



FY 2025 ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING

BOROUGH OF BROOKLYN

TUESDAY, April 29, 2025 • 6 PM

FORMAT – IN-PERSON

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**Call to Order - 6 PM**

**DR. PATRICIA MARTHONE**  
**Brooklyn City Council Representative**  
**To the Board of Directors**

■ **Opening Remarks**

**DR. MITCHELL KATZ, President & CEO**

■ **Report on the  
Health System**

**ANDREA COHEN, ESQ, Moderator**  
**General Counsel**

■ **Invitation To the  
Public to Participate  
in Accordance With  
Rules**



## **SPEAKERS' ADVISORY**

**WELCOME TO THE NEW YORK CITY HEALTH + HOSPITALS FISCAL YEAR 2025 ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING IN THE BOROUGH OF BROOKLYN.**

**THIS IS THE THIRD MEETING IN A SERIES OF FIVE MEETINGS CONDUCTED ANNUALLY IN EACH OF THE CITY'S BOROUGHES. THE PURPOSE OF THE ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETINGS IS TO PROVIDE AN OVERVIEW OF THE PLANS / PROGRAMS AND TO AFFORD THE PUBLIC THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE ORAL/Written TESTIMONY CONCERNING THE SYSTEM'S SERVICE DELIVERY. PUBLIC TESTIMONY [ORAL/Written] WILL BE TRANSCRIBED AND FORWARDED TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THEIR CONSIDERATION.**

**THE PANEL, CONSISTING OF MEMBERS OF THE BOARD, IS HERE TO *LISTEN* TO THE COMMENTS MADE BY THE PUBLIC.**



**REGISTERED SPEAKERS ARE ALLOTTED FIVE MINUTES SPEAKING TIME -- THE ELECTRONIC TIMER WILL SIGNAL WHEN TIME HAS EXPIRED.**

**TRANSFER OF TIME FROM ONE SPEAKER TO ANOTHER IS PROHIBITED.**

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**THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING YOUR VIEWS**



**NYC Health + Hospitals**  
**Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Public Meeting - Brooklyn**  
**Tuesday, April 29, 2025**  
**Report by Dr. Mitchell Katz, President and CEO**

Good evening, I'm Dr. Mitch Katz and I'm a practicing primary care doctor and the President and CEO of NYC Health + Hospitals. This is my eighth year here at the health care system, and I am proud and honored to lead this institution. I don't do this alone, of course. We have thousands of employees who ensure that New Yorkers received the high-quality care they deserve. Some of those folks are in the room today.

I want to thank our Board Members who are here, the staff who organized this meeting, and the team here tonight who will ensure that your words are captured for all our leadership to hear.

I want to thank those of you in the audience and those speaking this evening. Your presence here demonstrates how much you care about New York City's public health care system, the quality of health care in your neighborhood, and the community both inside and outside of our facilities. I appreciate your time and look forward to hearing what you have to say.

My goal has always been to expand access to care for more New Yorkers regardless of their ability to pay or immigration status, offer the highest quality of care, and advance our mission and values. This remains core to what we do every day at NYC Health + Hospitals.

Before we begin tonight's meeting, I do want to highlight some of our achievements from this past year.

- Our nursing team has had a phenomenal year. In addition to national recognition and awards, we have hired over 3,600 new union nurses since March 2023, replacing many agency nurses.

- In 2024 we housed over 375 of our patients through our Housing for Health initiative. The initiative has now housed over 1,200 patients since launch.
- US News & World Report, included all 11 of our hospitals in its "Best Hospitals 2024-2025" list, with a special nod to NYC Health + Hospitals/Elmhurst Hospital as a "Best Regional Hospital for Equitable Access." Additionally, Newsweek ranked Seaview the #1 nursing home in New York City.
- All of our hospitals have achieved at least three honors through the American Heart Association Get with the Guidelines and Mission: Lifeline quality programs.
- We continue to be a leader in LGBTQ+ care. All 18 eligible NYC Health + Hospitals facilities earned the "LGBTQ+ Healthcare Equality Leader" designation by the Human Rights Campaign Foundation's Healthcare Equality Index.
- Four of our hospitals -- Bellevue, Elmhurst, Lincoln and Woodhull -- were ranked by US News and World Report magazine as high performing for Uncomplicated Pregnancies.
- Our ground-breaking Lifestyle Medicine Program completed its expansion this past year, opening new sites at Elmhurst Hospital; Gotham Health, Vanderbilt; and Lincoln Hospital, for a total of seven sites systemwide that together can serve 4,000 patients a year.
- In 2024 we launched a comprehensive three-year blueprint to strengthen and expand our behavioral health services, funded in part by \$41 million from the state.
- We continue to provide services at our asylum seeker Arrival Center, which has welcomed more than 175,000 individuals from more than 160 countries.
- Our health insurance plan, MetroPlusHealth, continues to grow its membership across the five boroughs.
- NYC Health + Hospitals' facilities and engineering teams are working hard to reduce our carbon footprint. In 2024 we installed the first solar panels on the roof of Elmhurst Hospital. This will supplement the power that the Level 1 trauma center uses every day.

