



Making Health Equality a Reality

To: Bronx Health REACH Community-Based Partners and Allies
From: Charmaine Ruddock, MS, Project Director
Bronx Health REACH/NY Center of Excellence in the Elimination of Disparities
Re: **Sign-on to End Segregation in the Delivery of Outpatient Health Services in New York City's Private Hospitals**

Bronx Health REACH, our community-based coalition members, and our medical, legal, faith-based and public health partners, **invite you to sign on in support of our campaign to end segregation in the delivery of outpatient health services in New York City's private hospitals.**

PLEASE FAX OR EMAIL BACK THE ATTACHED FORM TO CARLOS DEVIA AT 212-989-2840 AT BRONX HEALTH REACH.

What is the issue?

For several years now, Bronx Health REACH has been concerned that private hospitals in New York City operate their ambulatory and specialty care systems in a way that segregates patients based on source of payment and race. Research conducted by REACH shows that, generally speaking, Medicaid and uninsured patients are directed to hospitals' clinic systems in order to receive outpatient care, whereas patients with private insurance have access to hospital-based private faculty practices. Since Blacks and Latinos are more likely to receive Medicaid or be uninsured in New York, when a hospital segregates patients on the basis of source of payment, it is also segregating on the basis of race and ethnicity. **In other words, while there are no longer signs that say "Coloreds" and "Whites" hanging over the doors of hospital waiting rooms, nearly the same thing occurs when we discriminate based on insurance.**

What is the impact?

Outpatient clinics provide unequal care in several ways. Hospitals often staff their clinics with residents and student doctors. This means that patients who are sent to clinics often receive care from less experienced doctors, and generally do not see the same doctor each time they go to the clinic. Also, there are usually longer wait times to get appointments. This means that low-income patients of color receive poorer quality health care compared to patients who are more affluent and White.

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What can be done?

Discrimination based on source of payment and race/ethnicity is against civil rights laws and the New York State Patient's Bill of Rights. Numerous government agencies are responsible for enforcing these laws. Hospitals **must** adopt policies that ensure that all patients receive the same high quality care regardless of the type of insurance they have.

How can your organization help?

Bronx Health REACH and our partners are taking a number of steps to address these problems.

You can:

- 1. Sign the attached form** in support of our complaint with the New York State Office of the Attorney General and asking the AG to conduct a thorough investigation of the problem of segregated care in New York City hospitals.
- 2. Organize a community education session** and invite us to talk to community members about how to identify racial and ethnic disparities in health care, and to listen and learn about the impact that these disparities have on their lives.

We encourage all of our partner organizations and allies to join us in these efforts! Please sign-on in support of and solidarity with our campaign!

To sign-on, please complete the attached fax response form indicating that your organization's Executive Director, Board of Directors Chairperson, or other authorized organizational representative supports this campaign.

Please fax back the form to Carlos at Bronx Health REACH.

Feel free to circulate this sign-on request to your organization's networks. Please contact Carlos at 212-633-0800 x1338 if you have any questions or for more information. We are happy to share a draft of our complaint or any other supporting materials that you may wish to see before making a decision about whether to sign on.



MAKE HEALTH EQUALITY A REALITY



CAMPAIGN SIGN-ON FORM
END SEGREGATION IN THE DELIVERY OF OUTPATIENT HEALTH SERVICES IN NEW YORK CITY PRIVATE HOSPITALS!

Please check all that apply:

- YES! We will sign on in support of the campaign to end discrimination in New York City’s health care system. You may use our name on your materials.**
- YES! We will host a community education session on health disparities in our community.**
- MAYBE. We support the campaign, but we would like more information before we can sign-on.**
- We can’t sign on right now, but please keep us informed of campaign activities.**

Name: _____

Title: _____
(Executive Director; Chairperson, Board of Directors; Pastor; or other authorized representative)

Organization: _____

Address: _____

(City, State, Zip code)

Telephone: _____

Fax/Email: _____

Fax or email to: Carlos Devia, Bronx Health REACH, 212-989-2840, cdevia@institute2000.org