



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

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Honorable Vanessa L. Gibson, Bronx Borough President

Honorable Oswald Feliz, New York City Council Member

EVONNE CAPERS
Board Chairperson

RAFAEL MOURE-PUNETT, MPA
District Manager

Health and Human Services Committee Meeting Minutes

Kristine Rivera, Committee Chairperson

Thursday, October 16, 2025

The Health and Human Services Committee met on Thursday, October 16, 2025 in-person at the district office and on Zoom Video Communications. The following board members attended the Health and Human Services Meeting: Jessii Parham (virtual), Patrick Downer (absent, virtual without notice), Katrina Rawlins (virtual), Magdamary Marcano, Renee Reed, Hoshi Salcedo, and Lisa Sanchez.

The Health and Human Services Committee discussed the following:

- **Presentation on Weill Cornell Health Screening Van**

A presentation on the services offered by the Health Screening Van was conducted for the Health and Human Services Committee. The Health Screening Van is a collaboration project launched by Columbia's Cancer Center, Weill Cornell Cancer and Imaging Center, and New York Presbyterian. The background for the project is meant to address lung cancer, which is the leading cause of cancer death in the United States. When lung cancer is caught early through early screenings, the five-year survival rate increases from 10% to 90%. In New York State, however, only about 5% of eligible people are getting the lung cancer screening, which is done through low-dose CT scans. Similar mobile units are starting to launch around the country and this is the first mobile screening van for lung cancer in New York City. Data shows that New York City residents are diagnosed with lung cancer at later stages. Lung cancer incidence and mortality is high in the Bronx compared to other boroughs, with the neighborhoods with the highest mortality rate being East Tremont, the Concourse / Highbridge, and Mott Haven.

The collaboration team is working on conducting outreach and education in these areas to discuss lung health and potentially bringing the Health Screening Van to their communities. The project is a comprehensive program that includes clinical navigation to help close the gap in access to screenings, and also offers follow-up care and diagnosis. The goal is to reduce the time for starting treatment to ensure patients have the best chances for a cure. Finding patients who are eligible for a lung cancer screening is very difficult right now. The screening guidelines are established by the United States Preventive Services Task Force and the Center for Medicare and Medicaid. Individuals must meet all three of the following criteria to be eligible for yearly lung cancer screenings: First, individuals must be between the ages of 50 to 80 years old. Second, individuals have to be a current or former smoker who has quit within the past 15 years. Third, individuals must have smoked one pack of cigarettes per day for the last 20 years or half a pack a day for the past 40 years.

The Health Screening Van will bill insurance companies for the screening, but has a sliding fee scale based on income level for people who are uninsured. New York State does have a cancer screening program, which covers mammography, colorectal, and cervical cancer screenings. However, the state program does not cover lung cancer screenings currently. Typically, the Health Screening Van team and a health educator would visit a community organization or a faith-based organization to do a presentation about lung health, tobacco cessation, and the lung cancer screening. The Health Screening Van would conduct a short assessment with

