

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

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October 14, 2021
Start: 1:06 p.m.
Recess: 3:02 p.m.

HELD AT: Remote Hearing (Virtual Room 2)

B E F O R E: Deborah Rose
CHAIRPERSON

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Margaret S. Chin
Bill Perkins
Kevin Riley
Oswald Feliz
Mathieu Eugene
Farah N. Louis

A P P E A R A N C E S (CONTINUED)

Randy A. Scott, Assistant Commissioner
for Vulnerable and Special Needs Youth
Division
Department of Youth and Community
Development

Tracy Thorne, Director
Runaway and Homeless Youth

Jamie Powlovich, Executive Director
Coalition for Homeless Youth

Jayne Bigelsen, Vice President of
Advocacy
Covenant House New York

Ramon LeClerc
New Alternatives

Maddox Guerilla, Coordinator
New York City Youth Action Board

Lyndon Hernandez
New York City Youth Action Board

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Computer recording started.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Cloud recording is rolling.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Backup is rolling.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Sergeant Leonardo, please with your opening.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good afternoon and welcome to today's remote New York City Council hearing for the Committee on Youth Services. At this time, we ask that all Council members and Council staff please turn on their video for verification purposes. To minimize disruption, please place all phone and electronic devices to vibrate or silent. If you have testimony you wish to submit, you may do so via email at testimony@Council.NYC.gov. Once again, that is testimony@Council.NYC.gov. We thank you for your cooperation. Chair, we are ready to begin.

[gavel]

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: We want to thank you for joining our virtual hearing today on this very important issue: runaway and homeless youth legislation, the reporting and implementation follow-

up. Good afternoon. My name is Debbie Rose and I am the Chair of the New York City Council's Committee on Youth Services. Today, the Committee on Youth Services is conducting an oversight hearing on runaway and homeless youth legislation, the reporting and implementation. We will focus on four key local laws that address services for runaway and homeless youth. Local laws 79 of 2018, local law 81 of 2018, local law 86 of 2018, and local law 4 of 2019 and the reports that were produced by the Department of Youth and Community development or DYCD in compliance with these laws. Runaway and homeless youth remain one of the city's most vulnerable populations. In recent years, both state and local law have evolved to better address the unique challenges faced by this demographic through efforts such as increased funding, extending the amount of time youth may remain in the shelter, and expanding services to include homeless young adults up to the age of 24 years old. The reporting legislation at the center of today's hearing reflected these efforts to expand access and enhanced services for runaway and homeless youth. Local law 79 requires that DYCD to regularly report on runaway and homeless youth shelter access.

Local law 81 addresses the transition from DYCD funded services to the Department of Homeless Services and how the process is accomplished and the number of youth referred. Local law 86 requires DYCD to capture a capacity plan to provide shelter to all runaway and homeless youth and to regularly report on the size, demographic, the service needs, and outcomes for youth when they exit DYCD programs and local law 4 requires that DYCD to establish a plan to provide information on immigration relief and benefit services for undocumented youth and regularly report on the plans, progress, and goals. Thanks to DYCD's timely compliance with these reporting requirements, we have accumulated years of data on runaway and homeless youth and their related services. However, for the purposes of this hearing, adherence to the law is only the tip of the iceberg. Today, this committee's primary objective is to examine if and how the reported data is accomplishing its intended goal which is to improve access, services, and outcomes for runaway and homeless youth. At today's hearing, we shall investigate the data's accuracy, inquire into any trends represented in the reports, illicit testimony as to how the department,

providers, and advocates have utilized the collected information, and consider recommendations on how to better implement these laws. In closing, we are here today to go beyond the bureaucracy and ensure that our laws are still working for the betterment of our most vulnerable youth. I want to take this moment to thank the staff behind the scenes who make this online hearing run smoothly and I'd like to thank the Youth Committee staff for their work on this issue. Committee counsel, Amy Briggs, committee policy analyst, Anastasia Zumina, and the financial analyst, Michelle Peregrine. And I want to give a big thanks to my staff, as well, legislative director, Isa Cortez, and legislative aide and budget director Christian Ruvelo. I'd like to, at this moment, acknowledge my colleagues who have joined us for this very important hearing. I am glad to welcome and see Council member Riley, Council member Louis, and Council member Chin. Thank you for attending today. And now, I will turn over to the committee counsel who is Amy Briggs who will review some procedural items relating to today's hearing.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you, Chair Rose. I am Amy Briggs, counsel to the Committee on

Youth Services of the New York City Council and I'll be moderating today's hearing and calling panelists to testify. Before we begin, I would like to remind everyone that you will be on mute until I call on you to testify. After you're called, you'll be unmuted by the host. Please listen for your name. I will periodically announce who the next panelist will be. Council member questions will be limited to five minutes and Council members, please note that this includes both your questions and the witness's answers. Please also note that we will allow a second round of questions at today's hearings and these will be limited to two minutes, again, including both your questions and the witness's answer. For public testimony, I will call up individuals in panels. Council members who have questions for a particular panelist should use the raise hand function in zoom. You will be called on after everyone on that panel has completed their testimony. For public panelists, once I call your name, a member of our staff will unmute you and the sergeant-at-arms will give you the go ahead to begin speaking after setting the timer. All public testimony will be limited to three minutes. After I

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

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2 call your name, please wait a brief moment for the
3 sergeant at arms to announce that you may begin. I
4 will now call on the following members of the
5 administration to testify: Randy Scott who is the
6 DYCD Assistant Commissioner for Vulnerable and
7 Special Needs Youth Division and Tracy Thorne, RHY
8 Director. I will now administer the oath to the both
9 of you. After reading the oath, I will call upon you
10 individually by name to respond to the oath one at a
11 time. So please raise your right hands. Do you
12 affirm to tell the truth, the whole truth, and
13 nothing but the truth before this committee and to
14 respond honestly to Council member questions?
15 Assistant Commissioner Randy Scott?

16 ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER SCOTT: I will.

17 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you. And
18 Director Tracy Thorne?

19 DIRECTOR THORNE: I will.

20 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you.
21 Assistant Commissioner Scott, you may begin your
22 testimony when ready.

23 ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER SCOTT: Thank you
24 very much. Good afternoon, Chair Rose, and members
25 of the Youth Service Committee. I am Randy A. Scott,

Assistant Commissioner for Vulnerable and Special Needs Youth at the Department of Youth and Community Development. My pronouns are he/him. I am joined by Tracy Thorne, she/her, Director of Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs. On behalf of Commissioner Chung, thank you for this opportunity to update the Council on our compliance with various pieces of legislation impacting runaway and homeless youth services. 2018 was a watershed moment for this committee and the Council in passing important bills concerning DYCD's portfolio of RHY services. They enshrine into law the work of the DeBlasio administration and the Council to strengthen the runaway and homeless youth system. Nonprofit RHY providers and advocates in the city have been unwavering in their commitment and are the unsung heroes and heroes of this important work which will improve the lives of young people for years to come. To name a few of our major accomplishments, we have more than triple the number of residential beds, increased the age for residential services to 24, and opened new drop-in centers. There are currently eight DYCD funded centers to-- with at least one 24/7 center operating in all of the five boroughs.

Young people can now access high quality mental health services at drop-in centers and in residences. Finally, initiated by the New York City Unity Project, we expanded resources to address the unique and often unmet needs of LGBTQ+ youth. Our system is unparalleled and demonstrates the city as a national leader in fighting youth homelessness and ensuring better outcomes for young people. It could not have come at amore critical time as the city contended with COVID 19. In recognition of that, HUD recently awarded New York City a \$15 million grant as part of the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program, YHDP. This funding from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, HUD, will support a wide range of new housing and service interventions to prevent and in youth homelessness. We look forward to engaging with stakeholders across all sectors, particularly the young people whose lived experience while at a critical voice to the work. Highlights of recent RHY legislation include local law 79, tracking you unable to access service, local law 86, better understanding the needs of young people through demographic data analysis, local law 87, extending the time young people can stay in an RHY residence, local law 88,

increasing the age to 24 for some crisis services and [inaudible 00:11:21] program, local law 174, a centralized complaint process, local law 81, streamlining the process for youth to enter the adult system and tracking situations where a youth experiences barriers accessing DYCD's residential programs, and local law 4. Finally, in 2019, the Council passed legislation supporting immigration relief and benefits. In all these areas, we have made significant progress that I will highlight for you now. In 2019, RHY was integrated into DYCD Connect-- DYCD's data and communication tracking system. DYCD Connect has features to better track RHY, including utilization, discharge reports, demographics, and program outcomes. RHY and provider staff can utilize, track, and monitor the progress of young people across the system to better meet their needs. DYCD Connect allowed RHY to reduce emails and spreadsheets to a streamlined data system. This has made information required by the Council's legislation more easily accessible. As previously highlighted, we implemented two key program policies: increasing the time young people may stay in residential programs-- up to 120 days in crisis

services programs-- and 24 months in transitional independent living programs. Following the state and city legislative changes, we also created residential services for youth up to the age of 24 and we now have four programs with a total of 60 beds for homeless young adults. We work closely with providers so that every young person who wants a place to stay can get one. Less fiscal year, including the peak of the pandemic, 3455 you were placed in a crisis services or transitional independent living group. During the same period, in response to local law 79, no young person was reported to be declined referral the service. Also reported during that period through the streamlined process under local law 81, 69 people were referred to the adult system. To better understand the needs of you, we collect and report on details of the size and characteristics of RHY including gender identity, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, pregnancy and parenting status, and disabilities. We look at their service needs in areas such as education assistance, high school proficiency preparation, medical services, mental health services, services for sexually exploited children, and temporary shelter.

