

Minutes of the Health, Hospitals & Social Services Committee
Bronx Community Board 8
Wednesday, April 8, 2026, at 7:00 pm
Bronx Community Board 8 Office – 5676 Riverdale Ave, Suite 100, Bronx, NY 10471
[Meeting Recording Link](#)

The Health, Hospitals, and Social Services Committee meeting was called to order at approximately 7:07 p.m.

Present (2): Dr. W. DeBeatham (chair), Dr. J. Gomez

Absent (2): S. Matthews (vice-chair), S. Chittilappilly

Other Board Member or Staff (1): L. Spalter (**Zoom**)

Community Members: (In Person) M. Claude D. Gelman

Quorum not met

Chair's Report:

- Completion of Padavan Letter of Support for Mosaic
- Status of Current legislation – no current activity regarding Fentanyl Test Strips or New York Health Act.

Unfinished Business:

- Budget Priorities
 - Support for Domestic Violence Survivors
 - e.g. Funding for DV officer
 - Support for mental health services, and possibility of interacting with other committee – including veteran's affairs
- Discussion re Harm Reduction as a budget item and Resolution
- Specific items like test strips, Narcan, outreach
 - Review of the Impact of Fentanyl and need for harm reduction
 - Collaboration with health resources in the jurisdiction

Discussion on New York State Health Act

- Importance of addressing all the concerns raised by the proposed bill
- Feasibility of Single Payer System
- Concerns from unions
- Impact on the Working poor
- Patient choice
- Possibility of town hall for community discussion/town hall style event with Senator Rivera or Representative Dinowitz
- Distinction between supporting the principles underlying the bill and the bill as a whole
 - Do we support the bill? The principles underlying it?

Discussion on Harm Reduction:

- Currently no legislation is pending
- Importance of harm reduction as a concept and need for specific language in Budget request and as a resolution; Resolution as a policy and specific needs as a budget request.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:54 pm

Next Meeting Dates: May 13, 2026 & June 10, 2026

Minutes Submitted by: Dr. Wayne DeBeatham