



The City of New York
BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #1

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Serving and Representing: Port Morris, Mott Haven and Melrose



VANESSA L. GIBSON
BOROUGH PRESIDENT

PAOLA M. MARTINEZ
CHAIRPERSON

ANTHONY R. JORDAN
DISTRICT MANAGER

Health & Human Services Committee Minutes

June 17th, 2026

Marilyn Pena, Committee Chairperson

Introductions and Meeting Overview

- Committee Chair Marilyn Pena introduces himself as the Committee Chairperson for Health, Human, and LGBTQIA Blood Services and initiates introductions.
- Argelia Ortiz introduces herself as a board member known as RG.
- Gina Williams introduces herself as the Bronx Borough Director for DSS IGA.
- Jamar Hook introduces himself as the Deputy Commissioner for Intergovernmental and Legislative Affairs at the Department of Social Services.
- Jose K. introduces himself as representing the New York City Department of Health, Tremont Health Action Center.
- Anthony Jordan, District Manager, provides instructions for new speakers and mentions the live broadcast of the meeting.

Health Fair Preparations

- Committee Chair Marilyn Pena discusses the health fair check-in for the first Healthy Families event on August 1.
- Vendors are confirming participation, and a detailed letter for participants is being finalized.
- The event will include activities like high blood pressure checks, HIV testing, STDs, cancer screenings, and a workshop by FDNY for fire prevention.
- District Manager Anthony Jordan mentions collaboration with various city agencies, including the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the New York City Department of the Aging, and the Department of Youth and Community Development.

SNAP Benefits Overview

- Committee Chair Marilyn Pena transitions to new business, focusing on SNAP benefits and the importance of educating the community.
- Jamar Hooks provides an overview of the New York City Department of Social Services (DSS) and its role in administering SNAP benefits.
- The federal government's HR 1 bill has expanded work requirements for SNAP and introduced Medicaid work requirements for the first time.
- Work requirements include paid employment, community service, job training programs, and higher education.

Impact of Work Requirements on SNAP Recipients

- Jamar Hooks explains the impact of the new federal work requirements on SNAP recipients, including older adults and previously protected groups.
- Medicaid work requirements will be implemented in 2027, affecting millions of New Yorkers.
- DSS has been working to exempt as many people as possible from these requirements, including those with disabilities, pregnant individuals, and caretakers.
- As of June, 40,000 SNAP recipients are not in compliance and at risk of losing their benefits.

Details on SNAP Work Requirements

- Jamar Hooks outlines the specific work requirements for SNAP recipients, including spending at least 80 hours per month on qualifying activities.
- Qualifying activities include paid employment, in-kind work, job training programs, and higher education.
- SNAP recipients have three consecutive months to comply with the work requirements before losing their benefits.
- DSS has been communicating the changes to SNAP recipients through various channels, including mail, social media, and door-knocking efforts.

Challenges and Solutions for SNAP Recipients

- Jamar Hooks discusses the challenges faced by street homeless individuals in complying with the work requirements.
- Many street homeless individuals are not receiving the notices and may not be able to comply due to mental health challenges.

- DSS has increased food assistance funding to address the gap caused by the new requirements.
- The administration is working to ensure that SNAP recipients are aware of the changes and have the support they need to comply.

Community Board and CBO Support

- District Manager Anthony Jordan emphasizes the importance of community boards and community-based organizations (CBOs) in supporting SNAP recipients.
- Community boards can help dispel myths and provide information to constituents about the new requirements.
- CBOs can assist with enrollment and compliance issues, and DSS can connect community boards to these organizations.
- The community board is committed to supporting SNAP recipients and ensuring they are aware of the available resources.

Questions and Clarifications

- Argelia Ortiz asks about the impact of work study programs on SNAP recipients, and Jamar Hook clarifies that full-time enrollment in college exempts individuals from the work requirements.
- District Manager Anthony Jordan inquiries about the approval of volunteer activities, and Jamar Hook explains that volunteer activities must be done at approved community service providers.
- Jose King asks about the process for verifying volunteer activities, and Jamar Hook confirms that individuals must sign a form at the end of each month.
- Argelia Ortiz raises concerns about the ability of individuals with disabilities to understand the notices, and Jamar Hook acknowledges the need for better communication and support.

Future Plans and Community Engagement

- Committee Chair Marilyn Pena suggests having a representative from DSS present at the community board's general board meeting to provide more information and support.
- Jamar Hooks agrees to provide a representative and a help sheet for the community board's health fair in August.
- The community board is committed to ensuring that SNAP recipients are informed and supported through the transition.
- The meeting concludes with a commitment to continue working together to address the challenges posed by the new SNAP work requirements.

Action Items

- **Finalize and send a detailed setup letter to all health fair vendors for the August 1 Healthy Families event, including booth assignments, setup and teardown instructions, and other logistical details.**
- **Schedule and hold a vendor orientation meeting in the first week of July for all health fair participants to review the event layout, logistics, and expectations.**
- **At the end of June, assess SNAP ABAWD clients in the district who are not in compliance and provide Anthony Jordan with a district-specific breakdown of how many clients are at risk of losing benefits.**
- **Follow up with Speaker 1 to discuss how HRA can support the district with SNAP outreach and clarify what support is available.**
- **Take back to HRA leadership the concern that SNAP notices are not formatted in a way that is accessible to people on the spectrum and advocate for improved notice design.**
- **Clarify with HRA how community board–run food distribution activities (such as Saturday distributions) can count toward SNAP work requirements and communicate the process for becoming an approved volunteer site back to the board.**
- **Obtain from HRA a SNAP/ABAWD information sheet or help sheet and bring it to the August 1 health fair so it can be tabled for attendees.**
- **Coordinate with HRA to provide a SNAP/ABAWD presentation at the September general board meeting.**