And we carefully monitor the dispositions of runaway and homeless youth who exit the program. We have a system to allow young people to voice their concern through their ombudsman person and we have displayed insights across the system, posters, detailing how young people can anonymously and confidentially ask questions, comment, and complain about RHY services through 311 and Community Connect, formerly known as Youth Connect. Finally, working with the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, we created information guides and facilitated meetings and collaboration with MOIA to inform youth in need of immigration-related service including legal help and other services, and how to access available city services and resources. RHY providers give participants information about services and resources related to immigration, including immigration-related legal services. This approach ensures that you may need the information will have it whether or not they have asked for it. With October being mental health awareness month, we wanted to share with you this exciting news: starting November 1, 2021, our drop-in centers will be mental health wellness hubs. They will administer behavioral assessments and provide

therapy across all RHY programs with the goal of closing service gaps for vulnerable youth. These are just a few examples of how we fulfill the letter and the spirit of the laws passed by the Council. With November marking National Runaway Prevention Month and National Homeless Youth Awareness Month, we look forward to continuing to work with you, advocates, providers, and youth in the time ahead to continue to improve services for youth. We are pleased to answer any questions you may have. Thank you very much.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you for your testimony. I will now turn to Chair Rose for any questions.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you so much
Assistant Commissioner Scott--

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER SCOTT: You're welcome.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: and Director Thorne.
It's good to see you. I would like to address, first, local law 79. As you know, it was enacted in 2008 and require that DYCD report every six months beginning in 2018. And I really want to thank you for your timely submission of these reports.

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER SCOTT: You're very welcome.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: I know sometimes we beat up on you about, you know, reports, but I'm glad to say that you understand the importance of these reports and have complied. And I really appreciate that. And so, it's a report of every six months of RHY who request shelter and are able to access shelter services. The report is required to include the total number of young people eligible for this department funding program disaggregated by the following: the type of shelter services the youth who are attempting to obtain including if it was a crisis services program or transitional independent living support program or a TIL, the name of the runaway and homeless program where the youth did not access shelter services, the bed capacity at the program, the number of beds available at the time that youth did not access shelter services, the age of youth who did not access shelter services. If such information was volunteered, the sexual orientation and gender identity of the youth, and, finally, the reason why youth did not access shelter services, including if the youth was offered a bed and declined and the

reason why. The advocates and providers have called our attention to DYCD's failure to capture in its shelter access reports youth who [inaudible 00:18:38] to access a bed on their own, as well as youth who are being referred by a non-DYCD source such as a teacher who might be looking for a bed for a homeless student which could lead to the undercounting of youth who have sought a shelter bed. Could you tell me why, you know, is DYCD only tracking referrals made by other DYCD programs and do you capture youth who call on their own in search of a shelter bed? And if so, how if not why? What about a DYCD referrer such as DOE?

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER SCOTT: The information that's provided US comes directly from our contracted providers, so in order for us to report information on local law 79, we would need to get the information from the providers. So, if a representative from DOE contacted the provider to make a placement and if there was no placement, then that provider would document that. If there is a placement, then there would be no need to document I turned away for any particular youth. And at this present time, just to put it on record, we are

averaging-- we're utilizing 75 percent of the beds and 25 are vacant. So, there is availability for you within the contracted system. So, presently, no youth should be turned away with that amount of beds being available. So, the goal is is that has been communicated and how folks can go about identifying beds. They can call the provider directly, all right, or they can come through DYCD and then we work with them to make a placement, which we have time in the past when some of our sister agencies have called us or even a state agency has called US or a provider or an advocate have called in regards to the placement of a particular youth. And we made sure that that placement has happened due to the fact that there are vacant beds in there currently.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: And when they call you or go through DYCD, is that information captured? And where?

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER SCOTT: Well, usually, we have an email. If it's an email thread, then we have the email as documentation. If it's not an email or if it is a phone call, then, basically, what we may do in that particular instances provide them with the contact information for the provider

where they can make the necessary placement. And then, once they contact the provider, then the provider would intake that youth into their program and then, through the PTS system which is a participant tracking system, we can see that referral and the intake happened.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: And then that information is captured in the report?

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER SCOTT: Yes. That would-- Well, not in this report because this report is only for eternal ways. In that particular situation, if there is a vacancy and then a referral is made and then the youth is taken to the program, they would not have been turned away, so they would not show up on this report.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, there have been no turn always that have come through DYCD?

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER SCOTT: For the last few reports-- I think I want to say the last two reports, there have been zero due to the vacancies. And we've had vacancies throughout the contracted system, so, in reality, there should be no turn away when you have vacant beds.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, that, you know, the necessary, you know, referrers are giving information for the shelter access report, would accuracy be increased by collecting relevant information from all of the links in the referral process? Wouldn't it be a little more accurate in terms of numbers?

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER SCOTT: Walk, and regards to--- and this is where this report is very important for the providers because all of the information that is given to us comes from them. So, if an entity that has not contracted through us is a need to have a bed and contacts the provider, then we would hope that they would report that information. We don't know who is calling the providers for particular placements, so we require them to make sure that they submit that information. And one other things that we do with respect to this report is when we get our reports from the providers on whether or not someone was turned away or if they report zero, we confirm that. You know, we confirm that via email with the providers. So, for example, if you, Councilwoman Rose, sent me a report that said you had zero turn always for that given period, I would write back and email to you saying, so,

Councilwoman Rose, what you are saying is that you have zero turn aways for this month? And then you would write back to me, yes. That is confirmed. Or if something was incorrect, then you would resubmit your report with the corrected information. So, we have that monitoring and that checks and balances to make sure that what we report to you during the period for local law 79 is accurate.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay. I guess what I am also trying to find out is is there any way to capture the data of young people who might have tried to access the system through other means? Is there any way to capture that?

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER SCOTT: Well, I guess the difficulty in the question is if they are trying to access our system, and that means that we would know about it because the provider would report it. Right?

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Right.

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER SCOTT: So, they would report it into our system. Now, if our system is only for contracted providers in the report only reflects our contracted providers. It doesn't extend out words because of the nature of them having access

to our systems, which they don't. So, that is why we have to rely heavily on our providers to report everything, even those that may come from--

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Other sources.

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER SCOTT: Providers and other sources outside of our system. And that is why we do that double check with them to make sure that, all right, are you saying that you had zero-- So, you're telling me now that no outside source wanted to do the placement and you turned the source away. Is that correct? Yes. That's correct. We have zero. Or if they needed to change, then they change.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: And I know you said it, but just for me once again, the young people who find their way through DYCD to make that call and ask for that referral, how are they captured if they are turned away? How do we capture them?

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER SCOTT: If a youth goes directly to one of our contracted programs-- So, say, for example, they go directly to a crisis services program and that crisis services turns them a because they have no bed, then they need to account for them in this local law 79 report,

however, there are steps that need to be taken prior to turning a youth a hat our contracted providers and those steps are, when a youth comes in if directly or if a referral, then, they need to, one, check our system to make sure that there are no available beds and that they are not just saying that. So, they need to confirm that. Two, they need to pick up the phone and call the various residential programs that they are looking to make that referral based on gender and things of that nature to confirm that what they are seeing in the system is accurate. Right? Because sometimes you may see two beds vacant in the system, but that provider may have identified youth young persons to fill those beds already. So, you want to make sure that that vacancy is inaccurate vacancy. Three, if the provider tells you, oh, sorry. We do not have any vacancies, then you need to get DYCD and involved, right? Because maybe, you know, there holding the bed or whatever the case may be and we want to know what the justification for that is. So, once you have done that and you have gotten DYCD involved and we have confirmed and made sure, then we make sure that there is the placement for that particular you. For example, if we know

that we have a youth on side at the moment, that youth will get the bed and the youth that the bed was identified for men who may be coming later, when the person eventually arrives, then we work with that particular youth to make sure that they get a bed. So, there is a system in place of how we go about guaranteeing placement of youth into the beds which goes as far as check-in system, calling the provider, as well as the last step that's contacting us so that we can work with you to make that placement.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Does DYCD track bed vacancies in the system based on gender or specialized populations? LGBTQ? SEC? Kosher? Mother-child?

