



**BOROUGH OF STATEN ISLAND
COMMUNITY BOARD #3**

1243 Woodrow Road - 2nd Floor
Staten Island, NY 10309

Telephone: (718) 356-7900 Fax: (718) 966-9013

Website: www.nyc.gov/sicb3

Email: sicb3@cb.nyc.gov

**Health & Human Services Committee
Public Hearing Report**

DATE: January 6, 2026

TIME: 6:30 PM

Committee Members Present

Claire Atalla
Jessica Francese
Robert Sainovski
Naeem Sheikh

Committee Members Absent

Diane Peruggia
Dennis McKeon
Vincent Bonomi
Paul Sanders

Board Members Present

John Galarza
Owen Reiter, 3rd Vice Chairman

Staff

Stacey Wertheim, *District Manager*

Guests

Ann Anesta, Member, NYC Public Service Retirees Organization
Brent Alexander, Executive Director, Center for Hope Services, Staten Island

Public Contact - None

Agenda

Brent Alexander is the Executive Director of the Center for Hope Services (CHSI), a Staten Island-based nonprofit that began as Hope Home Care 38 years ago. During the COVID-19 pandemic, CHSI identified service gaps affecting vulnerable residents whose needs were going unmet. In response, the organization expanded its mission to promote dignity, equity, and access to essential services through a compassionate, community-based approach. CHSI works in partnership with local organizations, government agencies, and community leaders to support marginalized populations.

CHSI hosts a monthly giveaway providing necessities to older adults, including food and pet supplies, and offers emergency preparedness education with the goal of reducing hospitalizations. Services are guided by the 4 M's model: What Matters, Medication, Meditation, and Mobility. CHSI visits each friendship club on Staten Island monthly. Contact information is provided below.

26 Dumont Avenue, SI, NY 10305
718-926-0289
www.cfhsi.org
info@sfhsi.org

Ann Anesta, Member, NYC Public Service Retirees Organization

The organization represents approximately 50,000 retirees and some active members and is advocating for protecting the Medicare contributions its members made throughout their careers. The group is opposing efforts to replace Original Medicare with a Medicare Advantage plan, arguing that it undermines benefits long promised to municipal employees.

Ann, a former special education teacher with the NYC Department of Education, served for 36 years. The health benefits offered during her tenure were a key incentive to remain in public service. Like many others, Ann could have pursued higher-paying opportunities in the private sector but chose to stay in New York City because of the promise of Medicare coverage upon reaching age 65. Currently, approximately 250,000 retirees receive Original Medicare and its supplemental coverage as promised by the City.

The organization supports the passage of Intro 1096-2024*, which is currently before the City Council. Marianne Pizzitola serves as the organization's president. The group is a member-supported, grassroots organization that relies on donations to cover legal and legislative costs.

Motion to Support Intro 1096-2024

Vote: In favor 4; Opposed 0 ; Abstentions 0
Atalla Y; Francese Y; Sainovski Y; Sheikh Y
Motion Passes

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Respectfully submitted,



Owen Reiter, 3rd Vice Chairman