



Donovan Richards
Queens Borough President

Community Board No. 2

43-22 50th Street, 2nd Floor
Woodside, New York 11377
(718) 533-8773
Fax (718)-533-8777

Email qn02@cb.nyc.gov
www.nyc.gov/queenscb2

Anatole Ashraf
Chairperson

April 13, 2026

Health & Human Services and Education and Unhoused & Shelter Committee Meeting Minutes

This meeting was teleconferenced using Zoom

Committee Member Attendees:

Lauren Springer, Chair
Amparo Abel-Bey, Vice Chair

Committee Member Absentees:

Nellie Afshar
John Bahia
Warren Davis
Alyssa Sawicki
Phugelzen Sherpa
Leticia Vasquez

Committee Members Excused:

Dr. Rosamond Gianutsos

Health and Human Services Public Members Absentees:

Olivia Jackson Lewis
Robert Wohner
Andrea Thomas
Judy Zangwill

Community Board 2 Staff:

Rafael Nava, Community Assistant

Guests:

Jordyn Rosenthal, B-HEARD
Charline Mitchell, Birth by Queens

“Serving the Communities of Long Island City, Sunnyside, Woodside, and Maspeth”

Note: Reference to the YouTube video and the associated time-in-meeting stamps are offered here as a service to community members who wish to review the meeting.

Time (Approximate, from YouTube Video)

YouTube Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3JMsAg_OU4c

0:00:00 Lauren Springer, Chair of the Health & Human Services and Education and Unhoused & Shelter Committee, welcomed everyone to the committee meeting.

0:00:34 B-HEARD Presentation

Jordyn Rosenthal provided a presentation on CCIT-NYC & B-HEARD ([Click here to view](#)). The presentation outlined the New York City proposal for Correct Crisis Intervention, described the B-HEARD program, and discussed ways to make B-HEARD a more effective and compassionate intervention. She shared the following:

- Correct Crisis Intervention Today - NYC (CCIT-NYC) supports the #PeersNotPolice campaign to create a true non-police mental health system. This would allow peers (individuals with lived mental health experience) to respond to mental health crises.
- Under the B-HEARD program, 9 teams are available from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, and another 9 teams are available from 5:00 PM to 1:00 AM. Each team consists of an EMT/paramedic and a licensed social worker. The program is not citywide and does not run 24/7.
- Jordyn Rosenthal suggested several changes to make B-HEARD a more effective and compassionate crisis intervention, including:
 - Mandating that peers be added to B-HEARD.
 - Increasing the number of B-HEARD teams to match call volume.
 - Expanding the number of B-HEARD teams to ensure citywide and 24/7 coverage.
 - Establishing 988 as the number to be dialed for mental health and substance use.

0:27:41 Birth by Queens Presentation

Charline Mitchell provided a presentation on Birth by Queens ([Click here to view](#)). She is seeking a letter of support from CB2 Queens to establish a birth center in Queens. Charline Mitchell shared the following:

- A birth center is a health care facility for childbirth that provides care in the midwifery and wellness model. A birth center is freestanding and not a hospital.
- Her goal is to establish the first birth center in Queens, and she aspires to open it by December 2027.

- Birth by Queens also provides other services, including its Book Buddies program. On the first Saturday of the month, they host an interactive session where they read to children in an NYC park.
- The organization also has a Bottles for Birth Centers campaign, where people can donate collected bottles; Birth by Queens picks them up and uses the returned funds to support the maternal health chain.
- Charline Mitchell noted that a community needs assessment is part of the certificate of need process and would indicate that a birth center is needed by Queens residents. She would like interested individuals to complete the assessment.
- She expressed that she is open to suggestions for the location of the birth center, but that it must meet a few requirements, including:
 - Being within 60 minutes of a hospital.
 - Ensuring the potential site can be zoned for medical use.
 - A facility of at least 2,000 square feet.

On April 20, 2026, CB2 Queens issued a letter of support for a birth center in Queens led by Birth by Queens.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,

Rafael Nava