



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 6
1932 Arthur Avenue, Room 403-A, Bronx, NY 10457

Telephone: (718) 579-6990 Fax: (718) 579-6875 Email: bronxcb6@bronxcb6.org

Honorable Vanessa L. Gibson, Bronx Borough President

Honorable Oswald Feliz, New York City Council Member

MS. EVONNE CAPERS
Board Chairperson

MR. RAFAEL MOURE-PUNNETT
District Manager

Health and Human Services Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 18, 2023

Kristine Rivera, Health and Human Services Committee Chairperson

The Health and Human Services Committee met on October 18, 2023 at the district office and via Zoom Audio and Video Conference and in-person at the district office. The following board members were present: Margarita Espinosa, Melissa Guzman, Magdamary Marcano, Angel Nunez-Garcia, Samsondeen Raheem, Renee Reed, Kristine Rivera and Carol Robinson.

The Health and Human Services Committee discussed the following information:

- **Informational presentation from Keep It Simple and Safe (KISS)**

The Health and Human Services Committee was informed about the recent report of overdose deaths in the district. In 2022, it was reported that Crotona/Tremont had the highest number of overdose fatalities in New York City. To further efforts towards risk reduction and public safety, KISS requested a list of recommendations for syringe clean-up locations and provided guidance on how to get individuals to obtain their Certified Recovery Peer Advocate (CRPA) and Certified Addiction Recovery Coach (CARC) certifications from the Health and Human Services Committee. They were also informed that the CRPA certification requires 53 hours of training and the CARC certification requires 60 hours of training. KISS offers the training at flexible times and can be completed in as little as two weeks. An individual can apply for a provisional CRPA/CARC certification after completing only the training hours. To gain CRPA/CARC certification without provisional status, 500 practice hours need to be completed within two years in addition to the training hours. CARC does not have a minimum age requirement, whereas CRPA applications must be 18 years old or older. The Health and Human Services Committee recommended the Crotona Parkway Malls as a cleanup site and identified where potential outreach can be done to share information with the CRPA/CARC certifications training information. The Health and Human Services Committee also inquired about the Needle Exchange Program and District Manager Rafael Moure-Punnett discussed the additional advocacy that could be taken for KISS to become certified being that KISS is one of the few organizations providing risk-reduction services in the district, and the Health and Human Services Committee expressed the importance of supporting their peer recovery/substance use prevention activities as well as their Needle Exchange Program application.

- **Discussion on the Preliminary Community District Needs and Community Board Budget Requests for Fiscal Year 2025**

The Health and Human Services Committee discussed the Preliminary Community District Needs and Community Board Budget Requests for Fiscal Year 2025. The Health and Human Services added a request that the R.A.I.N. Mt. Carmel Neighborhood Senior Center's cost of rent to be covered by the City in order for the center to remain providing services in our district. They also discussed the need for updates on the performance of B-HEARD's 911 response program which assigns mental health staff from the New York City Department of Health and Human Services to respond to 911 calls in the district. The Health and Human Services Committee is also requesting data on the demographics of substance misuse in the district.