



BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 8

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Julie Reyes, Chairperson

Vanessa L. Gibson, Bronx Borough President

Farrah Kule Rubin, District Manager

MEETING MINUTES OF THE HEALTH, HOSPITALS, & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE (HHSS)

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|-----------------|--|------------|---------|----------|--|
| DATE | September 13, 2023 | START TIME | 7:00 PM | END TIME | |
| MEETING HELD AT | BXCB8 OFFICE – Conference Room | | | | |
| ADDRESS | 5676 Riverdale Avenue, Bronx, NY 10471 | | | | |

ATTENDANCE

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|-------|---|
| Present | Rabbi Bob Kaplan, Margaret Della | Total | 2 |
| Absent | Sebastian Chittilappilly | Total | 1 |
| Extraordinary Circumstances | Steve Froot, Barbara Kail, Josh Land, Omar Murray | Total | 4 |
| Guest | Nancy Kheck (BXBP), Pablo Romano (BXCB8 Staff) | Total | 2 |

Rabbi Kaplan introduced himself to the committee as the new Chair and thanked the previous Chair for his service and guidance.

The committee reviewed and approved the minutes of the **June 2023 meeting**.

Rabbi Kaplan introduced the presenter for the meeting Dr. Nancy Kheck, Director of Health and Human Services of the Bronx Borough President.

Dr. Kheck reviewed the state of health care in the Bronx noting that the borough is 62nd among the 62 counties of New York State in its health care indicators.

Dr. Kheck spoke about the Borough

Presidents plan to improve these health care indicators that are all data based. She reviewed the Strategic Plan laid out by the Borough President designed to improve the broad arenas of health care in the Bronx including.

- Expansion of School Based Health Programs
- Address the complex barriers that leads to poor Maternal Health Care
- Create a Bronx based birth center.
- Create better access to reproductive health care including protection of abortion access.
- Addressing the core indicators and causes of domestic and gender-based violence.
- Provide more and effective public education concerning health care access.
- Improve access to mental health and resources.

- Improve and increase resources addressing the opiate crisis.
- Create better opportunities to prevent and manage asthma crisis in the Bronx

The full details of the Borough President's plan to improve health care in the Bronx can be found in **The Strategic Policy Statement of September 2022**

<https://ukj187.p3cdn2.secureserver.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Strategic-Policy-Statement-of-Bronx-Borough-President-Vanessa-L.-Gibson.pdf>

The Committee also began a process of identifying areas of health care and social services they feel its important to explore and develop a plan of recommendations and action around

Amongst these areas are :

- ✓ Response to Covid
- ✓ Food Justice
- ✓ Maternal Health Care
- ✓ Domestic Violence
- ✓ Reproductive and Sexual Rights
- ✓ Mental Health
- ✓ HIV Treatment and Prevention

The committee will continue to identify areas for exploration.

The committee set its next date of October 11, 2023

Minutes drafted and reviewed by Rabbi Bob Kaplan, Chair