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The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan
Health, Seniors, and Social Services Committee
Thursday, April 16, 2026 – 6:30pm
This meeting was conducted via Zoom

MINUTES

Board Members Present: Meryl Brodsky*, Wilma Johnson, and Barbara Rudder.

**Public Member*

Approximate Number of Public Attendees: 20

Item 1: Medical Aid in Dying Act (S.138/A.136) — What does this law mean for the terminally ill in New York? We explore this newly enacted legislation with Francesca Triest, Campaign Manager at Compassion & Choices.

Governor Hochul signed New York's Medical Aid in Dying Act in February 2026, and it will be implemented in August 2026. The Health, Seniors, and Social Services Committee invited Francesca Triest, Campaign Manager at Compassion & Choices, which helped author the legislation. Medical Aid in Dying is a practice in which a mentally capable adult with a terminal illness, with a prognosis of six months or less, may request a prescription by ingestion to cause death. There are many protections around this law, which will be used as safeguards to ensure its policy implementation is humane. Two medical professionals must confirm the prognosis, and a psychological professional must confirm the mental state of the patient. The patient must give a written statement witnessed by two individuals with no connection to the patient. Last will and testament, and insurance will not be impacted by this act, and hospitals and doctors are not required to participate in the process. Although it has been reported by other states that a small percentage of patients requesting the medication actually use it, the ability to choose is very comforting.

Item 2: Old Business – None discussed.

Item 3: New Business – None discussed.

The meeting ended at approximately 7:48 pm.

Wilma Johnson and Barbara Rudder, Co-Chairs