



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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JEFFREY LEFRANCOIS
Chair

JESSE R. BODINE
District Manager

December 5, 2023

Ashwin Vasani MD
Commissioner
Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
42-09 28th Street
Long Island City NY, 11101

Manuel Castro
Commissioner
Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs
253 Broadway, 14th Floor
New York, NY 10007

Re: Support for Ryan Chelsea Clinton Health Center at 645 10th Avenue

Dear Commissioner Vasani and Commissioner Castro,

At Manhattan Community Board 4's (MCB4) Housing, Health and Human Services (HHHS) Committee meeting on October X, 2023, the committee received a presentation from the Executive Director of Ryan Chelsea-Clinton Community Health Center (RCC), Daniel Pinchinson. RCC is an independent affiliate of Ryan Health and is located at 645 10th Avenue.

During the MCB4 full board meeting held on November 1st, 2023, the board voted 36 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining, and 1 present but not eligible to vote, to support:

- Equipment for pre-natal care for underserved women. Ryan Chelsea-Clinton has had to refer out for this service. Making pre-natal services available will fill a need in the community.
- Increase interpretation services to support asylum seekers. Since May 2023, Ryan Chelsea-Clinton has registered over 5,000 asylum seekers.

Background

Ryan Health was established in 1967 to meet the community's need for healthcare services on the Upper West Side of Manhattan. In 1977, it became an independent, community-controlled health center, and in 1978, was renamed in memory of its greatest advocate, U. S. Congressman William F. Ryan. Ryan Chelsea-Clinton was founded in 2001 to meet the needs of the Chelsea, Clinton, and Hell's Kitchen neighborhoods and currently has over 13,000 registered patients.

Ryan Chelsea-Clinton serves all patients regardless of the ability to pay and accepts Medicaid, Medicaid Managed Care Plans, Medicare, and most private insurances. For patients who are uninsured or underinsured, a sliding fee scale based on family size and income as well as a low-cost pharmacy plan is offered.

Today, Ryan Health is a network of health centers across Manhattan providing access to a wide range of high quality, affordable, health care services for over 50,000 patients across 19 sites throughout Manhattan.

Need for Assistance

RCC has seen a 25% increase in patient visits over the past 6 years. Active registered patients increased dramatically in the last 3 years, despite the pandemic. In 2022, there were 12,737 active registered patients. As a result of this increase, RCC is at capacity. Every exam room is consistently in use, and the demand continues to grow.

The influx of asylum seekers into MCD4 has tremendously increased the number of new patients, with 5,372 asylum seekers registered as patients as of May 2023. This has put stress on the RCC system, and while RCC continues to rise to this challenge, the stress continues and highlights the need for financial assistance and more equipment.

Yearly patient visits have increased every year from 2015 to 2023, with an exception for 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic limiting in-person services. As RCC continues to meet the needs of the community, growth has outpaced space and resources. To keep up with these demands, the Center needs to grow. RCC has identified areas for growth:

- Pre-natal services: There is a high demand for these services. RCC has had to refer out for this service. Mount Sinai West is almost at capacity and is requesting assistance from community partners. To meet this need, RCC requires capital funding and equipment, including an ultrasound. Making pre-natal services available will fill a need in the community.
- Funding to support asylum seekers: There is a need for interpretation services and patient navigators. RCC continues to serve asylum seekers, and to do so in a high-quality manner, interpretation services are needed.
- Additional space: RCC is at capacity. The wait to get an appointment has increased to 6-12 days; the wait for a dental appointment is over one month.

Additional space is needed to increase mental health services and to house new staff. RCC is actively looking for space in the community for expansion.

Conclusion

MCB4 wants to thank Ryan Chelsea-Clinton Community Health Center for coming to our committee to discuss important updates about the Center, the community at large and how they provide care for us and our constituents. MCB4 requests that DOHMH investigate these requests from RCC and allocate funding to assist this valuable community resource expand its services.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey LeFrancois
Chair
Manhattan
Community Board 4



Joe Restuccia
Chair
Housing, Health, Human Services
Committee



Maria Ortiz
Chair
Housing, Health, Human Services
Committee

cc: Hon. Mark Levin, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Erik Bottcher, City Council