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER SCOTT: Yes. We do.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay. You do?

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER SCOTT: Yes. We do.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay.

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER SCOTT: Yeah.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: And that process takes place at what? Initial--

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER SCOTT: Well, within our system, each of our providers can also see what bed is available and for what gender. So, if it is a male identified program, then they will be able to see that. If it is a female identified program, they will be able to see that. If it is the program that specializes with LGBTQ+ young people, then they will see that. They will also see our mother-child and so on. So that is available and seeable to not only us, but to our providers.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: What is DYCD's definition of a vacant bed. For instance, if a bed is vacant on a Monday night, but a youth is scheduled to move into it on Tuesday morning, is that bed classified or counted as vacant? How would that be classified--

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER SCOTT: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: in the system?

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER SCOTT: A bed is vacant until a youth is intake into that bed, right? If for example, like I had just explained, if a youth was identified-- so if Randy was identified for a bed, but Randy was not on site already and Councilwoman Rose has a particular youth in her

person and is ready to come there right now and is going to be put in a cab or whatever the case may be, then that person will get the bed and then when Randy arrived at that sight, if the program did not have an additional vacant bed, then we would look to make sure that we find a placement for that youth knowing that bed was given to the youth that was already on site. The goal is not to have a youth leave and come back, so we work with those-- the programs are supposed to work with those who are in their person first and then those that come afterwards, we will work with them once they arrive on site.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay. And then, every manager is made to ensure that that youth gets a bed?

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER SCOTT: Yep. And as I--

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: and appropriate placement?

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER SCOTT: Correct.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay. When DYCD generates shelter access reports, does it cross-reference you that are trying to get a bed against all of the vacant bed or only against the vacant beds for which the youth is eligible? I just as do that,

right? For instance, yeah. Like, well, maybe like a cis gendered male, would they be cross reference against all of the vacant beds in the system including those for LGBTQ youth mother and child or only against those that would be available to him as a single cisgender male?

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER SCOTT: The goal is to place the youth based on their gender. However, if, for example, all beds are full and there is a facility that has a single bed-- because we wouldn't put a male and a female in the same room. That is not allowed. But if there is a single bed available, what we would do so that that youth does not get turned away is place them in that single room with the necessary safety precautions and monitoring and then the next day, if it happens overnight or as soon as a bed opens up, then the placement would be made for the right classification. Yeah.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Is there a working group that works together to improve the shelter access reporting bill? Not bill but the reporting, actually, and if not, why have we not established a working group that includes providers and advocates?

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER SCOTT: Well, as you know, we hold regular provider meetings and, within those provider meetings, we talk about an array of issues that impact the services that are being rendered by the providers. Shelter access have been a topic of discussion in terms of the reporting of it in terms of the systems of how to go about tracking the systems, of how about making placements. So, that those meetings are the time when we can discuss any evolution to services and its delivery. So, I think I would classify that as a working group since that is something that we do on the regular and we talk about the issues that the providers deal with on a daily basis, as well as the young people.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: We've had, you know, the providers and advocates that have requested a working group to specifically address that and we have sort of revisited this issue of a more hands on interaction and cooperation with the providers and advocates at our last hearing when we talked about-- it just left my head.

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER SCOTT: Youth count?

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Youth count. Thank you. Youth count. When we talked about the youth count. And despite the agency, DYC's, you know, conversations that it does so are the things that, we got a lot of pushback at that hearing about that that does not really meet their needs and, in reality, it isn't why, you know, they are looking for. And so, I can't help but think that, you know, there is some difference in the definition or what people are looking for in terms of what people are looking for in working groups and, you know, working collaboratively for, you know, and having actual input into these, you know, systems, processes, and reports. So, you know, like what are we going to do to actually, you know, bring them in and let them be a part of it and not just maybe a passing agenda item that's covered in a more global meeting? What are we going to do? What are we going to do about that because, you know, this seems to be a recurring sort of--

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER SCOTT: So, I guess, to add more context to the discussions is with respect to our providers, we-- outside our monthly meetings, we're not the only communication that we

have. We have communication with them on a daily basis. I mean, as you know, we do site visits on a monthly basis to all our providers and we, in the exit interviews them in the discussions with them, we talk about things that they want to, you know, discuss or agenda items that they want more context on or more information or a full discussion on. So, that is always available and we can always create a space to discuss if that is the direction. But, as you know, there are a lot of things happening in RHY right now and the focus has been on the vouchers, right? So, we have a working group for the vouchers because that is what the providers have informed as is their top item. So, the same way we have had that chair, EHV voucher workgroup going on, the city FHEPS voucher workgroup going on. We can have shelter access if that is what the providers want to utilize their time for. With the request to the advocates, we have always had communication with the advocates. You know, we have worked with legal aid, we worked with Jamie and her coalition on different things, so DYCD is not running from any discussion on any particular issue. If that is the issue that is identified by our contracted providers as the most

important thing for them to meet with us on, then we will definitely do that. However, we've been told that the most important thing are these vouchers, right? So, that is where we are with respect to bringing innovative everyone and all the stakeholders for particular things. So, you know, we are ready. If that is what they want to talk about is shelter access and improving it from what it looks like now, that is great, but we haven't heard that from our contracted providers as their top item in the five things that we discuss with them on a regular basis as what we need to talk about in our provider meetings and the agendas are usually driven by that. We are open to any communication that needs to happen on many of these local laws because they all come from the providers. So, basically, they drive the communication.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay. Well, I mean, that is good to hear, but, you know, they have said to me on numerous occasions that they have. So I understand that you have, you know, sort of ongoing conversations about these issues, but we know that things don't really sort of happen until that formal meeting where it is the agenda item and, you know, we

have, you know, some goals set and, you know, a timeline and, you know, a more structured conversation besides, you know, like I'm having this issue regarding blah, blah, blah. You know, a phone call that transpires. So--

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER SCOTT: One thing I can add is that, for every local law that we are responsible for reporting the Council, we've had meetings with our contracted providers on each of them to, one, explain their role, explain the process, explain our reporting in the timelines and it wasn't just one meeting. It was a few meetings until a new that everyone was clear on what needed to happen. And we are out of place right now where our system is working very well in terms of how we report and that is how we are able to get the reports to you in a timely way because of the fact that our providers doing a great job in reporting what they are seeing on the ground with respect to the youth. So, again, we are open to any communication with providers and advocate as we have always been doing in terms of making sure the services and systems operate effectively.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Paul, I'm really glad to hear that and I am sure that they are going to follow up. But just like the purpose of collect the data and to assess it and to review it. You know, it is an ongoing process to see what needs to be done or there are any changes that need to be made. That is the purpose of these reports, right?

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER SCOTT: Correct.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So should, maybe, the process with the conversations about the providers and the advocates about, you know, at this point those soils good. This was working, blah, blah, blah. But now we find that, you know, we're into this report, you know, for two years or whatever and we find that we need to, maybe, after assessing it, we need to do X, Y, and Z. So, I'm saying that there might be a need-- there's a need to come back and engage them again.

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER SCOTT: Okay.

And we are very open to that, but we are also happy to keep reporting that there are zero turn aways. That's our grade.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: And that's fine and I'm pleased to hear that and we wouldn't have known that

if we didn't have the report. So, thank you. And in relation to local law 81, it is a biannual reporting bill, you know, that, in addition to its reporting requirements, this law also requires coordination between DYCD and the Department of Homeless Services to streamline the transition to DHS shelters of runaway and homeless youth who have reached at that age and older time limitations. And so, I know this is a hot item that we are looking at. I wanted to know why the youth in our DYCD drop-in centers not allowed to be referred for placement in the DHS system using the streamlined process that would allow them to bypass the DHS intake and assessment facilities?

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER SCOTT: The--

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Please give me a really detailed answer because this seems to be a problem.

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER SCOTT: Well, basically, the decision is on DHS. They decide who this process was for an IT was identified for the residential program. We have had discussions with DHS on including drop-in centers in that discussion is ongoing. So, we are hoping to get to some closure

with respect to that where our drop-in centers can be part of this local law. [Inaudible 0:44:03]--

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, you do see the need for a streamlined process, right? And you are planning to streamline the process to incorporate the drop-in centers, right?

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER SCOTT: O, we were the ones that asked for the meeting to include our drop-in centers. So, we're hoping that, through continuous discussion with our partners over at DHS, we will be able to get to some closure on that and include our drop-in centers.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Commissioner, you've been with me long enough to know that my next question is, once we say we're going to do it, it's like when? Like is there a timeline? We already established how, you know, we are going to get this or facilitate this happening, you know? If we're saying that there is a need and that we are looking at, you know, what are we doing to implement it to get it to the point where it becomes a reality? And I'm willing to help you.

