

COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

----- X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

----- X

November 18, 2021
Start: 1:03 P. M.
Recess: 2:40 P. M.

HELD AT: REMOTE HEARING (VIRTUAL ROOM 2)

B E F O R E: Hon. Deborah Rose, Chair

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Margaret S. Chin
Mathieu Eugene,
Oswald Feliz
Farah N. Louis
Bill Perkins
Kevin C. Riley

COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

A P P E A R A N C E S

Darryl Rattray,
DYCD Associate Commissioner

Dana Cantelmi,
DYCD Agency Chief Contracting Officer

Ryan Murray, First Deputy Director of the Mayor's
Office of Contract Services

Daryl Hornick-Becker,
Policy and Advocacy Associate
at Citizens' Committee for Children of New York, Inc.

Dante Bravo,
Youth Policy Analyst at United
Neighborhood Houses

Christine James-McKenzie,
Associate, Communications, Learning & Policy,
JobsFirstNYC

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 SERGEANT SADOWSKY: Recording started.

3 SERGEANT PEREZ: Good afternoon, welcome to New
4 York City Council's remote committee hearing on Youth
5 Services.

6 Everyone, please turn on your videos at this
7 time. Silence all electronic devices. All written
8 testimony can be submitted to
9 testimony@council.nyc.gov , again that
10 testimony@council.nyc.gov .

11 Thank you.

12 Chair Rose, we're ready to begin.

13 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you. I want to thank you
14 all for joining our virtual hearing today on this
15 very important issue.

16 My name is Debi Rose, and I am the chair of New
17 York City Council's Committee on Youth Services.
18 Today the Committee on Youth Services is conducting
19 an oversight hearing on nonprofit contracting.

20 I'm really great... I'm really happy to announce
21 that we are joined my council members Chin and
22 Council Member Riley.

23 At today's hearing, the Committee on Youth
24 Services will examine the process for the city's
25 contracting with nonprofit providers for the

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 provision of youth services, and we'll explore ways
3 to improve the process to better engage and support
4 youth focused community based organizations in New
5 York City.

6 The committee also solicit feedback from
7 advocates, providers, and community members about the
8 issues plaguing the nonprofit contracting process and
9 how to address them.

10 COVID exacted a particularly heavy toll on our
11 children and youth and at a critical developmental
12 stage of their lives. This elevated the already
13 enormous value of the work and the roll of our
14 nonprofit youth service providers whose efforts
15 during the pandemic -- and its aftermath -- can only
16 be described as heroic. They however have been
17 laboring under the burden of a number of challenges
18 such as the following:

19 1. COVID introduced inflation and necessity to
20 implement new health and safety measures increase
21 youth service providers cost; however their contracts
22 re... their contract reimbursement rates have not
23 kept pace.

24 2. Youth focused nonprofit providers have been
25 struggling to recruit and retain youth workers

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 Because of inadequate wages and benefits, child
3 care issues, the background check backlog, and the
4 consequence outflow of youth workers to better
5 compensating DOE jobs, and even to other industries
6 in the private sector.

7 3. Staffing shortages have been adversely
8 impacting participants' enrollment, because youth
9 focused providers have been straining to meet the
10 participant to staff ratios. This means that all
11 providers cannot serve as many youth as they
12 should... as should be possible.

13 And, fourth, there are delays in payments to
14 youth providers for already rendered services and the
15 attendant lack of communication and clarity as to the
16 payment timeline.

17 This puts our youth focused nonprofit providers
18 in a financial crunch forcing them to resort to
19 bridge loans, which is not a sustainable strategy.

20 These burdens make the work of our nonprofit
21 youth providers more challenging than necessary, and
22 by extension, they mean fewer services for fewer
23 youth precisely at a time when our children and youth
24 sorely needs such services to address the social,
25 emotional, and academic fallout of COVID. This is

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 simply unacceptable. These problems can and should
3 be addressed to ensure adequate and timely support of
4 our youth focused nonprofit providers in their work.
5 And the importance of this work to our recovery and
6 collective future cannot be understated.

7 Our advocate using... One advocate used the
8 following analogy to describe the efforts of youth
9 nonprofit providers during COVID and its aftermath,
10 "Navigating a formidable storm at sea, in a small
11 rowboat with only one ore." She pointedly said, "If
12 providers could do such a great job with such
13 inadequacy tools, imagine what they could do with
14 better support and resources." Uh, I could not say
15 it any better myself.

16 We can and must do much better than to hand our
17 youth providers one ore in the COVID storm. We can
18 and must come together in meaningful ways to ensure
19 that our youth nonprofit providers are adequately
20 supported in their critical work. This goes post
21 COVID. This should be always, because what is on the
22 line but only our children and youth... are not only
23 our children and our youth, but our hope and our
24 future. Because, as Nelson Mandela put it, "There
25

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than
3 the way in which it treats its children."

4 In summation, we are here today to examine the
5 process for the city's contracting with nonprofit
6 providers for the provision of youth services and to
7 explore ways to improve it to better engage and
8 support youth focused community based organizations
9 in New York City.

10 In addition, we will hear feedback of the
11 providers, advocates, and community members.

12 I want to take this time to thank the staff
13 behind the scenes who make sure that this remote
14 hearing runs smoothly. And, I'd also like to thank
15 the Youth Committee staff for their work on this
16 issue: My Committee Counsel Emi Briggs, my Committee
17 Policy Analyst Anastassia Zimina, and Committee
18 Financial Analyst Michele Peregrin.

19 I want to say a big thank you to all of you as
20 well as my staff, my Chief of Staff Christine Johnson
21 and my Legislative Aid, Christian Revello.

22 And I want to give a shout out and
23 congratulations to my Legislative Director Isa Cortez
24 who gave birth to a beautiful baby girl.

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 And with that, I would now like to acknowledge my
3 colleagues, uh, just one again, who have joined us.
4 And they are Council Members Chin, and Council Member
5 Riley, and Council Member Louis.

6 Uhm, and I will now turn it over to our committee
7 counsel who will review some procedural items
8 relating to today's hearing. Thank you.

9 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you, Chair Rose.

10 I'm Emi Briggs, counsel to The Committee on Youth
11 Services, and I will be moderating today's hearing
12 and calling panelist to testify.

13 Before we begin, I would like to remind you that
14 everyone will be on mute until I call on you to
15 testify, and after you're called, you will be unmuted
16 by the host. Please listen for your name, and I will
17 periodically announce who the next panelists will be.
18 Council member questions will be limited to five
19 minutes, and council members, please note that this
20 will include both your questions and the witnesses
21 answers. Please also note that we will allow a
22 second round of questions at today's hearing, and
23 these will... those will be limited to two minutes -
24 again -- including both your questions and your
25 answers.

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 For public testimony, I will call out the
3 individuals in panels. Council members who have
4 questions for a particular panelist should use the
5 Raise Hand Function in Zoom. You will be called on
6 after everyone on that panel has completed their
7 testimony.

8 And, for public panelist, once I call your name a
9 member of our staff will unmute you, and the Sergeant
10 At Arms will give you the go ahead to begin speaking
11 after setting the timer.

12 All public testimony will be limited to three
13 minutes. And after I call your name, please wait a
14 brief moment for the Sergeant At Arms to announce
15 that you may begin.

16 I will now call on the following members of the
17 administration to testify: Darryl Rattray who's the
18 DYCD Associate Commissioner, Dana Cantelmi DYCD's
19 Agency Chief Contracting Officer, and Ryan Murray,
20 MOCS First Deputy Director.

21 I will administer the oath to all three of you,
22 and after reading... after reading the oath, I will
23 call upon each of you individually, by name, to
24 respond to the oath.

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 Please raise your right hand. Do you affirm to
3 tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing by the
4 truth, before the committee, and to repeat...
5 respond honestly to council member questions?

6 Associate Commissioner Rattray?

7 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: (INAUDIBLE 10:08)

8 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you.

9 Uhm, Agency Chief Contracting Officer, Dana
10 Cantelmi?

11 DYCD ACCO CANTELMI: I do.

12 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you.

13 And First Deputy Director Ryan Murray?

14 FIRST DEPUTY DIRECTOR MURRAY: I do.

15 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you.

16 Associate Commissioner Rattray, you begin your
17 testimony when ready.

18 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: Good afternoon
19 Chair Rose and Members of the Youth Services
20 Committee. I am Associate Commissioner Darryl
21 Rattray. And I am joined by our Agency Chief
22 Contracting Officer Dana Cantelmi, and Ryan Murray,
23 The First Deputy Director of the Mayor's Office of
24 Contract Services otherwise known as MOCS.

25

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 On behalf of Commissioner Bill Chong, thank you
3 for this opportunity to discuss non-profit
4 contracting.

5 And, Chair Rose, thank you for your opening. Our
6 nonprofit providers are truly heroes and the backbone
7 of New York City. And, we strive to do everything in
8 our collective power to support them, whether it's
9 ensuring they have both ores or even if it means
10 getting in to the raft with them to support the work
11 that they do.

12 Contracting is often an overlooked, yet essential
13 part of how the city serves New Yorkers. This is
14 particularly important in human services, where
15 millions of New Yorkers rely on the essential
16 programs offered by thousands of dedicated non-profit
17 organizations. Over the past eight years DYCD has
18 practically transformed across program areas and
19 grown from \$400 million to \$1 billion representing
20 63,000 contracts and amendments.

21 As you will recall, this began with the launch of
22 universal SONYC middle school programs.

23 Within nine months of this Administration, over
24 271 new after school programs were launched through
25

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 HS Accelerator. As of today, there are nearly 900
3 COMPASS programs operating citywide.

4 Our procurement systems helped manage the growth
5 of our portfolio of Mayor Dinkins' signature Beacon
6 programs, from 80 to soon to be 92 sites and a budget
7 of \$59.5 million. We have the 92nd site opening this
8 January at Council Member Riley's district at Truman
9 High School.

10 We expanded programming for residents of public
11 housing through the Cornerstone Community Center
12 Program. We began at 25 locations in 2009 and now
13 offer services at 99 developments and a budget of
14 \$57.4 million.

15 We have more than tripled the number of
16 residential beds, increased the age for residential
17 services to 24, and opened new drop-in centers. There
18 are currently eight DYCD-funded centers to with at
19 least one 24-hour drop-in center operating in each of
20 the five boroughs.

21 During this time, the council's investments in
22 discretionary funded programs grew from \$29.6 million
23 to \$87.67 million in Fiscal 2021, and \$119.6 million
24 and counting in Fiscal 2022.

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 COVID-19 amplified the importance of our work
3 with new programs and services rolling out quickly to
4 respond to the unprecedented health crisis and
5 shifting needs, and made it clearer than ever the
6 need to digitize procurement through PASSPort. In the
7 past year and half, we launched three major
8 initiatives to help city recover: SYEP Summer Bridge,
9 Learning Labs, and Summer Rising.

10 SYEP Summer Bridge offered engaging virtual
11 program that offered young people opportunities to
12 learn new skills, explore potential careers, and earn
13 money.

14 During the height of the pandemic, our staff
15 worked tirelessly with DOE, DDC, FDNY, DOB (INAUDIBLE
16 13:54) MOCS, and other agencies to launch Learning
17 Bridges, which provided free childcare options for
18 children from 3-K and through 8th grade.

