



Committee on Seniors & Constituencies

~MINUTES~

Tuesday, May, 16, 2017

10:00 AM

DRAFT

Committee Chair: David J. Tubiolo

Committee Room, 148 Martine Avenue, 8th Floor, White Plains, NY 10601

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CALL TO ORDER

With a quorum present, Chair Tubiolo called the meeting to order at 10:23 AM.

Table with 4 columns: Attendee Name, Title, Status, Arrived. Rows include David J. Tubiolo (Chair, Present), Sheila Marcotte (D10 Legislator, Absent), MaryJane Shimsky (D12 Legislator, Present), and Alfreda Williams (D8 Legislator, Present).

Others In Attendance: BOL: Yolanda Valencia, Mary Jackson CEO: Commissioner Mae Carpenter GUESTS: Honorable Bernice Spreckman, former Legislator of the Board.

MINUTES APPROVAL

- 1. Tuesday, March 21, 2017 at 10:00 AM

I. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Chair Tubiolo welcomed all members and was delighted to see his mentor, the Honorable Bernice Spreckman. Chair Tubiolo invited Mae Carpenter, Commissioner of Senior Programs and Services to discuss the ongoing problem of the cost of prescription drugs. Chair Tubiolo recently read an AARP article posted in the April 2017 bulletin in regards to the Epipen 500% increase since 2007. Commissioner Carpenter mentioned that this problem affects seniors due to the chronic diseases. Commissioner Carpenter attended a seminar in March and shared some of the key concerns. The US government allows this type of Monopoly and says that Canadian prices are much cheaper. AARP has conducted a study between 2005-2016 and found some solutions that may address this problem: regulation, advertisements, Brokers to Physicians, enforce change in Congress, negotiate better prices. Ms. Spreckman described the importance of Generic drugs and the interference of multiple drugs. Legislator Shimsky also mention the importance to keep all doctors that are seen by a patient in the loop of all medications. Commissioner Carpenter discussed the conflict of interest between the Pharmaceuticle Companies and the Doctors, they receive free samples by brokers selling the products offering them insentives in exchange of the use of thier product. Medicare is prohibited to negotiate prices and pays the highest price. Medicare Part D was signed by the Pharmaceutical Companies. Commissioner Carpenter discussed the ALICE Study in which many of our county residents are living under water due to the high cost of prescription drugs. Chair Tubiolo states that he will reach out to our Federal Representatives to discuss this problem. The committee will follow up on this discussion at a later date and will reach out to the Westchester AARP and NYS Age Friendly.

## **II. OTHER BUSINESS**

Unfinished Business and any other agenda items to come before the Committee.

## **III. RECEIVE & FILE**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Legislator Tubiolo seconded by Legislator Shimsky the Committee adjourned at 11:16 AM.