Nicholas D. Viest
Chairman

Latha Thompson
District Manager

505 Park Avenue
Suite 620
New York, N.Y. 10022
(212) 758-4340
(212) 758-4616 (Fax)
www.cb8m.com Website
info@cb8m.com - E-Mail

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
January 22, 2013
6:30PM

Community Board members in attendance: Jacqueline Ludorf, Ellen Polivy, Hattie Quarnstrom, Molly Blayney
Public Member in attendance: Jeffrey Ascherman
Excused Board Members: Mary Pike, Barbara Rudder,

Agenda:

Laura Lazarus, Chief Program Officer, will present an update on the Park Avenue Women's Health Shelter, operated by Lenox Hill Neighborhood House.

There are 48,694 homeless in NYC as of last October. There are 2700 homeless women. Their shelter is a mental health shelter. There are 100 women. They are all over 45, and it is a 24/7 facility. Lenox Hill took over the operation of the shelter in 1996. The goal is for short term housing and support with the main goal being permanent housing for these women.

The funding is operating from the department of homeless services, the funding for permanent shelter are funded through a variety of government housing funds. Ages are from 45 to 82 average age is 49. They are referred by the city. They are always full. Some are domestic survivors . Length of time in shelter is from one month to 17 years.

All clients must have an acute mental diagnosis. Schizophrenia, Bipolar disorder, depression, Post traumatic Stress disorder. Many have physical illnesses. No housing is the cause of many of these illnesses. Hypertension, Asthma. COPD, arthritis are some of the physical ailments.

They have two psychiatrists that work for the shelter and a nurse practitioner. They also have social service staff that have experience with this elderly and assist them not only medically but also in filling out the forms necessary for permanent housing. Such forms as Medicare food stamps, they also help them get personal documents as birth certificates etc.

They also provide trips to the park, museums, and the arts. They teach them how to eat better. There is a lot of paperwork. Sandy has made the pool of housing more restrictive. They help prepare them for interviews. They learn budgeting and money management.

The typical stay is nine months. Many of these women cannot work.
There is a legal obligation to shelter but not to get a permanent home.

There is a rehabilitation of the shelter underway. This is all funded by city funds. This renovation will reduce the number of women from 100 to 80.

What needs to be done is to ease the zoning rules to allow how big room sizes can be. There is a need for more volunteers.

Submitted by: Jackie Ludorf

Jackie Ludorf and Mary Pike
Co-Chairs, Health, Seniors, and Social Services Committee