



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Apicha Community Health Center CEO Therese R. Rodriguez
Appointed to Governor's Task Force**

New York, NY – Apicha Community Health Center is pleased to announce that CEO Therese R. Rodriguez has accepted her appointment by Governor Andrew Cuomo to the Ending AIDS Epidemic in New York State Task Force. "It is an honor to serve on this historic task force. The nation is at an important juncture in which the end of AIDS is in sight. I salute Governor Andrew Cuomo's decision to create the task force and for making it part of New York State's strategy to achieve the goal of ending the AIDS epidemic by 2020," said Ms. Rodriguez. Recalling New York State's role in the fight against HIV/AIDS, Ms. Rodriguez emphasized: "Commitment from the highest level of New York State's government to allocate resources to defeat the epidemic continues the tradition of our state serving as a model for the nation. The AIDS epidemic has devastated lives and economies and Governor Cuomo's bold leadership in this important State-wide effort is highly commendable."

Apicha CHC, with its comprehensive medical and support services is well positioned to actively participate in the End of AIDS campaign.

Governor Cuomo early this month announced the creation of the task force following his historic announcement on June 29, 2014 of a plan to end the AIDS epidemic in New York by the year 2020. The task force is composed of experts and community advocates that is charged to develop and issue recommendations as well as draft New York's blueprint to end the epidemic in line with the Governor's three-point plan to decrease new infections that consists of:

1. Identifying people with HIV who remain undiagnosed and linking them to health care;
2. Linking and retaining people diagnosed with HIV to health care and getting them on anti-HIV therapy to maximize HIV virus suppression so they remain healthy and prevent further transmission; and
3. Providing access to Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) for high-risk people to keep them HIV negative.

About Apicha Community Health Center

Since 1989, Apicha Community Health Center has demonstrated an extraordinary ability to bring awareness and care to New Yorkers. Apicha CHC has grown from an HIV/AIDS coalition for Asian & Pacific Islanders (APIs) to a community health center that provides health care to all. Now a Federally Qualified Health Center Look-Alike, we provide general and HIV-specialty primary care, mental health and support services to the underserved communities in Chinatown and the Lower East Side, particularly APIs and other individuals of color, people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS, and those who identify as LGBT.



For more information on the "End of AIDS Plan" and/or the Task Force appointment, please find the official press release from the Governor's office
<http://www.governor.ny.gov/press/10142014-AIDStaskforce>.

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