

COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

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CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

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Tuesday, October 25, 2022

Start: 1:12 PM

Recess: 3:25 PM

HELD AT: Committee Room - City Hall

B E F O R E: Hon. Althea Stevens  
Chair of the Committee on Youth  
Services

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Alexa Avilés  
Chi A. Ossé  
Kristin Richardson Jordan  
Kevin C. Riley  
Nantasha M. Williams

OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Rita Joseph and Public Advocate Williams

## COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

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

Susan Haskell,  
Deputy Commissioner at New York City Department of  
Youth and Community Development

Mark Treyger,  
Executive Director of Intergovernmental Affairs at  
the New York City Department of Education

Valerie Mulligan,  
Deputy Commissioner for Workforce Connect at the New  
York City Department of Youth and Community  
Development

Daphne Montanez,  
Associate Commissioner for Youth Services

Darryl Rattray,  
Deputy Commissioner of Strategic Partnerships at NYC  
Department of Youth and Community Development

John Williams,  
Co-Founder and CEO of Reel Works, MediaMKRS

Dante Bravo, and I am the Youth Policy Analyst at  
United Neighborhood  
Houses

Randi Levine,  
Policy Director at Advocates for Children of New York

COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

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SERGEANT GONZALES: This is a microphone test for The Committee on Youth Services. Today's date is October 25, 2022; recorded by [INAUDIBLE] Gonzales (sp?) Rodrigues (sp?), location at The Committee Room.

Hello, everyone welcome to today's hybrid hearing, uh, New York City hybrid hearing of The Committee on Youth Services. Everyone, please place all electronic devices to vibrate or silent mode.

If you wish to submit testimony, you may do so via email to [testimony@council.nyc.gov](mailto:testimony@council.nyc.gov), again that's [testimony@council.nyc.gov](mailto:testimony@council.nyc.gov). Thank you for your cooperation, Chair, we are ready to begin.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS:

[GAVELING IN] [GAVEL SOUND]

Good afternoon, everyone. I am Althea Stevens, Chair of New York City Council Committee on Youth Services.

Today The Committee on Youth Services is conducting an oversight hearing on New York City's Department of Youth and Community Development Summer Youth Employment Program and Summer Rising 2022.

I would like to recognize that we have Council Member Richardson Jordan here with us.

As of today, The Committee on Youth Services will examine how the Summer Youth Employment program and Summer Rising 2022 performance as well as solicit provider feedback about the challenges and opportunities presented during this past summer and about how the services can be improved.

By having this hearing this early, it is my hope that we can address the issues we encountered last summer in an effort to rectifying for summer of 2023.

On April 13th, 2021, former Mayor, Bill de Blasio, announced Summer Rising, the City's new summer program for children in grades K through 12, jointly operated by the Department of Education (DOE) and the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD).

Summer Rising combines DOE summer programming with DYCD summer camps to provide full in-person experiences, run by local schools, leaders, and community organizations offering academic support, art, recreation, social and emotional support, and daily free meals to its participants.

Even before the COVID outbreak, summer youth employment programs have been an important connection for thousands of New Yorkers to value internship

employment and education opportunities, thereby promoting individual development, socioeconomic upward mobility, and serving as a way to address radical and economical disparities by bolstering life choices and opportunities for disadvantaged youth.

Critically, this program has also been a source of much needed income for youth and their families, easing their survival struggles and implementing a sense of self-esteem, self-confidence, and self-efficiency in participating youth.

Now more than ever, Summer Rising and SYEP are needed as a structuring and organizing influence for New Yorkers -- those who have been thrown into disarray by the pandemic. They are needed to reduce youth social isolation and to address learning loss to support youth health, development, and growth as productive individuals and engaging members of their communities. They are needed to help New York City families who struggle to find accessibility, affordability, and addressing learning loss the students may have encountered over the summer. However, during my tour for Summer Rising and SYEP across the City this summer, I had the opportunity to

1 speak with those who experience these problems on the  
2 frontline -- youth, families, and program staff.

