

Brooklyn Community Board 9
890 Nostrand Avenue
Brooklyn, New York 11225

Health and Social Services Committee Meeting
May 7, 2026

Attendance (Board Members): Francisca Leopold, Committee Chair; Lisa Etienne, Committee Vice Chair;

Attendance (Resident Members): Dr. Jacqueline Love; Carol Bartley; Karimah Griffin; Abigail Donley

Absent (Board Members): None

Absent (Resident Members): Bakary Tandia; Nomalizwe Byndon; Breanna Kaiser; Richardeana Theodore; Johnathan Courtney

Guests: Sara Gronim, Community Solar

CB9 Staff: Mia N. Hilton, Assistant District Manager

1. Call to order
 - a. Meeting called to order at 7:02 PM.
2. Welcome and Introductions
3. April 2026 minutes motion made and accepted as is.
4. Senior Citizen Centers, and Adult Day Services Needs Assessment
 - a. Plans for committee members to visit crown heights senior centers
 - b. Committee request to CB9 for full list of neighborhood senior centers . Some known Senior centers are the following: Christopher Blenman neighborhood Senior Center/older adult club(has been visited by Francisco Leopold) Shalom Senior Center, Fenimore Street Senior Citizens Center, Heart to Heart ,and St. Gabriel's Older Adult Center.
 - c. Volunteer committee members to conduct facility needs assessment; evaluate physical environment, operational resources and the participant's needs . goal :to have specific needs identified(i.e. equipment, furniture, food services ,etc.)and operational concerns addressed; to include assessment findings in the city 's community district budget request
 - i. Majority of neighborhood senior centers are registered with the NYC Department of Aging; however, Fenimore is not. This church organization needs support with writing a proposal for funding. Will follow up identifying contact person and documentation requirements for registering the organization with the

Department of Aging. Charisse is the contact person. Dr. Jacqueline Love will be willing to adopt center ,via the support of her nonprofit *Grandma's Hands ,Inc* ,while undergoing the transition process.

- d. Ebberts Field Senior Citizen Center: Tandia Bakary to confirm new contact - Miss Campbell.
 - e. Heart to Heart Senior Day Services located at 209 Empire Blvd. is operated by a for profit organization. Senior members need insurance, if not, they must pay out of pocket. Goal is establishing new free low-cost senior centers in the neighborhood
 - f. Senior centers need to get credentialed by insurance company to maintain funding. Affording rent is not sustainable with only sponsors.
 - g. Elected officials must recognize and appreciate senior support especially during elections.
 - h. Next steps Get list spreadsheet, organize groups. Call, make appointment, visit centers, record needs. Plan for next fiscal year is listed for June.
5. Encourage committee members to attend Town Hall
- a. Located at MS 61 on Empire Blvd. Town Hall to discuss community concerns regarding a proposed temporary shelter for 140 single adult men planned for current Ramada Inn location. Expected to begin operations on June 1, Summer 2026.
6. Presenter Sara Gronim from Community Solar
- a. Allows New Yorkers to share a solar energy system, reduce their energy bills through solar credits, and go solar without installing solar energy on their roof.
 - b. The benefits of community solar were no sign-up fees, no cancellation fees, guaranteed savings while helping the environment.
 - c. Community solar allows individuals to share one large local solar energy system and reduce their entire electric Con Edison bill.
 - d. To enroll in the Community Solar project, you will need to share a copy of your Connect bill and sign a contract with the vetted Community solar developer to complete your enrollment.
 - e. Community solar does not impact eligibility for H EAP programs. This program is for Participants who live in apartment buildings. Energy bill discount anywhere from 5 to 10%; If low income, 20% savings.
 - f. Opportunity to get new prescribers. Would be to visit the senior centers. A list of a few senior centers was shared with the presenter.
 - g. The presenter answered questions from the Community Board residents such as: Does this program help homeowners? The answer was no. Barrio Solo gives advice on what to look for if homeowner wants to place solar bands on their own home. The program has a set number of subscribers for each “solar ray”. Once capacity is reached, which is approximately 140 participants for each program,

that lets other developers place more solar panels on additional buildings. The developer then gets a tax write off. The energy sharing program also helps the city.

7. Community Wellness and Resources Fair
 - a. Updated event Flyer approved
 - b. Sponsors will change once they are confirmed. Send flyer as save the date. Let Doctor Love know if there any changes to the be made to the flyer. Will send flyer and Google form with link out to: Government agencies, health and social service organizations, elected officials- Requesting participation in the upcoming health fair.
 - c. Tables from Health First, with approximately 30 chairs, are located at the Assemblyman Cunningham office. Needs tents, chairs, tables. Rita Joseph 's District will also help.
 - d. \$500 event spending amount pending budget approval
 - e. We need to find storage for the tables and chairs. Doctor Love will try to get vegetable produce bags together with other non-perishables. We'll also get the storage space approved for the vegetables.
8. Senior Spa Day - discussion postponed until next meeting
9. New Business
10. Adjournment - 8:10pm