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER SCOTT: I know. I know you are. I know you are. And just to say--

2 I don't want you to think that we haven't done
3 anything. We have had a series--

4 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: I didn't say that.

5 ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER SCOTT: Okay. I
6 know. We have had a series of meetings with them.
7 So, now they are taking back the information that we
8 have provided to them in regards to why this would be
9 a benefit and they are discussing it internally. So,
10 we're just waiting to hear back from them with
11 respect to that. And, you know, we're definitely
12 going to check in with them on that process to see
13 where we are, but we had meetings with them on and
14 provided them with information.

15 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay. Well, you have
16 Councils support to make this happen.

17 ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER SCOTT: Okay.

18 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, I really--

19 ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER SCOTT: I
20 appreciate that.

21 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: would like to see that.
22 You know? I would like to see that go forward. In
23 relation to local law 88, which also have a reporting
24 requirement, will Runaway and Homeless Youth Act was
25 amended to permit RHY shelters to extend their

services to homeless young adults, local law 80 authorizes DYCD to limit such services at its discretion. The law provides that DYCD shall include shelter services while homeless young adults, as part of RHY services, but need not serve all such adults. If you are, in fact, not being turned away due to insufficient bed capacity, why would DYCD allow programs with contracts for 16 to 20-year-olds to serve older 21 to 24-year-old youth? And if there are vacant beds in these programs. And this is something that the providers and advocates have requested.

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER SCOTT: Well, as you know, they are two separate resources. Their resources for the 16 to 20 which are the 753 beds and then there are resources for the new investment of 60 beds. There is still a need, according to, you know, providers and advocates for beds for 16 to 20. If we should happen to take those resources away and give them to the 21 to 24, then we are now creating a system where there will be any resources for the 16 to 20. So, we have always said that it should be dedicated resources for 16 to 20 and for 21 to 24. And--

2 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: But, for not turning
3 away any 16 to 20--

4 ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER SCOTT: Right.
5 Correct.

6 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: as according to the
7 reports, right?

8 ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER SCOTT: Uh-hm.
9 Then there is also some other means. For example,
10 for the 16 to 20, you don't want to put the 22 to 24
11 with that population because they are impressionable,
12 so you want to make sure that they have the necessary
13 resources dedicated solely did then and then, with
14 the fact that there is the right to shelter for the
15 older population, there is always the availability of
16 a referral through the streamlined or other
17 possibilities for the older population. So, you
18 really don't want to take away from the 16 to 20 when
19 the 18 and above have the right to shelter. So, you
20 know?

21 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, that was sort of
22 indicate to me, then, that there is a need for more
23 21 to 24 -year-old beds and is DYCD advocating, you
24 know, for more funding temporary, you know, more 21
25 to 24-year-old beds online?

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER SCOTT: Uh-hm.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Especially for fiscal year 23 since the need is there.

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER SCOTT: Well, we are still doing our analysis because, as stated earlier, there is a right to shelter for 18 and above, so they have, you know, the DHS adults system to be referred to for that population. So, we are currently just continuing to assess the trends and then needs and then make any necessary internal decisions. Right now, the need is being addressed for both 16 the 20.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: [inaudible 00:49:52] address in the DHS system not our system where--

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER SCOTT: And I guess--

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: We deliberately wanted to allow them to--

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER SCOTT: So, then you are playing-- I guess there has to be the discussion of right to shelter, right? The right to shelter is being place not only in DYCD or DHS, it's being placed in appropriate placement and with DHS being a bigger system and having more availability,

you who are 21 to 24 are being or have the ability to be placed. So, you know, it was an investment that was made and, I guess, through discussions and thorough review, through analysis, through the advocates doing what they do best, if there is more investment given to US for our creation of new been sundered DYCD, then I guess that would be something that would be discussed at that time. But right now, the availability of referrals, the availability of receiving a bed is available for both 16 to 20, as well as 21 to 24, whether it is DYCD or DHS.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, the fact that we identified that there was a need for this specialized-- you know, first shelter for this group outside of the broader DHS system, why would we not pursue more beds and as part of our system instead of putting them into, you know, a system that we already realize that, you know, that we needed to sort of segregate them out of that system? I don't understand. If we know that there's a need for more 21 to 24 beds, why aren't we pursuing that? We should be pursuing it.

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER SCOTT:

[inaudible 00:52:13]

2 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: We know that theirs is
3 sort of like they have a safety net because they can
4 go into DHS, you know, adult shelters, but that's not
5 really our goal, right? We were trying not to put
6 them into DHS shelters.

7 ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER SCOTT: So, I
8 guess it goes back to the need. The need, I think,
9 can be addressed and I think DHS can address the need
10 for 21 to 24. Now, if you are looking for
11 specialized beds solely under DYCD, then I think
12 that's another discussion to be had, but when the
13 question that you ask is whether the need is being
14 met, I think we can say that there are beds available
15 for that population within the city. Now, to have
16 additional beds under DYCD, if their investment is
17 given to us, we're going to do our best to put those
18 beds online, similar to how we did for the four
19 programs that are currently online, so--

20 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, my question was is
21 DYCD advocating for more funding to bring additional
22 21 to 24 year old beds online? So, it sounds to me
23 that, no, it is not because--

24 ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER SCOTT: I
25 wouldn't say that. I wouldn't say that.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: they are saying that they have, you know, because of the right to shelter, that there is a bed for them in DHS and so it sounds to me as if, no, you're not. And I'm saying, based on the reports that we have, there is clearly a need for that in our system.

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER SCOTT: Well, our beds are fairly new and I would say that we are saying there is no need for. We are not saying that. What we're saying is that we are currently doing an analysis of our beds. Brand-new just came online. The last program just came on March 2021, so we still need to be able to do our review and analysis of these beds to see how often they turn over and see how many youth and young people are being intake [sic], how many are receiving services for particular issues and then we will be able to answer your question to say what avoid the identified or done an analysis on that shows whether there is a need or not. So, I would ask for a little bit of time for us to be able to do that knowing that our beds are new in terms of being online. But in the interim--

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So--

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER SCOTT: if a youth should, there is no available bed within the four programs that we have, we would make that necessary referral to our sister agency, DHS.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, you're saying that, right now, we're not turning away or sending to DHS any 21 to 24-year-olds?

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER SCOTT: I'm not saying that. Our 60 beds are full and then our youth should identify at one of our contracted programs that are 21 to 24 and is in need of a bed. That necessary referral is done to our sister agency. So, yes. We guarantee no youth is turned away and no youth is without placement.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, I had hoped that, during my tenure as the chair of the Youth Committee, there seems to be like this recurring theme where there's a hesitancy to ask the administration for appropriate funding to meet the needs that, you know, DYCD has. It just seems to me like a reluctance and I hope that, you know, going forward, that this doesn't carry over. I hope, you know, with the new administration, that DYCD will ask for and advocate

for the appropriate funding levels to meet the needs of all of our programs.

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER SCOTT: And I just want to add and respond to that and I think DYCD does do that with respect to requesting when needed. But what we do prior to any request is our analysis because we want to make sure that when we come to you with our request, it's a full request and it's very detailed in terms of what we want and a perfect example of that is our mental wellness hubs that we just did for our drop in centers. We know that mental health is a major issue for youth and young people that our contracted providers work with and it was DYCD who initiated that request for funding to make our drop in centers mental health wellness hubs. We drafted the proposal. We submitted it to the Office of Community and Mental Health. We submitted to OMB to get the green light for them to fund it and we got the funding for it. Based on that analysis that we did prior, as well as putting together a fully fleshed out proposal that can allow for people to ask less questions of what do you really want? And I think that's what we do with respect to any service that we want to come to City Council for,

that we want to come to OMB for, or that we want to go to City Hall for. And that's what we're doing with respect to these new beds that we receive is doing the analysis so that we can put together our concrete proposal of what we need then come to you on the next chair and say, hey, this is what we currently have. This is the trends are saying. They zone with the numbers are saying. This is the dollar about that we want. This is the number of beds that we would like to get an investment for and then see where it goes from there. But I think-- and I know you know DYCD as a legit agency where we do things in a very good way for the youth of New York City and we want to make sure that we continue that we don't submit things where days going domain to more questions than less. And then its just how we operate.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Right. So, I am glad to hear that you are going in tomorrow analysis. So, my response to that is that, yes, I hope that we can establish a timeline for that so that we are ready to be a part of the FY 23 budget cycle and I can't help myself. I have to say that, no, that is not always been the case. I mean, so you've seen with SYEP and

several of the summer programs that you know that there is a need in that, you know, we haven't always advocated for, you know, to meet the needs of the program. So, I'm not going to, you know, belabor that point, but I really that, you know, our analysis is standing time. There should be a real discussion during the FY 23 budget negotiations. And then, how does DYCD determine and decide what outcomes to report on and who determines when I'm no longer viable to continue or include in your reports? And that is my last question for you, so my colleagues can ask some questions. Sorry.

