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**The City of New York  
Community Board 8 Manhattan  
Health, Seniors, and Social Services Committee  
Thursday, February 22nd, 2024 – 6:30 PM  
Conducted Remotely on Zoom**

**Minutes**

**Board Members Present:** Elizabeth Ashby, Lori Ann Bores, Meryl Brodsky\*, Juno Chowla-Song, Rebecca Dangoor, Wilma Johnson, Valerie Mason, Ellen Polivy\*, Barbara Rudder, Judith Schneider, and Charles S. Warren.

\*Public Member

**Approximate Number of Public Attendees:** 25

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

**Item 1: Presentation by The Department of Social Services-Department of Homeless Services (DSS-DHS) and nonprofit service provider Services for the Underserved (SUS) regarding updated plans for a 92 bed stabilization bed facility that is anticipated to open this December at 419 East 91st Street.**

Representatives from the Department of Homeless Services and the non-profit agency Services for the Underserved (SUS) came to discuss the plans for a Welcome Center at 491 East 91st Street to open in December 2024. Their mission is to connect with the homeless population to assess their needs and determine where they should get further treatment. The East 91<sup>st</sup> Street center is a low barrier center with few restrictions and a pre-assessment facility. An outreach team works with the unsheltered, who do not want to go to a standard shelter and determines if the Welcome Center is appropriate to stabilize them and also to assess next steps and whether to send them to one of the SUS' wide variety of facilities.

The building will have a large area for communal services, dining area, outdoor garden and three floors of living space to house up to 92 men and women over the age of 18. Emotional support animals will be allowed. The staff will include supervisors, counselors, and social service case managers who will encourage them to stay inside. As stated by Marricka Scott, Deputy Commissioner for Intergovernmental and Legislative Affairs at the Department of Social Services, in response to a question about outdoor guards from a member of the public, "There is no guard, per se, stationed outside. Part of security plans include roving patrols of the space. That includes the front area on a periodic basis. Essentially moving people along to discourage loitering and things like that. But there is no one posted at the door, per se, or outside the door in terms of guarding that space." Cameras will be monitored for any activity outdoors.

**Item 2: Old Business**

No items of Old Business were discussed.

**Item 3: New Business**

No items of New Business were discussed.

The committee adjourned at approximately 9:08 PM

***Rebecca Dangoor, Wilma Johnson, and Barbara Rudder, Co-Chairs, Health, Seniors, and Social Services  
Committee***