

Minutes of the Health, Hospitals & Social Services Committee
Bronx Community Board 8
Wednesday, March 5, 2026, at 6:00 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 6:03 p.m.

Present (4): Dr. W. DeBeatham (chair), S. Matthews (vice-chair), S. Chittilappilly, Dr. J. Gomez

Absent (1): Rabbi R. Kaplan

Board members and Staff in attendance: J. Reyes (Chairperson, Zoom), J. Adorno (Staff Liaison)

Community Members: (**ZOOM**) M. Rabner (MJHS); (**In Person**) M. Claude

Motion to approve Minutes from the February 11th meeting by S. Chittilappilly, seconded by S. Matthews, and unanimously approved.

Chair's Report

Discussion of the Padavan letter of support related to Mosaic Mental Health (formerly Riverdale Mental Health Association) and updated licensure for existing crisis respite services.

The physical addresses of some facilities were not included on the agenda – to be added to future documentation

Discussion on Mosaic Mental Health and Licensure of Crisis Respite Facilities

Mosaic Mental Health is relocating its main health clinic and services from 5676 Riverdale Avenue to 239th Street in the Bronx.

They operate a crisis respite facility currently located on 232nd Street, which will continue its services post-relocation.

There was clarification that the shift involved moving from grant-based operations to requiring certification, and certification triggers the need for official letters of support, including the Padavan letter.

Community Board Concerns

Community members expressed concerns about increased traffic and pedestrian safety near the new Mosaic location, noting the intersection's complexity with multiple bus routes and heavy local traffic.

A community member shared past experiences with traffic congestion and visible distress among clients at a previous behavioral health facility (Jewish Board) in the area.

Committee members (including licensed behavioral health professionals) clarified that while patients may leave sessions upset, the organization is obligated to ensure clients' stability prior to discharge. It was also noted that no such prior concerns were reported specifically about Mosaic at this location.

Committee members noted that Mosaic has ample indoor space to limit loitering and/or ensure stability of distressed individuals prior to exiting the building, aiming to mitigate previous issues seen with other organizations.

Suggestions from board/community included managing drop-off and pick-up zones carefully and possibly directing vehicles to alternative nearby areas to reduce congestion.

Community Feedback on Traffic and Parking

A local resident reported minimal issues with parking or traffic delays related to the facilities, noting availability of metered parking a short distance away, including that they lived near the 232nd street site and was unaware that facilities were located there.

Another member emphasized the need to address concerns about traffic management formally in the resolution and letter of support.

Resolution and Letter of Support Drafting

The committee agreed to draft a resolution supporting both Mosaic's location change and crisis respite facilities in the form of a Padavan letter, incorporating concerns of traffic management and community impact. This letter and accompanying resolution will be presented to the full board for approval in the upcoming meeting, ensuring compliance with procedural timelines (within a 40-day window from notification).

Old Business:

Budget Priorities

Discussion regarding budget priorities concerning harm reduction, domestic and intimate partner violence survivor support, and counseling resources.

Discussion centered on defining harm reduction funding requests, including whether to specify items such as fentanyl test strips or address harm reduction broadly.

Members expressed that general harm reduction concepts lack specificity for budget proposals.

The deadline for budget submissions is May 15.

Update on New York State Health Act and Related Legislation

The New York State Health Act remains pending before Assembly and Senate health committees with no hearings scheduled, and it is not included in the governor's current budget proposal.

Additional Background

Senator Gustavo Rivera is the primary Senate sponsor; Assembly Member Jeffrey Dinowitz is a co-sponsor in the Assembly. Senate bill has approximately 32 co-sponsors; Assembly bill has about 60, but neither forms a majority.

The bill has a long legislative history dating back to the early 1990s, with previous passage in the Assembly but no Senate approval.

The bill number for the Senate is S.3425, with an identical Assembly bill number

Neither chamber currently has majority sponsorship to pass the bill.

Opposition primarily stems from labor groups, particularly public employee unions, due to Medicaid-related cost and federal reaction concerns.

Discussion had on whether to draft a resolution supporting universal healthcare in principle or to wait for a more concrete bill version, with specific concerns about the nebulous nature of "universal healthcare" questions about scope and definition.

The bill's complexity and length (~30 pages) require thorough review before formal committee consideration.

A recommendation was made to keep the issue on the agenda and possibly hold a dedicated forum or Q&A session to educate the board and community. Such an event could feature the bill's sponsors, Senator Rivera and Assembly Member Dinowitz, to foster discussion and transparency.

Status of Related Council Bill on Harm Reduction

City Council bill INT 1179-2025 concerning harm reduction measures such as fentanyl test strips and needle exchange programs.

No new version of the bill is confirmed; currently, only the previous iteration is known.

The committee decided to table further discussion until more information on the bill's status is available.

New Business:

Update on CMS Fraud Inquiry and Budget Implications

Committee member S. Chittilappilly updated the board to an emerging concern: CMS (Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services) sent a letter to New York State citing concerns about potential fraud in programs such as CDP, adult daycare, and non-emergency medical transportation.

The letter requests extensive documentation within 30 days. This inquiry could lead to withholding of federal matching funds, affecting state budgets and potentially impacting service funding.

A moratorium on new durable medical equipment applications for six months has also been discussed.

The committee acknowledged the seriousness of this development and agreed to place it on the agenda for the next meeting.

Meeting Adjournment and Future Scheduling

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:49 p.m. following a motion Dr. J. Gomez and seconded by S. Chittilappilly. Passed unanimously.

The next full board meeting is scheduled for the following Tuesday. The board meeting will take place at Intech Academy; the committee will not meet the following Wednesday due to today's session.

The Health, Hospitals, and Social Services Committee will reconvene on April 8th, with consideration given to potential calendar conflicts.

Next Meeting Dates: April 8, 2026, May 13, 2026 & June 10, 2026

Minutes Submitted by: Dr. Wayne DeBeatham