



VIRAL HEPATITIS INITIATIVE ADVOCACY UPDATE

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VHI EDUCATIONAL BRIEFING

- Briefing held on March 5 at 250 Broadway organized by the VHI Advocacy Leadership Committee and sponsored by Council Member Erik Bottcher – District 3
- Briefing provided an overview of the New York City Council’s innovative Viral Hepatitis Initiative, founded in 2014 by former City Council Members
- Over 50 community partners and local government officials attended
 - Including Council Members Schulman, Bottcher, & Powers, & staff from Council Members Krishnan & Cabán



VHI BRIEFING PHOTOS

Council Member Erik Bottcher & Community Partners





VHI BRIEFING PHOTOS

Council Member Lynn
Schulman & Community
Partners





KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM BRIEFING

- NYC Council Members have discretionary funding to distribute to constituents
- Advocacy season needs to begin earlier – Fall 2025
 - Seek out community engagement opportunities beginning in September
- Get to know your City Council Member - building relationships is **key**
 - Look up your City Council district here: <https://council.nyc.gov/map-widget/>



ADVOCACY OPPORTUNITIES

- Preliminary Budget Hearing on Health | March 21, 2024 @ 10AM – public 1:30PM
- Committee on Mental Health, Disabilities and Addiction | April 17, 2024 @ 1:00PM
 - Great way to engage with City Council Members. An opportunity to give oral or written testimony and share the work of your organization and to ask for continued support and increased funding



ACTION ITEMS

Quick, Effective, and Needed Actions from the Community!

You can continue to support this initiative by:

- Finding out who your Council Member is and sending them a VHI Briefing follow up e-mail (template provided to you)
 - Include hepatitis B and C maps, and description of this initiative
- Crafting your written/oral testimony
- Engaging with Hepatitis Awareness Month in May
 - Ask your City Council member to add information about your event into their newsletters and invite them to attend
 - Tag Council Members on social media



VIRAL HEPATITIS LEADERSHIP TEAM

- Check Hep C: Kenia Liriano, [Community Health Action of Staten Island](#)
- Check Hep B: Emily Li, [Korean Community Services](#)
- Hep C Peer: Jose Martinez, [National Harm Reduction Coalition](#)
- Training: Joy Cambe, [Empire Liver Foundation](#); Mike Selick, [National Harm Reduction Coalition](#); Robert Desrouleaux, [Hepatitis C Mentor and Support Group](#)
- Advocacy: Meg Chappell, [Empire Liver Foundation](#)
- Advisor: Ronni Marks, [Hepatitis C Mentor and Support Group](#)



QUESTIONS

Contact Meg Chappell at:

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