

Minutes of the Health, Hospitals & Social Services Committee
Bronx Community Board 8
Wednesday, February 11, 2026, at 7:00 pm
Bronx Community Board 8 Office – 5676 Riverdale Ave, Suite 100, Bronx, NY 10471
[Meeting Recording Link](#)

Meeting called to order 7:02 pm

Committee Members Present (4): W. DeBeatham, MD (chair); S. Matthews (vice chair); S. Chittilappilly, J. Gomez, PhD

Committee Members Absent (1): Rabbi B. Kaplan (zoom)

Other Board Members Present (1): Board Chairperson J. Reyes (zoom)

Guests Present: Dr. D. Dmitri Freeman (Mosaic Health Services); Tamia Phillips (Alzheimer's Association)

Motion to approve Minutes from January 14, 2026 – Approved

Presentation from Tamika Phillips, Alzheimer's Association

Link here: <https://youtu.be/qMVHNUBYw9E>

Facts about Alzheimer's Disease

“Paint The Bronx Purple” Campaign

- Goal: Spreading Awareness
- Community Driven initiatives

Programs available through Alzheimer's Association

Partnering with the NYC Marathon - fundraising > 1 million 2025

Partnering with other Endurance Events

Upcoming plans for Alzheimer's Walk

Open to any community-driven event that increases awareness, promotes healthy brain habits and early diagnosis

Key Warning Signs (adapted for CDC website)

- Memory Loss: Forgetting recently learned information, important dates, or asking the same questions repeatedly.
- Planning/Problem-Solving Difficulties: Trouble managing a budget, following a familiar recipe, or keeping track of bills.
- Familiar Task Challenges: Difficulty driving to a known location, organizing a grocery list, or remembering rules of a favorite game.
- Disorientation: Losing track of dates, seasons, and passage of time, or forgetting where they are and how they got there.
- Visual/Spatial Problems: Trouble reading, judging distances, or determining color/contrast, which can affect driving and safety.
- Language Issues: Struggling to follow conversations, or having trouble finding the right words, sometimes calling objects by the wrong name.
- Misplacing Items: Placing items in inappropriate places (e.g., keys in the fridge) and losing the ability to retrace steps.
- Poor Judgment: Making questionable decisions with money, hygiene, or in social situations.

- Withdrawal: Giving up hobbies, social activities, work projects, or sports.
- Mood/Personality Changes: Becoming confused, suspicious, depressed, fearful, or anxious, particularly unfamiliar

**Note - many signs can be missed/masked in high-functioning/ high-ability individuals who can compensate*

Why is the Bronx so high on the list?

- Infrastructure?
- Health-related?
- Comorbidities?
- Diet? (note - certain diets have been found to be neuroprotective)

High Prevalence - Maryland, New York City, Florida

NYC 16.6% of people over the age of 65. NYC - highest prevalence in Bronx, followed by Brooklyn.

Over 400,000 in New York State living with Alzheimer's or other forms of dementia

African Americans - highest prevalence, followed by Hispanic Americans

Female > Male

Toolkits available to help - available at alz.org, will leave additional samples at CB 8 office

Recurring programs for people with dementia or caregivers - currently only one in Co-op City

November - Alzheimer's awareness month

June - Brain Health month

24/7 helpline with confidential support information 1 800-272-3900 Additional resources available at alz.org, including dementia-related resources and support groups.

Additional questions ? tphillips@alz.org

Diagnosis requires a multi-disciplinary interdisciplinary approach, including psychiatric, geriatric

Diagnosis can be difficult

Connecting patients with clinical trials (site called Trial Match)

Proposed Amendment of Agenda to allow for Presentation by Mosaic Mental Health Services - Approved; added to Agenda

Presentation by Dr. Donna Dmitri Friedman, Mosaic Health Services

- Facility purchased, plan to move services to 640 West 239th Street
- Driven by desire to expand services and partner with group providing primary care services - one-stop shop for care, AND accepts Medicare, Medicaid
- Previously grant-funded, now licensed by state office of Mental Health.
- Services include PT, OT, possible dental, primary and possible maternal care
- Plan for services from 8:30 am - 8:30 pm, weekends, including Sundays
- Large overlap with the services that that JBFCs provided
- Will work with all ages. Individual, group, family, couples therapy
- Will have psychiatrists on staff. Possibility of psychotropic medication when necessary.
- Plan for development for Learning Center

- Potential to have students in healthcare professions to participate
- Importance of addressing mental health needs in the community, especially trauma

Board concerns:

- Congestion, given the location near bus stop
- Possibility of people requiring services congregating outside
- Committee is largely in support of providing letters of support, but in light of late addition to agenda, reluctant to proceed without community notification.

Discussion about providing conditional letter of support

Discussion regarding *when* notice occurred

Possibility of expedited meeting March 5th, in order to present before full board within the 40-day window

Chair's Report:

- Thanks to Vice Chair for representing the committee at last meeting

Old Business:

- Discussion regarding adding funding for Domestic/Intimate partner violence, increased funding for counseling resources
- Discussion regarding resolution on harm reduction, with possible direct support for fentanyl test strips, vs adding to budget request (INT 1179-2025)
- Discussion regarding resolution supporting New York State Health Act (Senate Bill 3425)
- Currently New York State Senate Bill with companion bill in the Assembly
- Additional Questions regarding NYS Health Act
 - What states have had success with Single Payer?
 - Will the feasibility studies be updated?
 - How will the board be compromised/ selected? How many are required to have expertise in healthcare finance?
- Key points in a potential Resolution:
 1. Health Care as a human right
 2. Access to care should not rely on wealth, income or employment
 3. Discussion on current costs
 4. Virtually only industrialized nation without some form of universal healthcare

New Business:

Schervier Rehabilitation and Nursing Center - failed to file notice and paperwork for work in SNAD area; potential impact to license

Discussion regarding changing meeting time/date to March 5th, 2026, in order to ensure that community is appropriately notified, and to allow for appropriate timing for Padawan letter.

Motion to adjourn

Meeting Adjourned at 8:52

Minutes Submitted by: Dr. Wayne DeBeatham