



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

1932 Arthur Avenue, Room 403-A, Bronx, NY 10457

Telephone: (718) 579-6990 Email: bx06@cb.nyc.gov Website: nyc.gov/bxcb6

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, Health and Human Services Committee Chairperson

Thursday, February 12, 2026

The Health and Human Services Committee met on Thursday, February 12, 2026 in-person at the district office and on Zoom Video Communications. The following board members attended the Health and Human Services Meeting: Nicole Carter (Virtual), Laura James (Virtual), Maria Latimer, Magdamary Marcano (Virtual), Jessii Parham, Kristine Rivera, Hoshi Salcedo, and Lisa Sanchez.

The Health and Human Services Committee discussed the following:

- **Presentation from River Garden on Wellness in West Farms Workshops**

Bronx River Community Garden is seeking funding for a set of interconnected, community-centered programs designed to support the health, resilience, and self-sufficiency of West Farms residents. The programs will be free and open to all residents, ages 12 and up. Registration will be capped at 24 participants per session.

The “Wellness in West Farms” program is a 10-session, community-centered wellness workshop series designed to support physical health, emotional resilience, and collective well-being through movement, education, and rest. Hosted at the Bronx River Community Garden, the program offers a consistent, welcoming space where neighbors can care for their bodies, share knowledge, and build community in a natural setting. Each weekly gathering integrates gentle movement, practical health discussion, and restorative practices into a single, cohesive experience.

The “Wellness in West Farms” program will take place on Sundays, from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM. The program will run from April 26th to June 28th. On select weeks, sessions will feature sound bath meditation, Tai Chi, and gentle movement yoga. Five sessions will include guided discussion and practical teaching focused on helping participants take an active role in their health. Topics emphasize accessible, preventative, and self-directed strategies, including natural and alternative approaches to wellness, herbal and homeopathic remedies, lifestyle practices that support long-term health, tools for self-advocacy within healthcare systems, and low-cost and practical health resources community members can use at home.

The “BRCG Gardening 101” program will take place from April 11th to May 9th over the course of 5 Saturdays, from 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM. This beginner gardening series supports Bronx River Community Garden’s mission by reducing barriers to entry for new gardeners, strengthening long-term participation and retention, and building practical skills that promote food literacy and Stewardship. By equipping participants with foundational knowledge and hands-on experience, this program helps ensure the continued vitality and sustainability of the garden and its members.

The committee discussed collaboration with community partners that can offer health education and resources, such as Essen, SBH Health System, and Urban Health Plan. In addition to advertising the Bronx River Garden’s programs on the Board’s newsletter and social media pages, the committee suggested coordinating a feature by News12.

- **Discussion on the Committee Vice-Chairperson Role**

The Health and Human Services Committee discussed the need to appoint a Vice Chairperson in light of a potential bylaw amendment that would require committee chairs to attend in person when meetings are held in person. In that context, members suggested that each committee elect a Vice Chair to serve in the Chair's absence when necessary. Members emphasized the importance of having a designated Vice Chair to assist with meeting facilitation, coordination of agenda items, and ensuring continuity of leadership.

A motion to open the election for Vice Chairpersons of the Health and Human Services Committee and Transportation Committee was made by Magdamary Marcano, and seconded by Kristine Rivera. Hoshi Salcedo was elected Vice Chairperson of the Health and Human Services Committee. Jessii Parham was elected Vice Chairperson of the Transportation Committee.

- **Other Business**

- **Discussion on Climate Change Resource Fair**

The committee discussed distributing the climate resource fair event flyers at the public forum hosted by the Mayor's Office for Climate Justice on March 3rd at BRAC. The committee also discussed advertising the Board's climate resource fair on social media and inviting News12 to cover the event. The committee recommended requesting funds from the office of Council Member Oswald Feliz to support the climate workshop. The committee identified Con Edison, the Bronx Zoo, and the Botanical Garden as potential partners that can offer resources for Earth Day. The committee also suggested applying for a street closure of 180th Street on the date of the Climate Change Resource Fair.

- **Support for lowcostvet.org**

The committee discussed the loss of the pet surgeon at a low cost mobile veterinary clinic, lowcostvet.org. The van operated at locations across the five boroughs, including at Fordham Road on Tuesdays. The committee expressed interest in reaching out to the organization to inquire about the support needed to continue offering their services and possibly helping the van obtain a permanent parking spot in the district.



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 District Manager

Health and Human Services and Transportation Committee Meeting
Thursday, February 12, 2026

| Health and Human Services Committee | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Board Members | Signature | Virtual Attendance |
| Patrick Downer | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Maria Latimer | <i>Maria Latimer</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Jessii Parham | <i>Jessii Parham</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Katrina Rawlins | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Kristine Rivera | <i>Kristine Rivera</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Lisa Sanchez | <i>Lisa Sanchez</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Transportation Committee | | |
| Board Members | Signature | Virtual Attendance |
| Maria Latimer | <i>Maria Latimer</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Magdamary Marcano | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Jessii Parham | <i>Jessii Parham</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Kristine Rivera | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Lisa Sanchez | <i>Lisa Sanchez</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <i>HHS</i> Hosli Salcedo | <i>Hosli Salcedo</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>VIRTUAL</u> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Laura James | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Nicole Carter | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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