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HARLEM UNITED HOSTS WHITE HOUSE OFFICIAL, DOUGLAS M. BROOKS, DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF NATIONAL AIDS POLICY

New York, NY (August 8, 2014) – Douglas M. Brooks, Director of the Office of National AIDS Policy (ONAP), met with Harlem United senior staff and clients yesterday to gain insight into how Harlem United is advancing the National HIV/AIDS Strategy through comprehensive programs and services. The visit preceded “Dialogue for Life,” a regional ONAP listening session led by Mr. Brooks and co-sponsored by ACRIA and Amida Care. “We were honored to be able to share our integrated care delivery approach with the Director,” said Steven C. Bussey, CEO. “We look forward to working with ONAP to increase access to care and strengthen our collective efforts in the fight against AIDS.”

During the visit, staff had the opportunity to recommend service delivery models for replication in other states and discussed specific challenges Harlem United faces today. Stable housing, which has been shown to be a central factor in the treatment and prevention of HIV and AIDS, illustrates the deep need for federal funding to support new housing models. Based on Harlem United’s own data from 2012, 100% of clients who were virally unsuppressed were also homeless. “For us, housing is a crucial part of the continuum of care,” said Mr. Bussey.

Staff also emphasized areas of focus for the future. “We must recognize that the transition to mainstream healthcare is the next phase of the HIV/AIDS Strategy,” said Dr. Bookhardt-Murray, Harlem United’s Chief Medical Officer. “It’s crucial to begin investing in the kinds of models of HIV/AIDS care like we see at Harlem United-- treatment that integrates primary care, behavioral health, prevention, and housing.”

Mr. Brooks applauded Harlem United’s solid leadership and innovative approach to care. He expressed his excitement to join forces with Harlem United to continually improve models of care to ensure that they work for the entire community. To that end, Harlem United is establishing itself as a leading provider of PrEP, with particular attention to young men who have sex with men, the group at highest risk.

Following his visit to Harlem United, Mr. Brooks continued to the Schomburg Center for the listening session. The community-wide forum featured key officials on the federal, state, and city levels and allowed people living with HIV and AIDS, advocates, healthcare professionals, and community-based

organizations to voice their concerns about the implementation of the National HIV/AIDS Strategy in New York State. HU clients and staff were in attendance.

About Harlem United

Harlem United Community AIDS Center, Inc., (“Harlem United”) was founded in 1988 as a non-profit organization to provide assistance and housing to persons living with HIV/AIDS (“PLWHA”). Since then, Harlem United has expanded its services and now operates as a fully-integrated patient centered medical home for underserved communities, including PLWHA, the homeless, communities of color and the LGBT community, among others. Harlem United’s mission is to provide full access to high-quality health care and social services for clients experiencing multiple and complex issues, such as mental illness, chronic substance use, homelessness, HIV/AIDS and other chronic illnesses, extreme poverty and social stigma related to sexuality and gender identity.

Today, Harlem United provides the following services using an integrated and non-judgmental approach: primary care, mental health care and dental services, supportive housing, Adult Day Health Care, HIV/Hepatitis C/Sexually Transmitted Infection testing and prevention and education services; health home care management and patient navigation services; integrated harm reduction services; and food and nutrition services.