

**Minutes of Aging Committee – Bronx Community Board 8
Thursday, October 16, 2025 at 4:00 P.M.**

Bronx Community Board 8 Office – 5676 Riverdale Ave, Suite 100, Bronx, NY 10471

Meeting Recording: https://youtu.be/z8_V4qeOOJs?si=u0koEzojaMqkAeae

Committee Members in Attendance (4): Barbara Kail (Chair), Lee Chong, Georgia Santiago, Jyll D. Townes

Absent Committee Members (2): Rabbi Bob Kaplan, E. Doyle McCarthy (Community Committee Member)

Community Board 8 Guests: Julie Reyes (Chairperson, Bronx CB8), Farrak Kule Rubin (District Manager), Ardy Malziu (Community Coordinator)

Guest Attendees: Josue Melendez (NYC Aging), Margie Schustack (Riverdale Senior Services), Aubrey Balcom (RiverSpring Living), Miriam Rabner (MJHS Health System), Merritt Claude, Alexis Rummey, Cecilia Santana, Lisa Daub, Euselta Pickering

B. Kail called the meeting to order at 4:03 P.M.

Each participant introduced him/herself and where applicable, described the services provided by the organizations they represent.

A roll call was announced. A quorum (4) was present.

Approval of Meeting Minutes of September 11, 2025:

Minutes of the September 11, 2025 meeting were approved unanimously.

In Favor (4): B. Kail, L. Chong, G. Santiago, J. Townes

Opposed (0) Abstentions (0)

Chairperson's Report

New Mission Statement review: Several edits were suggested and incorporated into the new mission statement. Participants were invited to send any other suggestions via email. The finalized version will be circulated again for approval at the next meeting.

Guest Speaker: Josue Melendez, Deputy Director of Government Affairs, NYC Aging

Mr. Melendez reported on a recent study of the needs of older New Yorkers: *The State of Older New Yorkers*.

<https://www.nyc.gov/assets/dfta/downloads/pdf/news-reports/the-state-of-older-new-yorkers-2025.pdf>

This was a collaboration between NYC Aging and the Mayor's Council on Aging, with the goal of creating new and innovated ways to address the needs identified. The most important findings are:

- Forty percent of caregivers do not identify as caregivers. They are not utilizing to fullest the available services. Most of these caregivers are employed, many also care for children.
- Older adults themselves have trouble accessing housing and a steady food supply.
- Health needs include accessing vaccines, social isolation.
- Elder justice – Older persons bear a special burden as victims of crime. For this reason, an older adult liaison has been designated in each precinct.
- There is a clear digital divide between younger and older persons. 30% of the sample had no computer or tablet. The next step is to determine how best to connect to resources
- Older people appear to lack of information on what OACs can provide – stereotypes and misconceptions are barriers to accessing services and training
- Transportation is often mentioned as a need by this sample. Based on this, NYC Aging is revamping its transportation program

Aubrey Balcom asked Mr. Melendez what he saw as the role of the Committee on Aging. Mr. Melendez asked that we identify needs of the community, align them with those identified in the report. The report also has some tangible resources that we can include in our Resource Guide.

Old Business

- Our first task will be to look at our Resource Guide in terms of the findings just described. E.g.: resources for caregivers, accessing services for victims of crimes.
- For each section we might begin with an initial point of contact in bold.

New Business

- NYC Aging has reviewed our Resource Guide and will get back to us shortly.
- Budget priorities: Our budget priorities were submitted in April 2025 and will be voted on in October 2025 by the full Board. New priorities will be submitted later in year. Certain adjustments can be made for programming contracts. Mr. Melendez might be one point of contact.

Next Meeting – Thursday, November 6, 2025

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Kail (Chair)