- NYC Care, our health care access program for people who are ineligible or cannot afford health insurance, celebrated its five-year anniversary with over 125,000 members enrolled in the program.
- We performed over 10,000 scans for lung cancer in the first two years of the Lung Cancer Screening program. Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death for both men and women.
- The health care system opened 20 new wellness rooms where staff can decompress during the workday and participate in wellness activities.
- Our Arts in Medicine program continued to beautify our hospitals and create spaces for healing and reflection. Ten new murals were installed last year at our facilities, the newest one just recently at NYC Health + Hospitals/Jacobi.
- Our 250 Community Health Workers have worked with over 25,000 patients. CHWs meet regularly with patients to identify and address barriers to health and well-being, such as housing, financial, food, and legal needs, as well as helping them schedule health care appointments and coordinate transportation.
- Finally, the health care system launched a podcast called The Remedy. Episodes covered everything from the power of primary care to preparing for the next pandemic. We are currently in the midst of Season 2 - last week's episode covered the Arrival Center, a central intake facility for all newly arriving asylum seekers run by NYC Health + Hospitals.

### **BROOKLYN NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS**

I would be remiss if I didn't specifically highlight our Brooklyn facilities accomplishments. NYC Health + Hospitals/Kings County, South Brooklyn Health, Woodhull, and Gotham Health sites have contributed to our extraordinary year, too.

#### **At NYC Health + Hospitals/Kings County**

- The hospital's Emergency Department instituted 24-hour patient advocacy with a dedicated team of bilingual patient representatives to help respond to patients' needs in real time.
- The Stroke Center at the hospital recently passed the Joint Commission Review.
- Kings County Hospital established a support group called Consumers about Friends Family Education to provide a forum for individuals to share their recovery experiences or discuss their role as family members and friends of someone in recovery.
- Suzanne Forde, DMSc, MPH, PA-C, Senior Surgical Physician Assistant and Quality Lead for the Department of Surgery, was named a 2025 United Hospital Fund (UHF) Excellence in Health Care Award honoree. She is the only recipient from the health system to receive this distinction this year.

#### **At NYC Health + Hospitals/South Brooklyn Health**

- In February, the hospital celebrated the ribbon-cutting of the newly relocated Ida G. Israel Community Health Center. This center represents a major investment in expanding outpatient services, bringing primary and specialty care closer to where people live and work, and reinforcing our commitment to healthcare resilience and equity in South Brooklyn.
- The robotic surgery program continues to grow. The hospital added a second machine to further expand access to minimally invasive care.
- South Brooklyn Health received full accreditation from the College of American Pathology for its Pathology and Laboratory Department.
- The hospital also received accreditation of its Dental Department, affirming continued excellence in patient dental care.
- It also received national recognition in the following areas:
  - Designation as a Certified Advanced Primary Stroke Center

- o Baby-Friendly Hospital re-designation
- o Gold+ Award for Stroke Care and Silver Award for NSTEMI from the American Heart Association
- o Lantern Award for Emergency Department nurses
- o Silver BEACON Award for Surgical ICU nursing team
- o Gold+ Blood Pressure Control Award from the AHA and AMA

**NYC Health + Hospitals/Woodhull has had a phenomenal year, too.**

- Woodhull was re-designated as Baby Friendly, and U.S. News & World Report recognized it for Best Hospitals for Maternity Care for Uncomplicated Pregnancies this past December.
- US News & World Report also recognized the hospital as High Performing in Diabetes Care.
- Woodhull achieved the American Heart Associations Stroke Gold Plus with Target: Type 2 Diabetes Honor Roll and Gold Plus Target: Type 2 Diabetes Honor Roll.
- The hospital held a Cure Violence Youth Educational Summit in May last year, engaging students in 11th and 12th grades at Progress High School.
- Woodhull has also invested in upgrades to enhance patient care, including:
  - o New interventional radiology suite
  - o New ED CT Scanner
  - o New Chemical Dependency to Substance Abuse and Recovery Unit
  - o New Pediatrics Inpatient Unit
- Finally, the hospital achieved Comprehensive Center Accreditation from the Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery Accreditation and Quality Improvement Program This accreditation demonstrates the commitment to providing the highest quality surgical care and improving patient safety.

**And finally, our NYC Health + Hospitals/Gotham Health sites have also seen improvements and upgrades for patients.**

- Gotham Health, East New York recently renovated twelve behavioral health exam rooms to provide enhanced behavioral health care to the community.

Finally, I do want to address something that has come up previously, and I'm sure will come up tonight.

Nursing is the backbone of our work across the System and in Brooklyn. Since the implementation of new contract provisions with our nurses' union, NYSNA, we have hired, onboarded and trained more than 3,400 net new nurses across our System, dramatically reducing our reliance on temp, or "registry" nurses across our facilities.

In addition, in recent months, we have continued discussions with our partner, NYSNA, over the handling of unscheduled "callouts". Nurses and our other union employees are all subject to a nearly 40-year-old policy at NYC Health + Hospitals that provides for departmental counselings and warnings after multiple unscheduled callouts, but this takes place well before any discipline or penalties are contemplated.

Nothing in this policy stops nurses from using their ample sick time -- everyone agrees that employees should not work when sick. Still, there are strong opinions on both sides about how to ensure appropriate use of leave time, which is why in response to NYSNA's demands for changes to the policy, we have offered to sit down and negotiate updates with our union partners together. We believe that with dialogue and negotiation, we will build on our staffing gains to the benefit of all.

As I have said, it takes all of us to make NYC Health + Hospitals succeed. And we could not do it without all of you - our patients and patient advocates, community-based organizations, elected officials, and other members of the communities we serve. Thank you for being here tonight and for your support of our essential public health care System.

Now let's proceed to the main purpose of tonight's meeting - to hear from you, members of our community. Your input is so important to the future success of NYC Health + Hospitals. We are ready to listen.

I will now turn to our General Counsel to outline the proceeding for tonight's meeting.