

Bronx Community Board No. 8
Minutes of the Health, Hospitals and Social Services Committee
Held on Wednesday, January 10th, 2024, at 7:00pm
BXCB8 Office – Conference Room
[Meeting Recording](#)

Welcome and Roll Call

The committee meeting started at 7:16p.m. Rabbi Kaplan confirmed whether or not everyone received the message of the recording in their email.

Present (5): Rabbi Bob Kaplan (Chair), Sebastian Chittilappilly, Margaret Della (EC), Steven Froot (EC), Barbara Kail

Absent (1): Josh Land, Omar Murray

Board Member: Julie Reyes

Announcement of Members Participating due to Extraordinary Circumstances:

Barbara Kail

Approval of Committee Minutes: December 13, 2023

No vote due to not having quorum

Chairperson's Report

Old Business: None

New Business

- **Meeting Time for Future Meetings**

Meetings will begin at 7p.m. instead of 7:30pm. going forward. Next meeting will be February 13th, 2024

- **Discussion on Forum on Trauma**

In reference to the Forum on Trauma, Rabbi asked, if someone attends this forum, what do you want them to walk away with? (The Forum of Trauma focuses on the impact of hate upon both communal and individual health)

-To clarify the purposes of the Forum Rabbi Kaplan states, "Hate has become pervasive within our society" and elucidated that "all of this hate has been affecting people in a very, very profound way both on a communal level and in an individual level" Here is some context:

- Members of the Jewish community are deeply concerned about rising antisemitism following the events in Israel on October 7th, 2023. A substantial part of the population are experiencing heart palpitations, they have become withdrawn, depressed, fearful, and

they are not able to tend to their personal lives. These aspects are all communal as it affects the whole community

- Similarly, when speaking to people in the Muslim community, peoples in the African-American community, and individuals in the Caribbean-American community- expressed similar feelings about the consistency of racism and the impact it has on their lives.

Rabbi Kaplan also posed the question: What has been the lasting impact of racism on healthcare disparities? (Note: Due to issues of systemic racism, there is real deep impact in the level of health care that many communities of color receive)

Regarding what we hope individuals will gain from attending this forum. Magaret Della identifies three points we need to address (Rabbi Kaplan summarizes it here):

- 1) The importance of adding validity. We must acknowledge how people feel, as well as verify their emotions and feelings.
- 2) The need to offer understanding on how one copes with these feelings. Such as providing different interventions on how to deal with these issues.
- 3) Addressing how one becomes part of a system that is effectively addressing these concerns, whether its an ally or someone cognizant of.

In response to Barbara Kali, Rabbi Kaplan states that there are several possible audiences:

- 1) Leadership- community and faith based leaders for example; rabbis, imams, priests, and pastors.
- 2) Community members in the LGBTQ community.
- 3) Leaders in different aspects of other communities.

Josh makes note that the governor is offering more mental health services. Rabbi Kaplan adds the governor is looking to increase the accessibility to mental health in the context of New York State.

Rabbi Kaplan wants the Forum on Trauma to begin with a panel of experts in different fields.

- Law Enforcement (In order to provide data, facts and figures)
- Mayor's Office - (Discuss the impact on trauma as well as prevention methods)
- Mental Health Professionals (Speak to the issue of how the "trauma" and "hate" impacts one physically and emotionally)

In addressing outreach, Rabbi Kaplan asks, "what's the ability of the Community Board to reach into different aspects of the community with information"?

Julie Reyes mentions that there is a) The directory in the office, it is used to reach out to various organizations and residents. b) Social wise, the Community Board is on Facebook and in newspapers. c) Community outreach, new employee, Arty, will go into various communities to engage in outreach.

Reach out to:

- Rubén Díaz Jr. and Marcos A. Crespo
 - FQHC (Federally Qualified Health Center), and
 - DOHMH (Department of Health and Mental Hygiene)
 - Borough President Office
 - District Attorney Office
 - Farah May (Julie Reyes will email Rabbi Kaplan information)
- Margaret Della, Barbara Kali, and Sebastian will meet extra and work closely with Rabbi Kaplan to organize the forum/initiative.

Rabbi Kaplan highlights that, mental health, in many institutions:

- Not considered essential.
- Little to no coverage.
- Hard to get approval for long-term interventions on mental health.

Over the next several months, Rabbi Kaplan explains the small committee will speak and work with the big committee. By early spring, we want to provide the community with something impactful.

Meeting adjourned at 8:07pm

Minutes recorded by Taya Jackson
Reviewed by Rabbi Bob Kaplan, Chair