



CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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JESSICA CHAIT
Chair

JESSE R. BODINE
District Manager

April 25, 2024

Daniel Pichinson
President & Ceo
Ryan Chelsea-Clinton Community Health Center
645 Tenth Avenue
New York NY 10036

Re: Support for Ryan Chelsea-Clinton Community Health Center Seeking New York State Funding for Mobile Medical Van

Dear Mr. Pichinson:

At Manhattan Community Board 4's (MCB4) Housing, Health and Human Services (HHHS) Committee meeting on March 7, 2024, the committee received a presentation from the Interim Executive Director of Ryan Chelsea-Clinton Community Health Center (RCC), William Arboleda. RCC is an independent affiliate of Ryan Health and is located at 645 10th Avenue.

During the MCB4 full board meeting held on April 3, 2024, the board voted 38 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining, and 1 present but not eligible to vote, to **support RCC in seeking a New York state grant to support the purchase of a mobile medical van.**

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, it was renamed in memory of its greatest advocate, U.S. Congressman William F. Ryan. 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 18 sites throughout Manhattan.

RCC, an independent affiliate of Ryan Health, 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. It 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.

RCC Need for Assistance & Application for NYS Grant

RCC has the opportunity to request a grant from New York State, through the NYS Health Care Facility Transformation Program, which funds projects that will protect access to critical health services in the community. Specifically, RCC seeks this funding to support the purchase and outfitting of a fully equipped mobile medical van to better address the needs of homeless individuals, migrant/asylum seekers, and healthcare needs of community partners in Midtown, Chelsea, Clinton, and Hell's Kitchen neighborhoods.

The mobile medical van would provide various health services, including primary care for adults, adolescents, and pediatrics, HIV and HCV testing and linkage to care, STI and COVID-19 testing, vaccinations, medication assisted treatment program for opioid addiction, mental health counseling, insurance enrollment, screening for social determinants of health and connection to partner services, health education services, and hand-off and connection to comprehensive full suite of services offered at RCC's main clinic site.

Having a mobile medical van would help RCC address the heightened demands for critical healthcare services in our community. 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, and in 2023, there were 13,380 active registered patients. The influx of asylum seekers into Manhattan Community District 4 (MCD4) has further increased the number of new patients at RCC, with around 7,500 asylum seekers registered as patients to date. As a result, RCC has been at capacity, with every exam room consistently in use.

While RCC has continued to rise to this challenge, the demand for its services continues to grow, which highlights the need for its need for additional treatment space, equipment, and financial assistance. Therefore, RCC is applying for a grant to support the purchase and outfitting of a mobile medical van to better service the MCD4 neighborhoods.

Conclusion

MCB4 thanks RCC for coming to our HHHS committee to share important updates about RCC, the community at large, and how RCC is continuing to provide critical health care for our constituents. MCB4 recognizes the importance of the affordable and accessible health services that RCC brings to the community at large and supports RCC's request for funding under the New York State Health Care Facility Transformation Program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Schatz'.

Jessica Chait
Chair
Manhattan Community Board 4



Joe Restuccia
Chair
Housing, Health, Human Services
Committee



Maria Ortiz
Chair
Housing, Health, Human Services
Committee