19 Finally, this past summer, we launched Summer
20 Rising, a comprehensive summer program during the
21 most critical summer for New York City students.
22 Summer Rising provided enriched comprehensive summer
23 camp style programs and services to children
24 throughout NYC. Summer Rising also ensured that
25 students assigned to summer school, as well as all

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 that participated, received enhanced academic
3 services that were vital in helping to bridge the
4 learning gap as we turned the corner from the
5 pandemic. The program operated five days a week for
6 seven weeks across close to 800 programs.

7 We are incredibly proud of DYCD staff, our
8 providers, our young people, and families during
9 these challenging times.

10 Since the PAUSE order was enacted in March 2020,
11 DYCD staff quickly adapted to working from home from
12 supporting, reimbursing, and communicating with
13 funded programs so they can best serve their
14 communities. This was possible because the IT staff
15 has developed systems and reports to help with the
16 COVID-19 response and kept systems up and running to
17 allow Finance and contracting staff to support
18 nonprofits during the crisis.

19 Our community-based organizations have gone above
20 and beyond in helping the city meet one of its top
21 priorities during the COVID-19 emergency, which
22 keeping New Yorkers safe.

23 We are pleased that our offices are open and
24 staff are working in-person, while in September our
25

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 afterschool programs and community centers welcomed
3 back young people.

4 We appreciate our partnership with MOCS as we
5 move over to PASSport. Our Fiscal Unit has been
6 working diligently to enter contract actions as well
7 as to provide cash flow.

8 Since the start of the pandemic in March 2020, we
9 processed over 4,500 contracts with 4,452 registered,
10 and 125 currently at the Comptroller.

11 We are also pleased to report that DYCD continues
12 to have one of the fastest invoice and payment
13 processing times.

14 Thank you once again for this opportunity to
15 testify today. We are happy to answer any questions
16 you may have.

17 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you for your testimony.

18 We will now turn to Chair Rose for questions.

19 Chair?

20 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you. Thank you, uh, so
21 much, uhm, Associate Commissioner Rattray for, uhm,
22 for your testimony. And, I want to thank everybody
23 who's here from the administration to testify today.

24 Uhm, the contracting process is a very important
25 process that's, uh, uh, key and critical to the

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 quality of service delivery that our not for profit,
3 uhm, providers can, uh, deliver... to help them
4 deliver services. So, uhm, it's... It's really
5 important that, uh, we get some answers to some of
6 these... to these questions so that we can ensure
7 that our young people are getting the resources that
8 they need at the level, uh, at... at the necessary
9 levels.

10 Uhm, so, uh, what is the typical timeline for the
11 completion of the contracting process from pre-
12 solicitation to payment?

13 DYCD ACCO CANTELMI: Thank you, Chair, for the
14 question. So, I'm gonna give you a timeline of...of
15 Happy Path, right? From solicitation to contract
16 registration, you're looking at anywhere between six
17 to nine months, and that's taking in to account all
18 of the required steps, uhm, you know, that we have to
19 follow as part of the procurement policy board rules.

20 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay, uhm, could you tell me
21 what, uhm, what the process is and the timeline for,
22 uhm, a typical RFP?

23 DYCD ACCO CANTELMI: So, it... It really depends
24 on the size and the scope, right? You can have an
25 RFP that's a small budgeted amount, right? And, that

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 one we can get done -- depending on again -- the...
3 the scope of... of the service and whether or not we
4 are having a concept paper. You can get that done
5 within, I want to say nine months. But, if you have
6 something of a large scale, such as like our Beacon
7 COMPASS program, that's going to take a long time.
8 That we usually say it's about 18 months, because we
9 want to ensure that we're getting the feedback from
10 the community, the participants, the public, uh, our
11 council members, right? To ensure that we're meeting
12 the needs of New York City.

13 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uhm, when... With the, uhm,
14 uhm, the... You said the eight... The, uhm, COMPASS
15 is, uhm, pretty much and 18 month process. Would
16 that be the same for SONYC?

17 DYCD ACCO CANTELMINI: SONYC, too. I mean, so, when
18 we... The last time that we released the COMPASS and
19 SONYC RFP, we released them together. Uhm,
20 unfortunately that was canceled. Right? But, we
21 would look to release them together, so it would.
22 Because, COMPASS is the comprehensive. That's the
23 umbrella. And, SONYC is the, uh, portion of the
24 COMPASS overall program.

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: And, the... The increase in
3 the time frame, uhm, for, uh, for the RFP process for
4 COMPASS and SONYC, uh, which is different from the
5 pre-solicitation, uhm, process to payment, is it
6 because of the concept paper, uhm... (Cross-Talk)

7 DYCD ACCO CANTELM I: Concept paper...

8 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Or part of that process?

9 What... What adds... What adds time on...

10 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time

11 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: to this process from the...

12 What makes it different from the pre-solicitation,
13 uh, process to payment?

14 DYCD ACCO CANTELM I: Sure, so, it's... It's
15 really the... the large volume. Right? You have a
16 large number of sites, which, you know, when we
17 release these RFP's we do get a large volume of
18 proposals. So, the evaluation process... Also,
19 there's a large partnership that happens with DOE and
20 the principals where providers have to engage with
21 the principals as part of their proposal process.
22 So, we need to ensure that we're building in time for
23 them to respond, uhm, to the RFP. So, you know, what
24 I'm describing right now is really the RFP phase.
25 But, once we move from the RFP phase to the award

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 phase, that's when we're getting in to the
3 contracting piece of it. So, finalizing contract
4 negotiations, the budget, the work scope, again
5 COMPASS is a... our largest program. Right? We're
6 talking about hundreds of contracts as a result of
7 compass and SONYC, uh, for DYCD to process, so...
8 And, also for the providers. Right? They're also
9 dealing with having to process these budgets and work
10 scope, so it does take a lot time for them to get
11 that... that through the system. So, you are
12 looking at a larger, uhm, processing time when you're
13 talking about a... a program such as COMPASS and
14 SONYC.

15 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Can you walk us through the
16 steps of... of the COMPASS, uh, SONYC process?

17 DYCD ACCO CANTELM I: Sure. Sure, uhm, so,
18 starting for... So, I'm gonna break it up into
19 phases. So, starting first with the pre-solicitation
20 phase. Right? That would entail our stakeholder
21 engagement, concept paper, where we're engaging with
22 the public showing... giving folks time to, uhm,
23 comment on the model and also finalizing scope of...
24 of work and what we want to release in the, uhm, RFP.
25 Then from when the time that we move from the pre-

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 solicitation phase, we get in to the solicitation
3 phase. Right? That's the RFP being released, we're
4 having our pre-proposal conference, we're engaging
5 with providers, informing folks encouraging them to
6 apply. We're also working closely, uhm, with DOE to
7 ensure to that the principals are informed that this
8 program is out. And, then we close that solicitation
9 phase and move in to the evaluation phase where we're
10 evaluating all the proposals that have come in, uhm,
11 and... and, scoring them. Then we move to the
12 award phase where we're actually selecting the, uhm,
13 new providers, and then moving in to contract.

14 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: And just to...

15 (Cross-Talk)

16 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uhm... I'm sorry (INAUDIBLE
17 21:50)

18 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: I'm sorry, Chair
19 Rose, just to add to that, and during this time, ,you
20 know, our team (INAUDIBLE 21:53) we're working with
21 the nonprofits to both develop the detailed, uhm,
22 scope of what they're actually going to be doing on
23 site. So, what... What are the activities gonna
24 look like? What's the quality of those activities?
25 Uhm, what's... What's your budget? So, we're

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 working with them to get a... a final secure budget
3 that's part of that contract package. Uh, working
4 with them about their staffing. Are you hiring the
5 right staff? What their qualifications are. Uhm,
6 and, then working with the director of that site, a
7 coordinator to ensure that the right conversations
8 are happening. If you're school based, are you
9 having those conversations with the school
10 administration, uhm, other community stakeholders,
11 etc.

12 DYCD ACCO CANTELM: And, then, uhm, once we go in
13 to the contracting, that's where you see your
14 responsibility termination process. Right? We're
15 doing a review of the awarded contractor to ensure
16 that they're responsible. We're doing our vendor
17 name checks. We're making sure that we have all of
18 our oversight approvals, and then we're sending it to
19 the controller's office for registration, at which
20 point, once registered, the provider can then get
21 their, uh, advance and... and, start submitting for
22 reimbursement.

23 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uhm, can you, uh, tell me, uhm,
24 under, uhm, uh, at... At... What role do the
25 stakeholders and advocates play in the COMPASS and

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 SONYC RFP process? And, uhm, what role does the
3 Human Services Council play in that process?

4 DYCD ACCO CANTELMI: So, definitely, uhm, and
5 we've done this in the past where we work with the
6 council members during the stakeholder engagement
7 process. So, you know, reaching out whether it be
8 through surveys, having meetings, uhm, to discuss
9 what you may see as an ideal model. What may have to
10 change, uhm, with our models? Uhm, and taking all of
11 that feedback in to consideration to help develop the
12 RFP.

13 We try to do stakeholder engagement prior to a
14 concept paper release, during a concept paper
15 release, and even at times after, uhm, to ensure that
16 the RFP really reflects, ,you know, a holistic model
17 of what's needed for ,you know, all of our
18 stakeholders.

19 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay, uhm, and under RFP's are
20 the current COMPASS and SONYC provider contracts?
21 And, are these the most recent?

22 DYCD ACCO CANTELMI: So, there's a combination.
23 So, our... Our oldest contracts are off of the 2012
24 RFP. That was a combination of elementary and middle
25 school programs. And, then when we had the

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 expansion, the... the SONYC middle school expansion,
3 that was, I want to say 2014. Darryl, you can
4 correct me if I'm getting that wrong. Uhm, 2014 was
5 the middle school expansion contracts. And, that was
6 primarily SONYC. Uhm, then we also had another
7 subset I want to say in 2016, where we had some
8 additional, uhm, elementary and middle school as well
9 as center based programs.

10 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uhm, uh, why, uhm, why have,
11 uhm, current RFP's not been issued?

12 DYCD ACCO CANTELMI: Yeah, so, unfortunately due
13 to the pandemic, our timeline was delayed. We were
14 hoping to start stakeholder engagement with the
15 public right around the time the pandemic started.
16 So, we are... We unfortunately had to move that
17 timeline back. Uhm, but definitely during the new
18 administration, that's one of our first priorities to
19 start that process.

20 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: In... And, in September of
21 2018; however, you, uhm, DYCD informed current, you
22 know, providers of, uhm, COMPASS or... and,
23 perspective providers of COMPASS and SONYC that the
24 RFP's for these programs that were due in October 2nd
25

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 of, uh, 2018, they were canceled. Why were these
3 canceled?

4 DYCD ACCO CANTELMI: Uhm, they were canceled due
5 to advocacy, I believe of the nonprofits. We wanted
6 to ensure that we were taking a closer look at the
7 model. Uhm, when we released that RFP, there weren't
8 any changes to the model. Uhm, so, ,you know, we
9 felt confident with the RFP that we released, but
10 after further ,you know, consideration and hearing
11 from our nonprofit providers, we felt that we wanted
12 to take another look and see where we could improve.

