



**For Immediate Release**

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**Community Access Rejects Vision Outlined in Mayor Adams Mental Health Announcement**

**(NEW YORK)** - Community Access is one of New York’s leading providers of supportive housing, healing and recovery-focused services for people living with mental health concerns. Cal Hedigan, CEO, released the following statement regarding Mayor Adams’ mental health announcement this morning:

“We could not disagree more with the direction Mayor Adams laid out in today’s address. Coercing people into services they do not want is not the answer to our city’s mental health crisis. What we need is real investment in community-based alternatives that are truly responsive to individual needs and support people in making informed decisions about their own care and recovery. We reject the premise that people living with mental health concerns need others to make decisions about their own health and well-being for them—least of all police officers, who are called upon far too often to respond.”

“Involuntary treatment and force are not the answer. The shift that our system of care needs to make is one where we understand the centrality of listening to the people we exist to serve and are able to offer a range of treatment options that include more than a prescription. We call on the City to invest in services and programs that are truly person-centered, and rooted in dignity.”

“Today’s measures will only serve to create more harm and trauma, pushing even further away those whose needs have not been met by the system we currently have.”

**About Community Access**

Founded in 1974, Community Access is a pioneer of supportive housing and social services in New York City for people living with mental health concerns. Driven by the simple truth that people are experts in their own lives, Community Access expands opportunities for people living



with mental health concerns to recover from trauma and discrimination through affordable housing, training, advocacy, and healing-focused services.