



Chairperson, Martha Taylor

*The City of New York
Borough of Queens*

Community Board 8

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District Manager, Marie Adam-Ovide

Health Committee Meeting

Date: Thursday, August 15, 2024
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Place: Community Board 8 Office
197-15 Hillside Avenue
Hollis, NY 11423

Chaired by: **Dr. Penny Stern, Health Committee Chair**

Board Members Absent: Michael Hannibal and Alyiah Salim.

In attendance: **Rego Park Counseling LLC representatives** Community Board 8 Staffer Soleil Griffin and Naima Hernandez

Dr. Penny Stern called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Dr. Penny Stern

How do the residents feel about having your services in the building?

Answer [Emanuil Kalendarev] – The landlord would not have provided us with the whole first floor if he thought his tenants would have an issue with our services.

Dr. Penny Stern

Are the people renters?

Answer [Emanuil Kalendarev] – Yes. It is not a condo nor a co-op that has a board.

Dr. Penny Stern

Who would the cliental be?

Answer [Emanuil Kalendarev] – We are a regular outpatient clinic that is a counseling center.

Dr. Penny Stern

How would a person find their way to you?

Answer [Emanuil Kalendarev] – We work with the courthouse, but we mainly deal with DUI's.

Dr. Penny Stern

Do you only deal with alcohol or offer opioids?

Answer [Emanuil Kalendarev] – We only deal with alcohol. We are not intensive outpatient, so we do not deal with methadone or medication.

Dr. Penny Stern

What are your hours?

Answer [*Emanuil Kalendarev*] – Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Answer [*Claire Clarke-Browne*] – The people that come in for appointments do not hang around the outside of the building.

Dr. Penny Stern

When a person comes in do they see a physician, a counselor?

Answer [*Emanuil Kalendarev*] – They see a counselor.

Dr. Penny Stern

What is the counselor going to do for them?

Answer [*Emanuil Kalendarev*] – They will ask them about their previous history. Sometimes the courts may ask for a lab test. We offer toxicology testing.

Dr. Penny Stern

What if this is the second time someone experiences a DUI?

Answer [*Emanuil Kalendarev*] – They would probably go to counseling once a week.

Dr. Penny Stern

Do you have stats on your success rate?

Answer [*Claire Clarke-Browne*] – Since we've opened, we've never experienced anyone that had to come back again.

Dr. Penny Stern

Are the people their social workers?

Answer [*Emanuil Kalendarev*] – We have social workers, certified alcohol substance abuse, two on call doctors – one with a specialty in substance abuse and the other psychiatric, two nurse practitioners and psychiatrists.

Dr. Penny Stern

How many people attend your facility at once?

Answer [*Emanuil Kalendarev*] – In Rego Park we've seen 100 people per day. They are not coming in at one time.

Dr. Penny Stern

How do you counsel 100 people?

Answer [*Emanuil Kalendarev*] – We have three groups for a duration of three hours. The 9 a.m. group has fifteen people.

Dr. Penny Stern

You have group appointments like AA meetings?

Answer [*Emanuil Kalendarev*] – Yes. People come in and they speak. That structure works since people wouldn't feel like they are experiencing this on their own.

Dr. Penny Stern

Who leads these group meetings?

Answer [*Emanuil Kalendarev*] – The clinician.

Answer [*Claire Clarke-Browne*] – They are licensed people who run the meeting. We also have interns from City College, Touro College, Yeshiva University, and Pace University.

Dr. Penny Stern

You deal with mental health and no DUI's?

Answer [*Emanuil Kalendarev*] – Just mental health.

Dr. Penny Stern

If you had to categorize this clinic, what would you call it?

Answer [*Emanuil Kalendarev*] – We're an integrated model which includes substance use, mental health and primary care.

Dr. Penny Stern

Someone can come for a primary care visit without having an alcohol, psychiatric or mental health problem?

Answer [*Emanuil Kalendarev*] – Yes.

Dr. Penny Stern

You're like an urgent care?

Answer [*Emanuil Kalendarev*] – Urgent care can not do what we do since they cannot diagnose. We can treat and provide a cardiologist, obgyn.

Dr. Penny Stern

Different times of the week you have those specialists come in?