13 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: And, you, uhm... Uh, so, then
14 you felt that the... The input that you got from
15 the, uh, providers warranted taking another look?

16 DYCD ACCO CANTELMI: Yes.

17 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: Yes.

18 DYCD ACCO CANTELMI: Yes.

19 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: And, uhm, can you just kind of
20 tell me, uhm, how long you're looking? Heh, it's
21 been... (Cross-Talk)

22 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: What we're...

23 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: It's been 2018...

24 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: (INAUDIBLE 26:38)

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uh, what's taking you so long?

3 (Cross-Talk)

4 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: (INAUDIBLE 26:39)

5 One of the things that happened, honestly, was we
6 started stakeholder engagement to get more detailed
7 conversations happening around what the concerns
8 were. And, then we got the... The pandemic
9 happened. So, that... It kind of pushed that plan
10 back. So, at this point, given the timeline, we are
11 looking forward to the new administration coming in,
12 uhm, and starting that process back up, which will
13 also be informed by the new administration and the
14 new direction.

15 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, uhm, so, now that we are...

16 We are sort of, uhm, semi back to ,you know, to
17 getting ,you know, back to a place where we were,
18 uhm, pre COVID, uhm, what is the timeline now for
19 the... the, uh, issuing of our the RFP?

20 DYCD ACCO CANTELM I: So, we anticipate releasing
21 the RFP in 2022. The current COMPASS programs run
22 until end of fiscal year 23.

23 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uhm...

24 DYCD ACCO CANTELM I: So, stakeholder engagement
25 happening during the new calendar year, and then,

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 again, because of the scale of the COMPASS RFP, and
3 the number of proposals we anticipate, and the number
4 of sites, we want to ensure that we're allowing the
5 nonprofit providers enough time to do their outreach,
6 get their school partnership agreements signed. So,
7 it... It is a RFP that takes a longer time to get
8 processed.

9 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, have, uhm, have the
10 providers been informed that this, uhm, this RFP will
11 be coming out in 2022?

12 DYCD ACCO CANTELM I: So, they've been informed
13 that their contracts are running until June of 2023.
14 We're in the process of extending all of them.

15 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uhm, uh, this is a, uh, a
16 question that, uhm, I... This is just for my
17 edification, uhm, the... the... The extensions, is
18 there no limitations to the number of extensions that
19 you can... you can provide before a new RFP is....
20 is rendered?

21 DYCD ACCO CANTELM I: So, there are, uhm, within
22 the rules, there are, uhm, perimeters that you have
23 to follow in order to extend a contract. Uhm, you
24 know, for our COMPASS programs we had, you know,
25 because of the pandemic and also because we wanted to

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 ensure that we had a solid model, uhm, we were able
3 to extend those contracts for a longer period of
4 time. There's no defined number of extensions that
5 were allowed. Uhm, but in terms of... of how long
6 we extend something, it's what's called a negotiated
7 acquisition extension that allows us additional time
8 to develop a, uh, a new RFP.

9 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: And, these extensions are...
10 are predicated on the original terms of the RFP,
11 right?

12 DYCD ACCO CANTELM I: That's correct. The
13 underlying contract, yes.

14 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Mm-hmm. And, they don't take
15 in to consideration any sort of changes in... in...
16 in anything?

17 DYCD ACCO CANTELM I: Well, if... If there were
18 amendments, you know, that added funding to those
19 contracts, they would be rolled over as well in to
20 the negotiated acquisition extension. It wouldn't be
21 their original base that was awarded off of the, uh,
22 the initial RFP.

23 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, providers and advocates,
24 you know, report that their contract reimbursement

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 rates have not kept pace. So, what... What's being
3 done to address that?

4 DYCD ACCO CANTELM I: So, I know the city, you
5 know, we've been invested in the nonprofit community
6 through the indirect rate, uhm, increases that have
7 been given for FY 20 and out. Uhm, you know, of our
8 goals through the stakeholder engagement for the new
9 COMPASS programs is to see what that new price is.
10 But, in terms of the current contracts, the increases
11 that we've seen, uhm, have been around the indirect
12 rate.

13 FIRST DEPUTY DIRECTOR MURRAY: And, Council
14 members, uhm... (Cross-Talk)

15 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Yes... (Cross-Talk)

16 FIRST DEPUTY DIRECTOR MURRAY: Good after...
17 Good afternoon. Uhm, (INAUDIBLE 30:43)... (Cross-
18 Talk)

19 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Hi... (Cross-Talk)

20 FIRST DEPUTY DIRECTOR MURRAY: (INAUDIBLE 30:46)
21 remarks... Hi, good to see you again.

22 Uhm, this is really important. Right? We've
23 heard this from repeatedly from the sector, uhm, not
24 just (INAUDIBLE 30:54)... (Cross-Talk)

25

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: I'm sorry, could you speak up a
3 little? Could you speak a little... (Cross-Talk)

4 FIRST DEPUTY DIRECTOR MURRAY: Sure... (Cross-
5 Talk)

6 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: I can't quite hear you.

7 FIRST DEPUTY DIRECTOR MURRAY: Sure, can you hear
8 me okay, now?

9 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: That's better.

10 FIRST DEPUTY DIRECTOR MURRAY: Great, uh, what I
11 was saying in that this is a very, uh, this is
12 something that the sector, overall not just Youth
13 Services, is advocating for. So, we were the first,
14 uh, in the nation to really step in to the space
15 while looking at the indirect rates to make sure that
16 folks are funded more wholly, uhm, in terms of all
17 the administrative costs that you have to run a
18 contract. Uhm, for the youth services portfolio,
19 uhm, this is something that we're gonna have to look
20 at very, very closely. Uhm, I've been at many
21 hearings, uh, with Council Member Chin, and you, and
22 Council Member Kallos where the sector has absolutely
23 said, look, you know, here... The cost and the...
24 of our staff is changing. Uhm, they're advocating
25 for COLAS and such. Uh, that is something that is

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 actively being looked at and something that would
3 have to be considered as we're looking at the new
4 R... RFP, uhm, and service delivery moving forward.
5 So, it's something that's absolutely on the radar.
6 Uh, we're working with advocates. We're hearing
7 their feedback. Uhm, one contribution we have, as
8 Dana said, is in the indirect rate. Uhm, but we know
9 that there's advocacy for more.

10 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uhm, thank you. Uhm, uh,
11 when... When we look at the... the rate, uhm, like
12 \$3,200 a year per student, uhm, you... We all can
13 recognize that that is woefully inadequate. And,
14 uhm, and, so, uhm, when we're having programs
15 administer, uh, services to young people at a rate
16 that ,you know, hasn't changed in, uhm, in more than
17 say five years, uh, knowing that the costs have...
18 have gone up exponentially, uhm, even with the
19 indirect. And, I... I... I want to... I want to
20 commend... I want to commend this city council and
21 the administration for recognizing that the indirect
22 rate needed to be addressed. Uhm, you know, it...
23 It... It was a long time coming, uhm, but it still
24 isn't, you know, it... It isn't that... that is
25 needed.

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 Uhm, so, uhm, I am really hard pressed to know,
3 you know, what DYCD plans to do to ensure that the
4 new RFP is a priory in the incoming administrative.
5 Because, uhm, I'm not going to be here to bug you.
6 Uh, but I... I really need to know what you're going
7 to do to make this a priority in the incoming
8 administration. And, I'd like to know what
9 conversations or discussions have been had at City
10 Hall, you know, thus far in regard to the new RFP?
11 Who exactly in DYCD is leading the charge and
12 assuring that this remains a priority? And, what
13 conversations are transpiring with the providers to
14 ensure the new price per participant is captured, you
15 know, uhm, supporting the service provider's, uh,
16 contractual needs? And, the last question is, what
17 does DYCD estimate that that new price per
18 participant will be for COMPASS and SONYC moving
19 forward?

20 I can... I can ask (INAUDIBLE 34:31) one at a
21 time... (Cross-Talk)

22 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: (INAUDIBLE 34:32)

23 Uh, this is good... (Cross-Talk)

24 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: (INAUDIBLE 34:33) You know
25 really, I want to know... (Cross-Talk)

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: So, for...

3 (Cross-Talk)

4 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: What... What... What...

5 (Cross-Talk)

6 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: So, first and
7 foremost... (Cross-Talk)

8 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: What (INAUDIBLE 34:38) what
9 discussion... (Cross-Talk)

10 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: The discussion
11 around it is... What the new administration... It's
12 going to be in our transition documents. So, uhm,
13 every agency is creating a transition document that,
14 uhm, will set the priorities or speak to what we
15 believe, uhm, the priorities could... should be, and
16 that will be the start of the discussion with the new
17 administration. Uhm... (Cross-Talk)

18 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: And, is this... And, this is
19 clearly a priority in that transition document?

20 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: Absolutely.

21 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uhm, can you tell me about any
22 conversations you've had prior to you know leading up
23 to this point?

24 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: So, you... I...
25 (Cross-Talk)

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: About the new RFP?

3 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: There's been
4 constant conversations and discussions both with the
5 nonprofit leadership as well as, uhm, some of the
6 associations, uhm, as well as City Hall, of course.
7 Uh... We... We're looking forward to starting
8 that... that new phase of stakeholder of stakeholder
9 engagement during the new administration, so
10 everybody's having this collective conversation
11 around what the rates should be.

12 And, that's getting to sort of your last question
13 on what we believe, honestly we... We sit... We put
14 a number in the RFP. We got... We received some of
15 the pushback of... against that. We pulled the RFP.
16 We're not at a place yet where we're saying it should
17 be this number. I think we need more input. We need
18 more input from, uhm, the nonprofit community. We
19 need more input from the new administration. Uhm,
20 and I don't think so it's s... it's gonna take that
21 long, but those discussions have to happen.

22 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Mm-hmm. You know, uh, one of
23 my concerns is, how much weight does that input
24 carry? You know, uhm, I've... I've heard from DYCD,
25 you know, repeatedly that we, uhm, you know, we talk

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 to our stakeholders. We talk to our providers. You
3 know, in... In all the things from youth count to
4 the COVID, you know, planning, uhm, and... And,
5 what, uh, you know, what I want to know is... That's
6 fine to... to talk to them and have discussions, but
7 what weight does it carry? How much, you know, does
8 it actually, uhm, benefit them... (Cross-Talk)

9 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: (INAUDIBLE 36:47)

10 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: To... Or... Or... Or what is
11 the outcome of... of some of those conversations?

12 Uhm... (Cross-Talk)

13 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: That... That
14 is... (Cross-Talk)

15 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Because they did... (Cross-
16 Talk)

17 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: Yeah... (Cross-
18 Talk)

19 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: They did have conversations
20 with you prior to the issuance of the RFP that you
21 pulled back.

22 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: So, Chair Rose,
23 definitely a great question

24 I... Personally, I believe it carries a lot of
25 weight. One indicator is the fact that we pulled the

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 RFP back. And, based on that feedback we released,
3 we... we released it at a rate that we believe was
4 the right rate on average, and based on the feedback
5 we pulled it back.

