

MINUTES OF THE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

APRIL 6, 2026

6:30 PM

Co-Chairs: Hon. Cameron Clarke, MPH (**Zoom**), Hon. LaQuita Henry **Members:** Hon. Elizabeth Eastman, Hon. Monique Hardin-Cordero, Hon. Heather Jason, Hon. Lenna Nepomnyaschy, Hon. Jordan Scherer

Public Members: Monica Dula, Esq. (**Zoom**), Edwin Torres, PhD, MSN, EMBA, MS (**Zoom**)

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Committee Co-Chair, LaQuita Henry, at 6:40pm with 5 of 7 members in-person present; Co-Chair Cameroon Clarke was on Zoom. By 6:45pm, our 7th Committee Member arrived and we had full attendance. The committee moved to adopt the Agenda and then to hold acceptance of Narch Minutes for May meeting.

MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting Overview

The meeting commenced with participant introductions and an overview of the agenda, establishing a clear direction for the session. Members provided updates on ongoing community planning initiatives and health advocacy efforts, highlighting progress and areas of focus within the committee.

Organization Presentations

Representatives from Common Threads Project, Harlem Health Initiative, and Warm (We All Really Matter) delivered presentations. These organizations shared valuable information regarding their trauma healing services and various health awareness campaigns, underscoring their commitment to supporting community well-being.

Partnerships and Community Projects

The group engaged in thoughtful discussion about opportunities to build new partnerships, support public health forums, and advance ongoing remediation projects in local buildings. Updates were provided concerning budget approvals and the availability of healthcare resources, ensuring continued support for community initiatives.

Community Health Initiatives Update Meeting

The Community Health Initiatives Update Meeting began with participant introductions and technical preparations for presentations. Manhattan called the meeting to order and confirm the agenda, which was adopted with the inclusion of items related to the Harlem Initiative and Cameron shared updates on the Community Planning Fellow's work, highlighting advocacy related to the New York Health Act.

Common Threads Project

The discussion concluded with Deena introducing the Common Threads Project, an organization dedicated to providing healing services for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence. Rachel Cohen explained the organization's trauma healing model, and the group explored potential partnerships and emphasized the importance of community support for expanding these services.

Public Health Forum Planning Meeting

The planned meeting focused on organizing the upcoming Public Health Forum, scheduled for Saturday at the City College campus. Judy from the community center, Laquita, and other collaborators outlined the event's structure and activities.

Key components of the forum include a youth mental health workshop, a panel discussion addressing mental health bias, and a session centered on public health equity led by Dr. Aleister Martin. Ariel Sella, representing the Harlem Health Initiative, presented a digital media campaign designed to raise lupus awareness, particularly among young women of color. The campaign features resources and outreach materials to facilitate information sharing within the community.

Youth Healthcare and Support Campaign

The group reviewed an ongoing campaign running through May that aims to support young women as they navigate their healthcare needs. Manhattan recommended promoting the campaign through committee members, email lists, and public health forums to maximize its reach. Rebecca emphasized the BeFiercestakeontrol.com website as a valuable resource for lupus information and support.

Lewis and Nana from Warm We Matter introduced their domestic violence nonprofit, highlighting services such as holistic trauma treatments and support groups. While most clients served are female, the organization also provides assistance to male victims, who often encounter significant societal stigma.

Community Health Partnerships Discussion

Deena Lynne shared her experience in trauma-informed wellness and expressed a desire to strengthen collaborations with the community center. She emphasized the importance of building partnerships to enhance access to wellness services and support for community members.

Kimberly, a health insurance specialist from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), introduced herself and offered to provide Medicare resources and presentations. Her focus was on supporting elderly groups, ensuring they have access to essential health insurance information and assistance.

Manhattan reported that the community center had received approval for numerous expense budget requests, including those directed toward healthcare and homeless services. This approval will enable the center to continue and expand necessary programs for vulnerable populations.

The group discussed the ongoing development project at 1727 Amsterdam. Manhattan raised concerns regarding the current plans, specifically pointing out the lack of affordable housing options in the project. The discussion highlighted the need for more inclusive housing strategies to address the community's needs.

Public Health Forum Planning Meeting

Updates were provided on Legionella remediation efforts in building 3330. Progress was noted through periodic measurements and flushing protocols, demonstrating a commitment to maintaining safe conditions. The team at 3333 Broadway also shared their remediation progress, reporting optimal CSI levels and compliance with city and EPA requirements.

The committee outlined plans for the upcoming public health forum, describing a schedule that includes speakers, moderators, and panel discussions. Topics will address public health equity, various life stages, and women's health. Logistics for the forum were discussed, including registration, facilitation, and session recording, with a strong emphasis on ensuring accurate documentation of all presentations and discussions.

Action Items and Follow-Ups

Event Participation and Registration

The Common Threads Project will register for the May 19th event hosted by COTA Alliance, ensuring their participation and representation at the upcoming community gathering.

Meeting Attendance and Outreach

Harlem Health Initiative is scheduled to attend the general board meeting on April 16th. Additionally, the team will reach out to Anita Chang to explore advertising opportunities with Link NYC, aiming to enhance community outreach efforts.

Campaign Collaboration and Resource Sharing

Harlem Health Initiative will share their lupus awareness campaign toolkit with Community Board 9. In turn, Community Board 9 will distribute these resources at the upcoming Public Health Forum and include information about the campaign in the next district office e-blast, broadening the impact of the health initiative.

Partnership Development

Deena will contact LaQuita regarding potential partnership opportunities between Kota Alliance and Common Threads Project. WARM (We Already Matter) will also consider collaborating with Common Threads Project for future initiatives, further strengthening ties among community organizations.