



Consumer Advisory Board – CAB

GMHC in Crisis!

Rally & Press Conference

For the last 2 years the CAB has repeatedly asked the CEO for the GMHC community to be involved with helping to find a new building. Sen. Tom Duane and Speaker Christine Quinn also offered help that was also ignored. Instead, the Board of Directors took it upon themselves to search for a building on their own with the result of finding a building with severe restrictions to critical services. This prompted the CAB to request a meeting with the whole Board, which was denied. Now we fear the lease will be signed despite overwhelming opposition. The CAB is therefore demanding a meeting with the whole Board of Directors and other GMHC stakeholders before the lease is signed. If that doesn't happen, we will have a rally and press conference on May 19 in front of GMHC and we are prepared to ask Dr Hill and the board co-chairs, Odell Mays and Matthew Moore, to step down.

And the deal breakers are:

- No in-house fully functioning kitchen and meals program as we have had for the past 25 years. The meals program is the #1 most utilized service and also has social implications.
- No dinner on Fridays (Friday dinner is the most popular service among clients)
- No HIV Testing. Federal, State and City policies focus reducing HIV rates by increasing HIV testing and connecting people diagnosed HIV + to services.
- No ability to hold large meetings (only 75 persons maximum)
- No Clinic in the building - A CAB survey indicates that at least 30% of clients surveyed would not continue coming to GMHC without a clinic in the building. (500 clients are served by this clinic).
- Segregated entrance for People with AIDS, Clients must use a separate entrance while staff can use the main entrance - reinforcing HIV stigma, homophobia & racism
- Remote location - nearest Subway is equivalent to 8 city blocks away, especially difficult in the winter.
- Impending multiple massive construction projects will render the whole area disruptive and hazardous.

Any of these deal breakers will result in loss of clients and should be reason enough to reject this proposed building, combined they spell disaster for GMHC.

We have suggested the following alternatives (all of which were ignored), that GMHC:

- Negotiate with the landlord along with city and state officials for an extension on the lease of this building.
- Search for a temporary building, where critical services will be preserved, including the clinic, and including easy access to subways.
- Mount a massive effort in collaboration with state and local officials, government agencies, benefactors, new realtors and the GMHC community, to rent, buy or build an appropriate building.

Press Conference and Rally to Save GMHC

When: Wednesday, May 19, 2010 – from 12 to 2 pm

Where: in front of the GMHC 119w 24th St NYC (Bet. 6th & 7th Aves, trains 1,F & V to 23rd St)

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(The CAB represents and gives voice to the actual GMHC Clients themselves)

**Please attend the rally and support the CAB, Clients, Staff, Volunteers and Community.
GMHC belongs to you!!**