failed to pass in the Senate, but was replaced with the IRA, which has a number of provisions reducing the cost of health care and prescription drugs. The IRA requires some drug companies to negotiate prices with Medicare, reducing drug prices. It also requires drug companies to pay rebates if drug prices rise more than inflation. Some caps on Part D Medicare drugs will be enforced. However, there are delays before these rules will take effect.

These changes will take affect over time. Many will come in effect in 2026.

Biden's Budget - A Request to Congress

The budget includes:

Expanding Medicare's ability to negotiate drug prices.

Strengthening the medicate rebate program.

Strengthening the Medicare program.

Supporting a small tax increase.

Capping certain generic drug prices at \$2 month.

Initiatives Congressman Nadler Is Supporting

Bills to limit prescription drug prices.

Fighting to make sure any antitrust issues do not increase drug costs.

Co-sponsoring a bill decreasing health care costs.

Community Comments

A common and lifesaving blood thinner drug increased 42pc per year for the last three years.

Prices of drugs in Canada and Mexico are much cheaper.

Various bills will hopefully reduce prices by 2025.

Item 2: New Business

No items of New Business were discussed.

Item 3: Old Business

No items of Old Business were discussed.

The committee adjourned at approximately 8:13 PM.

Rebecca Dangoor, Wilma Johnson, and Barbara Rudder, Co-Chairs