

Pending Committee Approval  
**BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD No. 8**  
**MINUTES OF THE HEALTH, HOSPITALS AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING**  
Held on Wednesday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
St. Stephen's United Methodist Church  
146 West 228<sup>th</sup> Street  
Bronx, NY 10463

**PRESENT**

Omar Murray  
Steve Froot  
Martin Gluck  
Tao Moran  
Karen Pesce

**AFFILIATION**

Chair, Health, Hospitals and Social Services Committee  
CB8- Committee Member  
CB8- Committee Member  
CB8- Committee Member  
CB8- Committee Member

**GUESTS**

Andrew Cohen  
Lisa Daub  
Rosemary Ginty  
Jeffrey Klein  
Dan Padernacht  
Jeffrey Dinowitz  
Eric Dinowitz  
Margaret Donato

Councilman, NYC 11<sup>th</sup> District  
Secretary, Bronx Community Board 8  
Chair, Bronx Community Board 8  
Ekawa Representative  
Chair, Traffic and Transportation Committee  
NYS Assembly  
Chair, Aging Committee  
Chair, Public Safety

**ABSENT**

Julia Gomez  
Committee

Vice-Chair, Health, Hospitals and Social Services

The meeting was called to order at 7:29 PM. Committee members and guests signed (approximately 50 members of the community) the attendance sheet on arrival. The meeting was started by Committee members and guests introducing themselves and their affiliation.

The previous meeting minutes of March 2019 was approved.

**Vote:**

Yes: 4

No: 0

Abs: 0

Ms. Pesce not present during vote

Carlos Tejeda, Community Health Specialist Community and Population Health at Montefiore presented a community survey that he would like community input on health topics of interest to them including: mental health, obesity... He brought flyers for the board and some for the community. The survey can be taken online through an application to your Smartphone or on their website. This helps Montefiore secure funding for programs necessary every three years for their community outreach planning.

Presentation on EKAWA Drug Treatment Center by Jeffrey Klein, attorney and paid representative of a proposed drug treatment center to be located on the second floor of 5622 Broadway, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Bronx, NY 10463.

Mr. Williams of Williams Funeral Home opened with his opposition to the plan stating that many children are in the area after school at 2:00 p.m.

Mr. Klein then spoke to present EKAWA's plan to open a for-profit drug clinic for pay for service treatment at the location. Hours of operation would be from 6:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. It will be an LLC with shareholders. The

current partners are Drs. Joseph D'Amore and Khana. They are currently seeking investors and conducting public meetings to find a suitable location prior to submitting their application to the NYS OASIS for licensing. They will not be seeking Medicaid clients and their license will be for a for-profit, pay for service treatment facility. Mr. Klein emphasized that people who seek drug treatment are suffering from a disease and it is not a sign of their character. EKAWA also seeks to be good neighbors by establishing a community Advisory Board. Currently they have a 10-year lease with a 5 year option.

The floor was then open to questions and responses from members of the audience. People were allowed 1-2 minutes for comment. Mr. Klein was initially responding to community statements and then was asked to allow the gallery to speak before his closing statement.

The community expressed concerns about efficacy, their business model, the safety of children, public nuisance the lack of privacy and parking for clients, and the fact that the building could be put to better use for the community. Concerns were also expressed about taxing the resources of the police force. Some were afraid of dealers coming into Kingsbridge. Others were concerned about the proximately to baseball fields behind this building and schools and daycares and preschools in the neighborhood.

Council member Andrew Cohen then spoke and agreed that Kingsbridge is a fragile neighborhood as expressed by one audience member that EKAWA does not have a track record and it's a gamble that the community does not want to take. He said that he has had several calls from community members upset by the possibility of a drug clinic while no one has complained that they do not have access to healthcare/drug treatment. For these reasons he will write to OASIS to oppose the license.

Jeffrey Dinowitz, Assemblyman spoke and said he understands the need for methadone to help people get off heroine, he has lived in the Bronx for 54 years and does not see the need for this program. The Chair of the committee, Mr. Omar Murray spoke asking Mr. Klein to consider the comments expressed by the community and to follow up with any new developments and their plans as they make an application to OASIS. Mr. Klein agreed that he would.

Meeting adjourned at 8:49 p.m. Special thanks to the St. Stephen's United Methodist Church for the use of their community room and to the 50<sup>th</sup> Precinct for attendance and the auxiliary policy and community police for covering the event.

Next meeting 5/15/19.

Recorded by  
Tao Moran  
Member,  
Health, Hospitals and Social Services Committee

Submitted by  
Omar Murray  
Chair,  
Health, Hospitals and Social Services Committee