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER SCOTT: No problem. No problem. But in regards to metrics and outcomes, and is usually driven by laws. It's usually driven by any new bells by communication with our providers, trends that we are seeing from our analysis with respect to certain things. So a combination of all of those things drive where we are with respect to what we ask our providers to report on. And it's always usually through a discussion with them on whether not they can do. If it is something that is not doable, we're okay with, you know, coming back to the source that is requesting it

and letting them know what is doable so that we can all be on the same page with respect to any outcomes and information that is reported so that it is clean, it's understandable, and that, even though you don't work for DYCD, you can go speak on behalf.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay. Thank you.

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER SCOTT: You're welcome.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: I want to thank you for answering my questions and I'm now going to turn it over to the moderator so that my colleagues can ask questions.

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER SCOTT: Okay. Thank you.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you. I would like to begin by introducing Council members Eugene and Feliz who have joined us during this hearing earlier and I will now call on Council members in the order in which they have used the raise hand function. Council members, please remember to keep your questions to five minutes including the time for the witness responses and then sergeant-at-arms saw Québec timer and let you know when your time is up. We will now hear questions

from Council member Louis and Council member Chin.
Council member Louis?

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Time begins.

COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Thank you, Council member Rose, for holding today's hearing and thank you, Commissioner Scott, for joining us today and for sharing information about your agencies process to streamline accessibility to beds at drop in centers. You kind of answered my question, but I have a follow-up to. The global pandemic has only been daunting on all of us, especially our homeless youth and runaways. And I wanted to know if you could just share more information about the mental health services being provided at the mental health wellness ups that you shared earlier. How are you or your agency measuring the effectiveness of the mental wellness hubs? And I also wanted to know, because I only have five minutes, I also wanted to know how is your agency preparing for unaccompanied minors who are refugees from Afghanistan and Haiti and other countries? Is there any support that is being provided at drop in centers for some of these young people? Thank you.

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER SCOTT: Thank you for your questions. With respect to answer the last question first and then give you some information on the mental health wellness's, right now in our services only criteria for our services is age. So, we usually have to meet the age requirements. For our drop ins, that age is 14 to 24 and, for residential, it is 16 to 24, as well. 16 to 20 and 21 to 24. So, if, you know, youth young person should go to any one of those places, they will receive services. They don't have to have ID currently on them. They don't have to, you know, provide any specific documents that will allow for them to receive services at those programs. Once they are in those programs, that is when the season case management teams and their respective contracted providers would work with that particular youth and young person to get any necessary documents or services that they may require. So, we have had immigrants within our programs who have come and have no documents and their program has helped them to get those things and then utilized for services. So, that is, basically, how that works with respect to any service that DYCD RHY program offers. So, it is

only age that is the criteria. With respect to mental wellness hubs, we had an investment with, at first, Thrive NYC, and now the Office of Community and Mental Health for, I'd say, about the last four to five years. We were that additional group of city agencies that had initiatives. So there were certain metrics. In the beginning, the mental health services were based on helping our providers get that diagnosis for our youth to receive housing because they needed a mental health diagnosis. So that was just while we went to get mental health services. But, something, we have evolved it where they have done, you know, sessions-- you know, group sessions. They have done art therapy. They have done psychological evaluations. Different things like that in order to help the youth continue to get the services. What the mental wellness hubs are going to do is now each of our drop in centers a higher credential staff person. So, LMW, LCSW, a KSAC in order to deal with serious mental health issue that they had. Before we got this new investment, a lot of the providers, if they didn't have a mental health component within their agency structure had to refer out. Now they can bring the individual staff in who

can address that and it cuts down on the time that I youth has to be referred out scheduling an appointment and things of that nature and maybe the youth may not go to that appointment because they may not trust the person that they're being referred to or don't know the person or whatever the case may be. But with the drop ins now being able to hire staff to address these issues, they can handle those SMIs more expeditiously and create that plan for that particular youth to get that mental health service. So, it's a new initiative that's starting in November. We had our first meeting with the drop ins this week in terms of talking about what things that we're going to look to do and our goal is, basically, to try to evolve this. Go from how we did with just the seven metric to now having mental wellness hubs to even identifying what additional mental health services are needed and then going back to the Office of Community Mental Health and seeing if we can get more money. So, hopefully, that answered your question.

COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: You did. I look forward to talking to you about that some more offline. Thank you so much, Chair Rose.

2 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you, Council
3 member. We will next hear from Council member Chin.

4 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Time begins.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you. Thank
6 you, Chair Rose. I'm glad we've got this follow-up..
7 I wanted to kind of follow-up on the youth from 21 to
8 24. Do you keep track of youth in that age bracket
9 that was referred to DHS? That's--

10 ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER SCOTT: Yes.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: one question and
12 right now we only have 60 beds. I just assume that,
13 you know, there is a greater need and, depending on
14 the number of units in this age group that was
15 referred to DHS, we can see in terms of how many more
16 beds we actually need, right? Second question is
17 that, in this age group commenting you prioritize
18 them as the one that you would help them access
19 vouchers so they can be, you know, transferred to
20 permanent housing? That is my second question. The
21 other question is that, you know, when they come to
22 the drop in center, I mean, that is when they get the
23 referral, but for the general public, a lot of them
24 would, maybe, called 311 just to see how they can
25 help this youth in need. So, those numbers getting

tracked by DYCD? And so that we can have a better picture in terms of what the needs are. But I really want to focus on the 16 to 24 because my assumption is that, if they were offered, you know, a bed in as small a facility that just catered to that age group, I think a lot of you would welcome that rather than go into the DHS system where they are going to be, most likely, some of these larger shelters and, you know, with adults. Not the most appropriate place. So, that is why we set aside that for this age group. So, if you can elaborate more on that in terms of how we are tracking the number to show the needs and we can track the referral that we have referred to DHS, that would give us a better idea of what the needs might be.

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER SCOTT: We definitely track it and local law 81 requires the information for the streamlining of youth from DYCD to DHS and one of the things that we need to that streamlined process is, as you know, DHS has three youth shelters: Turning Point, Create Young, and Marsha's House. And when we make the necessary referral to DHS, we are making the referral to one of

those three few shelters first so that they can be amongst youth of their age and--

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Do you know how many beds are--

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER SCOTT: Off hand, I would have to get that number to you, but I want to say it is probably in the 150s because I know Marsha's House alone is in the 80s, I believe. But I would need to get that number to you-- the exact number. But that is how we work with DHS with respect to any streamlined referral is that they are referred to one of those three youth shelters so that they youth and young people. In terms of the housing vouchers, yes. We definitely work with our HYA sites to make sure that they put in the necessary applications and follow through with NYCHA on any issuance of emergency housing vouchers and or a city FHEPS Boucher. So, that is one of the priorities of our new housing initiatives that we have happened a now and, Tracy, I don't know if you want to add to the work that you been doing around EHV and City FHEPS in terms of working with the older population. Or just working with youth in general. If you can unmute Ms. Tracey Thorne.

DIRECTOR THORNE: Hi. Hi, Randy. Thanks for the question. We are currently having a City FHEPS pilot that we are focusing on young people who are aging out of both the 21 and 24-year-old programs and the 16 to 20-year-old programs. That's a priority for us and also we have this really great opportunity to offer emergency housing vouchers to the population, as well, so right now these resources, we're working really hard to ramp up the program to--

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Time expired.

DIRECTOR THORNE: get these resources.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Do you have any numbers of kids in this age group that you have been able to replace?

DIRECTOR THORNE: Because we have so many emergency housing vouchers, we are focusing on them first and we have young people with vouchers currently searching for apartments and we also have 12 young people with City FHEPS shopping letters or searching for apartments. I don't have the ages in front of me, though. I can get back to you with them.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: So, yeah. The
3 number of kids who were placed, are you considering
4 like for the youth, are they-- in terms of like
5 roommates? Because if they have two vouchers, if
6 they can combine it, you know, they might be able to
7 rent a two bedroom apartment or three bedroom
8 apartment because, you know, other kids are doing a
9 roommate, so that could--

10 DIRECTOR THORNE: Absolutely.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: be a situation.
12 That is something that we should definitely continue
13 to pursue.

14 DIRECTOR THORNE: Excellent point. Yes.
15 We are. Thank you.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Yeah. If you can
17 give us some of the follow-up statistics, that would
18 be helpful.

19 DIRECTOR THORNE: Yeah. I just want to
20 add that both started in July. So, we're just now
21 starting to see the fruits of our labors for the past
22 three months.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Yeah. If you can
24 kind of share the success stories with that.

25 DIRECTOR THORNE: Absolutely.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: That would be
3 great.

4 DIRECTOR THORNE: I can't wait.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you. Thank
6 you, Chair.

7 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: You're welcome.

