



**THE CITY OF NEW YORK
BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 6**

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Honorable Ruben Diaz Jr., Bronx Borough President

MS. EVONNE CAPERS
Board Chairperson

MR. JOHN SANCHEZ
District Manager

Health and Human Services Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, April 22, 2021

The Health and Human Services Committee Meeting met on Thursday, April 22, 2021 via Zoom Audio and Video Conferencing. The following members were present: Nicole Carter, Matthew Martinez, Rosa Peraza, Reggie Powell, Carmen Rivera, and Jacquetta Whaley.

The following item was discussed:

- Bronx Counseling Center

Essen Health Care informed the committee about their proposed Bronx Counseling Center at 593 East Tremont Avenue. Essen Health Care is one of the premier healthcare organizations in New York with over 250 providers. Essen is a patient-focused integrated healthcare delivery platform with the goal of providing the highest level of quality care by leveraging its network of: Primary Care, Urgent Care, House Call, Care Management, Nursing Home, Adult Home divisions. Essen Health Care's values come from over 20 years of service to medically under-served communities and from the passion to innovate towards a better healthcare delivery system. Ms. Sylvia Posada informed us that Dr. Sumir Sahgal, the Chief Medical Officer of Essen Health Care, is proposing the Bronx Counseling Center to address substance abuse in our district. Based on the statistics by the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene she provided, the alcohol and drug related hospitalizations in our district are significantly high. The Bronx Counseling Center will be operating Monday through Friday between the hours of 9 AM and 5 PM. They will be providing substance abuse, educational and mental-health counseling with the option of Tele-health visits. The development of this counseling center will open the employment opportunities for a site manager, front desk assistant, medical assistant, care coordinators, counselors, and community health workers. The committee did not recommend that a letter of support be issued for the proposed Bronx Counseling Center at this time. The Health and Human Services Committee recognizes the need of services that addresses substance abuse, therefore, they have requested that Essen Health Care return to the Health and Human Services Committee in May with additional information on specific locations where Essen Health Care is located, health outcome improvements, data that will measure the effectiveness of the center, and comparable centers.