

CSB Attendees: Adrienne Abbate, Cheryle Hinds-Leslie, Joanne Siegel, Karmita Morgan-Randall, Miriam Prat-Jerez, Sidney Hankerson

Call to Order: 10:42 AM

Welcome Remarks

- Sidney Hankerson, MD, Chair of the CSB, called the meeting to order and led introductions.
- H. Jean Wright, PsyD, Executive Deputy Commissioner (EDC) of the Division of Mental Hygiene (DMHy) welcomed members, championed some agency successes including the life expectancy increase to 83.2 years, making strides to our HealthyNYC goals and that overdose deaths have seen a 28 percent reduction citywide. EDC Wright speaks upon the upcoming mayoral transition and emphasizes communication and transparency as the key to moving our work forward. He closes his remarks by informing members that starting in 2026, meeting minutes will be approved at the top of the agenda to be compliant with our CSB bylaws.

CSB 2026 Priority Areas

- CSB Chair Sidney Hankerson reminds members of 2025 priority areas, including workforce development and addressing youth mental health, substance use and development disabilities for high-risk populations. Hankerson asks members to reflect on progress and start brainstorming 2026 priority areas.
 - In response to Hankerson's question, CSB member Adrienne Abbate speaks on access and the growing fears in the community due to changing policies, particularly impacting Medicaid recertification processes. Wants to see a space created to speak more on this.
 - CSB member Joanne Siegel elaborates on Abbate's statement on recertification, speaking to the cumbersome barriers that the developmental disabilities community faces such as technology savviness. Strongly urges that DD community does not get left behind because they systemically fall through the cracks and are gaps for what they qualify for regarding OWPDD.
 - CSB member Cheryle Hinds-Leslie further elaborates, stating that the technological barriers impact homeless individuals who do not have access to phones, and reiterates that ADA rules need to be enforced for individuals with mental disabilities.
 - CSB member Miriam Prat-Jerez inquires more about how we can support the new system of recertification while being mindful of fraudulent activity, to which CSB member Karmita Morgan Randall also suggests making resources are available and provided by case managers and not being re-routed to machines which creates more confusion for our community members.
 - CSB Chair Hankerson asks for recommendations for the Health Department regarding the priority area of access
 - CSB member Adrienne Abbate and Miriam Prat-Jerez speaks to building upon the current infrastructure, finding funding and support to get navigators to do community outreach and in reach in places such as clinics and senior centers.
 - EDC H. Jean Wright II speaks on the changes that are causing a myriad of issues and will bring this to the Commissioner of Health's attention to get a unified response and identify how city and state can push back, and what is at the federal level and out of our scope.
 - CSB Chair Hankerson wraps up this portion of the agenda by reemphasizing engaging community, discussed in Q3's meeting, and telling members to reach out to the Senior Planning Analyst if there are other priority areas of consideration aside from access for 2026 which will be voted upon during Q1's meeting.

DOHMH and Bureau Updates

- EDC H. Jean Wright invites DOHMH Mental Hygiene bureau leadership, including Rebecca Linn-Walton, Assistant Commissioner (AC) of the Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Use (BADU), Janice Chisholm, AC of the Bureau of Community Awareness, Action, Response and Engagement (BCAARE), John Yates, AC of the Bureau of Health Promotion for Justice-Impacted Populations (HPJIP), Jamie Neckles, AC of the Bureau of Mental Health (BMH) and Marnie Davidoff, AC of the Bureau of Children, Youth, Families and Developmental Disabilities (CYF-DD).
 - BADU
 - In response to CSB member Adrienne Abbate asking about Staten Island’s inclusion in the outreach event that was occurring on December 9th, AC Linn-Walton states that round one was for existing funds, and outreach will include Staten Island at the Spring summit.
 - In response to CSB member Cheryle Hinds-Leslie asking about the syringe program and whether communities north of Kingsbridge (BX) will get access, AC Linn-Walton clarifies that during the first year, pilot program was prioritized in areas with the highest overdose numbers and with additional funding, they aim to expand across the city.
 - HPJIP
 - AC John Yates informs members that the justice-impacted discretionary subcommittee will need to have one core CSB member sit on the subcommittee and asks them to consider the option of joining.
 - BCAARE
 - AC Janice Chisholm discusses their discretionary subcommittee that is being formed in 2026 and refers to Q3’s conversation on town halls and community engagement as the work they aim to achieve in this group.
 - In response to AC Chisholm’s updates on the Community Response and Engagement Unit, CSB member Adrienne Abbate asks if they are thinking about federal changes in this approach, to which AC Chisholm states that they are being present for immediate traumas such as the building collapse in the Bronx but striving to be more expansive.
 - CYF-DD
 - In reference to the Epi Data Brief on Suicide-Related Behaviors among NYC Public High School and Middle School Students, CSB member Joanne Siegel asks if there is a connection between phone bans and a decrease in social isolation?
 - CSB member Cheryle Hinds-Leslie further asks if students are not used to socializing in person, if this poses an issue?
 - AC Davidoff says there is some examination on the phone ban and can investigate it further.
 - CSB Member Miriam Prat-Jerez asks if there is a breakdown on the type of suicide attempts to which AC Davidoff replies that there currently isn’t but can double check. Emphasizes that this self-reported and there is no interviewer to ask deeper questions. Understands that behaviors range on what the youth would identify as a suicide attempt, and that the emergency department data is not complete.
 - CSB Chair Hankerson asks if the data brief is broken down by gender/ biological sex and if there is gender identity/sexual orientation and changes in 988. AC Davidoff says biological females are more likely to report non-suicidal injuries than biological males at the middle school level.
 - AC Neckles says she has seen a rise in the use of 988 since August but is unsure if it is due to loss from federal access (Trevor Project)
 - CSB Chair Hankerson requests for the Senior Planning Analyst to distribute the epi data brief to the members
 - CSB member Miriam Prat-Jerez speaks on the conversations in Staten Island regarding 988 challenges and concerns.

- AC Neckles will set up a meeting with Miriam to discuss the 988 challenges further.
- CSB Member Karmita Morgan-Randall asks how they are evaluating the success of 988 to which AC Neckles responds that shifting to the national 988 number is trickier, making it harder to get feedback.

Wrap-up

- CSB Chair Hankerson reiterates:
 - Sending priority areas for consideration to the Senior Planning Analyst
 - Asks the Senior Planning Analyst to send out 2026 meeting dates via email to members and to disseminate the Suicide-Related Behaviors Epi Data Brief
- CSB Chair Hankerson brought the meeting to a close.

Meeting adjourned: 12:04 PM
Minutes Approved on March 17, 2026