



CITY OF NEW YORK

**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR**

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**COREY JOHNSON**  
Chair

**ROBERT J. BENFATTO, JR., ESQ.**  
District Manager

May 3, 2013

Hon. Arlene Gonzalez-Sanchez, Commissioner  
Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services, Certification Bureau  
1450 Western Avenue  
Albany, NY 12203-3526

**Re: GMHC Application for Article 32 licensure**

Dear Commissioner Gonzalez-Sanchez:

At the April 16th, 2013 meeting of Manhattan Community Board 4's ("CB4") Housing, Health & Human Services ("HH&HS") Committee, the Board met with GMHC leadership and discussed their the proposed substance use treatment program. CB4 strongly supports their application and encourages the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services to approve GMHC's application for licensure through New York State as an Article 32 provider of outpatient substance use treatment.

GMHC's long history of providing services to vulnerable individuals facing significant health disparities will inform its approach to substance use treatment. MCB4 continually looks for effective ways to address the unmet needs in our community, including the provision of needed services to LGBT residents, people with mental health diagnoses, individuals living with or affected by HIV/AIDS, and other disenfranchised and vulnerable individuals in need of behavioral health care. Research clearly demonstrates that members of these groups have significantly higher rates of substance use disorders than the general population.

GMHC's outpatient substance use services will be provided in tandem with its existing mental health and other supportive services, addressing the continued demand for comprehensive and coordinated behavioral health services in our community. GMHC's more than three decades of experience have shown that individuals' substance use treatment needs must be addressed in order for HIV prevention and treatment to have a lasting impact. The primary client population will be drawn from its existing client base (over half of which report both substance use and mental health issues) and others connected to the HIV and LGBT communities throughout all five boroughs.

The proposed program will be one facet of the full continuum of care that GMHC provides, including services such as housing, benefits enrollment, meals, legal services, case management, mental health services, and workforce development. GMHC currently offers nearly forty twelve-step meetings, for which attendance continues to grow. GMHC's nurturing, nonjudgmental

environment is conducive to a safe haven for those seeking support and recovery.

MB4 has full confidence in GMHC's ability to design and operate an effective service delivery model that will significantly benefit the NYC community. We are in full support of GMHC's application to the Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services to obtain licensing for the aforementioned program and extend our continued thanks for the services GMHC has provided to our community for the past 30 years.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'CJ', is positioned above the typed name.

Corey Johnson  
Chair

Corey Johnson, Chair

Cc: