



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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Delores Rubin
Chair

Jesse Bodine
District Manager

January 20, 2017

Susan Slade
Director, Bureau of Child Health
New York State Department of Health
Corning Tower, Room 878
Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY, 12237

Re: School Based Health Center at the Park West Educational Campus

Dear Ms. Slade:

We are writing to express Community Board 4's strong support for the long anticipated opening of a state-of-the-art School- Based Health Center (SBHC) at the Park West Educational Campus on 50th Street and 10th Avenue. The Ryan/Chelsea-Clinton Community Health Center will provide the health care services to improve the health outcomes of the students at Park West, the majority of who are Medicaid eligible and qualify for free or reduced lunch. In addition, over 14% have special needs. The 2,241 student body is comprised of adolescents from ethnic and racial minority groups: 71% Hispanic, 22% Black, 3% Asian, 2% White and 2% unknown. Currently, 46% of the student body is enrolled in Medicaid, 4% are enrolled in Child Health Plus, 9% have commercial insurance, and 41% are self-pay or, their status is unknown with a high likelihood that a significant number are Medicaid eligible.

The School-Based Health Center will provide a full range of primary, preventive and supportive services on-site to students, in addition to referrals, as needed, for medical care not available in the school. Students will be able to obtain annual physical exams, family planning services, immunizations, and a full range of health education materials. SBHCs often serve as a medical home for students, especially those who lack access to consistent health care services, which many of Park West's students need. For High School students specifically, SBHCs provide an introduction to the full range of young adult health care services such as sexual and reproductive health, women's health, and mental health services.

An application to operate the School Based Health Center application was sent to the New York State Department of Health on November 15th. I am requesting that Center's submission be reviewed and processed as expeditiously as possible as construction has been completed and the SBHC can open as early as late January 2017. The equipment is being delivered and recruitment for staffing is underway. All that is left is a review and approval of the application and inspection

of the facility, which is why it is imperative that your office review the application in a timely manner to ensure a late January opening. The SBHC at Park West will address the comprehensive health needs of students, while providing a strong foundation that will ensure their access to health care services in the future.

As a Federally Qualified Health Center, the Ryan/Chelsea-Clinton Community Health Center offers a full range of coordinated health care and support services that are responsive to the health care needs of the target populations; medically underserved and low-income adults and children. All services are provided regardless of a patient's ability to pay. Ryan/Chelsea-Clinton offers the full range of primary care, dental, and mental health, services in addition to a wide range of specialty care. The Center is a sub-recipient of Section 330 grant dollars from the William F. Ryan Community Health Center, which currently operates six SBHCs throughout Manhattan.

The Ryan/Chelsea-Clinton Community Health Center works closely with the Housing, Health and Human Services Committee of Community Board 4 and this project is very important to many low-income families in our district. We thank you in advance for your attention to this matter. We know we have the same goal, which is the health and wellness of the students at Park West.

Sincerely,



Delores Rubin
MCB4 Chair



[Signed 1/20/2017]
Barbara Davis, Co-Chair
Housing, Health &
Human Services Committee

Joe Restuccia, Co-Chair
Housing, Health &
Human Services Committee

cc: Carmen Farina, Chancellor, Department of Education
William Murphy, Executive Director, Ryan Chelsea-Clinton Community Health Center