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**The City of New York**  
**Community Board 8 Manhattan**  
*Health, Seniors, and Social Services Committee*  
*Thursday, April 17, 2025 – 6:30pm*  
*This meeting was conducted via Zoom*

*Please note: The resolutions contained in the committee minutes are recommendations submitted by the committee co-chairs to the Community Board. At the monthly full board meeting, the resolutions are discussed and voted upon by all members of Community Board 8 Manhattan.*

**Resolutions for Approval:**

**Item 2A:** Community Board 8 Manhattan opposes any federal efforts to reduce funding to Medicaid and advocates with New York's Congressional delegation for sustained funding to these programs. (unanimous)

**Item 2B:** Community Board 8 Manhattan implores City and State elected officials to implement an emergency plan to protect services for older adults and the disabled in the event of any budget cuts. (unanimous)

**Item 2C:** Community Board 8 Manhattan urges the state to facilitate a smooth and vetted process for the PPL First. (unanimous)

**MINUTES**

**Board Members Present:** Bill Angelos, Meryl Brodsky\*, Wilma Johnson, Ellen Polivy\*, Barbara Rudder, Judy Schneider

*\*Public Member*

**Approximate Number of Public Attendees: 10**

**Item 1:** Discussion about the New York City Department for the Aging's programs, and their importance during these uncertain times on seniors in our community.

NYC Department of Aging's (DFTA) Government Affairs Director, Madison Ayala, and Sarah Daly, Chief of Government Affairs from LeadingAge, discussed what senior services the city and state provide and what will happen if there is a disruption in these services.

Madison Ayala presented the community services DFTA provides to the 1.7 million New Yorkers over the age of 60 so they can age with dignity and in place. The services include the hotline Aging Connect, the Industrial & Commercial Abatement Program (ICAP) to help with insurance, workforce programs, home services, and transportation. These programs are mostly funded by New York City (NYC) tax dollars. However, if federal funds disrupt other programs, it may impact DFTA. The De Blasio administration set aside \$5.8 million for additional services, but many senior centers have still closed. The NYC budget has not been finalized yet, so it is uncertain how these programs will be affected.

**Item 2:** With the potential decrease in funding for the Medicare/Medicaid program, there will be a discussion about the importance of these programs to our community.

The United States House of Representatives has proposed a cut of \$800 million in Medicaid. There is a concern about whether the city or state can fill such a gap in funding. LeadingAge NY represents exclusively non-profit and long-term care services, including NORCs (Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities). Today, before

any federal cuts, there is not enough money and resources to support the growing needs of our older adults. LeadingAge works to keep older adults cared for at home. It is cheaper and has better outcomes. Congress had given instructions about what should be included in the federal budget. The United States House of Representatives is hoping to cut \$880 billion in medical care across the country, mostly Medicaid. This will create a hole in the New York State (NYS) budget, and it will become challenging to save the NYS health care system.

**A.) Community Board 8 Manhattan opposes any federal efforts to reduce funding to Medicaid and advocates with New York's Congressional delegation for sustained funding to these programs.**

**WHEREAS** the United States House of Representatives has proposed a cut of \$800 million in Medicaid; and

**WHEREAS** a cut to Medicaid funding could affect many New York State programs such as long-term care, nursing homes, medical care, and caretakers for our most vulnerable; then

**BE IT RESOLVED** Community Board 8 Manhattan opposes any federal efforts to reduce funding for Medicaid and to advocate with New York's Congressional delegation for full, sustained funding of these programs.

**Board Members Vote: ADOPTED by a vote of 5-0-0**

**Yes:** Bill Angelos, Meryl Brodsky\*, Wilma Johnson, Ellen Polivy\*, Barbara Rudder

**B.) Community Board 8 Manhattan implores City and State elected officials to implement an emergency plan to protect services for older adults and the disabled in the event of any budget cuts.**

**WHEREAS** any cuts to Medicaid from the federal government will affect the ability of the State and City to provide proper care to its citizens; then

**BE IT RESOLVED** Community Board 8 Manhattan implores our City and State elected offices to implement an emergency plan to protect services for older adults and the disabled in the event of federal or state budget reductions.

**Board Members Vote: ADOPTED by a vote of 5-0-0**

**Yes:** Bill Angelos, Meryl Brodsky\*, Wilma Johnson, Ellen Polivy\*, Barbara Rudder

The Consumer Direct Personal Assistance Program (CDPAP) allows people with disabilities to hire their own personal caregiver. New York now uses a single statewide facilitator, Public Partnerships LLC (PPL), to manage eligibility, hours, and payment for caregivers. In the past, there were more than 600 intermediaries. This change promised to streamline hiring, simplify the payment process, and cut down on fraud. The e-rollout of this program has not been smooth either, with caretakers still not being paid for their services. This has created great emotional and financial stress for the caretakers and those to be cared for.

**C.) Community Board 8 Manhattan urges the state to facilitate a smooth and vetted process for the PPL First.**

**WHEREAS** New York State has changed the system to pay caretakers for those with disabilities; and

**WHEREAS** the new system, Public Partnerships LLC (PPL First), will streamline payment and cut down on fraud and abuse; and

**WHEREAS** the rollout of PPL First has been fraught with problems, and caretakers have not been paid; and

**WHEREAS** caretakers are suffering from financial and emotional stress, causing stress to those needing the care;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** Community Board 8 Manhattan urges the state to facilitate a smooth process

for payment to caretakers; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** Community Board 8 Manhattan urges that the rollout of a new City or State program should not begin until it is tested so as not to cause any unnecessary interruptions of services or payments.

**Board Members Vote: ADOPTED by a vote of 5-0-0**

**Yes:** Bill Angelos, Meryl Brodsky\*, Wilma Johnson, Ellen Polivy\*, Barbara Rudder

**Item 3: Old Business** – None discussed.

**Item 4: New Business** – None discussed.

The meeting ended at approximately 8:04 pm.

**Wilma Johnson and Barbara Rudder, Co-Chairs**