

I have worked at one of the NYC H + H facilities in the Bronx for approximately thirty years as a midwife. During that time period, we have seen the only out of hospital Bronx birth center close (The Morris Heights Childbearing Center). In our hospitals here in the Bronx, there are limited options available for pregnant people, including regarding birth and postpartum care - no in-hospital birth centers, an unnecessary medicalization of childbirth throughout facilities, lack of access to full-scope midwifery care for well-person, pregnancy, labor and birth in hospitals, limited "family friendly" policies, no consumers on boards of research or committees regarding review of medical care, and facility infrastructure issues. For example, at Jacobi Medical Center, women in the postpartum unit share a semi-private room with another person, and then two rooms share one bathroom - meaning four patients share one bathroom during their postpartum stay. There is a lack of true shared decision making, as heard by consumers who speak out on social media and other forums - people don't feel heard, don't feel that there is the time to be heard. And this is especially true for our patients of color.

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