

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

The Health, Hospitals, and Social Services Committee meeting was called to order at approximately 7:07 p.m.

**Present (4):** Dr. W. DeBeatham (chair), Dr. J. Gomez

**Absent (1):** S. Matthews (vice-chair), S. Chittilappilly

**Other Board Member or Staff (1):** L. Spalter (**Zoom**)

**Community Members: (In Person)** M. Claude D. Gelman

Quorum not met

**Chair's Report:**

- Completion of Padavan Letter of Support for Mosaic
- Status of Current legislation – no current activity regarding Fentanyl Test Strips or New York Health Act.

**Unfinished Business:**

- Budget Priorities
  - Support for Domestic Violence Survivors
    - e.g. Funding for DV officer
  - Support for mental health services, and possibility of interacting with other committee – including veteran's affairs
- Discussion re Harm Reduction as a budget item and Resolution
- Specific items like test strips, Narcan, outreach
  - Review of the Impact of Fentanyl and need for harm reduction
  - Collaboration with health resources in the jurisdiction

**Discussion on New York State Health Act**

- Importance of addressing all the concerns raised by the proposed bill
- Feasibility of Single Payer System
- Concerns from unions
- Impact on the Working poor
- Patient choice
- Possibility of town hall for community discussion/town hall style event with Senator Rivera or Representative Dinowitz
- Distinction between supporting the principles underlying the bill and the bill as a whole
  - Do we support the bill? The principles underlying it?

**Discussion on Harm Reduction:**

- Currently no legislation is pending
- Importance of harm reduction as a concept and need for specific language in Budget request and as a resolution; Resolution as a policy and specific needs as a budget request.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:54 pm

**Next Meeting Dates: May 13, 2026 & June 10, 2026**

Minutes Submitted by: Dr. Wayne DeBeatham