

For Immediate Release

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Community Access Responds to Video of NYPD Handcuffing Woman in Jamaica Center Subway Station

(New York, NY, 11/26/19) – Cal Hedigan, CEO of Community Access, issued the following statement in response to a [video](#) released of NYPD forcibly restraining a woman at the Jamaica Center Subway Station:

"While the details of this incident continue to unfold, we remain committed to a future in which individuals experiencing mental health crises are engaged by mental health crisis workers rather than the police. At Community Access, we stand firmly against force and believe the choice to seek out or accept health care should be the individual's to make – and that includes mental health care. Physically restraining and handcuffing a person in crisis is antithetical to help and only leads to further harm as well as increasing disengagement from the mental health system. The recent decision to deploy 500 additional police officers in the public transportation system will only serve to intensify and increase the likelihood of these encounters. The force with which the woman in the video is detained is alarming. We will continue to advocate for a crisis response system that is compassionate, where individuals experiencing mental health crises can receive health care without handcuffs."

About Community Access:

Community Access' mission is to expand opportunities for people living with mental health concerns to recover from trauma and discrimination through affordable housing, training, advocacy, and healing-focused services. We are built upon the simple truth that people are experts in their own lives.

www.communityaccess.org

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