3 Across the board, their feedback would start  
4 with, "It was better than last year." But, the first  
5 [INAUDIBLE] the lack of collaboration and planning  
6 and communication hindered their ability to provide  
7 programming and supporting staff.

8 This year, Summer Rising issued... started with  
9 recruitment. Although most providers had years of  
10 experience for summer programming, they were sadly  
11 restricted this year. This left parents unclear on  
12 how to get support with the process -- even how to  
13 sign up for their preferred site and providers. This  
14 confusion was compounded by the placement of multiple  
15 providers at single sites, often without a clear  
16 methodology for doing so.

17 We also heard for multiple sites that CBOs and  
18 school leaders were not connected prior to the start  
19 of programming, preventing adequate collaboration and  
20 planning for the summer.

21 There was also clear lack of support for CBOs  
22 servicing D75 students. IEPs were not shared,  
23 paraprofessionals were not provided, and only  
24 trainings on online webinars were offered.  
25

SYEP [INAUDIBLE] its own set of challenges with a midnight enrollment deadline. Program staff were expected to stay up into the late night to ensure that youth had proper documentation or risk losing out on a summer job. This program also reflected the lack of collaboration between DOE and DYCD with school schedules being released on the first day of SYEP programming, leaving CBO staff to figure out last minute placement changes, and in many cases, to tell youth they no longer were able to complete program.

Additionally, the rapid growth of programs left providers without adequate worksites or the ability to properly place students in the field of their choice.

I applaud the administration for the expansion of both programs, but providers need and deserve more support to plan and implement vital programming.

We are here today to hear concerns of youth, parents, providers, advocates, and community members. We are here today to work collaboratively to ensure that our youths' educational and socioeconomic needs are met and our communities are assisted in watching



the collective crisis of the pandemic and recovering from it.

I want to thank the staff behind the scenes for making sure that the hearing runs smoothly. I also would like to thank Youth Services staff and Committee Policy Analyst, Anastassia Zimina, Elizabeth Artes (sp?), as well as Sandra Gray, Finance Analyst.

And a big thanks to my staff as well, Chief of Staff and Legislative Director, Kate Connolly, and the A-Team who are holding down the fort back in the district serving our community.

So, at this time, I am going to turn it over to Public Advocate, Jumaane Williams, for an opening statement.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE WILLIAMS: Well, thank you, everyone, my name is Jumaane Williams, and I am Public Advocate of the City of New Yorker.

I want to thank Chair Stevens and the members of The Committee on Youth Services for holding this important hearing and for allowing me to speak. And I want to thank The Chair for starting the discussion off so early. Very often we're trying to figure this out in the middle of budget season, uh, to how to

In the past few years, New York City's young people have endured a significant amount of trauma and confusion and uncertainty. They have expressed isolation, learning loss, increased housing instability, and gun violence. The effects of the pandemic have been particularly on those who live in low income neighborhoods, youth of more color, and young people with disabilities. Robust academic and recreational, as well as professional development programming have been linked to reductions in violence and crime and positive youth development. That is why city programs like Summer Rising and the Summer Youth Employment program are absolutely vital, especially considering all that our young people have been through.

I first want to express appreciation to Mayor Adams for recognizing the importance of these programs and for his commitment to expanding access

1 to Summer Rising and the Summer Youth Employment  
2 program. This past summer, over 100,000 young people  
3 participated in Summer Youth and 110,000 young  
4 children attended Summer Rising. This is a great  
5 achievement, and I hope to see even more slots  
6 offered in the years to come. I also want to salute  
7 The Council who made these things a priority.  
8

9 The rollout of these programs; however, did not  
10 come without challenges. While I am happy that so  
11 many families sought to participate in the Summer  
12 Rising programs, the demand far outweighed the  
13 supply. And 18,000 of available seats for the  
14 programs were filled within a week of the application  
15 opening. We can infer that parents who were able to  
16 secure a seat were those who have access to the  
17 internet and were able to be online when the  
18 application opened, which is to [INAUDIBLE] those  
19 parents had to work and parents with limited or no  
20 access to the internet, such as those living in  
21 temporary housing.

