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Medical and Diagnostic Clinic in Queens to Have Special Focus on Integrated Care for Homeless Veterans & Specialty Populations

ICL Healthcare Choices at Borden Avenue to Outreach to Community and Provide Multitude of Services

NEW YORK, NY March 1, 2012 – ICL HealthCare Choices and the Institute for Community Living announce a new integrated mental and medical health care facility, ICL HealthCare Choices Clinic at Borden Avenue (ICL HCC Borden). The recently constructed clinic will offer services to people of all ages, with a special focus on the homeless, elderly, immigrant, low-income and the uninsured. Located adjacent to ICL Borden Avenue Veterans Residence in Long Island City, Queens, the clinic will be especially accessible to homeless veterans (and their families) who are not eligible for Veterans Administration healthcare benefits and services and are in need of medical and psychiatric care.

"The easier we can make access to health care, the more lives will be saved. Right now, homeless people and underinsured New Yorkers are much less likely to find critical and necessary health care because of disabilities, immigrant status and/or poverty," explains **Dr. Peter C. Campanelli, CEO and President, Institute for Community Living** (the founding agency of ICL HealthCare Choices). He continues, *"Not only will ICL HCC Borden treat patients' medical needs, it will also provide psychiatric and dental services -- a model integration of services that is vital when working with the homeless."*

Commissioner Terrance C. Holliday, Mayor's Office of Veteran's Affairs, said during the ribbon-cutting ceremony, *"This clinic will assist a great number of individuals in need, even those without insurance. People in the community will have access to health screenings, primary care, dentistry, mental health and other services. This is a very good thing for our veterans and their families. We should have more facilities like this, spread out across the country in urban areas where people can walk in and know that they will receive quality medical care and be treated with dignity and respect."*

Addressing the Health of the Homeless and Specialty Populations, One Person at a Time

"ICL HealthCare Choices at Borden Avenue is a model for the city with its integrated health services. Patients will even have electronic health records that can travel with them. Rather than a one-shot type of service, they will receive continuing care wherever they go. It's something that the whole city will look to," said **Homeless Services Commissioner Seth Diamond**. *"Wellness and health care is the foundation of everything else. Without it, it's almost impossible to get a*

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job, reunite with your family or live the way you would like. This is another example of the visionary approach that the Institute for Community Living brings to all of its services.”

ICL HCC Borden was constructed with a New York State Department of Health Heal 17 grant, in conjunction with support from New York City’s Department of Homeless Services. With its Federally Qualified Health Center designation status awarded last year, **one of only ten such designations of new access points made in the country**, ICL HCC Borden will be able to extend integrated health care to even those without insurance.

According to **District 26 NYC Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer**, *“I feel strongly that no matter what people have or don’t have they should be able to walk in to a place where they can get well and feel good about the services that are being provided. Regardless of income or housing status, the grand opening of ICL HealthCare Choices in Long Island City does just that for our veterans. This is a good thing for Borden Avenue, a good thing for Long Island City and a great thing for our veterans who may be dealing with tough issues in the borough.”*

ICL HCC Borden will offer walk in and next day appointments to meet community needs for **an urgent care alternative to emergency rooms** for treatment needs that can be handled in a clinic setting. Its culturally sensitive prevention and disease management services will include ambulatory primary and specialty medical (including cardiac care, diabetic care and nutritional care), dental, psychiatric, physical therapy and podiatry.

Maria Siebel, Executive Director, ICL HealthCare Choices, explained, *“Our name and mission highlight that there truly is a choice in how people can take care of their health. We specialize in helping patients understand and value that choice. Many of the people we treat have suffered misfortune and have lost a sense of dignity that interferes with the choice of caring for self. We, at ICL HealthCare Choices, specialize in the ability to give the gift of dignity back to our patients so that they can take care of their health and begin the journey of reclaiming control of their lives.”*

As a Level-3 Medical Home, the health of an anticipated 3,200 patients will benefit from the services of the clinic annually. The clinic offers better coordination and integration of health care. Its electronic practice management system allows for ease of managing patient records, prescribing medications directly to the pharmacy, track and schedule patients for medical appointments and monitor specific clinical conditions that impact the patients at the clinic. Future initiatives will allow patients to receive services and be monitored across multiple health care providers and institutions.

Julie Irwin, VISN 3 Homeless Care Line Manager, Department of Veterans Affairs emphasized, *“Our close working relationship with the Institute for Community Living here at Borden Avenue is a key example of vital partnerships. ICL’s commitment to comprehensive, accessible and integrated services is demonstrated in each and every program, project and new venture it undertakes, and this new ICL Healthcare Choices clinic is no exception.”*

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ABOUT ICL BORDEN AVENUE VETERANS RESIDENCE

Through a five-year, unprecedented collaboration between the NYC DHS, local and national offices of the US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and ICL, ICL Borden Avenue Veterans Residence (ICL Borden) has been making significant strides in reintegrating homeless veterans into NYC communities.

ICL Borden is a transitional residential program located in Long Island City, Queens, for 243 homeless male and female veterans. ICL has operated the shelter since July 2008.

The program focuses on:

- Returning veterans to employment and self-sufficiency;
- Returning them to independent living in the community as quickly as possible;
- Linking them with important City and Veterans Administration benefits and services; and
- Encouraging them to reintegrate and take active roles in society.

In addition to working with the Department of Homeless Services, the Veterans Administration has had a long history of partnership with ICL Borden. Over the years, it has worked with the City, State, Federal and other community-based partners to ensure that veterans, particularly homeless veterans, have access to the care and services they need from the VA and local service providers.

ABOUT THE INSTITUTE FOR COMMUNITY LIVING

Institute for Community Living (ICL), begun in 1986, operates **ICL Borden Avenue Veterans Residence** and is the founding agency of **ICL HealthCare Choices**. ICL is a not-for-profit organization that assists individuals with psychiatric disabilities, intellectual disabilities, developmental disabilities and/or histories of homelessness. At the heart of ICL are the people that are served and the communities in which they live.

The agency provides evidence-based and best practice innovative treatments, rehabilitation programs and support services to over 10,000 adults, children and families through over 100 programs located in Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens, the Bronx and Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. ICL also offers over 1,500 housing units, a comprehensive system of clinical treatment options and, in addition to ICL Borden, operates a Brooklyn shelter for women with mental illness. *For more information about ICL, please visit www.ICLinc.org.*

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