8 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: At this time, we
9 have concluded the first round of questions and I
10 will, Chair Rose followed by any other Council
11 members who would like to as a second round of
12 questions. Please keep your questions to two minutes
13 during this period including the witness response.
14 And the sergeant-at-arms will keep a time and I'll
15 let you know when your time is up. Chair Rose?

16 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you, again, very
17 much, Amy, for moderating. You know, we spoke about
18 local law 79 and the reporting of how important it
19 was that the programs contributed to the report. And
20 so, in 2018, seven programs reported were listed and
21 this last report there were actually no reporting
22 programs that were referenced, although, youth
23 placement numbers were still provided.

24 ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER SCOTT: Well, the
25 reason why there are no programs reported in the most

recent report is because there have been zero youth who have been turned away. The report in 28 identified the youth that were turned away and which programs that reported that. So, that is why you see that information in the 2018 reported nothing in the 2021 and the 2020 reports. It's because no youth were turned away. So, if there was a youth about was turned away, then that information would have been included in the report.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: To classify a mother and child bed as a one or two?

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER SCOTT: It is classified as two beds.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Two beds. Okay.

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER SCOTT: Well, basically, the baby is in a bassinet, but it is still identified as two.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay. So, mother and baby. What is the age that, you know, the baby is, you know--

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER SCOTT: The baby is newborn to five and that is based on the state regulations.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay. There would then be any different actual bed or crib or something?

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER SCOTT: Correct.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Or an actual bed. And did or why did DYCD block New York City providers from serving 21 to 24-year-olds during the pandemic which was permitted under the regulatory waivers issued by the Office of Children and Family Services?

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER SCOTT: We actually did not do any such thing. Basically, during the pandemic, we operated as normal with respect to how services are being rendered. One, our 21 to 24 HYA programs were still in the development stage during the pandemic, so all of them were not up and operational as they are now, so-- and what we also did was we allowed for 21-year-olds should be, you know, extended in programs. They did not or they were not discharged once they turn 21. So, we gave programs who were operating HYA sites the ability to do so. So, I think we addressed any need that was identified during the pandemic and if we could not, like I said, we made the necessary programs and made the necessary referrals.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Do you think that there is a need for more LGBTQ beds in the system?

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER SCOTT: Actually, we just awarded the Ali Forne [sp?] Center a new program which is in the process of working with them on their sites to get it up and operational. So, I think we're addressing all the needs. What we do is we look at the trends through our analysis and there's been a time when we needed more female beds and, when we did an RFP, we looked to make sure that that happened and now the trend is not for LGBTQ or female, the trend is showing the need for more male beds. So, and we have a lot of male bed currently vacant, so we are addressing the need when referrals or needed. So the trend-- it's like a roller coaster. It goes up and down when we look at what the need is and through conversation with providers and right now the trend is showing more towards males than females or LGBTQ+. But, again, all of our programs are serving LGTBQ+, so if a LGBTQ+ young person needed a placement, they can get one.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, through your access, your reporting and your evaluation, you said that you're going to evaluate some of the outcomes of the

reports. Do you have any recommendations that you would make to improve the reporting and the implementation of the laws that we've talked about today?

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER SCOTT: Well, basically--

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Based on your assessment of--

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER SCOTT: Based on my assessment? Yeah. I appreciate that question because that's one of the things that we, you know, definitely look at in terms of our data within RHY and we've worked with our IT department to definitely make the work easier and, as I mentioned in my testimony, we have done a lot of work so far to this date that is help not only us that are providers in terms of streamlining the information. So, we definitely want to look at ways that we can enhance things. How can we work with our city's sister agencies when information needs to be passed and we have an MOU with them? How can we more streamlined that so it can be more beneficial for our young persons? How can we now include, knowing that we have this housing initiative, how can we use our

systems to make that more easier and working with NYCHA or HPD or DHS or whoever? So, yes. We definitely look at ways we can improve it. We also Scott providers how can we make their life more easier? And you may recall, but many years ago we were working from paper, manual reports, right? In that time. The person to look at the part and then put together the number. So, Debbie where we are today where all we have to do is press the button and a report pops out and we are continuing to develop that, I think we are in a good space and we're always going to try to continue to evolve as the city and world evolves with respect to that.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: And so, you will be having conversations--

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER SCOTT: Oh, yeah.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: with us about--

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER SCOTT: Yeah. We have weekly meetings with our IT and we well, you know, share any updates with respect to where we are in the process and, you know, we will be sharing it, again, with our providers because they will be the ones who will be helping us drive this evolution.

2 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay. Are there any
3 other questions for many of the Council members?

4 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Chair, we don't
5 have any other Council member hands raised.

6 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay. All right. Okay.
7 Well, Commissioner and Director Thorne, you know, I
8 want to thank you. I want to impress upon you the
9 need for the working groups to actually be inclusive,
10 comprehensive, you know, with some clear goals in
11 mind. You know, achieve up a or some of them will be
12 achievable based on just how government works. But
13 some clear goals with timelines and definitely with
14 input. Real input.

15 ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER SCOTT: Yep.

16 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Structured meetings with
17 real input from the providers and advocates. And
18 that when we do assess the data that we have, that we
19 utilize it to bring forth budget recommendations so
20 that we can actually fulfill the needs of whatever
21 the programs are going forward. We know the need is
22 growing. Unfortunately, it has not decreased. The
23 pandemic has exposed a greater need than, I think,
24 anybody even anticipated. So, expect to see that
25 reflected in not only the reports, but reflected in

the budget requests. And so, I want to thank you, again, for testifying today and-- Oh. I just wanted to-- The vouchers are so important I know that you are working on it. You know, Council member Levin and myself, you know, we are really pushing to get the legislation to ensure that every, you know, aging out youth has access to a voucher. So, I would really like to see the numbers and how this is working out. So, could you include me in whatever correspondence you have regarding that so that we can, you know, see?

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER SCOTT: That is not a problem. And I would even extend and offer an invite for you to attend one of the meetings that Tracy holds with the providers so that you can see how the flow of discussion happens in terms of moving that process along because it is very informative and Tracey is doing a great job in getting the providers where they need to be. So, definitely--

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Tracey, please. Yeah.

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER SCOTT: extend an invitation for you to attend one of those meetings.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay. Thank you. I would appreciate that. And I hope that you're

leaving, if you're not staying because I know this is such a riveting hearing, but--

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER SCOTT: I want to stay, so if you--

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: if you're not staying--

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER SCOTT: I want to stay. So, if you would do what you do, move your powers to make sure that they keep me.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay. All right. Then, like you to stay so that you can hear the testimony of our advocates and providers.

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER SCOTT: Oh. Okay.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: But, okay. Thank you. Thank you. I turn it back to our facilitator.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you, Chair Rose. At this time, we have concluded the second round of questions and we will be moving on to public testimony. We would like to, again, thank the administration for their presence during this portion of the hearing and we would appreciate their continued presence as we move on to public testimony. I would like to remind everyone for public testimony that I will call up individuals in panels. Council

members who have questions for a particular panelist should use the raise hand function in zoom. You will be called on after everyone on that panel has completed their testimony. For public panelists, once I call your name, a member of our staff will unmute you and the sergeant-at-arms will give you the go ahead to begin speaking after setting the timer. All public testimony is going to be limited to three minutes. After I call your name, please wait a brief moment for the sergeant-at-arms to announce that you may begin before starting your testimony. The first panel of public panelists will be in the following order: Jamie Powlovich for Coalition of Homeless Youth, Jayne Bigelsen from Covenant House, and Ramon LeClerc from New Alternatives. Jamie Powlovich, you may now begin your testimony.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Clock is ready.

