

MANHATTAN CB9 HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES

April 7, 2025

PRESENT: **Chair:** Hon. LaQuita Henry **Committee Members:** Hon. Elizabeth Eastman, Hon. Monique Hardin-Cordero, Hon. Hon. Michael Iglesias , Hon. Heather Jason.

Absent: Hon. Justin Dent.

Public Members: Monica Dula, Esq. (via ZOOM), Dr. Edwin Torres (via ZOOM)

Minutes Taken By: Dr. Edwin Torres

[\(VIEW RECORDING - 139 minutes\)](#)

Meeting Purpose

To discuss community health initiatives, review resolutions, and hear presentations from health organizations serving Manhattan Community Board 9.

Key Takeaways

- Children's Single Point of Access (C-SPOA) provides referrals for mental health services for youth up to age 21
- Public Health Solutions is overseeing a Medicaid waiver program to connect eligible members to enhanced services for food, housing, and transportation
- Heritage Health and Housing is seeking a letter of support for funding to renovate their 1649 Amsterdam Ave facility
- The committee approved multiple health-related resolutions, including opposing removal of subway benches and federal health budget cuts

Topics

Children's Single Point of Access (C-SPOA) Program

- Centralized referral system for children with serious emotional disturbances needing mental health services
- Connects youth ages 0-21 to community-based in-home and out-of-home services
- Services range from care management to residential treatment facilities
- Aim to process referrals and connect to services within 5 business days
- Facing challenges with staffing and waitlists for more intensive services

Public Health Solutions Medicaid Waiver Program

- Overseeing 1115 Medicaid waiver for Manhattan, Queens, Brooklyn
- Connects eligible Medicaid members to enhanced services for food, housing, and transportation
- Working with community partners to screen and navigate members to services
- Funded through March 2027, aiming to build capacity of community organizations
- Facing uncertainty about future funding beyond 2027 due to potential federal cuts

Heritage Health and Housing Funding Request

- Seeking letter of support for congressional funding for 1649 Amsterdam Ave renovation
- Project includes housing and health center components
- Letter needs to focus specifically on housing aspect due to funding restrictions
- Committee agreed to enhance letter with more details on Heritage's background and landmark status

Health-Related Resolutions

- Opposing removal of benches from subway stations
- Supporting continued funding for diabetes prevention programs
- Opposing federal health budget cuts that would impact local services

Community Health Forum Planning

- Considering May/June timeframe for forum on current health landscape
- Potential topics: nutrition as medicine, impacts of federal health changes
- Looking into City College/Sophie Davis as possible venue
- Aiming to partner with local hospitals and food organizations

Next Steps

- Enhance and vote on letter of support for Heritage Health and Housing by Wednesday
- Finalize and submit approved resolutions to executive committee by Wednesday
- Continue planning for community health forum, including securing venue and speakers
- Recruit volunteers for Community Board 9 table at Jackie Robinson band show on Saturday
- Follow up on getting health materials for community outreach events

Action Items

- **Send reference guide PDF and other info to Laquita**
- **Email updated MTA benches resolution to Solomon w/ UST additions. Contact Felipe re separate 145th St corridor resolution. Draft Heritage letter paragraphs (about org, landmarks). Email updated Heritage letter to committee for approval Tue/Wed. Call Cheyenne for health material for Jackie Robinson show table. -**
- **Share previous Heritage Health and Housing letter from Landmarks Preservation Committee with Laquita**
- **Check email Tue evening/Wed morning for updated letter of support**