



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

October 25, 2023

**BronxWorks and Care For the Homeless Host Free Half-Day Seminar on NYC Street Outreach Services.**

*Two New York non-profits convene panels of experts to discuss and answer questions on the landscape of street outreach services in New York City and the expanded directive of involuntary removals.*

**New York, N.Y.** – On Wednesday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, BronxWorks and Care For the Homeless (CFH) will host a free half-day seminar titled “**NYC Street Outreach: What Are We Doing Well? What Do We Need to Do Better?**”. The seminar will run from 9:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m., with doors opening at 8:45 a.m. The event will be held at CUNY Graduate Center, Elebash Hall, 365 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, NY, NY 10016.

Attendance is free and open to the public. [Registration is required and seats are quickly filling up.](#)

To date, a record number of resources have been invested into outreach services at both the city and state level that involve several different agencies coordinating the work. Yet, **according to the 2023 HOPE Count, there was an 18% increase in the number of people living unsheltered in the city since 2022.** The seminar will explore the landscape of street outreach services offered in NYC and identify avenues to address the unique needs of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness more effectively.

The first panel **will focus on painting a picture of the services currently in place to address street homelessness** to identify what is missing from those efforts and where there are gaps in care. The second panel **will discuss the expanded directive for involuntary removals of people living on the street**, the impacts of these interventions, and an exploration of the supports that are and, more importantly, should be available once someone is transported to a hospital,

**Panel 1**, moderated by **Jonathan Santos-Ramos**, Chief Program Officer, Care For the Homeless will focus on the **Landscape of NYC Street Outreach Services.** The invited speakers are the following:

- **Cassandra White - Hemphill**, Deputy Commissioner of Street Homeless Solutions, NYC Department of Homeless Services
- **Karim Walker**, Outreach and Organizing Advocate
- **Dr. Michael Shen**, Clinical Director, Woodhull Hospital Safety Net Clinic, NYC Health + Hospitals
- **Scott Auwarter**, Assistant Executive Director, BronxWorks

**Panel 2**, moderated by **George Nashak**, President and CEO, Care For the Homeless, will focus on the **Policy of Involuntary Removals and the Continuum of Services**. The invited speakers are the following:

- **Brian Stettin**, Senior Advisor on Severe Mental Illness, Office of NYC Mayor Eric Adams
- **Dr. Eileen Reilly**, Psychiatrist, Boston Health Care for the Homeless
- **Kimberly Blair**, Director of Public Policy and Advocacy, National Alliance on Mental Illness of NYC
- **Hon. Tiffany Cabán**, New York City Council Member, District 22

Both panels will open the floor to questions for all those in attendance.

**[Click here to register here to attend.](#)**

If you are unable to use the link above, please type <https://forms.gle/u9Nv7YUepGPuCuLq6> into your browser.

To learn more about the event, [please click here to visit the CFH event page on our website.](https://www.careforthehomeless.org/news/november-2023-policy-seminar/) (<https://www.careforthehomeless.org/news/november-2023-policy-seminar/>)

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#### **About BronxWorks:**

BronxWorks has been helping individuals and families improve their economic and social well-being for over 50 years. From toddlers to seniors, BronxWorks feeds, shelters, teaches, and supports residents to build a stronger Bronx community. The concerted efforts of all the departments within the agency allow BronxWorks to positively influence the lives of 60,000 Bronx residents each year. For more information, visit [www.bronxworks.org/](http://www.bronxworks.org/)

#### **About Care For the Homeless:**

Care For the Homeless (CFH) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit and is committed to providing individuals experiencing homelessness with high quality medical, mental, and behavioral health care services. In addition, CFH actively advocates for policies to prevent and end homelessness. CFH also currently operates Susan's Place and the 52nd Street Women's Center, transitional shelters for mentally ill and medically frail women as well as multiple health care delivery sites across all five New York City boroughs. For more information, visit [www.careforthehomeless.org](http://www.careforthehomeless.org).

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