22 The DOE did reserve some seats for students  
23 experiencing homelessness and students with  
24 disabilities, who are guaranteed 12 months of  
25 support, and those who fail courses and are mandated

take remedial summer classes. But we do not know how many of these seats were set aside.

Even for those for whom seats were set aside, full participation in Summer Rising was not guaranteed. Although programming ran until 6:00 p. m., bussing services for students with disabilities and students living in temporary housing was not available after 3:00 p. m.

Students who require bussing services should and must be able to participate in the full day just like their peers.

There is also a clear need for improving communication between the administration, Summer Rising provider sites, and families. Many families were left scrambling for seats at their assigned sites. On the first day of Summer Rising, 30 families in Brooklyn were turned away despite their children being assigned to that site. Some parents and caregivers who were reaching out to sites to see if any spots had opened up received no response. For some children who required bussing services, the bus arrived without a paraprofessional onboard, preventing children from boarding the bus, or the

site did not have sufficient time to ensure that paraprofessionals would be in the classroom.

The Summer Youth Employment program was able to match 60% of applicants across 17,000 worksites -- the largest number the program has ever had. But, it had its share of challenges as well. As a result of the pandemic, many organizations across the City are struggling to hire and retain staff, which can present a problem when adding in SYEP participation. The City should allow organizations more time to plan how they will be best be able to support an SYEP participant.

The seasonal nature of SYEP means that organizations are losing staff at the conclusion of the program. Many organizations will be happy for SYEP participants to join in the year-round programs they participate in, but need to know how many year-round slots they will have funding for. As SYEP expands, the City should invest in more year-round programing for young people. Lastly, it is important to note that the participation at SYEP program require a social security number, effectively excluding undocumented youth from the program. That is why I have introduced Intro 0188, which will

require the creation of universal youth employment programs that are open to all young people in New York City.

I would like to thank my colleagues in the City Council, and the advocates who will be working with my staff to move toward employment equity for youth. I look forward to working with The Chair to make this bill the best it can be for our young people.

I look forward to working with the administration and the City Council to ensure that Summer Rising and SYEP successfully reaches as many youth and young people as possible as well as ensures a productive and positive work experience for both the young person and the employer in 2023 and the years to come.

Thank you so much

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Before we turn to administration testimony, please be aware of the following administrative matters:

If you are registered to testify, please listen for your name to be called. Witness names will be called in groups to facilitate council member questioning.

1  
2       Additionally, if you are testifying virtually,  
3 via Zoom, council staff will unmute you when it is  
4 your turn to speak. Please be patient if you are not  
5 immediately unmuted.

6       Each witness will be limited to two minutes.  
7 Please stop your testimony when the sergeant calls  
8 time.

9       Your understanding of these procedures is  
10 appreciated as we ensure everyone has an opportunity  
11 to be heard today.

12       As a reminder, everyone can submit written  
13 testimony to [testimony@council.nyc.gov](mailto:testimony@council.nyc.gov) up to 72 hours  
14 after the conclusion of today's hearing.

15       I will now administer the oath.

16       Do you affirm to tell the truth, the whole truth,  
17 and nothing but the truth, before this committee, and  
18 to respond honestly to council member questions?

19       ADMINISTRATION: (NO MICROPHONES) [INAUDIBLE]

20       COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Good, great. You may begin  
21 your testimony.

22       DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: Hello, hello.

23       Good afternoon, Chair Stevens, and members of the  
24 Youth Services Committee, Public Advocate.  
25

I am Susan Haskell, Deputy Commissioner for Youth Services. I am joined by Darryl Rattray, Deputy Commissioner of Strategic Partnerships, and our colleagues Valerie Mulligan, Deputy Commissioner for Workforce Connect and Associate Commissioner Daphne Montanez. We are also pleased to be joined by Mark Treyger, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs for the Department of Education. On behalf of Commissioner Keith Howard and Chancellor Banks, thank you for the opportunity to testify today about our record-breaking summer of 2022.

