

Patricia Marthone

Good morning Speaker Adrienne E. Adams, Chair Keith Powers, Honorable Gale A. Brewer, Honorable Diana I. Ayala, Honorable Pierina Ana Sanchez, Honorable Rafael Salamaca Jr., Honorable Amanda Farías, Honorable Selvena N. Brooks-Powers, Honorable Crystal Hudson, and Honorable Justin L. Brannan. Thank you for having me here today, as Health and Hospitals Corporation (“H+H”) means a lot to me. Representing the borough of Brooklyn on the Board of Directors has given me the privilege to extend my hand to care for our families, our friends, our neighbors, and even strangers, with dignity and love.

When I came to you in 2021 I spoke on my father being a paranoid schizophrenic, and how my subconscious envisions him being reflected in every unhoused person that may appear to be suffering from mental health issues that cross my path. My concerns for our city’s unhoused and mentally ill transected with possible services H+H has had to offer, and was to be one of my focuses. I promised to be a board member that would be present in every way, and to bring my personal experiences and intentionality for positive growth in the execution of mission and purpose on the H+H board.

In my tenure on the board I personally visited our mobile programs providing care to unhoused New Yorkers, our housing programs and services, our hospitals, our clinics, our nursing homes, and attended public forums to hear concerns brought to our H+H board directly from the Public. All to ensure the understanding of what we are doing well, or not, and demand re-evaluation, revision, accountability, and follow-up reporting. I want you to know the tireless efforts and work of those assigned to the reception of new arrivals were doubly true to our mission, and delivered medical care, housing, and comfort with grace and kindness.

My fellow board members and I are constantly searching to produce better outcomes in Maternal Health and Mental Health. For example, through the lens of a special committee we examined Maternal Health issues to ensure **all** that drive care, and affect outcomes, were being addressed; and discussions identifying challenges with geolocation and access to quick interventions for physical and mental crises led to immediate actions to understand, and remove, barriers in real time, and create a plan for a permanent solution.

I am honored, and humbled, for the continued opportunity to serve our city in this capacity. As in my time on the H+H board the dedication -and sincerity- for improving outcomes in Physical and Mental Health in New York City’s population are best reflected upon the words of John Green. He openly shares his struggles with severe anxiety and obsessive-compulsive disorder, and wrote in his novel *Looking for Alaska*, “We need never be hopeless, because we can never be irreparably broken...” I might add, ...when we have H+H.