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November 15, 2016 Health & Social Services Committee Meeting Minutes

PRESENT: Joe Bacote, Chair; Marcy Gross, Co-Chair; AL D’Angelo; Marnie Rodriguez; Joanne Rubino; and Sandra Unger.

GUEST(S): Bernadette Ferrara, Van Nest Neighborhood Alliance; CEO/President and staff members of Daybreak Independent Services; Romina Enea, Councilman Torres’ Office; and NYSNA nurses.

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Joe reported on a proposed group home – Daybreak at 1934 Hunt Avenue. There will be 6 male clients, ages 21-28. Joe explained that they have aged out of the foster care system and no family is involved. There will be no live in staff, but staff will be present on rotating shifts. Clients are accompanied by staff whenever they leave the facility. Counselors are on staff and behavioral therapists are available as needed. Day Break has a 10 year lease. It was suggested that a site visit be initiated.

Nursing at NICU

Concerns were raised regarding the lack of nurse to child ratio. Nurses are often pulled to another area, and replacement nurses are not NICU trained nurses. There is a lack of beds.

Motion by Joanne Rubino, Seconded by Sandra Unger – To approve the installation of a group home for individuals ages 21-28 with autism/developmental disabilities at 1934 Hunt Avenue, under the auspices of Daybreak Independence Services. PASSED WITH 1 ABSTENTION (Al D’Angelo)

Regarding the staffing crisis issues at Montefiore: It is recommended that the Health Committee reps (or the entire committee) meet with the elected officials to help us map out a solution to responding to the staffing crisis at Montefiore.

Al D'Angelo will contact the elected officials/ reps to set up a meeting in December.