6 One example of... of... of how stakeholder
7 engagement, uhm, can support different rates, at one
8 point our Beacon portfolio, per contract was down to
9 I want to say \$34,000 on average. And, we had a lot
10 of stakeholders' engagement, focus groups, uh, we had
11 a concept paper, then we had discussions around the
12 concept paper, with nonprofits. And, we actually
13 released the Beacon programs. Right now there are
14 about 6,200 each on average. Somewhere in that area.

15 So, yeah, that... The input that we do receive
16 from providers is meaningful and we do include it.
17 And, we do take it in to account.

18 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uhm, and what role does the
19 Human Services Council play in that process?

20 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: They're, uh,
21 again, another... Another stakeholder who reviews
22 and we meet with, and we discuss, uhm, the details
23 around what we're going to create and release on the
24 RFP.

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, uhm, could you tell me how
3 you, uhm, suddenly arrive at the budget model, uhm,
4 for COMPASS and SONYC contracts?

5 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: If... I would
6 say, Dana, unless you have details now in your head,
7 I would say, Chair Rose, let me get back to you on
8 the model make up. It's been some time, and I don't
9 have it fresh in my head.

10 DYCD ACCO CANTELM: Yeah, and I would just add,
11 you know, that... That is also still part of the
12 stakeholder engagement plan. We're still trying to
13 find what that sweet spot is. Right? Because, at
14 Darryl mentioned, we release the RFP with an average
15 that we feel comfortable was enough to cover the
16 model. And, there were folks that felt that it
17 wasn't enough. So, we pulled that back. Uhm, we did
18 have some rounds of... of stakeholder engagement
19 immediately after the RFP was canceled to get, uh,
20 model budgets from folks. And, we didn't see the
21 increase that... that folks were asking for when we
22 canceled the RFP. So, uh, we just want to make sure
23 that we get it right this time, because the last
24 thing we want to do is, uh, go through another
25 process where we're cancelling an RFP.

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, will that have the
3 opportunity to give you some input, uhm, now that
4 you're going back to the drawing board and
5 reflecting?

6 And, you know, and, again, how much weight will
7 that carry?

8 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: It... It
9 absolute... They... They absolutely will have the
10 opportunity to give feedback.

11 It does carry weight. But, it also depends on
12 the budget at the time and what we're working with.
13 But, it's part of that discussion and that
14 negotiation that needs that... That act...
15 absolutely needs to happen.

16 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uhm, I want to hear from, uhm,
17 the Deputy Director of MOCS about this process, and,
18 you know, input, and numbers and... You know, uhm,
19 when a budget is presented, you know, how much...
20 How much do you value or... or put... What is the
21 weight that you put on the numbers are presented to
22 you for these RFP's?

23 FIRST DEPUTY DIRECTOR MURRAY: Sure, so Council
24 Member, I hope you can hear me okay now.

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 Uhm, the, uh, part of what we do in the RFP
3 process overall or (INAUDIBLE 40:40) solicitation,
4 um, the agency we and OMB, uhm, have to think about
5 what the overall funding for the initiative is.
6 Right? So, that is... That is a higher level look.
7 Uhm that number would be going to the agency. It
8 would be allocated. Uhm, in terms of what, uh, the
9 agency then does, I think both, uh, Dana and Darryl
10 spent a bunch of time talking about how they would
11 say the median cost might be X, uhm, you could
12 negotiate and propose, uh, X to Y. Uhm, and then
13 based on the solicitation, part of the evaluation
14 process isn't with MOCS, but it's at the proposal
15 level. Right? Where, uhm, an agent... Uhm, a
16 provider will say, I can meet this rate of
17 participation that you're looking for with this
18 quality of services, but for a higher rate that's
19 fully loaded. Uhm, so the evaluators that are
20 selected for the RFP, uhm, and obviously that's a
21 closed process. They're looking proposal by proposal
22 to see based on the scope of work, as Darryl said,
23 uhm, that they're gonna be implementing, is the
24 budget sufficient? Uhm, so, there's the higher level
25 process, where you say this inactivate is going to

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 get X amount of funding, and then DYCD will... could
3 say this RFP or negotiated acquisition solicitation
4 can fund up to X amount a slots, uhm, if you're
5 looking at median slot of whatever the price may be.
6 But, it... It really does come down to the end
7 proposal, uhm, where they're selecting based on
8 quality, based on scope. And, then they will say
9 back to, uhm, OMB, to their commissioner and to OMB,
10 and to us at the end of the day, uhm, here are the
11 slots... Here are the people we're proposing for a
12 awards, uhm, the rates are ,you know, again X to Y,
13 and this is the true the cost now based on the
14 collaborative process where someone's proposed and
15 they have said yes or no based on quality and scope,
16 that's really the process to get to the final answer.

17 Uh, I think if you... As you know very well,
18 from your many, many years of engaging with
19 providers, uhm, the RFP will say that you have to
20 research milestones, and then you're gonna have
21 providers who by select will say, "I have competency
22 in a particular area."

23 How they choose to fund, uhm, the staff and staff
24 those activities is a provider decision. So, you're
25 gonna have some variability. But, at the end of the

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 day, DYCD, uhm, is responsible for making a decision
3 on what is the real... the proposals that they're
4 gonna select, uhm, and the... the quality as Darryl
5 and Dana said, and that goes forward to... (Cross-
6 Talk)

7 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Right... (Cross-Talk)

8 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: And, Chair Rose,
9 before we go (INAUDIBLE 43:19)

10 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: I'm not really talking about
11 the individual RFP's, uh, and the proposals.

12 I am really trying to get at who determines what
13 the final amount that that initiative or, you know,
14 that program is going to be funded at.

15 You know, uhm, we can suggest a per participant
16 rate, uhm, and, you know, and someone determines that
17 we're only going to allocate X million dollars, uh,
18 tens of millions of dollars for such and such.

19 You know, I want to know who determines that and
20 who decides what that actual per participant rate
21 winds up being?

22 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: Can... Can we
23 unmute Dana Cantelmi? She actually went on mute. I
24 know she's... She's struggling over there.

25 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Hi, Dana... (Cross-Talk)

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

DYCD ACCO CANTELM I: That's better, thank you.

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: And, Chair, to answer part of your question, and Dana, I think you may want to pick it up. But, ultimately it comes down to a negotiation and discussion with OMB, with, uhm, us, City Hall, uhm, around what the priority is, what we're hearing from... (Cross-Talk)

UNKNOWN: (INAUDIBLE 44:36)

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: stakeholders. What... The feedback we're getting from nonprofits... (Cross-Talk)

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Mm-hmm... (Cross-Talk)

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: And, also a discussion around what... How much is in the budget. And, that determines what that price is going to be.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay... (Cross-Talk)

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: It worked out really well with Beacon programs; although, I'm always going to push for more money for Beacons, but again, it's that... It's a conversation that has to happen.

DYCD ACCO CANTELM I: Exactly (INAUDIBLE 44:55)... (Cross-Talk)

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: And, that... That is...
That's the root that I'm trying to get to. Is...
(Cross-Talk)

DYCD ACCO CANTELM I: Okay... (Cross-Talk)

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: That, you know, we have the
conversations. It seems as if everybody is at the
table. Uhm, and the real figures are being, you
know, talked about, but then the outcome is somewhat
every different. And, so, Dana, uhm, I'm sorry I
interrupted you. Go ahead... (Cross-Talk)

DYCD ACCO CANTELM I: No, no, no, I'm sorry, Chair
Rose, uhm, just to add, I mean, that's one of the
importance of the stakeholder engagement, too.
Right? I... I think that we want to make sure that
we're reaching everyone. The last thing that we want
to do, uhm, is releases something... RFP, right?
And, then start hearing from folks, right. So, we
want to make sure that we're giving providers our...
our colleague, right? Whether it be folks over at
DOE, uhm, enough time to give us -- what should the
model be? -- What should the funding be? -- Right?
Because, at the end of the day, DYCD has... is the
one that's going up to bat to say, "Hey, this is the
model." We believe that this is the funding based on

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 all of the feedback. So, you know, it's... it's
3 best for us to have as much information and support
4 to... for us to be able to go and say this is how
5 much a model should cost.

6 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uhm, could you tell me what the
7 delay is with the Summer Rising payments? And, uhm,
8 will... When will they... When will these payments
9 be issued to the providers?

10 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: Dana just went on
11 mute again. I don't know how (INAUDIBLE 46:25)...

12 (Cross-Talk)

13 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you, you're muted...

14 (Cross-Talk)

15 DYCD ACCO CANTELM: Okay... (Cross-Talk)

16 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: (INAUDIBLE 46:26)

17 DYCD ACCO CANTELM: Okay, uh, yeah, I don't know.
18 I'm not gonna touch that button anymore.

19 Okay, uhm, so, Summer Rising, uhm, the way the
20 system... the contracting system works is that we
21 cannot process and register contracts simultaneously.
22 And, with the Summer Rising initiative, those were
23 built on as amendments to existing contracts. A
24 number of those contracts were added to our COMPASS
25 portfolio that was seeing a negotiated acquisition

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 extension. So, those had to be registered first in
3 order for us to start registering the Summer Rising
4 contracts.

5 Uhm, I'm happy to report that a large majority of
6 the negotiated acquisition extensions have started
7 hitting registration. And, the Summer Rising
8 contracts have started, uhm, being launched in
9 PASSPort and budgets made available. So, we're
10 working to get that, you know, those contracts
11 registered.

12 But, again, like, we cannot move forward with
13 Summer Rising amendments until previous actions are
14 registered.

15 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, we have no idea of when the
16 payments will be made?

17 DYCD ACCO CANTELM: No, but... But, we have
18 definitely been working with our providers who have
19 registered contracts to advance them funds. And, if
20 they don't have a registered contract, we've been
21 working with MOCS to get them loans. So, if there
22 are providers that are, you know, experiencing cash
23 flow, they should definitely reach out to us, and we
24 would definitely work with them to get funding to
25 their organization.

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: And, echoing
3 what... what Dana said, there should never be a
4 situation with nonprofits saying, "We don't have
5 funding. We reached out to DYCD, and there's nothing
6 we can do. And, we're not gonna meet payroll." No,
7 reach out to us immediately -- and we work with
8 nonprofits every day on this -- uhm, and we will work
9 with you to figure out how to get you cash flow up
10 until the point that your contract is registered.

11 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Yeah, because we don't want an
12 interruption in the serves.

13 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: Exactly...

14 (Cross-Talk)

15 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: We... (Cross-Talk)

16 DYCD ACCO CANTELMI: Mm-hmm.

17 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: We want there to be
18 consistency.

19 Uhm, the providers and advocates, you know, talk
20 about staff shortages in their youth programs, and
21 point to a number of contributing factors. Uhm,
22 inadequate wages and benefits is, you know, number
23 one. Uhm, the resulting flight of youth workers to
24 better paying, like, DOE, uhm, positions. And, uhm,
25 vaccine mandates, childcare issues, and the

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 background check backlog. Uhm, what... What are we
3 doing to assist the providers in recruiting and
4 retaining youth workers, and about the background
5 check backlog?