JAMIE POWLOVICH: Good morning. My name is Jamie Powlovich and I am the executive director of the Coalition for Homeless Youth. To clarify, the Coalition for Homeless Beautiful was an incorporated nonprofit that was established in 1978. It isn't my own personal group. I would like to thank you, Chair Rose, for holding today's hearing into the rest of

the committee staff for being here and your ongoing support of youth experiencing homelessness in New York City. I would like to start off I publicly expressed deep gratitude to the late Councilman, Lou Fidler, who was a leader in the fight to get many of the bills that we are discussing today past during his time at the Brooklyn Borough President's Office. We will be forever grateful for his commitment and leadership and also to the youth leaders that led the fight to the passage of many of the bills being discussed today. I will be submitting longer testimony, but I will focus my verbal testimony on local law 79 and local law 88 and I'm happy to follow up with counsel with written documentation to back up everything that I will be discussing. Regarding local law 79, overall, this has been the most problematic legislation in the way that DYCD has chosen to implement and report out on it. The two main reasons for this, which have already been talked about by the Council, is that the numbers that are produced and the mandated reporting are not accurate as they only capture youth that are being referred by a DYCD program to another DYCD program since the onus to complete the shelter access report at the provider

level is on the referring agency. Agency's that accept referrals do not complete the form, therefore, youth that call programs themselves are youth that non-DYCD programs call on behalf of are not captured. The second main issue is linked to the way that DYCD captures the vacancies in their PTS systems. They do not break down vacancies by gender, mother child versus single, workout for bed that have already had you scheduled to move in but they've not arrived to doing take yet. Our recommendations regarding this law are, one, DYCD needs to establish a working group to approve bank. So the shelter access reporting, number two, DYCD needs to expand the shelter access report to capture all youth that are trying to get a shelter bed, not just those that are being referred by another DYCD Runaway Homeless Youth Program. Regarding local law 88, despite passing this bill, DYCD has decided to only allow to serve 21 to 24-year-olds through additional and separate funding and its implementation which is why there are only 60 young adult beds in the continuum. This is also why it is nearly impossible to find a vacant older youth bed when a youth is in need. DYCD knows that they continue to take-- Even though DYCD

knows this, they've continued to take drastic steps to prevent older youth from finding safety and stability within their system without valid justification. This--

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Time expired.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: You can finish your statement.

JAMIE POWLOVICH: This has included threatening to take away bed from providers that have vacancies in their 16 to 21-year-old programs instead of allowing them to house the 21 to 24-year-olds who spend countless nights sleeping on the cots and chairs in the drop in center and, Chair, as you mentioned, this also allowed DYCD blocking New York City providers from housing older youth in the 16 to 21-year-old shelter programs when they had vacancies during the height of the pandemic which OCFS allowed through regulatory waivers. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you.

JAMIE POWLOVICH: I tried to talk fast.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: You did a good job.

Thank you.

2 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you for your
3 testimony. I will now call on Jayne Bigelsen to
4 testify.

5 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Time starts now.

6 JAYNE BIGELSEN: Hell, everybody. Good
7 afternoon. I'm Jayne Bigelsen. She/her. I am the
8 VP of advocacy at Covenant House New York. First,
9 I'd like to thank Chair Rose, the entire committee,
10 as well as committee staff who is always especially
11 helpful to me. For more about Covenant House, I
12 refer you to my written testimony. I'm going to
13 focus less on the reporting bills, but the bills that
14 have had or the laws that have had the most effect on
15 practice for us and very much a positive way. First,
16 local law 87 wage extended the time period that young
17 people can stay with us. While it is true that, for
18 a majority of our age why, they cycle in and out of
19 programs. Our average length of stays far below the
20 new law. But, for some young people, they needed
21 more than the 30 this 60 days of previous law because
22 getting ID alone often takes 60 days. So, in the
23 past year, 188 youth those youth would have had to
24 move left, leave, that would have placed unnecessary
25 obstacles in their way out of poverty. The only

drawback to that law that we are seeing is the small, but not insignificant number of youth who have extreme mental health or medical needs. We are lucky to have a great health clinic on site, as well as a strong mental health team. But for some reason, in recent years, we are seeing increases in active suicidality, psychosis, schizophrenia, and the RHY continuum is not the best place to serve these youth. Frequently, we have tried to admit them into the hospital who only keeps them for a day before sending them back. So, the length of stays having these young people stay in RHY shelters for longer than they should. So, we really need the city to come up with programs for youth with extreme mental health needs. We are especially grateful for local law 88 which extended the age that allowed us to open our Bainbridge House which has been opened for seven months and that is almost always have full capacity, so we think that that is extremely important raising that age to and youth homelessness, but 60 beds just barely scratches the surface and that is really the program and that's the age group where we have the most turn aways. So we asked the city to put more funding towards that older age group without, of

course, diminishing any funding from the lower age group. Not in my written testimony, but based on things that people were saying, it is true that there are less turn aways these days in that age group, which is great, but we are seeing that the service needs are higher. The legal needs, the immigration means, the mental health needs. We have one attorney at Covenant House, I think, we're the only RHY program with an attorney to help our young people and he works 24/7 because of the immigration needs. So while the number of turn aways is much better, the need for services is very strong. I thank you, again, for the opportunity to testify today.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you for your testimony. I will now turn or call on Ramon LeClerc for his testimony.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Time begins.

RAMON LECLERC: I want to start by saying New Alternatives sees three to five turn aways from RHY shelters per week which is very contradictory to what Mr. Scott stated. Today, we had a trans person who my director, Kate Barnhart, called [inaudible 01:34:25] for and they told them that there was a two week waiting period before they

could enter the system. Also, I find it very, very disturbing that Mr. Scott feels that DHS is a safe and appropriate alternative to a smaller age inclusive program that DYCD can have if they are willing to. Mr. Scott stated that they are afraid to house the 16 to 20 with 21 to 24 because of compression ability. Also, the same should go for 21 to 24-year-olds with the impression ability of being in the adult system. Young people are still impressionable, so I don't understand why DYCD has this hypocritical lens on. They want to protect their 16 to 20 old, but they don't care about the impression ability of the 21 to 24-year-olds when it comes to the adult system. I [inaudible 01:35:50] of my time. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you for your testimony. Chair Rose, if you have any questions for this group of panelists?

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: My question was, you know, how they might see how we might improve the sheltering access reporting or improve the reporting and implementation of the laws that we focused on today, but many of them already addressed it. If

there's anything additional that you would like to say in regard to how we might improve any of these reporting bills or if there's a particular group that you think that we need to provide additional beds like 21 to 24, LGBTQ, mother-child, you know? If any of the panelists would like to say anything additional on those two issues?

RAMON LECLERC: I do think there's severely to provide more beds for 21 to 24 and LGBTQ specific.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you.

RAMON LECLERC: And there's one more thing I need to address. I'm sorry. In addition, it's not fair to also plays foster you and Jean out from 21 to 24 into the adult system. Unfortunately, that is what happened to me. I wasn't really prepared, but I mean I think I turned out okay for it, though. [Inaudible 01:37:29] but, yeah. This is also something that we need to be really aware of and we really need DYCD's support on it because more people are changing out of foster care in the end up in the homeless adult shelter system.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you. Excellent remarks. We are working on that as we speak, so it

is important that foster young people that are getting out of the foster care system, you know, have appropriate housing and resources. So, thank you. Thank you all. Moderator? The next panel?

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Oh. I believe we have an additional comment by Jamie.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Oh, I'm sorry.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Regarding your question.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Oh. I see. And Council member Chin also wants to ask. I'm sorry. Jamie?

JAMIE POWLOVICH: Okay. I wasn't sure if I should go. I think we definitely need more 21 to 24-year-old beds and, again, I can't emphasize enough the need for working group around the shelter access report. It has been something that providers have been requesting for years now and I think, in addition to the specific question that Councilwoman Chin asked regarding the tracking of the DYCD to DHS referral numbers, you can see you the reports themselves that it does not differentiate between age and so I think building out in intentional column that captures the amount of 18 to 20-year-olds comprehensive picture of how many additional older

you beds we need in then I think, lastly, similar to what Jayne testified to from Covenant House, the Runaway and Homeless Youth System is desperate for mental health specific supports. Today was the first time I have ever heard of mental health hubs in the drop-in centers and they sound very exciting and I can't wait to learn more. But I think condition to robust services that the drop-in centers, we also need to explore mental health specific shelters for you the same way that they have them in DHS. Thank you.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you for your response. Council member Chin?

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Time starts now.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Yeah. Thank you. Thank you for your testimony. And, you know, from what you're saying, I think that we definitely need to have more beds for the older youth. The 21 to 24. 60 is definitely not enough and I know that we started advocating for it, but we need to continue to do that. And that's what I was asking and, hopefully, we will make a follow-up with DYCD because the youth that they refer over to DHS, that should be counted as youth that were turned away from DYCD beds

and that would make sense and then they would know how many more beds are needed for this population for 18 to 24 that was turned over to DHS. The other question that I wanted to ask is that the provider, have you any experience in terms of using the vouchers and do roommate situations where individuals can share an apartment, two-bedroom or three-bedroom apartment, have any of you had experience or successful experience placing clients in those roommate situations?

RAMON LECLERC: I find in my work that finding people to accept the vouchers is still very, very difficult. People are given vouchers but they are still having a hard time finding a landlord willing to take them. It doesn't matter if its one person, two people, three people. It seems like these landlord still don't want to accept them or I don't know if there is still a distrust with the city from the Vantage program and that's why they're reluctant to take these program. I don't know what the issue is, but there [inaudible 01:41:57]. And I know that there won't be done to curtail the denials, but it's still very overwhelming.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you. Jayne Bigelsen will also like to respond to this question.

