



Contact:

Shakira Croce, Communications Manager
646-757-7052; scroce@amidacareny.org

Dr. Luis Freddy Molano of Community Healthcare Network Named ACAP Leadership in Advocacy Award Honorable Mention Winner; Nominated by Amida Care

New York, NY (February 8, 2017)—The Association for Community Affiliated Plans (ACAP) yesterday named Dr. Luis Freddy Molano, Vice President of Infectious Diseases and LGBTQ Programs at Community Healthcare Network (CHN), a 2017 *Leadership in Advocacy Award Honorable Mention* winner. The *Leadership in Advocacy Award* recognizes individuals who exceed the norm in advocating for Medicaid and other safety net health programs and on behalf of the vulnerable populations that these programs serve. Amida Care nominated Dr. Molano for the award in recognition of his pioneering efforts to improve the health, access to care, and quality of life of transgender individuals in New York.

Dr. Molano has been a longtime advocate for the transgender community. He spearheaded the first community-based transgender health program in the South Bronx, later expanding the program to Queens and Brooklyn, with the ultimate goal of establishing programs in all five boroughs of New York City. These programs reach hundreds of transgender individuals each year, providing not only health services but assistance with obtaining health coverage; with access to HIV prevention methods such as PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis); and with legal issues, housing, and other essential resources.

Under Dr. Molano's leadership, CHN serves approximately 400 transgender individuals per year. Of the 40 percent who are HIV positive, approximately 75% have become virally suppressed through the care and treatment they have received.

“Dr. Molano is a pioneer in advancing transgender health care. For decades he has been a tireless advocate for breaking down the barriers to accessing health care that the transgender community faces, including violence, unstable housing, lack of employment opportunities, food insecurity, and discrimination,” said Doug Wirth, President and CEO of Amida Care. “I’ve had the privilege to personally work with Dr. Molano in his leadership role at CHN, an Amida Care sponsor organization, to confront the challenges around the transgender community’s HIV epidemic. Dr. Molano’s work in health care provider education and community outreach programs for transgender New Yorkers is a critical component of the goal to End AIDS as an Epidemic in New York State by 2020 and to achieve a healthier and safer community for us all.”

“Dr. Molano’s work to improve health for transgender individuals represents the best the safety net has to offer. We’re delighted to recognize his work,” said ACAP CEO Margaret A. Murray.

At CHN, Dr. Molano established mobile units that are staffed with health outreach workers to meet people where they are and provide HIV testing, PrEP education, and linkage to other social services. Dr. Molano also founded the annual New York City Transgender Health Conference, now hosted by Pace University, which is designed to improve understanding and build cultural competency around transgender health issues, bringing together nearly 500 health care providers, community advocates, and members of the transgender community.

Dr. Molano was recognized at a national meeting of Safety Net Health Plan government relations professionals in Washington, D.C. yesterday. Dr. Deborah Frank, a physician at Boston Medical Center (BMC) and director of the hospital’s Grow Clinic for Children was recognized as the winner of ACAP’s 2017 *Leadership in Advocacy* Award. For more information, visit ACAP’s website at <http://www.communityplans.net>.

###

About Amida Care

Amida Care Inc. is a not-for-profit health plan that specializes in providing comprehensive health coverage and coordinated care to New Yorkers with chronic conditions, including HIV and behavioral health disorders, and people who are homeless (regardless of HIV status). We have a wide network of top health care providers in the five boroughs of New York City, and we are the largest Medicaid special needs health plan (SNP) in New York State. For more information, visit www.amidacareny.org.

About Community Healthcare Network

Community Healthcare Network (CHN) is a not-for-profit organization providing access to affordable, culturally-competent and comprehensive community-based primary care, dental, nutrition, mental health and social services for diverse populations in 12 underserved communities throughout New York City. CHN serves more than 85,000 individuals a year who would otherwise have little or no access to critical health care. CHN is composed of eleven Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and NCQA designated Level 3 Patient Centered Medical Homes (PCMH) and a mobile health unit. For more information, visit www.chnny.org.

About ACAP

ACAP represents 60 nonprofit Safety Net Health Plans in 24 states, which collectively serve over fifteen million people enrolled in Medicaid, Medicare, the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and other publicly-supported health programs. For more information, visit www.communityplans.net.