



Community Board 12 - Manhattan Washington Heights & Inwood

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George Fernández Jr. - Chairman
Ebenezer Smith, District Manager

February 25, 2015

Mr. William Witherspoon
Executive Director
Upper Manhattan Mental Health Center, Inc.
1727 Amsterdam Avenue
New York, NY 10031

Dear Mr. Witherspoon:

I am pleased to inform you that Community Board 12-Manhattan, at its general meeting on February 24, 2015, voted 30-0-0 to approve the following resolution supporting the application by Upper Manhattan Mental Health Center, Inc. to the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

WHEREAS: The Upper Manhattan Mental Health Center, Inc. (UMMHC), founded in 1968, is licensed by the N.Y. State Office of Mental Health, N.Y. State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services and the N.Y.C. Department of Education to provide comprehensive behavioral health services, including outpatient mental health services for children, adolescents, adults and the elderly; case management; a therapeutic preschool; an outpatient substance abuse clinic; a halfway house for recovering substance abusers and a food pantry; and

WHEREAS: UMMHC, 1727 Amsterdam Ave. (at W. 145th St.), serves an estimated 15,000 individuals, 95% of whom are from upper Manhattan, annually in its programs; and

WHEREAS: UMMHC reports that an estimated 2000 residents of Community District 12 were involved in its programs and services in Fiscal Year 2014; and

WHEREAS: UMMHC seeks to improve the physical health status and quality of care of its clients with behavioral disorders; and

WHEREAS: UMMHC is co-located with Heritage Health and Housing, Inc, a Federally Qualified Health Center, enabling them to collaborate on mutual referrals and the establishment of a health home for their clients, and they are the only co-located, free-standing primary and behavioral health care organizations serving our area; and

WHEREAS: UMMHC is partnering with Heritage Health and Housing to apply for a \$1.6M grant over four years from the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to provide integrated primary and behavioral health services to residents of upper Manhattan; and

WHEREAS: The purpose of the grant is to establish projects for the provision of coordinated services through the co-location of primary and specialty care medical services in behavioral health settings, with the following objectives:

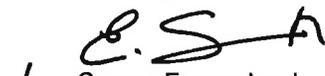
1) to improve the health of individuals with behavioral disorders; 2) to enhance the quality, accessibility and reliability of care, and 3) to reduce and control the per capita cost of care; and

WHEREAS: UMMHC is also known as the Emma L. Bowen Community Service Center, and Ms. Bowen, one of the founders of UMMHC, was a distinguished community leader and a member of Community Board 12 in the late 1970s and 1980s; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: Community Board 12-Manhattan supports the application by Upper Manhattan Mental Health Center, Inc. to the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to establish primary and behavioral health care integration for residents of Community District 12 and all of upper Manhattan.

Thank you for your consideration of our request in this matter.

Sincerely,


George Fernandez Jr.
Chair

cc: Hon. Bill de Blasio, Mayor

Hon. Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President

Hon. Letitia James, Public Advocate

Hon. Scott Stringer, Comptroller

Hon. Adriano Espaillat, State Senator

Hon. Bill Perkins, State Senator

Hon. Guillermo Linares, Assembly Member

Hon. Herman D. Farrell, Jr., Assembly Member

Hon. Ydanis Rodriguez, Council Member

Hon. Mark Levine, Council Member