JAYNE BIGELSEN: Yes. We do place youth in apartments with vouchers, but I can't express enough how important these City FHEPS bouncers are. There is a pilot project now with 50 vouchers. I think each agency against 10 and we have had over 40 you apply. So, that means 30 of our young people aren't going to get it in when our young people do everything right, they are in a TIL program, they go to school, they save money, if they don't have a voucher, affordable housing in New York City is impossible. So, we're really hoping that this pilot project results in our young people having the same access to those vouchers as people in the DHS shelter system. I mean, it really doesn't make sense that because they are in a DYCD funded system as opposed to DHS, that they have limited access to these vouchers.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Yeah. I guess, with the vouchers, that's what I'm really looking at this whole roommate situation because I see the general population a lot of even our Council staff. They share apartments and, if it is a two bedroom or

three-bedroom apartment, we should be able to place these youth in these apartments and, the landlords are not open to that or, I mean, then we should think of legislative how do we get, you know, somebody's development that has tax abatement and government subsidy to open up because, you know, there are larger market rate apartments. So, if we could team up the youth, I mean, that could be, you know, permanent housing for them. So, I think we should all come together with the advocates, let's work together and see how we can make that happen. Thank you.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you. Before we move onto our next panel, I see that Jamie Powlovich would also like to respond to this question.

JAMIE POWLOVICH: Thank you. Just in response to what you are asking, Councilwoman Chin, my understanding is, well, there are two different kind of vouchers right now for runaway and homeless youth. There is the emergency housing vouchers that are connected to COVID relief from the federal government that are tenant-based section 8 vouchers and then there is the 50 City FHEPS pilot for DYCD.

My understanding from those vouchers is that you can't code locate them so that you can't use two vouchers towards one apartment. That is not unique to the youth vouchers. That is across the board. The only scenario or you can use more than one voucher in an individual apartment is in situations where landlords choose to lease rooms and an apartment and not the entire apartment as one location. And so, I think that is much larger advocacy that needs to happen, not just for young people, but for all individuals experiencing homelessness that are getting these vouchers because I think what you are saying is absolutely correct. We are finding a lot of vacancies in the two, three, four bedroom apartments and low one-bedroom apartments, rents are too high for the vouchers to be utilized and I think, unfortunately, though there are limitations around how you can use more than one for one apartment.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Time expired.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you for your testimony. Seeing no further questions, we will now turn to our next group of panelists. I will now be calling-- The next panel will be in the following

order: Maddox Guerilla from the Coalition for Homeless Youth and Lyndon Hernandez, New York City Youth Action Board. Maddox Guerilla, you may now begin your testimony.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Time starts now.

MADDOX GUERILLA: Thank you. My name is Maddox Guerilla and I am the coordinator of the New York City Action Board, which is the body of young people with the lived experience of homelessness that informs the work of the New York City Continuum of Care. I am here today since the YAB was one of the leaders in the fight to get many of these bills passed. I'm going to deliver my testimony to the implementation of local law 88 with increased up or age limit for eligibility of youth to access runaway and homeless youth programs from 21 to 25-year-olds. As has been addressed today, I mean, I, like everything that has already been brought up, you know, and the problem with the 21 to 25-year-olds during the pandemic, we know that we were doing the daily updates, we the coalition and YAB and that was not prophylactic. In no day was there ever beds, any of those beds were not available for 21 to 25-year-olds. We also know that you do not want to be an DHS

shelters. Most times, youth prefer to be on the streets than to be in DHS shelters, so referring folks should DHS, as, you know, people mentioned, and is not what we want and also we know that DYCD just isn't implementing-- they are not advocating for 21 to 25-year-olds how they are. And, actually, what I'm interested in you will exploring and asking them about is Randy mentioned the use of the Utility Project to give resources to LGBTQ youth and I want to know if there's any date on how those programs are being implemented because, for me on the ground, I mean, just almost 2 months ago I had heard that that program had even been implemented yet Foley. So, I would encourage you all to please follow up on data for that in regards to LGBTQ youth and, I mean, everything that is been said. I know Randy said that-- it was absurd to hear that you didn't block providers, but they did. They did block providers. We know that OCFS allowed for DYCD to expand their bed capacity and they chose to not and we also know that they had a very delayed response to giving a uniform COVID response provider. So, I am disappointed, again, and I will just say that.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you.

2 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you for your
3 testimony. I'll now call on Lynden Hernandez to
4 testify.

5 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Clock is ready.

6 LYNDON HERNANDEZ: Good morning. My name
7 is Lyndon Hernandez. I am a member of the New York
8 City Youth Action Board. Thank you for holding this
9 important hearing and giving me the opportunity to
10 testify. As you may already know, the Youth Action
11 Board was a leader in the advocacy that led to the
12 creation and passing of the number of beds that you
13 are talking about today. I will be focusing my
14 testimony on local law 88 and local law 87. I fully
15 support local law 88 which increases the age that
16 youth can stay in a DYCD from 21 to 24 years old. By
17 extending the, you give the youth more time to
18 develop a more sustainable career path and it gives
19 them more time to work through the trauma attached to
20 their lived experience of homelessness and develop
21 skills and strategies to develop independence while
22 looking to obtain sustainable, permanent housing.
23 While we provided access to our H1 I programs, I
24 recommend that DYCD fund more beds for youth 21 to 24
25 so that everyone that needs one can have access to

that service. I fully support local law 87 which extends the periods of time a youth can remain in runaway and homeless youth shelters. I support the law due to youth being at harm if referred to DHS facilities and the trauma that underlies new transitions from one unstable housing to another and also, instead of streamlining individuals to DHS to find solutions, to provide more permanent housing options to those residing in DYCD facilities. I think that by giving you more time, local law 87 has helped a lot of you experiencing homelessness gather the tools and resources that they need in order to succeed and excel. I thank you, Chair, and I thank you, Council, for your time.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you for your testimony. Chair, if you have any questions for the panel?

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: I would just like to thank both Maddox and Lyndon for their time and effort that they put on the New York City Action Board and you want to ask you, do you feel that your voices are being heard? Do you feel that, you know, that you are getting results from the input that you

bring to the meetings? Either one of you or both of you can answer. Lyndon or Maddox?

MADDOX GUERILLA: There we go. We were on mute. I don't. In regards to DYCD, I don't think as I feel like they are not honest. They come on here and say something and, even, honestly, every time you will make an effort to push back, I will say I to say, you know, you all have brought the questions today deeper. I just feel like they always have a response. They don't listen enough. She too much talking and not enough quiet and taking feedback and I feel like I don't know how you all can push on that, but I think that that's what needs to happen and, you know, in order for any culture to be essential, we need to have a health feedback culture and if people are not okay with receiving feedback and have a comment to quickly fix, oh, no, no. We've got this going all right, I don't think-- you know what I mean? Like I feel like that's really the problem. I don't think that they listen. I feel like they're always just trying to cover their bases, but they don't listen to the feedback we are giving.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you. Lyndon, do you want to comment?

LYNDON HERNANDEZ: I agree with Maddox's statement. I just believe that the collaboration between DYCD and the New York City Youth Action Board and youth in general could be worked on. Not to say that there's not progress because progress has been made. We have seen certain accomplishments that we have done over the years, but at the end of the day, collaboration is essential to the work that we provide and the services that we are doing, so in order for our youth voices to be heard, it has to be looked upon that youth voices need to be present in the room. We need to have more youth collaboration, more youth involvement. The way that we are speaking should be looked upon as professional, as well because we are the ones that are coming with the experience. We are coming with the lived experience, the trauma. We experience the day-to-day things that we encounter and we would just like more being done. So, we are here for that and we are here to advocate for the needs of the youth that we serve in this is our mission in, collaborating, me and Maddox are very passionate about the things that we do and we look to go on and on until our voices are heard, until the

2 things that we need are being heard, until the
3 changes are actually being made.

4 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you. Thank you so
5 much.

6 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Chair Rose, do you
7 have any further questions are also Council member
8 Chin, if you have any further questions?

9 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Council member Chin?
10 Okay. I just want to thank you. I want to thank
11 everybody who testified today who took their time to
12 provide thoughtful testimony. I'm working really
13 hard to make this a process where the feedback is
14 heard and taken back and worked on. I'm going to
15 continue because I feel that all of the points that
16 were made by our panelists for valuable and are
17 definitely issues that we need to look into and have
18 DYCD address. So, I want to first thank you. I want
19 to thank DYCD for producing the reports in a timely
20 manner and for coming before us to discuss them, but
21 we need to have some issues that we have to resolve
22 and we are going to follow up. So, I thank everybody
23 for being a part of it. I thank your Council staff
24 for the hard work that they put into making sure that
25 the committee is informed and that this hearing went

2 well, as well as all of the sergeant-at-arms that
3 made sure that this hearing went well without a
4 glitch. It was really nice. Nobody froze and we
5 were hacked or any problems, so, with that, I just
6 want to wish everybody to stay safe and, with that,
7 this meeting is adjourned at 3:02 p.m.

8 [gavel]

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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 19, 2021