Answer [*Emanuil Kalendarev*] – If someone comes in and states they have a heart problem they can meet with our registered nurse, nurse practitioner or physician. They get the test and run it.

Dr. Penny Stern

What equipment will you have at the facility?

Answer [*Emanuil Kalendarev*] – We will have x-ray machines in the future.

Dr. Penny Stern

If someone comes in with a broken arm, would you be able to cast it?

Answer [*Emanuil Kalendarev*] – We hope so.

Dr. Penny Stern

How many exam rooms will you have?

Answer [*Emanuil Kalendarev*] – We have seven exam rooms.

Dr. Penny Stern

Where will the group meetings be taking place?

Answer [*Emanuil Kalendarev*] – It is all separated. The place itself 8.5 thousand square feet. It will be separated by walls. One space will be 3500 square feet which will be for substance use and mental health. Next door is primary care with the lab which will be 2900 square feet. The following door will be 800 to 900 square feet which will have medical equipment.

Dr. Penny Stern

Are you going to send out your labs or will it be in-house?

Answer [*Emanuil Kalendarev*] – Most will be in-house, and some will be sent out for confirmations. We do not want to do confirmations.

Dr. Penny Stern

At any given workday, how many people are in your clinical facility?

Answer [*Claire Clarke-Browne*] – We have twelve right now, but more people are coming including interns.

Dr. Penny Stern

Will they all be there at the same time, and will there be a staff room?

Answer [*Emanuil Kalendarev*] – Yes.

Dr. Penny Stern

What electronic medical record will you be using?

Answer [*Emanuil Kalendarev*] – Tem-e 11. If someone comes to our office and needs higher level of care, we refer them to other organizations such as Cornerstone and Seafield.

Dr. Penny Stern

Are you a clinician?

Answer [*Emanuil Kalendarev*] – Yes. I am a certified substance and alcohol abuse counselor, peer advocate.

Dr. Penny Stern

Do you work on the premise or oversee things?

Answer [Emanuil Kalendarev] – I oversee things. If a patient meets with the clinical staff and has concerns, I intervene as a peer advocate.

Dr. Penny Stern

What are the options for people who cannot pay?

Answer [Emanuil Kalendarev] – With a DUI there are not options. It is up to us.

Dr. Penny Stern

Your facility is not near public transportation.

Answer [Emanuil Kalendarev] – We have a garage and a couple of bus stops.

Dr. Penny Stern

Would you consider providing transportation?

Answer [Emanuil Kalendarev] – We do have companies like Access-A-Ride and ambulance companies to pick patients up. Also, clients that have DUI cases can not just walk through the door, they would need an appointment to see a clinician. If a person wants to visit our primary care office, they do not need an appointment.

Dr. Penny Stern

What would be the benefit of having a letter of support from the community board?

Answer [Emanuil Kalendarev] – The state likes to see that community board is aware and that they support us, especially since we have a lot of ACS cases. We also help with resumes and job placement, housing placement and provide food.

Dr. Penny Stern

Do you have a cafeteria?

Answer [Emanuil Kalendarev] – Yes. We provide meals to people. We've had people come in that hasn't had a meal in a while.

Soleil Griffin

What insurance do you take?

Answer [Emanuil Kalendarev] – Patients pay out of pocket when it comes to the counseling. We take all insurances for our primary care facility. We also have a sliding scale for people who haven't worked or doesn't have insurance. We provide them with at least one service.

Dr. Penny Stern

You're going to be traveling to Yonkers, Forest Hills, and this location or will other people oversee those locations?

Answer [Emanuil Kalendarev] – I am the back handle guy. We have our clinical directors.

Soleil Griffin

Stated that you provide resumes and job placement, housing placement and food, will you offer this at this location? If so, which room will be dedicated to this?

Answer [Emanuil Kalendarev] – Yes. It's one on one. It will be in the substance abuse facility.

Soleil Griffin

Where will the kitchen be?

Answer [Emanuil Kalendarev] – I have a kitchen in Rego Park, we would be providing cupcakes, bagels, croissants, cream cheese, tea and coffee. We will have an in-house staff kitchen for each store front.

Chairperson Dr. Stern agreed for the board to write a letter of support.

The meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Soleil Griffin, Community Board 8 Staff

August 22, 2024