

# *The latest from Services for the UnderServed ... Community Access ... NYC contracts*

Updates from nonprofits across New York.



**The nonprofit Community Access released a statement following the fatal shooting of a 54-year-old Queens woman by police on Sept. 17.**

“In 2016, the Council of State Governments Justice Center reviewed the city’s behavioral health crisis system and made several recommendations to the Mayor’s Office of Criminal Justice on how to improve the response to these types of incidents, including the following:

‘Implement a division of NYPD that oversees all specialized behavioral health responses by the NYPD... to ensure that there is consistency in responses and best practices across all five boroughs ...’ and,

‘Expand the current triage desk to assist with all 911 calls coming into NYPD identified as a behavioral health crisis...to ensure that available behavioral health diversion opportunities are identified as quickly as possible. Allow for the triage desk staff to access...databases to identify prior history and available response options.’

These common-sense recommendations are based on best-practice models used in other communities. It’s time for New York City to catch up and implement systems that anticipates and avoids a crisis, which is far better and safer than responding to one.”