6 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: So, I would say a
7 combination of things. Uhm, it's a lot around this
8 starting with the pandemic. We... Right before the
9 pandemic we were seeing a shortage, well, what I
10 would say quality youth... We're hearing from the
11 field that we can't find quality youth staff and
12 youth workers. And, then once the pandemic hit,
13 forget about it. We started to lose workers in
14 general, uhm, to other jobs or whatever is happening
15 in... folks were going through. Uhm, we do do a
16 series... I mean, in the past we've done series of,
17 uhm, job recruitment fairs where we had providers
18 virtually tabling, uhm, and folks were able to log
19 in, uhm, go to different breakout rooms during the
20 Zoom call, speak to different providers. Uhm, we've
21 assisted in that matter. It's something that we're
22 trying to get a handle on. But, uhm, what they're
23 saying is true. There isn't ton of youth workers out
24 there. They're definitely having trouble recruiting
25 and hiring staff. And, I can't say it's always the

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 wage issue, because in one area that I just had a
3 discussion around what I believe was a decent waged
4 job that they were trying to recruit for, and they
5 were still having problems... problems recruiting
6 for that job. So, it's something that we're
7 definitely taking a look at -- we're working with
8 providers on, uhm, to get to the bottom of it and
9 hopefully build it up.

10 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay, because we're losing a
11 lot to DOE for jobs that are sort of commensurate.
12 And, it is because of wages. Uhm, and, so, and we've
13 got to do something about the, you know, the process.
14 Uh... (Cross-Talk)

15 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: Yeah, and...
16 And... (Cross-Talk)

17 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, uh, and... (Cross-Talk)

18 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: And, that's
19 the... (Cross-Talk)

20 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: And, I do want to give... I'm
21 sorry... (Cross-Talk)

22 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: Oh, I'm sorry,
23 Chair Rose.

24 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uhm, I do want to give, you
25 know, my colleagues a chance to ask questions. Uhm,

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 and, I just wanted to get a couple of those things
3 out of the way.

4 Uhm, I want to acknowledge that we've joined by
5 Council Member Feliz and, uhm, Council Member Eugene,
6 and have just a few other questions. But, I'll come
7 back. I want to give me colleagues time to ask
8 questions.

9 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you, Chair. Uhm, I
10 will now call on council members in the order in
11 which they have their hands raised in the Zoom...
12 used the Zoom Raise Hand Function.

13 So, council members, please remember that your
14 questions -- you have to five minutes for your
15 questions, and this will include both your question
16 and their... witness's responses.

17 Uh, the Sergeant At Arms will be keeping a timer
18 to let you know when your time is up.

19 So, we will now hear questions from Council
20 Member Riley followed by Council Member Chin.

21 Council Member Riley?

22 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Uh, thank you Counsel and
24 thank you Chair Rose for all the hard work you've
25 been doing.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

Good afternoon, everybody. Uh, Associate Commissioner Rattray, it's a pleasure to meet you. Uh, I think I've been in contact with you through my last profession with Speaker Heastie's office.

Uhm, just a few questions, and excuse me if I cut you guys off, uhm, due to the sake of time.

Uhm, but kind of to bounce back on the quest... the answer you just gave for Chair Rose's question on the jobs that were given on the wages, I think with today's youth and what they're kind of seeing and subjected to online, I came in... My first job was with summer youth. I worked in the library. I was a page, uhm, I loved my wage even though it was probably like \$7.00 at that time. But, I loved my little \$96.00 check I used to get at the end of the week. And, I used to save it up. But, the time... This time now is... I didn't have social media back then. I didn't have things that were kind of shoved in my face thinking I have to live up to a certain lifestyle. Uhm, so when we're thinking about the jobs and the opportunities we're giving, I think we need to go the more career driven jobs. Uhm, try to team up with providers such as like Google. Uhm, kind of jobs that our youth are kind of interested in

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 now where they can kind of pick up a career, uhm,
3 which is more interesting than just having a job for
4 the summertime. I think then we'll get more youth.

5 Uhm, but my question is, when it goes to
6 providers, uh, especially when it goes to after
7 school programs, I have a ton of nonprofits -- local
8 nonprofits -- uh, within my community that I know
9 would do an amazing job within the school system or
10 with any, uhm, any kind of programming that DYCD can
11 help them with. But, the issue is they're not
12 getting the opportunities, uhm, is what they're
13 saying. And, I would love to kind of figure moving
14 forward, because I will be here to bug you guys, uhm,
15 after Chair Rose leaves, uhm, just to carry on her
16 work. Uhm, but not to bug you guys, but really just
17 partner with you all, because I definitely want to
18 get more nonprofits locally, especially one that I
19 have at John Philip Sousa, which I want to connect
20 with you. Uhm, but, I know if the consensus of the
21 community, principals, teachers, parents in the
22 location, or like a certain provider in the location.
23 Uhm, and another providers is there. What is the
24 procedure of kind of switching the providers out if
25 they already have a contract or that in place?

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: So, Council
3 Member Riley, I'll start with congratulations on your
4 seat.

5 Uhm, my first job was SYP, but I was getting paid
6 like \$3.00 an hour. So, you said, \$7.00 that seemed
7 good for me. Uhm... (Cross-Talk)

8 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: (INAUDIBLE 54:19)

9 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: Uhm, but, no, I
10 definitely understand your point and hear you. And,
11 it definitely something that we're speaking to folks
12 about, uhm, when it comes to youth wage... uhm, the
13 wages that we have. How attractive a role in youth
14 development is... Like, we ,you know, when I worked
15 SYP in the work I was doing, and I got connected to a
16 Beacon Program as a kid, I didn't know it would lead
17 to this job here as an Associate Commissioner. I
18 just knew it was what I wanted to do to give back.

19 Uhm, but we're looking at ways to better message
20 out on the type of jobs that we can provide. But,
21 also make the connections to the other jobs that
22 folks want. So, we are working with other private
23 entities, uhm, on what SYP work sites look like, etc.

24 But, I know... I don't want to waste time. Uhm,
25 one thing that we do that is ,like, really important,

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 and we've done it in the past and we just did it for
3 resident councils across the city, Resident Council
4 Leadership asked, look if a residential council wants
5 to create an origination and run their own center,
6 what do they need?

7 So, we've been having a series of worships. If
8 you're a small nonprofit, if you're a new
9 organization, what does it mean to contract with the
10 city, get connected to through all the systems, and
11 then compete on an RFP?

12 So, I would start with that actually. If you...
13 If there are some small organizations, maybe they
14 need, uhm, this further (INAUDIBLE 55:42)

15 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: I will... I would love to
16 connect with you to do that. Because, I have...
17 That is amazing. I didn't know that you guys did
18 that. So, if we could connect in a way to kind of
19 bring it over here. Because, my whole vision is, I'm
20 trying to get more people in the community to
21 actually be a part of the community. And, in order
22 to do so, they have amazing ideas, but they just need
23 the way to kind of get these ideas going and up and
24 running. And, if we're gonna have any say so or have
25 any community, uh, sense, uh, with making them feel

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 like they have a say so in what goes in the community
3 , I feel like this is a great opportunity to at least
4 try to make them start their own organization.

5 So, uhm, for the sake of time, I would love to
6 connect with you outside of this. I know we didn't
7 get to meet, uhm, personally, but definitely would
8 love to connect with you outside of this and speak
9 about this a little bit more.

10 Uhm, thank you, Chair Rose, uh, for everything
11 you have done for this committee. Thank you, uhm,
12 Council Member Chin. Thank you Council Member Eugene
13 and Council Member Louis, uhm, and Council Member
14 Feliz for your advocacy also for our youth. Thank
15 you.

16 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you Council Member
17 Riley.

18 I will now turn to Council Member Chin for
19 questions.

20 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you, Chair.

22 You know, when you talk about summer youth
23 programs, my summer youth program I was only paid a
24 \$1.60 an hour. That was the late 60'S. So, you
25 know, we've come a long way.

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 Uhm, my question is that, uh, Deputy
3 Commissioner, is that, you know, in the city council,
4 we fund a lot of smaller groups, uh, through the
5 discretionary grants.

6 One questions is, like, you know, how fast can
7 they get the money? I mean some of them are so small
8 it's \$5,000 and some. And, this is the way that we
9 sort of help them, you know, build up, you know,
10 their base, so that they can, in the future, compete
11 for a city contract. I mean, that is the goal. And,
12 that's what we do, you know, it's just... also for
13 our senior service. And, I was really happy that in
14 this RFP, in the recent senior RFP, a lot with the
15 groups that we have supported and funded, got
16 awarded. You know, the new senior center in New
17 York... So, that's what I'm looking, you know,
18 forward to in some of the groups that, you know,
19 Council Member Riley was talking about. You know,
20 looking at the city council portfolio, with all of
21 the smaller organizations that contract through DYCD,
22 how soon do they get the money? And, like, what kind
23 of technical assistance do you provide to them so
24 that they know about the opportunity and they're able
25

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 to sort of build up their capacity, so that they can
3 one day compete for a city contract?

4 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: And, Council
5 Member Chin, I'm going to pass it over to Dana.

6 (Cross-Talk)

7 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Okay, thank you (INAUDIBLE
8 58:27)

9 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: On how... The
10 time line and the process from discretionary award to
11 actual payout.

12 DYCD ACCO CANTELMI: Sure, thanks Darryl.

13 So, uhm, and thank you Council Member Chin, for
14 the question.

15 So, with discretionary, there's a number of
16 factors that play. It really depends on when the
17 provider is cleared, uhm, when they get their
18 documents in to us, if there's any responsibility
19 determination issues, if it has to go to the
20 controller's office for registration. Uhm, if you're
21 a small organization, say, receiving \$5,000 and
22 you're cleared and everything runs fine, and we're
23 able to registrar them in house, uhm, they could see
24 payment within two months of us actually getting the
25 contract cleared and in house with documents and

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 contracts signed, uhm, registered. And, then they
3 would have submit for reimbursement to get paid out.

4 FIRST DEPUTY DIRECTOR MURRAY: And, I'll just
5 add, uhm, to the technical assistance question. Uhm,
6 if you can hear me okay, Council Member Chin?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Yeah, mm-hmm.

8 FIRST DEPUTY DIRECTOR MURRAY: Uhm, DYCD has
9 historically spent a lot of time on capacity
10 building, particularly for small nonprofits. So,
11 that portfolio is pretty robust. Uhm, thanks to
12 council finance actually, uh, and the council, you've
13 also invested in dedicated technical assistance for,
14 uh, and particularly the smaller providers who might
15 have a hard time, like, getting used to new
16 technology and new processes, uhm, so, we have beefed
17 up our services there as well.

18 Uhm, so, I think there's a lot of work to be done
19 to make sure they're ready for RFPs. Uhm, but we are
20 definitely making sure that they can get through the
21 discretionary process. And, as Dana said, that can
22 go pretty quickly depending on the size of award,
23 uhm, and couple of other factors. And, obviously
24 once the contract's registered, folks can get paid.

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Yeah, definitely, I mean,
3 we've also been working ourselves in terms of, you
4 know, initiative to help, uhm, some of the nonprofit
5 groups to build their capacity and make sure they get
6 all the documents in place.

7 I mean, that's what... All of us have staff, you
8 know, right here in our office that really work with
9 these, uh, groups since the, you know, beginning of
10 the year to get them ready.