What started with planning and preparation many months ago turned into a wonderful success story for the City, DYCD, DOE, our providers, and above all else, our families and young people.

As you know, on February 15, Mayor Eric Adams announced a record 100,000 summer job opportunities for young people ages 14-24. Over 90,000 of these jobs and work-based learning experiences were available through DYCD's Summer Youth Employment Program, making it the largest number of opportunities in the program's 59-year history. We were pleased to be joined by Speaker Adams, Chair



Stevens, and other elected officials to celebrate the historic moment.

To recruit youth for the program, we prioritized low-income, justice-involved, foster care, runaway and homeless youth and New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) residents. 91% of participants were from high need neighborhoods, including those that have been most severely impacted by COVID-19, ensuring that youth most affected by the pandemic and its economic effects gained the work readiness skills they need to be successful in their educational and career pathways.

All 100,000 summer jobs promised by Mayor Adams were filled, including over 90,000 slots supervised by DYCD's network of community-based organizations. More than 18,000 worksites were recruited, which is also an all-time high. Placements were across public, private, and non-profit employers across a variety of sectors. Participants engaged with employers such as Microsoft, SL Green Realty, and Google. Members of Mayor Adams' Business Leadership Council hosted 470 participants at leading companies including Accenture, JetBlue, and Paramount Global. At Google, 30 graduating high school seniors participated in

Google's Computer Science Summer Institute. At Maimonides Medical Center participants conducted research in emergency medicine and shadowed physicians in every department from surgery to pediatrics. And at Johnson & Johnson, SYEP participants worked in the design studio for the company's Pharmaceutical, Medical Device, Consumer Health and Enterprise sectors.

More than 8,700 young people were placed at City agencies, including the NYPD, Parks Department, NYCHA, and Health +Hospitals. We thank Chair Stevens for promoting placements with the offices of City Council Members for 119 youth. These were all great opportunities for young people to have a valuable summer work experience, while encouraging them to explore careers in city government that can create a pipeline to fill essential city positions in the future.

We provided an unprecedented number of enrichment events, career panels, and added opportunities to the SYEP experience.

For example, Mayor Adams hosted a healthy eating cooking demonstration at Gracie Mansion. On the last day of SYEP, we rallied City agency interns to meet

Mayor Adams on the steps of City Hall for an end of summer celebration.

Young people were taken on tours including BioLabs at NYU Langone, Con Edison Learning Center electric, gas, and steam labs, City Hall and the United Nations.

We held "A Day in the Life at Wells Fargo" virtual event where over 300 participants heard from different department heads about their work, the companies' vision and how to apply for an internship or job.

Youth also participated in FDNY and NYPD Career Days at training facilities; and, We had a "Women in Government Career Panel" featuring First Deputy Mayor Lorraine Grillo, Deputy Mayor Sheena Wright, Deputy Mayor Maria Torres-Springer, and Chief Advisor Ingrid Lewis-Martin.

In addition to acquiring valuable work experience, young people received financial literacy training. Participants were given access to Visa branded card with fee-free store transactions, and offered the opportunity to open a bank account to deposit the record \$234.4 million payroll this year. While youth are encouraged to save some money,

we know that this money is spent directly in the community, helping families pay bills and purchase school supplies.

In early March, Mayor Adams, Chancellor Banks, and Chair Stevens announced that Summer Rising 2022 would offer a record 110,000 young people an opportunity to participate in the program. Summer Rising offered K-8 students a blend of summer learning and enrichment for an opportunity to engage with peers, caring adults and their community, with experiences to explore skills and interests.

We offered key improvements to the program this summer, responding to input from stakeholders. For Summer Rising 2022, the City:

For Summer Rising 2022, the City expanded the hours of service for middle school students, and included Fridays.

We focused on students with disabilities, and students in temporary housing; streamlined the enrollment process; identified program locations earlier than ever before; offered coaching, professional development and TA opportunities, and launched a Collaborative Planning Tool for DOE and CBO leadership on site. We held bi-weekly CBO

convening to maintain open lines of communication, and implemented a single Summer Rising Operations Guide for CBOs and principals.

