



APICHA Launches Transgender Clinic

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New York, NY) – APICHA, one of New York’s most progressive community health centers, officially opens the doors to a Transgender Clinic, made possible by a generous three-year grant from the Paul Rapoport Foundation, in ceremonies to be held 9AM November 3, 2011 here at 400 Broadway New York, NY. Prominent local politicians and community leaders including the Honorable Andrew Cuomo, Governor of New York, have been invited to lead the ribbon cutting, which will be followed by a panel discussion and Q & A session on the various social, political and medical issues faced by transgender individuals to-day.

The groundbreaking APICHA Transgender Clinic provides comprehensive medical services including the initiation and maintenance of hormone therapy along with mental and social support services designed to accommodate the distinct needs of transgender individuals with particular focus on communities of color. Throughout its existence and evolution, APICHA has advocated for and provided the finest range of medical care services to the LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) community who routinely encounter discrimination and stigma in traditional health care settings. Since the 2009 expansion of its primary care services it became apparent that the agency had to develop an integrated program that could appropriately address the unique healthcare requirements of transgender patients.

“This clinic is a small though absolutely significant step in our agency’s long standing and continuing struggle for equal access to health care,” says APICHA chief executive officer Therese R. Rodriguez. “We are grateful to the Paul Rapoport Foundation for its continued support and confidence in our work and more importantly for our shared mission in improving health care access for the LGBT community.”



The highly competent APICHA medical team led by chief medical officer Dr. Robert Murayama builds upon their years of extensive experience working with lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender patients with the new Transgender Clinic, which will have an appointed project coordinator to work closely with the medical and mental health providers. In addition to the direct medical services, APICHA will also provide transgender-specific sensitivity training to Asian & Pacific Islander community partners.

ABOUT APICHA

Founded in 1989, APICHA provides comprehensive primary care and other medical services including mental health, STD and Hepatitis and supportive services targeted to Asian & Pacific Islanders, the LGBT community and other individuals living with and affected by HIV/AIDS. Over the last twenty-one years, APICHA has grown from a grassroots HIV prevention-focused organization into a patient-centered medical home which has been recognized with the highest level 3 Patient-Centered Medical Home qualification by the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA). This year, APICHA has served over 2,600 patients, mostly people of color, LGBTQ and low income individuals in New York City. APICHA is staffed with a multi-lingual, multi-cultural staff fluent in 21 languages including various Asian languages, Spanish, Romanian, Italian and American Sign Language.