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May 22, 2026

Commissioner Dr. Chinazo Cunningham
NYS Office of Addiction Services and Supports
1450 Western Avenue
Albany, NY 12203

Re: 243 West 18th Street - Mountainside Treatment Center Expansion

Dear Commissioner Dr. Chinazo Cunningham,

At Manhattan Community Board 4 (MCB4)'s Housing, Health, and Human Services Committee (HHHS) on April 2, 2026, the committee received a presentation from the Mountainside Treatment Center located at 243 West 18th Street. Lisa Westerson, Vice President, Compliance and Regulatory Affairs, presented on their service program and requested an approval for expansion of their third floor for treatment services.

At its regularly scheduled Full Board meeting on May 6, 2026, voted 42 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining, and 0 present but not eligible to vote to support Mountainside Treatment Center's request to expand their space for additional substance abuse treatment services. As part of that support, MCB4 recommends Mountainside Treatment Center to seek more clients residing in MCD4 and accept Medicaid to reach lower income residents who can benefit from their specialized treatment and to engage the community if there are operational changes.

Background

Mountainside Treatment Center is an outpatient substance abuse (primarily alcohol) treatment facility located at 243 West 18th Street. Mountainside began in 1998 in Connecticut and expanded throughout other locations in the states of New York and New Jersey. In June of 2023 Mountainside began their services in MCB4 at West 18th Street. At that location, they have 3 floors of 1,600 square feet, creating a total of 4,800 clinical and administrative spaces.

To fully describe the services offered, Mountainside completed and submitted the MCB4 Social Services Provider and Project Checklist for the Board to better understand its program.

Mountainside provides outpatient services for substance abuse treatment. They offer their clients a variety of services, including but not limited to individual and peer group counseling, individual psychotherapy, medication assisted treatment and family and alumni programs. These services are provided on two floors of their three floors Monday through Friday from 9am-9pm and virtual hours on the weekend. Treatment duration typically ranges from two to twelve months.

Currently, this Mountainside location serves about 100 or more clients per month who may have about nine to ten appointments per week. Annually, they serve about 300 or more clients per year. Mountainside is currently staffed with 23 employees, a majority of whom are full-time, the current client to staff ratio is 1:4. Clients come from all parts of the city, approximately 12% are residents of Manhattan Community District 4. Of all clients, 71% of utilize insurance.

Since opening in MCB4, Mountainside has increased its service volume from approximately 1,800 units of care to 7,000 care units, with projections reaching 9,000 care units by the end of the year. Due to this service growth, the organization is seeking to expand programming space to include the third floor of its current location.

Community Recommendation

Mountainside primarily serves clients who reside outside of MCB4 and does not currently accept Medicaid to provide services for a lower income community. Committee members recommend that the organization expand access by accepting additional forms of insurance, particularly Medicaid, and increasing service availability for residents of Chelsea and Hell's Kitchen. Additionally, it is recommended to engage the community if there are any operational changes.

Conclusion

Mountainside Treatment Center is an outpatient substance abuse treatment provider located on a block in Chelsea, in an area where there is no oversaturation of social services, and there were no reported complaints from residents or businesses in the area. The organization offers a wide range of programming and has demonstrated significant growth in both clients served and services provided. Expansion into the third floor is justified to accommodate this growth. MCB4 recommends that Mountainside broaden access by accepting Medicaid and increasing services for local residents.

Sincerely,



Leslie Boghosian-Murphy
Chair
Manhattan Community Board 4



Joe Restuccia
Co-Chair
Housing, Health,
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Committee



Maria Ortiz
Co-Chair
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