CBO programs offered an array of amazing enrichment activities, including STEAM, Literacy, Physical Fitness and Health Living. For example:

At PS 204 in the Bronx, SCAN-Harbor and Directions For Our Youth collaborated to provide young people with science and nutrition activities, including exploring a worm bin -- I got see that myself, it was really cool -- and their role in our environment, and discussing the benefits of kale, followed by making a healthy kale salad.

NYPD supported Friends of Crown Heights at MS 395 in Brooklyn, facilitating a day of outdoor fun for staff and participants, including games, giveaways and guidance.

Sixth graders at the New School for Leadership and Journalism created "Elephant's Toothpaste", working in groups to take measurements, make predictions and discuss observations, with support from SYEP workers.

DOE and DYCD are working collaboratively to collect and analyze feedback from summer 2023. DYCD

1 is working with Policy Studies Associates, who is  
2 connected with the DOE evaluation team, and we will  
3 share our findings, which will be the result of  
4 program site visits, family and student surveys, and  
5 CBO focus groups. In addition, Change Impact is  
6 convening stakeholder feedback into a Summer Rising  
7 “playbook” for the City to reflect on lessons learned  
8 and to inform Summer 2023.  
9

10 More than 112,000 students were enrolled in the  
11 program; 139 CBOs participated as Summer Rising  
12 providers; Approximately 32,000 students with IEPs  
13 enrolled in the program; and Nearly 12,000 were  
14 students in temporary housing.

15 We were pleased that on August 16 US Secretary of  
16 Education Miguel Cardona traveled to PS 7 in Elmhurst  
17 to highlight Summer Rising with Representative Grace  
18 Meng and Commissioner Howard. They toured the school  
19 and participated in a roundtable conversation with  
20 students and parents about the benefits of summer  
21 learning and enrichment programs.

22 While it is too early to discuss plans for this  
23 summer in great detail, we are looking at what worked  
24 well and what needs to be improved this coming year.  
25

We look forward to working with you in the time ahead in offering young people high quality summer experience.

Thank you once again for this opportunity to testify today on our record-breaking summer. We appreciate your strong commitment to New York City's youth. We would be happy to answer any questions, thank you.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Thank you.

I would like to also acknowledge Council Member Avilés who has also joined us here for this hearing.

Well, hello, how are you guys doing?

So, I will start with the questions. So, Summer Rising program providers experienced concerns that DYCD did not communicate the programming model early adequately enough for elaborate planning.

Is the agency addressing this issue, and if so, how?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: Well, I would like to acknowledge that, you know, we believe summer programming should begin, you know, as early as possible. And, at the same time, we were really proud that we not only made improvements for the summer of 2021, but did things better than ever in

So, I think... We are proud that we were able to start many of the important factors -- planning factors -- earlier than before. And, at the same time, we acknowledge we want to keep doing better and better.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: So, just... I just want to go back a little bit, because, one, I want to say, yes, obviously we had a great summer. Right? But there are still issues. But, I want us to make sure that we're answering the question. And, just around, like, how is the agency addressing this? Because, this is one of the things I was ringing the alarm about last year, was that, yes, people at the top were talking, but that information was not being transmitted down to the people who are actually providing the programs. So, I would love for that



answer to be... for that question to be answered,  
because I think that is important.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: Well, some of the  
things... Well, first of all, we are here now. We  
are already absorbing the findings from summer of  
2022, and we are ready to start thinking seriously  
about, you know, what we can do to improve for summer  
of 2023.

But, in terms of that communication getting down  
to the site level, we did hold bi-weekly CBO -- with  
DOE and DYCD -- convenings. Every two weeks,  
starting, I think March 2nd was the first one, we...  
we continued that communication regularly throughout  
the launch of the program. So that any developments  
or policy changes, any feedback we need... Providers  
always have an opportunity to share their feedback  
us, giving us an opportunity to adjust, and in many  
cases, you know, we absolutely heard their feedback.

