

MINUTES

Meeting of the MCB9 Health and Environment Committee

December 1, 2025, 6:30 pm

PRESENT: **Co-Chairs:** Hon. Cameron Clarke, MPH (via ZOOM), Hon. LaQuita Henry

Committee Members: Hon. Elizabeth Eastman, Hon. Monique Hardin-Cordero, Hon. Heather Jason, Hon. Lenna Nepomnyaschy, Hon. Jordan Scherer (*Excused, Business trip*)

ABSENT: Hon. Janaira Ramirez

OTHER BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Hon. Victor Edwards, Chair

PUBLIC MEMBERS PRESENT: Monica Dula, Esq., Dr. Edwin Torres (*on ZOOM*)

Call to Order

The meeting of the Manhattan Community Board 9 Health and Environment Committee was called to order by Committee Co-Chair, LaQuita Henry, at 6:40 pm with 4 of 8 members present (one on Zoom). By 6:55 pm, two additional committee members arrived. The committee moved to adopt the Agenda.

Quick Recap

The meeting began with several presentations from local organizations including Ryan Health, Broadway Community, and Warm Inc., each highlighting their services and initiatives focused on healthcare, homelessness, and domestic violence support. The committee discussed various community issues including senior loneliness, truck idling concerns, and plans for a new healthcare center, while also reviewing progress on graduate funding eligibility changes and resolutions regarding professional degree definitions. The group concluded by announcing the beginning and planning of a public health forum to mark the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, which will focus on healthcare equity and include medical professionals and community partners.

The meeting featured presentations from local organizations on healthcare, homelessness, and domestic violence initiatives. The committee addressed issues such as senior loneliness, truck idling, and a new healthcare center plan, reviewing changes to graduate funding and degree definitions. They also planned a public health forum for the Declaration of Independence's 250th anniversary, centered on healthcare equity.

Summary of Special Presentation on Ryan Health's New Health Facility

The meeting opened with Manhattan's acknowledgment of World AIDS Day and grant readiness. Isaac introduced Broadway Community and its upcoming committee presentation. Community Engagement Executive, Charles Shorter, and Medical Director, Dr. Rashanna Lynch, from Ryan Health described their new site at 520 West 135th Street and outlined planned primary care, mental health, and medical specialty services for underserved communities. Attendees then asked questions about Ryan Health's offerings, funding, and school-based centers.

Summary of WARM Inc. Services

Agency representative, Kristina Perry, covered the services offered by Ryan Health, such as primary care and select specialty care. Patients have access to multiple hospital systems via Epic Care Link, which helps maintain continuity of care. Manhattan clarified that Ryan Health works with other hospitals and avoids duplicating services, since specialty care often involves long waitlists. Kristina Perry from WARM Inc., an organization focused on domestic violence, discussed their offerings, including a critical response team, holistic center, and collaborations with law enforcement and other organizations. WARM Inc. delivers free assistance, including emergency support, shelter, legal aid, and mental health care—to more than 800 clients, and they plan to open another location in 2026. The conversation also highlighted the rising number of male clients seeking help for domestic violence and emphasized the need for additional shelter resources for single individuals.

Summary of Broadway Community Services and Senior Support

Isaac Adlerstein (Executive Director) presented on behalf of Broadway Community, a 43-year-old human service agency that provides a one-stop shop model for people experiencing homelessness, hunger, and social isolation. The organization offers services such as a soup kitchen, shelter, medical care, food pantry, and workforce development programs. Isaac expressed hope that their model could be replicated across New York City, particularly in houses of worship. Manhattan inquired about the waitlist for Broadway Community's shelter and the religious nature of their services.

Summary of ALM's Community Health and Safety Initiatives

Director, Anthony Michael, presented on behalf of the Association for Learning and Mentoring Services, highlighting their volunteer-based programs aimed at combating senior loneliness and providing support to older adults. Manhattan suggested Anthony reach out to the New York City Department of Aging for a list of older adult centers to expand his program's reach. The committee addressed community issues, celebrating Anthony Michael's grant,

Old Business

Committee Co-Chair, Cameron Clarke, announced the upcoming December 6th town hall on Legionnaires' disease.

The Committee briefly did a “run-down” of recent issues including the respecting victims' privacy related to moving forward with a vigil for those lost to Legionnaires Disease, the recent verification that enforcement reducing truck and bus idling has shown some accountability via the school bus company seeking a reduction of fees for his prolific violations of parking regulations, and the ongoing need for additional healthcare center development.

The Community Board's new Community Planning Fellow will focus on housing and health until June. Cameron Clarke serves as the liaison for the Fellow's interim interaction with the two host committees: Housing, Land Use and Zoning and Health and Environment.

Letter of Support for CUNY's Request for Equitable Inclusion in Public Health and Nursing Degrees

The group considered CUNY School of Public Health's Deborah Levine's proposed **Letter of Support - One Big Beautiful Bill** – to include public health and nursing degrees as professional degrees. They discussed the prepared resolution about graduate funding changes under the Trump bill, which would impact students in social work, nursing, and public health—fields mainly staffed by women and people of color. Dr. Torres noted that these changes could worsen faculty shortages, especially in nursing, where most faculty are 67 years old. The group amended the resolution to address concerns for faculty of color and public administration programs, then unanimously approved it. With these thoughtful, Lenna Nepomnyaschy agreed to put the resolution in final format. The Committee unanimously voted to approve the Letter of Support with the friendly amendments.

Public Health Forum #2 in March 2026

Co-Chair LaQuita opened discussion on the public health forum for March 2026, aligning with the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. The event will focus on the fight for healthcare equity and bring together medical professionals as well as community partners.

The meeting adjourned at 8:52pm

Next steps

- LaQuita to email meeting minutes this week.
- LaQuita to prepare temperament report for Executive Committee.
- Ryan Health: Coordinate with Harlem Hospital on obstetrics for 135th St.
- Ryan Health: Build specialty care partnerships with local hospitals.
- Broadway Community: Relaunch life skills program early next year.
- Isaac: Update community board on potential new sites for Broadway model.
- Kristina: Share domestic violence statistics with attendees.
- Isaac Adlerstein: Provide shelter waitlist and vehicle-dweller data for Broadway Community.
- Ryan Health: Create community needs assessment for 135th St.
- Ryan Health: Partner with doulas for prenatal care services.

Respectfully Submitted,
LaQuita Henry