

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

Welcome and Roll Call

Present (3): Rabbi Bob Kaplan, Chair, Barbara Kail, Josh Land

Absent (3): Sebastian Chittilappily, Margaret Della, Omar Murray

Guest: Pastor Philip Falayi (Faith Based Initiatives), Miryam Rabner (MJHS Hospice), Faiz Kareem (Medicare Sales Manager), Guy Sancio (Medicare Representative)

The committee meeting started at 7:05p.m. Rabbi Kaplan says hello and thanks everyone who is present.

Announcement of Members Participating due to Extraordinary Circumstances (EC)

Rabbi Kaplan said no members contacted him regarding extraordinary circumstances.

Approval of Committee Minutes

Not ready yet.

Chairperson's Report

Rabbi Kaplan reported that the previous committee meeting went excellent.

Rabbi Kaplan asked members from HealthFirst to discuss two topics with us:

- 1) The world of Medicare and Medicaid (for seniors in particular).
- 2) The new educational initiative that Pastor Falayi is working on.

Presentation: Healthfirst – Medicare & Seniors

Faiz Kareem began the presentation with an information session. Healthfirst is a not-for-profit, and is sponsored by New York's leading hospitals. Healthfirst's vision is providing their members with the same level of care and attention they would expect for their own families.

Medicare is split into Parts A (Hospital Insurance), Parts B (Medical Insurance), Parts C (Medicare Advantage Plan), and Parts D (Prescription Drug Coverage). Faize Kareem said they are responsible for Part C, the Medicare Advantage Plan.

The Medicare Savings Program (MSP) is a federal program that helps people with limited income and resources pay for some of their Medicare costs. MSPs are responsible for things such as:

- Paying for the Part B premium (\$165) for 12 months
- Provide automatic enrollment into Full Extra Help

-Eliminate late enrollment penalties

Traditional Medicare differs from the Medicare Advantage Plan. An individual who is on Medicare has 80% of their bill covered, and they are responsible for the 20%. Whereas, in the Medicare Advantage Plan, they are responsible for paying the doctors and hospitals. Also, instead of having a 20% fee, members have a set copay and they know what they will pay every time. The Medical Advantage Plan does not have additional premium fees.

Those who have both Medicare and Medicaid are eligible for an OTC (over-the-counter) drug card, which provides them with funds to purchase non-prescription items. The Life Improvement Plan provides \$525 every three months and Complete Care Plan is \$250 every three months.

Pastor Falayi is working on an initiative that is focused on 18-24 year olds, as well as college and beyond. They want to help students construct resumes, find jobs, and engage in mentorship programs. As an interfaith organization, they aim to work with diverse groups of people. They will go into communities and do outreach work. Pastor Falayi

Discussion: June Meeting Time

In June, the next meeting was supposed to take place during the Jewish holiday Shavuot. The office tried to find another evening slot that is open for us to have the meeting, but to no avail. We may possibly have to meet on Zoom, Rabbi Kaplan will follow up.

Old Business

Due to some members being absent, we were not able to proceed with the discussion of the Forum on Hate.

New Business

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:37p.m.