So, I felt, you know, again we can always do  
better. We aim to start even earlier, but I think,  
uhm, generally speaking, starting that communication  
to the site level March 2nd is something we feel good  
about.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: So, I... And, I think, yes, we might feel good about it, but if that is the feedback we are getting from the providers, I think that we need to think about that and adjust and figure it out. Because, even if you are saying that you've met every two weeks, I think that it's important that the providers are saying that's not enough and that's not what they wanted or that's not helpful. So, hopefully we can think about what that looks like differently for next year, uh, moving forward.

Would you talk us through the process of Summer Rising enrollment? How did this enrollment process compare to the last year?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: To start, we approached enrollment differently this year. And we very much streamlined the process, centering family experience in enrollment. And some of the features of that streamlined process was that families were able to get nearly immediately a confirmation of the seat that they applied to, so that they were informed quickly that they were able to get a seat. And many of our sites did fill up quickly. We kind of know where those, like, high demand locations are, and we

are learning from that data and information. We feel like... we also started, again, like, many weeks earlier than we had in summer 2021.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Oh, I was just going to ask, what was the reasoning behind taking the enrollment away from providers and giving it to DOE? And I know he's about to answer that, so go on, Mark.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TREYGER: Thank you. Thank you so much, Chair, for this very great and important question. And, also, let me begin by just thanking you and your committee and the members of this council and your staff, uh, for championing this issue for day one. Your support has been critical.

And, also, to Deputy Commissioner's point, the earlier stuff gets prioritized and completed, the better planning for everyone involved. And, also, uh, someone who deeply, you know, is a former teacher and obviously a member of this body, DOE cannot do this work alone. So, we are grateful to our partners at DYCD. We are grateful to our CBO providers in addition to our amazing school communities.

As to your question about the enrollment process and how it differed this time from the year before, and I could speak from experience on that front --

one of the concerns that we heard from the year before, was the... If a parent had contacted their school leader or their parent coordinator to discuss how we can help enroll our children in the local school. In the year before, it was an issue where, well, you had to go to the website that was not... And principals mentioned that they didn't really have access to that until later, they didn't have access to a roster so to speak, and as mentioned by the Deputy Commissioner, planning was much more earlier on... earlier organized at this time. So, a lot of parents turned to their parent coordinators [INAUDIBLE] turned to their school leaders and their teachers to say, can you help us walk through the process? As a matter of fact, they pushed back the opening of the portal due to feedback from the school communities. They were going to open the portal originally during Spring Break. But, because a lot of parents and families said, wait a minute... And school principals and [INAUDIBLE], uh, if you open it during Spring Break, families who might need... require... might require support. Some of the school staff might not have access to it, because folks are off during the Spring Break. So, they pushed it

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So, it was really driven by feedback from the year before, where a lot of folks turned to their school communities and were not able to get direct school support and assistance. This time, what should happen and what needs to continue to grow to happen, is working in collaboration with DYCD and CBOs to make sure that we hear and take from all kids and families and make sure that we support folks where they're at. Whether they turn to a provider, whether they turn to the school, we need to meet them where they're at.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Yeah, absolutely, and I agree. But, it was just... It kind of didn't make sense, especially because CBOs and DYCD actually do recruitment well. So, I didn't understand why we would take it from them and then give it to DOE, who actually is struggling over recruitment and enrollment right now. So, it did not, like for me, it was one of those things where it was, like, this is actually something we actually do well, so why are we taking it away?

So, thinking about next year, how do we make this more of a collaborative effort? Because I don't think it should be one or the other. But, how do we move forward to do this collaboratively? Because that's not what happened this summer. It was really... Providers felt like they were at the mercy of principals and schools. And, to me, that doesn't make sense. And it did not feel collaborative.

So, my next question, and I guess this might be for you again, Summer Rising providers and principals described that COVID screening process as cumbersome and duplicative. Is there a plan to streamline and simplify it? That was one of the feedback questions we heard from the schools and the principals.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TREYGER: Thank you, Chair.