11 Uhm, the other question I have, is that ,you
12 know, often times ,you know, Council Member, uhm,
13 Chair Rose has talked about, yeah, that we hear from
14 advocates is that the reimbursement costs is always
15 ,you know, much lower than the actual costs. And,
16 one of the things that we didn't get through the last
17 budgeted was the COLA increase.

18 Are ,you know, like in MOC or DYCD, are you
19 thinking about helping to sort of implement that or
20 sort of have that built in, uh, so that the increase
21 is automatic and really to kind of help ,you know,
22 support these nonprofit organizations?

23 DEPUTY DIRECTOR MURRAY: Yeah, I thank you for
24 the question Council Member.

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 Uhm, ,you know, as I spoke to earlier, uhm, ,you
3 know, we looked at obviously funding for contracts
4 and making sure that we make them as whole as
5 possible with the indirect rate. Uh, the COLA is
6 something that we know very well. Our good friends -
7 - you asked about Human Services Council earlier --
8 our good friends and Human Services Council have
9 active campaigns to make sure that this on the radar
10 for the outgoing administration as well as the
11 incoming administration. So, I don't want to get
12 ahead of folks who will be here, uhm, in a few
13 months, but it something that we know is important,
14 and we know it needs to be looked at.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Well... (Cross-Talk)

16 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time expired.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Well, a lot of council... I
18 mean, Council Member Rose and I, we're...we're not
19 gonna be here. We'll... (Cross-Talk)

20 DEPUTY DIRECTOR MURRAY: Yeah, you've... you've
21 been a... (Cross-Talk)

22 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: We'll be private citizens.

23 (INAUDIBLE 1:02:00)

24

25

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 DEPUTY DIRECTOR MURRAY: You've been a
3 stellar advocate in this area. So, just want
4 to... (Cross-Talk)

5 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Yeah, but the... (Cross-
6 Talk)

7 DEPUTY DIRECTOR MURRAY: So, I just want to
8 acknowledge that (INAUDIBLE 1:02:03)

9 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Those council members that's
10 coming in and the council members here, they're gonna
11 continue our advocacy. That's what we're looking
12 forward to.

13 DEPUTY DIRECTOR MURRAY: The one other thing I
14 would just note on the... (Cross-Talk)

15 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Mm-hmm?

16 DEPUTY DIRECTOR MURRAY: uhm, discretionary
17 portfolio, uhm, thanks many of you, I know Council
18 Member Riley, if he's still here, uh, we did a
19 training in, uhm, March just to... One of the big
20 things with what we're doing digitally is making sure
21 there's an increased transparency. So, some of your
22 questions about how long will it take to get from
23 point A to point B, uh, your team members, as you
24 said, now have access to PASSPort. You can see where
25 things stand and you can... You help us in providing

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 technical assistance to, uh, providers, uh, in the
3 community who might be wondering where we are and
4 what the next step is.

5 So, uhm, thanks to ya'll for all the support, not
6 just investing in capacity building for smaller
7 nonprofits, but also for keeping track and supporting
8 it directly. So, thanks again... (Cross-Talk)

9 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Yeah, yeah, we... It's a
10 good partnership. I mean, we know that, because we
11 want to make sure they get the money, they get
12 funded. We want to make sur they get the money out.
13 Uh, so, that's why I think it... All... Every
14 council member has a budget director just to deal
15 with this. So, but thank you all for your support.

16 Thank you, Chair.

17 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you, Council Member Chin.

18 At this time we have concluded the first round of
19 questions.

20 Chair Rose, if you'd like to continue with your...
21 any other questions you may have, and we'll turn to
22 other council members.

23 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Yes, thank you so much, uh,
24 Counsel. And, uhm, and I want to thank my colleagues
25 for those insightful questions and their advocacy and

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 their energy. Uhm, that's what makes this, uh, I
3 think the best committee in the city council because
4 of the passion that, uhm, that we see displayed, uh,
5 with the committee members.

6 Uhm, I wanted to ask, uhm, if, uh, if the model,
7 uhm, that you're considering, uhm, is gonna to change
8 in the, new... Uhm, do you have any idea of how the
9 model is gonna is going to be changed in the new RFP?
10 Uhm, and, uh, and if you... Did you have an idea of
11 what the price per participant will be for COMPASS
12 and SONYC?

13 DYCD ACCO CANTELMI: Not... (Cross-Talk)

14 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: Not... Not yet.
15 Not yet, we don't have... (Cross-Talk)

16 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Not... Not at all... (Cross-
17 Talk)

18 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: We don't...
19 Yeah... I think... I think part of it is...
20 (Cross-Talk)

21 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay... (Cross-Talk)

22 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: If you want to go
23 with what we were thinking, well that was the RFP.
24 And, I think it... That's all going... I mean, I'm
25 not saying it's all going to change, 90% of them

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 model's going to remain the same in what we do. But,
3 there are details around that are definitely going to
4 change with the stakeholder engagement that we're
5 gonna... (Cross-Talk)

6 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Mm-hmm

7 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: Proceed on.

8 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: And if the RFP is going to be
9 let until, uhm, 2023, uhm, are there gonna be any,
10 uhm, like, updates to the provider's budget in the
11 interim? You know, or...

12 DYCD ACCO CANTELM I: Mm-hmm, uhm, so the RFP will
13 be... Just to clarify, the contracts will start July
14 1st of 2023. Uhm, but to answer your question, uhm I
15 think that that's definitely something that we would
16 have to discuss with the new administration. Uhm,
17 it's too early for us answer yes or no.

18 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: And, uhm, and all of these
19 things are being actively discussed as well as being
20 committed to the transition document?

21 DYCD ACCO CANTELM I: Yes... (Cross-Talk)

22 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: That is correct...
23 (Cross-Talk)

24 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Yes? Okay... (Cross-Talk)

25

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: That is correct,
3 yes.

4 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uhm, is it possible for, uhm,
5 for me to get a copy of this transition document?
6 Because, I too am having conversations with the new
7 administration... incoming administration as well
8 as, I probably want to talk to you also, uhm, before
9 I get out the door.

10 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: Chair Rose, you
11 know me by now. I'm highly transparent. I don't
12 know the protocol on that. Let me look in to it. If
13 it's possible, then absolutely.

14 If there's an issue, we'll give you the nod, like,
15 there's an issue. But, we'll... I'll definitely
16 look in to it.

17 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay, and I'll just have to come
18 to the office and see you all (Laughing)...

19 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: If you're standing
20 right here, while it's open (Laughing)... (Cross-
21 Talk)

22 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: I'll look over your shoulder,
23 okay... (Laughing)

24 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: Are we gonna
25 strike that from the record? (Laughing)

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay, (Laughing)...

3 Alright, and, uhm, ,you know, I just want to kind
4 of circle back to the ,you know, afore mentioned
5 staffing issues that make it difficult for, uhm, the
6 providers to meet the participant to staff ratios.
7 And, you know, and that... That impacts their
8 enrollment, uhm, and, you know, uhm, they're not able
9 to meet their goals, you know, and may adversely
10 effect, you know, their contracts.

11 This really doesn't seem fair, uhm, what could be
12 done to address that concern?

13 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: So, two things.
14 I'm also... Because, I'm multi-tasking, I'm trying
15 to find that number. I want to say we had roughly...
16 Coming off the mandate execution, we had roughly a
17 150 - 155 of our programs that said to us, listen,
18 we're trying to find staff. Some staff didn't want
19 to get vaccinated, so they can't be in the program.
20 We're looking for other staff, but what that means,
21 DYCD, is we're not gonna be at a 100% of our
22 enrollment day one like you want us to. We're gonna
23 have to stagger the enrollment.

24 Uhm, so part of what we're doing is allowing that
25 to happen and giving, uhm, leniency if you will, and

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 the ability and flexibility for providers to tell us
3 that and do that, and we're not at the... You know,
4 eight months from now when folks forget that that
5 happened, we're coming at them, saying, oh, my God,
6 you weren't at full enrollment. No, we're gonna
7 remember. We're going to assist them and try to
8 support.

9 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay, uhm, and that's been
10 communicated to them?

11 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: Absolutely.

12 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay. And, the providers and
13 advocates, you know, uh, report problems of how did
14 you DYCD interacts them, uhm, and that there's a lack
15 of clarity. Uhm, they feel the communication are
16 inadequate. And, delays in responding to whatever
17 their questions, concerns, or issues are. You know?
18 What are we doing, you know, to support these
19 providers to increase, you know, uhm, this process.
20 Uh, you, yourself are a big advocate of transparency,
21 uhm, how is it that ,you know, this becomes a
22 recurring theme regardless of what the topic for this
23 committee has been DYCD? This always... There's
24 always this, you know, it's the, uhm, elephant in the
25 room. It's always... It's even more than that.

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 It's always, you know, brought up as a bone of
3 contention that, you know, the communication -- the
4 lack of communication, the lack of expediency in
5 responding, uhm, especially, uhm, in major issues.
6 Like, we saw that with, uhm, COVID and, uhm, and with
7 the youth count, and things of that nature.

8 What can we do, or what is being done to improve
9 this? Uhm, it just... It just keeps happening.

10 And, I know DYCD Admin, they always tell that, you
11 know, they're in the room, they're at the table. You
12 know, how is it that if... if they're at the table,
13 that they're feeling, uhm, so disconnected and
14 disjointed? Is it that they're at the table and
15 they're not being heard? Uhm, they're, uhm, not
16 everyone who should be at the table is at the table?

17 What are we going to do about this, because I only
18 have one more hearing with you guys, and I don't...
19 I want to know that this is not going to be a problem
20 going forward.

21 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: And, Chair Rose,
22 as you know, you know, especially during, uhm, the
23 pandemic, we were doing weekly calls with providers.
24 Our staff are speaking with providers daily. They're
25 getting emails. They're talking to providers daily.

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 I honestly I don't know where that comes from. Uhm,
3 part of me wants to say perhaps it providers aren't
4 receiving the response they want, and wanting us to
5 look into it further to see if the response changes.
6 And, then that becomes the delay. But, I... We
7 speak to staff daily about the communication with
8 providers. We get emails. But, one thing I can say,
9 look, any provider reaching out that doesn't get a
10 response in a day or two, you know, roll it up, or
11 include everybody on there. I don't have a problem
12 with that either. I tell my staff that -- they're,
13 like, why did they reach out to you? I say, why does
14 that matter? Let's get what they need done.

15 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Mm-hmm.

16 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: Uhm, so, yeah,
17 it's something that we... I'll talk about internally
18 here with staff and see how often we get complaints
19 that. But, yeah, I'm not... It's hard to tell why
20 that's the sentiment from providers when we do have
21 daily communication, uhm... (Cross-Talk)

22 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Yeah, I... (Cross-Talk)

23 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: Across... Across
24 all of our units.

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: I... I would really... I would
3 really appreciate that, because it is just... It
4 really is a recurring theme. And, you know, it seems
5 as if, you know, decisions are made in a vacuum.
6 Uhm, DYCD is always touting how transparent and how
7 inclusive they are, and I... I hear from the, you
8 know, providers something different...

