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CAYA Clinic is deeply committed to harm reduction and to addressing the profound inequities that exist in the Madison-Dane County area. We acknowledge the long history and current presence of structural racism in our community and the ways in which Black and Brown voices have been marginalized and silenced. This legacy has created real barriers to trust, barriers that must be honored and addressed with intention.

We take full accountability, that we made an error in our RFP. Regardless of our intent or the circumstances, this mistake has consequences. We understand that moving forward with the current process could increase mistrust and cause harm to the community we are committed to serving. We hold ourselves to the same standard of accountability and making amends that we ask of others in our community.

After thoughtful reflection and community collaboration, CAYA Clinic respectfully stands with Anesis in encouraging the Board of Health to reissue the Harm Reduction Drop In RFP. We believe that restarting the process is the only fair path forward, and we are committed to supporting a process that is fair, transparent, and centered on community trust and equity.

We acknowledge that there have been challenges with the RFP and grant process. These issues reflect a much larger systemic crisis: the chronic underfunding of public health throughout the United States. While this lack of funding and resources is evident in grant processes, it is far more critically demonstrated in the public health outcomes in our community, outcomes that disproportionately impact Black, Brown, and Queer residents. We want to emphasize that the staff at PHMDC works tirelessly and with great dedication, often on their own personal time, to serve our community. They are doing exceptional work within a system that does not provide them with adequate resources.

We are hopeful that a reissued RFP will honor the legacy of Rene Livingston-Detienne by ensuring that this vital work is peer-led, community-centered, transparent, and rooted in unconditional love. CAYA Clinic remains committed to this work and stands ready to collaborate and support harm reduction efforts in Madison-Dane County. We are prepared to share contacts with leaders of other harm reduction drop-in centers, connect partners with sources for harm reduction supplies, and offer insights from the experience we have gained through two years of providing these services.

Our commitment to harm reduction and true equity for all people who use drugs or experience mental health concerns in Madison-Dane County continues. We look forward to supporting a process and outcome that truly serves our community with evidence-based harm reduction.

Always come as you are,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'LSB' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Skye Boughman, MS, CSAC, LPC

Clinical Director & Co-Founder

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kathy Holt' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kathy Holt, BS, CSAC, ICS

Director of Operations & Co-Founder