We obviously take a lot of our direction from our... From The Health Department on school health, uh, any feedback to improve that process we will absolutely take. If there are examples from providers or schools that needed more help and support, please feel free to share that with me. I would be happy to escalate that further.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Alright, absolutely.

So, continuing around enrollment, providers reported that Summer Rising enrollment was a mess after a family submitted an application through Discovery DYCD portal, there was also a supplement followup form. Providers could not get electronic signatures and had to scan such forms using Abercrombie (sic) (\*Adobe Acrobat?). In addition there were release and information questionnaires, and there were all these forms completed was placed on providers.

Would you explain what accounts for this, and what are the plans for this be streamlined and simplified this process next year?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: I think... I think it's fair to say we did make any improvements. And

1 we are still learning about the process. We... When  
2 we say we streamlined, we really did center families  
3 in the enrollment process this year to make it as  
4 simple as possible. We have heard, you know, people  
5 say feedback like when it's a challenging process,  
6 it's a burden on families. But, we, again, made...  
7 We kind of limited the information they needed to  
8 include in an application. We had translation  
9 services available, and we tried to provide nearly  
10 immediate feedback. On top that, a provider who is  
11 going to, you know, have responsibility for a child,  
12 needs some additional information including, like,  
13 health information, who's safe to pick up  
14 information. So, we had a supplemental form. We  
15 made a choice not to include that upfront just to  
16 keep the process super streamlined for people who  
17 were applying, and acknowledging there would be many  
18 weeks to be able to fill in that information. So, we  
19 received this feedback, it was a choice around  
20 keeping that initial process as streamlined as  
21 possible.  
22

23 CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: So, could you explain why  
24 they were not allowed to collect electric signatures  
25



and why they had to scan forms and add additional steps if we were trying to streamline it?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: You know, I'll have to get back to you on that. My memory was that electronic signatures were allowed. So, I will have to... Let me look in to that and get back to you.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Okay, thank you.

Providers reported that families who typically worked with... The providers explained that families they typically worked with were locked out of Summer Rising sites with their CBOs. Do you know what families did for their young people with the summer who were not allowed to be in Summer Rising?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: I don't know the answer to that question. I think, you know, we launched the biggest summer enrichment program ever this year. And still there were families, you know, it was heartbreaking to hear from families who didn't get a seat or didn't get the seat that they had hoped for. But, I think we are moving in the right direction. We are so appreciative of the investment from this administration and with the Council's support that we were able to make it so big. And

1 still, you know, there were families who were  
2 disappointed. We have to acknowledge that.

3 CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: And, so did we do any  
4 outreach to those families to kind of see? Or did...  
5 Is there some type of... Was there any followup for  
6 folks who were like on waiting lists? Or we just...

7 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: Well, we try... I  
8 would have to get back to you on the details of this,  
9 but I know DYCD tries to broadcast, like, Summer  
10 Rising isn't the only, you know, City operated  
11 opportunity. I know some other city agencies offer  
12 summer programming. And, we try to always make those  
13 things readily available both for teens, maybe who  
14 may have... if they had in the past missed out on a  
15 summer youth employment program somebody in a summer  
16 enrichment program, we try to advertise other  
17 opportunities always putting that as a priority  
18 around that late spring.

19 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TREYGER: And, Chair, if I  
20 might add, that one of the, I think also key  
21 differences this year compared to last year, was that  
22 when a family was able to enroll their child into a  
23 Summer Rising site this time, they were able to, on  
24 average, complete the application form within minutes  
25

and also get real-time conformation to their site. As opposed to last year, or the year before just because they went to through the enrollment page doesn't mean that they are automatically enrolled at that particular school. They had to wait quite a while, and that's why you heard reports and some concerns that some kids were sitting in auditoriums in the first couple of days to a week or so in the last school year, because news was still kind of trickling down to the school communities. So, this time families were able to get real-time information and responses as far as where they were going, uh, as far as where their child was being enrolled. And, speaking about wait lists, that's what we try to minimize I think this time. But, if at the local school [INAUDIBLE] there were pockets in certain schools where there was very high demand, and there was some natural attrition. Some families who enrolled early on, said you know what? Maybe this program is... Maybe something else came up where they took their kid out from the program, where a slot opened up, that is where the DOE posted information on their website and worked with the local school communities and DYCD to make sure

families knew that they can enroll at that local or particular school without with outreach by that school community and that provider.

