

**(Pending Committee Approval)**

**Minutes for Health, Hospitals, and Social Services Committee  
Bronx Community Board 8  
Wednesday, September 10, 2025 at 7:00pm  
Board Office – 5676 Riverdale Ave, Suite 100, Bronx, NY 10471**

Meeting called to order at 7:22 p.m.

**Welcome & Roll Call**

Present (4): Dr. W. DeBeatham (Chair), S. Chittilappilly, Dr. J. Gomez, Rabbi R Kaplan, J. Reyes (CB8 Chair)

Zoom: S. Matthews

Guests – R Pultinas, JBOLC

Community (Zoom) Romeo, A. Minguez, N. Charley, S. Johnson, B. Gardner, J. Lovelace; (In Person) M. Claude, M. Rabner

**Approval of Minutes from April – June 2025**

Motion to vote – S. Chittilappilly; Seconded Dr. J. Gomez; Unanimous Approval

**Chair's Report**

- Nothing new to report
- Vote of gratitude to Rabbi for his efforts chairing this committee in the past

**Discussion of Goal Setting & Priorities**

Logistical Challenges for HHSS in CB 8

Discussion re: Health Factors affecting community - Topics included:

- Trauma
- Suicide
- Public Health
- Social Isolation
- Vaccines and Vaccine Mandates.
- School to Prison Pipeline/ Dearth of Early Access to Mental Health Services
- Impact of Social Media/ 24 hour news cycle on mental health, especially in children
- Impact of the “Big Beautiful Bill”
  - How do we help community members who would be affected by these drastic cuts
  - Medicaid cuts

- Where can members of the community can obtain flu shots and COVID shots from pharmacies; or how to go about getting a prescription from their primary care provider.
  - provide some information to the local press and other media outlets on what's available.
- Concerns re Health Screenings (daycare, etc) and referrals for other services.
  - Partnering with local nurses or nurse trainees from local institutions (e.g. Hunter, Mercy)

**SAPO Application for an upcoming rally – R. Pultinas from James Baldwin Outdoor Learning Center**

- Saturday September 13th
- Discussion of what the JBOLC provides
- Concerns re Asthma rates in the Bronx

Motion to vote – S. Chittilappilly; Seconded Dr. J. Gomez; Unanimous Approval

Application was approved.

**Unfinished Business**

None

**Discussion with Rabbi Kaplan, outgoing Chair**

- Attendance
- Societal Polarization
- Concerns with Impact of Budget Cuts on Community Health, especially Mental Health

**Meeting Adjourned**

The meeting adjourned at 8:02pm

Minutes submitted by Dr. W. DeBeatham (Chair)

Recording Link: [https://youtu.be/CwpLaq0vOMI?si=UpwvL4E\\_WBrWx3c1](https://youtu.be/CwpLaq0vOMI?si=UpwvL4E_WBrWx3c1)