9 So, uhm, maybe we should... (Cross-Talk)

10 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: Can... (Cross-
11 Talk)

12 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: look at, uhm, the model... The
13 model... (Cross-Talk)

14 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: Chair Rose,
15 sometimes... Sometimes there's... (Cross-Talk)

16 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: The model that we... that...
17 that we're using to, you know, what... Maybe what
18 the... that... what that model looks like in terms
19 of when... when things are being said that
20 everybody's at the table, or ,you know, whatever.

21 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: Sometimes...
22 We'll definitely take a look at it. Sometimes it's a
23 not understanding of what we just say -- the policy.
24 I... You know, I have a 1,000 programs. We send
25 something out or we say something 800 get it 200

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 don't. That 200's a loud voice. Uhm, and then the,
3 uh, if that's the case, folks should reach back out
4 to us immediately, but that doesn't happen all the
5 time and it lingers, and we find out later on, that,
6 oh, you didn't understand that policy that we just
7 released or that statement that we just released?

8 But, it's something that we should... We are
9 going to look in to it. We're gonna take ownership
10 on it and hopefully improve it?

11 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Mm-hmm. And, I think also, uhm,
12 maybe if it... You know, there's inclusion and
13 there's inclusion, and, uhm, one of the questions I
14 asked you was about how much weight does the input
15 that they give carry? And, I think that's probably
16 the issue. You know? So, I think maybe if you kind
17 of address that early on, you know, like this is...

18 (Cross-Talk)

19 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: Mm-hmm.

20 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: advisory, uh, or, you know,
21 "We're gonna do this by some kind of democratic
22 process, but, you know, you know what government is
23 like."

24 I... I don't know, but I think there needs to be
25 some clear expectations established of what, you

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 know, stakeholder input looks like and what, you
3 know, the potential outcome of that input would...
4 could be.

5 Because ,you know, I don't want to keep going to
6 the table thinking that ,you know, I'm going to see
7 some of the benefits of ,you know, my conversation
8 and that... that not happen.

9 So, I think maybe managing expectations, uhm, and
10 establishing ,you know, just how much weight ,you
11 know, their input will carry would probably go a long
12 way.

13 Alright, uh, Counsel, are there any other
14 questions for... Does anyone else have any
15 questions?

16 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Uhm, I would like to remind
17 council members if they do have any questions to use
18 the Raise Hand function in Zoom. And, uhm, keep your
19 questions to at least two minutes.

20 And, seeing no other hands raised, we can move on
21 to public testimony.

22 At this time, Chair, we have concluded the second
23 round of questions. And, if you have any closing
24 remarks to share with the administration before
25 they're excused?

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uhm, again, I just... I want to
3 thank you ,you know, I want thank you for all coming
4 to the hearings, and for being prepared, uh, with
5 information for us this time. And, uhm, I really
6 would like to know, uhm, I'd like some feedback on
7 whether we could be a part of that transition
8 document.

9 Uhm, but, I, again, I want to thank you. Uh,
10 we've all been through some very, you know, difficult
11 times. And, it's been one, uhm, it's actually been
12 very trying for everyone. And, uh, I do really
13 believe that everyone's doing the best that they can
14 ,you know, in circumstances that none of really had a
15 plan for.

16 So, I want to thank you for all your efforts to
17 keep New York City, you know, running, and our youth
18 being served. And, you know, I just hope that some
19 of the issues that we've revisited that we visited
20 through this committee can actually be resolved, and,
21 uhm, ,you know, because the main purpose for our
22 young people to be able to thrive and, uhm, and get
23 ,you know, the full benefits of what New York City
24 has to offer.

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 And, we have to make... You know, we have the
3 Youth Chair and the Senior Chair, these are two
4 populations that New York City, if they don't
5 recognize how important they are, uhm, we're going to
6 really suffer the consequences.

7 So, uhm, I want to thank you all for taking, you
8 know, the time today to come and, uhm, and testify.

9 And, uh, Deputy Director Ryan, thank you, u

10 Uhm, you know, we give... We, you know, in the
11 back rooms, MOCS and OMB a hard time. Uh, so, uh,
12 thank you for coming and answering our questions.

13 And, with that, uhm, we can have, uh, the
14 public... And, I wish that, you know, uhm, DYCD
15 would leave some to hear the providers. Uhm, because
16 it really isn't fair. You know, uhm, they come to
17 every hearing, and they go last. And, they have to
18 listen, and, uhm, and sometimes... many times they
19 don't agree with what's being said, uhm, but then
20 DYCD doesn't have to stay and listen to hear what
21 they're saying.

22 So, you don't have to hear it from me, uhm,
23 someone needs to be here in the room now so that you
24 can hear it from them.

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: And, Chair Rose,
3 we... We always leave someone behind to hear the
4 public... (Cross-Talk)

5 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: I know. Poor Andrew. Poor
6 Andrew, uhm... (Cross-Talk)

7 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: (INAUDIBLE
8 01:18:17) Andrew... (Cross-Talk)

9 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uh, yeah, I understand. You
10 know, uhm, but sometimes I think it's good...
11 (Cross-Talk)

12 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: You know we...
13 (Cross-Talk)

14 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: It's... It's good for, you
15 know, the commissioner level to hear from them.

16 I don't know how... how uncensored they might
17 speak to you in a, uhm, in a meeting of stakeholders.
18 You know, but here, uhm, we usually... They usually
19 speak very forthright and, uhm... And, you get the
20 message. At least I know I do.

21 So, thank you, you know, thank you.

22 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: Well, thank you,
23 Chair Rose, and thank you for your leadership.

24 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you.

25 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you, Chair.

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 So, we will now turn to public testimony.

3 For public testimony, I will be calling
4 individuals in panels.

5 Council members who have questions for a
6 particular panelist should use the Raise Hand
7 function in Zoom, and you will be called on after
8 everyone on that panel has completed their testimony.

9 For public panelist, once I call your name, a
10 member of our staff will unmute you, and the Sergeant
11 At Arms will announce... will give you the go ahead
12 to begin speaking after setting the timer.

13 All public testimony will be limited to three
14 minutes, and after I call your name, please wait for
15 a brief moment for the Sergeant At Arms to announce
16 that you may begin.

17 The next panelists... Or our first panelists will
18 be in the following order: Daryl Hornick-Becker from
19 The Citizens' Community for Children, Dante Bravo
20 from United Neighborhood Houses, and Christine James-
21 McKenzie of JobsFirstNYC.

22 Uhm, Daryl, you may begin.

23 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

24 DARYL HORNICK-BECKER: Good afternoon. My name is
25 Daryl Hornick-Becker and I am a Policy and Advocacy

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 Associate at Citizens' Committee for Children of New
3 York.

4 I'd like to thank Chair Rose and all the members
5 of the Youth Services committee for holding today's
6 hearing.

7 For our full set of recommendations, I refer you
8 to my written testimony. Today I'll highlight just a
9 few areas where action is needed in Youth Service
10 contracts.

11 First, universal, year-round youth service
12 programs start with a new RFP for providers. CCC and
13 its partners in The Campaign for Children have long
14 advocated for holistic, full year afterschool and
15 summer programming with universal access. But, such
16 a system remains out of reach as long as the sector
17 remains underfunded, understaffed, and hampered by
18 contracts that only cover part of the year.

19 It is well past time for a new RFP for these
20 providers. DYCD and the new administration must
21 issue an RFP and make awards as soon as possible.
22 And, new contracts must include several components to
23 ensure the stability of the sector and the high
24 quality of programs. They should follow budgeting
25 model that includes cost escalators to address rising

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 indirect costs, consisting cost of living adjustments
3 for staff, COVID-19 related expanses, and a base per
4 participant rate that ensures quality standards are
5 met and the wages are competitive.

6 A new RFP should also be for 12 months of the year
7 not only to fund summer programs, but to allow
8 providers to retain staff through the summer, onboard
9 earlier for the fall, and support the months spent
10 developing and planning after school programs.

11 Second, The Summer Rising Program would require
12 major reforms before continuing, and providers still
13 need to be paid.

14 Summer Rising's rollout presented providers with
15 significant obstacles to its execution including a
16 lack of coordination between city agencies, confusing
17 commination to families about enrollment and
18 insufficient CBO engagement during its development.

19 Despite these challenges, providers were able to
20 step to ensure children and youth enjoy the programs.
21 And, yet, Summer Rising providers still have not been
22 paid for their efforts.

23 Before any consideration to be made to continuing
24 the program in further summers, DYCD, DOE, and the
25

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 current administration must immediately pay all
3 Summer Rising providers in full.

4 If Summer Rising is to be considered for next
5 summer or as a multiple year program, we have several
6 recommendations based on feedback collected from
7 Summer Rising providers. These include:

8 Funding programs early and adequately, having a
9 coordinated office to manage regulatory issues,
10 pairing schools and CBOs in a thoughtful way, setting
11 realistic enrollment targets and improving the
12 enrollment process, ensuring safe staffing ratios,
13 supporting children with IEPs, and of course paying
14 providers on time.

15 And, finally, the city must improve the
16 fingerprinting and staff clearances process. Since
17 the implementation of the comprehensive background
18 check process in 2019, background check turnaround
19 times for CBO staff working in serving programs has
20 lagged leading to staffing challenges in programs
21 since before the pandemic.

22 Funding cuts during the pandemic and labor
23 shortages since, have further exacerbated these
24 challenges. The administration, DYCD, and DOHMH must
25 collaborate effectively on the clearance process and

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 allow providers to on board new staff in a timely
3 manner... (Cross-Talk)

4 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time expired.

5 DARYL HORNICK-BECKER: Thank you for the
6 opportunity to testify.

7 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you for your testimony.

8 Dante Bravo, you may now begin.

9 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

10 DANTE BRAVO: Uh, Thank you, Chair Rose and
11 members of the New York City Council, for the
12 opportunity to testify. My name is Dante Bravo, and I
13 am the Youth Policy Analyst at United Neighborhood
14 Houses, also known as UNH.

15 UNH is a policy and social change organization
16 that represents 45 neighborhood settlement houses, 40
17 of which are here in New York City that reach 765,000
18 New Yorkers from all walks of life.

19 For full recommendations, please refer to our full
20 written testimony. Uhm, I won't belabor the point
21 that the toll of this pandemic will be with this
22 generation of young people for years to come. But, I
23 do want to highlight that the disport impact on young
24 people of young people of color and low income young
25

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 people threaten to widen already existing racial and
3 economic gaps.

4 In order to provide young people with high quality
5 services to combat many of these systematic barriers
6 and to ensure the stability of the Youth Services
7 field in a post-pandemic recovery, UNH recommends the
8 city do the following:

9 Pay overdue contracts immediately as well as
10 commit to a faster contract payment process.

11 As an acute example, none of the settlement houses
12 who ran Summer Rising programs have been paid as of
13 today. This is nearly three months after the program
14 has ended and while providers are still engaging with
15 the demands of the field as we speak.

16 Clear the backlog of comprehensive background
17 checks as well as create a faster process for
18 background clearances in general.

19 Increase rates across COMPASS, SONYC, and Beacon
20 contracts in the new Request for Proposals process
21 (RFP) as well as move towards a 12 month contract
22 model that includes summer programming, with planning
23 for summer 2022 beginning no later than January 2022.

