



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
CHAIRWOMAN

ANTHONY R. JORDAN
DISTRICT MANAGER

Health & Human Services Committee Minutes

October 20th, 2025

Marilyn Pena, Committee Chairperson

DRAFT

Introduction and Roll Call

- Committee Chair Marilyn Pena introduces herself and calls the meeting to order at 6:10 PM on October 20.
- Various members introduce themselves, including Marcelo Villagran, Christine Licata, Jose Quintana, Diana, and Costa Ochre.
- District Manager Anthony Jordan reminds everyone that meetings are telegraphed and broadcast live on YouTube.
- Committee Chair Marilyn Pena explains the purpose of the meeting: to discuss new business and the merger of committees.

Discussion on Committee Mergers

- Committee Chair Marilyn Pena explains the brainstorming session where committees were discussed for merging, including seniors and LGBTQ committees.
- The plan is to focus on different committees each month to ensure full attendance and address important issues.
- District Manager Anthony Jordan discusses the historical context of the board having four committees and the recent expansion to 14 committees.
- The goal is to consolidate committees to ensure maximum membership and focus on key issues.

Challenges and Opportunities in Committee Mergers

- District Manager Anthony Jordan highlights the work done by the committee, including addressing opioid use, youth resources, and partnerships with health institutions.
- The merger aims to build on past work and focus on specific topics that affect multiple committees.

- District Manager Anthony Jordan mentions the impact of government shutdowns on SNAP benefits and the need for representation for LGBTQIA and senior populations.
- The discussion includes the potential impact of rising insurance costs and the importance of health symposiums.

Space and Attendance Concerns

- Committee Chair Marilyn Pena raises concerns about space and attendance if three committees merge.
- District Manager Anthony Jordan suggests finding additional space or relocating if necessary.
- Jose Quintana offers his office for meetings, and Diana suggests using Lincoln Hospital's auditorium.
- The importance of aggressive attendance and RSVP tracking is emphasized to ensure space availability.

Communication and Media Strategy

- Committee Chair Marilyn Pena stresses the need for better communication and media presence, including Instagram and flyers.
- District Manager Anthony Jordan advises members to request specific speakers for meetings and to use the committee's email for communication.
- The discussion includes the potential for a town hall meeting to address SNAP and benefit access issues.
- The importance of having a vice chair to support the committee chair is highlighted.

Community Engagement and Volunteer Opportunities

- District Manager Anthony Jordan discusses the community board's food pantry and the need for volunteers to pick up food donations.
- The food pantry feeds over 100 families and is a valuable community service.
- Committee Chair Marilyn Pena suggests using social media and email to promote the food pantry and other community events.
- The discussion includes the potential for Thanksgiving donations and the importance of engaging the younger generation.

Final Remarks and Next Steps

- District Manager Anthony Jordan outlines the next steps, including sending minutes immediately after meetings and preparing for upcoming events.
- The importance of collaboration and transparency in decision-making is emphasized.

- The meeting concludes with a motion to join the committee, which is seconded and approved.
- The discussion highlights the need for ongoing communication and planning to ensure the success of the merged committees.

Action Items

- Identify and recruit volunteers to help with the food pantry program, including drivers to pick up and deliver food.
- Explore opportunities to partner with local organizations and sponsors for the Thanksgiving food distribution efforts.
- Reach out to potential speakers on topics related to changes in benefit programs.
- Explore options for a larger meeting space to accommodate the merged committee.
- Develop a survey to gather community input on questions and concerns to address in the town hall meeting.
- Coordinate with the district manager to schedule the town hall meeting.