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February 21, 2008

Commissioner Robert Hess  
Department of Homeless Services  
33 Beaver, 17<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10004

Dear Commissioner Hess,

On behalf of the Board and our 60 member agencies we would like to thank you for attending our Board meeting on February 19, 2008. For your reference, please find our mission, board list and membership list included. It is our desire that this be the start of many productive discussions based on a mutually beneficial relationship.

As discussed during our meeting, the following issues were of particular interest and we offer our support, expertise, commitment and cooperation to address them with DHS:

1. Refining the PIP process:
  - a. As mentioned during the meeting, the Department will be announcing changes in the PIP program. Given our members involvement in the PIP process from its inception, coupled with our shared commitment in achieving mutual success, we request the opportunity to meet and discuss these changes before the implementation.
  - b. Re-evaluate target achievements during the period in 2007 when the new Advantage Programs were rolled out and account for the lag in time as landlords and brokers adapted to the new process.
  - c. Release the formula that determines targets to clarify how targets are assigned and determined for each provider.
2. Evaluating Drop-Ins and the expansion of Safe Havens.
3. Strengthening coordination efforts between government agencies impacting clients' ability to move on from shelter.
4. Reconvening or introducing new work groups to overcome obstacles to implementing effective programs:
  - a. PIP and Targets workgroup
  - b. Drop-in workgroup
  - c. Undocumented Clients workgroup
  - d. Re-investment of realized savings from shelter move-outs

We encourage you to take advantage of our regular communication and trainings. As requested during our meeting, please include us in your mailings, newsletters and general communications so that we may assist you in disseminating important guidelines and program information to the work force. Our vast member network of shelter, drop-in, outreach, after care and Home Base providers will benefit greatly from this information.

Given your busy schedule we extend to you in advance an invitation to attend a Board meeting on **June 10, 2008 at 10am** and look forward to your attendance and welcome suggestions for agenda items.

Again thank you for taking time out of your schedule to attend our meeting. We look forward to working with you and your staff on a regular basis. If we can be of service or assistance, do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



Christy Parque, MSW  
Executive Director



Colleen Jackson  
President

Cc: Maryanne Schretzman, Deputy Commissioner

Enclosures