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SOCIAL SERVICES

THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK



SIMCHA FELDER
Senator, 17th District

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October 6, 2022

Dr. Chinazo Cunningham, Commissioner
New York State Office of Addiction Services and Supports
1450 Western Avenue
Albany, New York 12203

Dear Commissioner Cunningham,

I am writing you to ask that you do not approve The Jewish Board of Health and Human Services' outpatient licensed substance use disorder treatment program at their Midwood Brooklyn Hub, located at 1007 Quentin Road in Brooklyn.

My concerns with their application are the program's proximity to both a local school and a senior center. For the record, both I, neighborhood representatives, and Community Board 15 made our concerns clear to Jewish Board a year ago. This site is inappropriate. Yeshivat Ateret Torah is a school that has over a thousand students and is located only a block away from the proposed treatment center. In addition, the Council Center for Senior Citizens is located on the same block as the proposed treatment center.

I understand there is a compelling need for these services in our community, but there is no reason that it needs to be at this location within blocks from a school and a senior center. Frankly, The Jewish Board has had the gall to state that they never intended to do anything to find an alternate site. In essence, they told the community to drop dead.

I am asking you again to stop any of these treatment programs at 1007 Quentin Road in Brooklyn and wait for The Jewish Board to finally become a good neighbor and find an alternate appropriate location. Thank you for taking my thoughts into consideration and I look forward to hearing from you as soon as possible. You can reach me in my office at (718) 253-2015 or on my cell phone at (917) 873-1017.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Simcha Felder". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Simcha Felder
Senator, S.D. 17

SF/plg
enc.

Cc: Chairperson Theresa Scavo



CHAIRMAN
ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS
REVIEW COMMISSION

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THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK



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FELDER@NYSENATE.GOV

January 26, 2021

Theresa Scavo, Chairperson
Community Board 15
2001 Oriental Blvd., Room C124
Brooklyn, NY 11235

COPY

Dear Chairperson Scavo,

I am contacting you to share my concerns and opposition to the proposal to add a licensed substance use disorder treatment program to the services currently being provided at 1007 Quentin Road a/k/a 2020 Coney Island Avenue.

Substance use disorder treatment programs are a critical tool in fighting addiction and alleviating the profound personal, social and economic consequences that addiction can have in New York State. While I remain supportive of these invaluable programs, I am also very aware of how the placement of these programs can impact the local community.

My concerns with the proposed New York State Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS) licensed substance use disorder treatment program at 1007 Quentin Road is in its proximity to both a local school and a senior center. Yeshivat Ateret Torah is a school which has over a thousand students and is located only a block away from the proposed treatment center. In addition, the Council Center for Senior Citizens is located on the same block as the proposed treatment center.

The proximity of a school and a senior center underlines my concerns with the proposed substance use disorder treatment program at 1007 Quentin Road. Although these programs are important, I am concerned that the negatives of placing this treatment center here outweigh the benefits. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Simcha Felder". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "S" and "F".

Simcha Felder
Senator, S.D. 17



The Jewish Board

Health and Human Services for All New Yorkers

463 7th Avenue, 18th Floor
New York, NY 10018
212.582.9100 | JewishBoard.org

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*Executive Committee

September 30, 2022

Dear Chair Scavo,

I am writing as a follow up to our presentation in January 2021 before Community Board 15 where we presented a Certification Application requesting New York State Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS) approval to become a new OASAS provider of an Article 32 outpatient substance use disorder (SUD) treatment program at Jewish Board's Midwood Brooklyn Hub, located at 1007 Quentin Road, Brooklyn, NY 11223.

In response to the concerns we heard from both members of Community Board 15 and the community about the proximity of our program to Yeshiva Ateret Torah, Jewish Board's consultant Jonathan Greenspun, a former Commissioner of the Mayor's Office of Community Affairs, met with Mr. Irwin Shamah on May 18, 2022. The meeting provided an opportunity for Jewish Board to explain in detail the current services being provided at 2020 Coney Island Avenue and 1007 Quentin Road and the mental health and substance abuse treatments we would provide at our offices.

The OASAS license is necessary to operate a Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC), a federally funded program designed to ensure access to coordinated comprehensive behavioral health care. Last week, we learned we were awarded the Federal grant, therefore, this letter serves as formal notice that Jewish Board fully intends to move forward with the OASAS license.

We are requesting your acknowledgement of this letter. We would be happy to answer any questions and I can be reached at 646-964-3092.

Sincerely,

Bridget McBrien
Director of Government & Community Relations
The Jewish Board of Family & Children's Services
463 7th Avenue, 18th Floor
New York, NY 10018



KALMAN YEGER
NEW YORK CITY COUNCILMAN
44TH DISTRICT

THE COUNCIL
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CITY HALL
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10007

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4424-16TH AVENUE
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CITY HALL
212-788-7357

October 24, 2022

Chinazo Cunningham, M.D., Commissioner
Office of Addiction Services and Supports
1450 Western Avenue
Albany, New York 12203

Dear Commissioner Cunningham,

I must write to urge that you deny the application of Jewish Board of Family & Children's Services for a substance abuse treatment program proposed to be located at 1007 Quentin Road in Brooklyn. In opposition, I join with my colleagues, Senator Simcha Felder and Assemblyman Steven Cymbrowitz, who have each written you separately on this topic.

JBFCFS desires to locate this program at this location only because they are already there doing something else. In other words, it is not for the community's need for a program that they chose this location. Rather, it is for their own convenience and efficiency, or more aptly, their own greed.

JBFCFS proposes to locate their addiction program just feet away from one of our community's senior centers, a block away from a yeshiva and two blocks away from P.S. 238. They have no concern whatsoever about importing drug abusers to this incredibly sensitive location, because they truly don't care about the community. Why would your agency afford a license to an enterprise which has displayed such callous disregard for its neighbors?

Undoubtedly, our society includes those amongst us who have fallen victim to the disease of addiction and are in dire need of help. Just as undoubtedly, there is a time and place for everything. The proposed location of this program is the wrong place. It is impossible to say otherwise with a straight face.

For nearly two years, JBFCFS has been aware of the vehement and righteous community opposition to this program at this location. Notwithstanding, and in the dark of night, they continued chasing a federal grant for the last year. Now that they have obtained this grant, they stand before you demanding a license. You have no obligation to grant this license to them for this location, particularly as they come before you with unclean hands.



KALMAN YEGER

NEW YORK CITY COUNCILMAN
44TH DISTRICT

Dr. Chinazo Cunningham

October 24, 2022

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To the best of my knowledge, JBFCS has made no effort to secure an alternate suitable location for this program. Instead, they propose to import drug addicts to meander about our neighborhood, so that JBFCS can cash those mighty checks.

I urge you to deny this application. Your agency's licenses ought to be reserved for the worthy and altruistic organizations who truly care about bettering all of society. JBFCS has demonstrated that it is not such.

All the best.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kalman Yeger", written over a horizontal line.

KALMAN YEGER

New York City Councilman

cc: Senator Simcha Felder
Assemblyman Steven Cymbrowitz
Chairwoman Theresa Scavo, Community Board 15