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Elmhurst Hospital Center Opens New Psychiatric Emergency Room

NYC Councilmember Helen Sears and NYS Assemblyman Jeff Aubry join EHC Executive Director Chris Constantino at ribbon-cutting for newly renovated Comprehensive Psychiatric Emergency Room offering care for acutely ill patients.

(Elmhurst, NY)----On Friday, March 20, New York City Councilmember Helen Sears and NYS Assemblyman Jeff Aubry cut the ribbon for the newly renovated Comprehensive Psychiatric Emergency Room at Elmhurst Hospital Center. Councilwoman Sears and Assemblyman Aubrey were joined by Health and Hospitals Corporation Board Member Anna Krill, Queens Health Network Regional Director Dr. Jasmin Moshirpur, Elmhurst Hospital Center Executive Director Chris Constantino, members of the Elmhurst Hospital Center Community Advisory Board, and EHC administrators and staff.

Completed at a cost of \$2.5 million, the renovated Comprehensive Psychiatric Emergency Room, (C-PEP) expanded from 3,000 sq. ft to 4,500 sq.ft, is open 24 hours a day and provides emergency psychiatric assessment, evaluation, and treatment for acutely ill patients. Patients are assessed by a multidisciplinary team composed of nurses, social workers, psychologists and psychiatrists. The new space has private and confidential assessment rooms for both children and adults and will enhance the delivery of efficient and patient-centered mental health care at Elmhurst Hospital Center.

“This is what Elmhurst Hospital’s mission is all about—providing high-quality facilities and treatment for all patients, no matter what the problem is,” said Councilwoman Sears. “The new C-PEP room will ensure that mental health patients can be treated with dignity and respect no matter what their income. I truly believe Elmhurst Hospital is the gem of HHC.” Sears also said that the opening of the new space reinforced how devastating some of the proposed state cuts in healthcare funding would be.

Echoing Sears’s sentiments, Assemblyman Aubry said that for him, a ribbon-cutting for a new emergency room meant a lot, given that the country is in the iron grip of a severe economic crisis. “The opening of facilities like this gives me even more incentive to fight for essential services, like healthcare and education, that everyone needs. “

He also recalled his days as Executive Director at Elmcor Youth and Adult Activities, a community service organization, and how helpful the mental health professionals at Elmhurst Hospital Center were whenever they treated his clients. “Then as now, the quality of people delivering care was great.

“It just goes to show that with healthcare, it’s not just bricks and mortar that matter, but also the type of people delivering the care,” he added. “Here you’ve always had good people.”

“This day has been a long time coming,” said Elmhurst Hospital Center Executive Director Chris Constantino. “I am very proud of this newly expanded space and how it will assist us in fulfilling our mandate to provide quality mental-health services to the community.”

Roughly 25 patients were treated daily in Elmhurst Hospital Center’s old Psychiatric Emergency Room. Elmhurst Hospital Center anticipates treating the same number of patients in the new Emergency Room, but the 50% increase in square-footage will make for a more comfortable environment for patients as

well as staff. For more information about Elmhurst Hospital Center's Comprehensive Psychiatric Emergency Room, please contact Atiya Butler, Assistant Director of External Affairs, at 718.334.1259 or via e-mail at atiya.butler@nychhc.org.

About Elmhurst Hospital

Elmhurst Hospital Center is a member of the Queens Health Network and of the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation. It is affiliated with the Mount Sinai School of Medicine.