24 Commit to consulting with CBOs and their
25

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 coalitions to better inform the contract conditions
3 that CBOs perform their in.

4 And, ensure that non-profit sector employees under
5 contract with New York City are paid fair wages for
6 their labor.

7 It is especially important to ensure pay parity
8 between Human Services workers and their city counter
9 parts as CBOs cannot provide wages to compete with
10 agencies like The Department of Education, which
11 incentivizes frontline staff to leave for these jobs
12 after CBOs have already trained, cleared, and
13 developed these workers.

14 Recently, settlement houses have reported that
15 their staff have directly received recurring emails
16 from the DOE encouraging them to apply for substitute
17 teacher positions. This indicates that on some level
18 the city recognizes the need for these workers and
19 the quality of their work.

20 Settlement staff have described feeling as though
21 they are merely a pipeline for city agencies to hire
22 competent staff on a short notice. If the city can
23 recognize the inherent value of their work, it is
24 then unconscionable for the city to continue the
25 practice of low contract reimbursement rates.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

Without immediate actions, CBOs across the city will be put in a position that is impossible to run quality programming, and our city's young people will pay the highest price despite having survived the pandemic for the past year and a half.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to testify today.

For more information or to answer additional questions, you can reach me at dbravo@unhny.org.

Thank you.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you for your testimony.

Christine James-McKenzie, you may now begin.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

CHRISTINE JAMES-MCKENZIE: Good afternoon to the distinguished members of the Committee on Youth Services. My name is

Christine James-McKenzie and I'm the Associate of Communications, Learning, and Policy at JobsFirstNYC, which is a non-profit intermediary that creates and advances solutions that break down barriers and transform the systems supporting young adults and their communities in the pursuit of economic opportunities.

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 I think we all agree that New York City has to act
3 swiftly to reduce the number of the 18- to 24-year-
4 olds who are out of school and out-of-work, and to
5 connect these young adults to o training, education,
6 and work opportunities, as well as advancing them
7 along educational and career pathways.

8 To this end, we would like to share the following
9 recommendations for the city that were informed by a
10 diverse coalition of young adult workforce
11 development and education stakeholders as well as 18-
12 to 24-year-olds.

13 First is to reconsider procurement requirements
14 and design to encourage collaboration. By allowing
15 and rewarding collaborative applications, funders can
16 both incentivize partnerships and create access to
17 city funding for smaller organizations that lack the
18 capacity to provide a range of services on their own.

19 Also, reduce or eliminate administrative barriers
20 to participant data sharing and encouraging data
21 transparency. And, this is something that we
22 certainly believe is very important. When youth-
23 serving agencies share relevant data on individual
24 clients, they serve those clients more rapidly and
25 effectively.

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 Partner with young people in meaningful ways at
3 all stages of designing, implementing, and evaluating
4 initiatives and projects. They are smart. They know
5 what they want. And, the direct input of these young
6 adults can help surface needs and opportunities that
7 might not be obvious to other stakeholders, it also
8 highlights innovative approach for participant
9 recruitment and service delivery, as well as provide
10 unvarnished feedback on program effectiveness.

11 We also suggest allowing flexibility for
12 organizations to design programs that meet local
13 needs. Individual cohorts of out-of-school, out-of-
14 work youth with shared experiences may benefit from
15 customized service delivery models.

16 We thank you for your time and consideration. We
17 appreciate this opportunity to testify and look
18 forward to working with everyone who has taken the
19 time out today to sit and have this discussion.

20 Thank you, Chair Rose, uhm, to the council members
21 who are here, The Youth Services Council, as well as
22 the DYCD.

23 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you so much for your
24 testimony.

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 We'll now turn to Chair Rose for questions for
3 this panel.

4 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you. Uhm, I want to thank
5 each of you for your testimony.

6 And, I want to say, I want to say right now, I
7 want thank Associate Commissioner Rattray for
8 staying, because I really do believe that ,you know,
9 uhm, when you get it third hand, it doesn't have the
10 same impact. Uhm, so, I thank you for staying.

11 Uhm, Anyone of you can answer this, but, uhm, what
12 percentage of an increase in youth provider's
13 contract... In the contract reimbursement rate do
14 you believe is necessary and reasonable? What would
15 be, uhm, a reasonable rate?

16 Do any of you feel... Do any of you have an idea?
17 You don't have to if you... if you haven't thought
18 about that.

19 DARYL HORNICK-BECKER: I can say when we were
20 looking at Summer Rising, uhm, and looking at model
21 budgets, and looking at what... based on providers'
22 feedback what they would actually need.

23 We were looking at, like, 30 to 50% increases in
24 rates. Uhm, something significant. Uhm, I know that
25 my partners have United Neighborhood Houses, who,

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 uhm, aren't on the call right now, uh, have looked at
3 providers with model budgets, and we could definitely
4 get back to you on more specifics. But, it would be
5 a significant increase in terms of percentages.

6 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm. And, uhm, I
7 don't know if he's still here, uh, he testified about
8 sort of the pirating of youth workers, uhm, to DOE.

9 Uhm, and those jobs that they're being recruited
10 for, do we have a sense of what the rate is -- what
11 the rate of pay is? Uhm...

12 DARYL HORNICK-BECKER: A lot of the jobs are
13 substitute jobs.

14 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay. Okay.

15 DARYL HORNICK-BECKER: Yeah.

16 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay. Uhm, and, uh, as a
17 stakeholder, you know, what role do you think you
18 should play in the RFP process? And, how... How
19 much weight do you think it should come... you know,
20 you should have in the decision making?

21 DARYL HORNICK-BECKER: Per... Going back to your
22 question earlier, Chair Rose, uhm, a lot of weight.
23 Uh, providers can be (INAUDIBLE 01:31:46)... (Cross-
24 Talk)

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: I'm not surprised! I'm not
3 surprised by that answer.

4 DARYL HORNICK-BECKER: Providers should be, uh, in
5 constant consultations with the DYCD and the new
6 administration on RFPs, specifically on the rates.
7 Because, the rates have to reflect the cost of
8 services. They have to reflect the quality of
9 programs. And, they have to also directly solve
10 problems the sector is facing, uhm, problems like
11 wages, problems like retaining and hiring onboarding
12 staff, and problems like clearances.

13 So, all of that needs to be part of a new RFP and
14 a new process. And, all of that only comes with
15 engaging providers directly and before the RFP's
16 actually released.

17 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uhm, do you think that DYCD
18 could better support, or how... How would you like
19 DYCD to support the providers and advocates? Uhm,
20 Miss James-McKenzie or Mr. Hornick-Becker, both of
21 you can respond.

22 CHRISTINE JAMES-MCKENZIE: (Background Noise)
23 Well, I will yield to, uhm, Mr. Hornick-Becker,
24 primarily because we are an intermediate, so I
25 (INAUDIBLE 1:32:47) ... (Cross-Talk)

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Oh, okay.

3 CHRISTINE JAMES-MCKENZIE: adequately speak to
4 that. Uhm...

5 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay. Okay.

6 DARYL HORNICK-BECKER: It... It... It starts with
7 feedback and listening. Uhm, our CCC and The
8 Campaign for Children have issued recommendations
9 that include reforming the Children's Cabinet and
10 constituting that with youth services providers
11 themselves. So, that when there is a new RFP, for
12 something like COMPASS and SONYC or something like
13 summer programs, for something like SYP or childcare,
14 you have children and youth providers directly at the
15 table informing those processes -- from the
16 beginning, to implementation, to rollout, to design,
17 to enrollment.

18 Uhm, so, it starts there. I think it starts with
19 direct feedback and really having them at the table
20 from the beginning so that really would make the
21 process easier from the start. And, then they're
22 not... There isn't going to be things like an RFP
23 being rescinded because rates aren't high enough, or
24 as much delayed once those RFPs do come out if you

25

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 really have the providers at the table from the
3 start.

4 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay, well, thank you. I...
5 I... Thank you both, uhm, for your testimony. Uhm,
6 and I think that's a great suggestion.

7 Uhm, I didn't ask, uhm, at what stage your
8 stakeholders are brought in. Uh, I think it's a...
9 that's a great, you know, place to start -- at the
10 beginning instead of, you know, after some of the
11 decisions have been made.

12 So, uhm, thank you both for your testimony.
13 Counsel?

14 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you, Chair Rose.

15 Uhm, I would like to remind council members who
16 have questions for a particular panelist to use the
17 Raise Hand function in Zoom. You will be called on
18 the panel once...

19 Uhm, alright, well, seeing no hands raised, I
20 believe we have concluded public testimony.

21 If we have inadvertently missed anyone who would
22 like to testify, please use the Zoom Raise Hand
23 Function, and we will call on you in the order in
24 which your hand is raised.

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 I am now confirming that we do not have additional
3 questions or additional witnesses to testify or
4 additional registrants.

5 So, at this point, I believe we have concluded
6 public testimony for this hearing, Chair Rose.

7 Oh, you are muted. I'm gonna unmute you.

8 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uh, okay, well, that's a
9 surprise, and thank you.

10 So, Associate Commissioner, you got off really
11 easy. Uhm, usually the public testimony really goes
12 on awhile. So, uhm, again, I thank you for being
13 here. And, I thank our providers and our advocates
14 who testified today.

15 Uhm, I know that DYCD has heard loud and clear
16 that it is really... There is a necessity to get the
17 RFP done -- out -- and, you know, and re... out and
18 redistributed, uhm, and that, before you do that,
19 that there needs to be input from all the
20 stakeholders and advocates, so that, uhm, we won't
21 have to rescind it.

22 There is really an overarching need to make sure
23 that the cost per participant is commiserate with
24 what is actually needed, you know, to get the job
25 done.

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 Uhm, you know, I really do like the analogy of the
3 one ore. It shouldn't be. It shouldn't be. Uhm, we
4 shouldn't even begin to look at youth services with
5 that type of jaundiced eye that, "What can we get
6 done with one ore?" You know, uhm, we should be
7 starting from -- fully loaded, and work out.

8 So, I want to thank you. Uh, I am going to follow
9 up on, uhm, the transition document, but I'm also,
10 uhm, going to have a conversation in my exit
11 interview about how we get the stakeholders to feel
12 that, you know, they really are a part of the process
13 -- that their voices are heard, and fight really hard
14 to make sure that our young people are the priority.

15 So, I, again, uhm, I thank you. I thank you all
16 for the providers, and the service providers, and
17 advocates, I thank you for your work. It's thankless
18 work. Uhm, and, you know, if DOE recognizes how
19 important you are, and that you should be compensated
20 at a certain rate, I know that, uhm, DYCD knows...
21 I'm sure they have even more of an idea of what
22 you're value is.

23 Uhm, so, we're going to work to sort of get all of
24 these things to meet and there be some confluence.
25 And, uh, I thank you all.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

Uhm, and with that, this meeting is adjourned
(GAVEL) at 2:40 p. m.

Thank you.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you, Chair... (Cross-Talk)

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: Thank you, Chair Rose. Take care everybody. Thank you, Chair Rose. Take care.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Alright, thank you.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Take care, Chair Rose.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you. Love you all.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Bye.

C E R T I F I C A T E

World Wide Dictation certifies that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. We further certify that there is no relation to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that there is interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date: November 29, 2021