So, there is always more work to do, but this was one of the adjustments made from the year before where families got real-time information about where their kid was being enrolled, so they knew where they were going on day one.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Yeah, no, thank you for that. Uhm, but also, so just thinking about, and, I know, uhm, the Deputy Commissioner just mentioned that there air other programs that were going on in the summer, and so that's why I was asking around, well, did we ,like, usher them to ,like, community based programs who were actually struggling with enrollment this year, right? And so how do we, like, connect folks to those programs? And for me it's always thinking about, how are we connecting the dots and what does that look like, and what does that plan look like? Because a lot of the talk has been about Summer Rising. But we still have community based that were doing programs. So, could you talk about what that looked like and how do we usher young people who needed support and services to those

programs? Because they actually were struggling with enrollment.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: That's a good question. We did absolutely respond to those inquiries from families who maybe missed out with the center based programs. Thank you for jogging my memory. We wanted people to know that we have community centers in NYCHA developments, and we have community based programs, you know, COMPASS enrichment programs funded. So, we, you know, as we do as we do, like I mentioned, every year in this [INAUDIBLE] we try to make sure that alternatives are available for anybody who might ,you know, miss out on a DYCD funded opportunity.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Thank you.

Summer Rising providers reported that they never received their participant IEPs individual education plans; although, the principal on duty was aware of the child's needs, providers were left out of the information loop. They had no access to such information unless parents notified them. Do you know why this happened, and what is the plan to rectify this next year?

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TREYGER: Thank you, Chair for, uh, for this very important question. So, first, uh, there are some legal constraints as far as who has access to a child's IEP. However, uhm, to your overall point, uhm, if there was an escalation, if there was a need for additional, let's say a paraprofessional, and according to my numbers in terms of, uh, information here, uhm, there were a record number of paras actually hired to support kids during the summer program where there was a need identified at the school based level. Also there was, just to give you further context, there were meetings to discuss what accommodations were required, uh, between DOE, DYCD, uh, school-based staff, uhm, and the CBO provider. Principals of course know who their kids are. They know the kids that are being enrolled at their school. They know if certain staff are needed. Escalations were prioritized, additional funding was put in place for schools to have paraprofessionals. As mentioned there was a record number of paras hired. Every school also had funding in place either a full time social worker or counselor. Every school had funding in place to ensure that... And, I want to give also

1 a big shout out to our -- I know... This is just to  
2 broaden the question -- to our amazing school food  
3 workers, our amazing school safety, everyone kind of  
4 to best support our children. But as far as kids  
5 with IEPs, because of legal constraints they can't  
6 share that with CBO staff. But principals can  
7 coordinate with other folks within the community to  
8 discuss if needs... if a new need is identified,  
9 they escalate it, more money is put into the budget  
10 to hire addition paras to best meet the needs of the  
11 kids.  
12

13 CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Uhm, yeah, thank you for  
14 that. But, you know, even on my tours this summer  
15 and when we talk about paraprofessionals, they were  
16 not there doing the recreational portion. Right?  
17 So, they were not there, and there was a huge  
18 struggle for the ,you know, especially for some of  
19 the D-79 sites, 75 sites, that they were kind of just  
20 left on their own, uhm, and not getting the same  
21 support that teachers got during day. And, so, yes,  
22 I am very clear that we are not allowed to, like,  
23 share IEPs and do those things, but I do think that  
24 it is important that the providers get the same  
25 amount of support that teachers get and not just kind

of just left to their own devices. And that is how many of them felt this summer. And we often feel that way, because often they are not in the loop of like, what's going on, and we are at the mercy of the principal of the teachers, because we just don't know. And then we have to get the information secondhand. So, I think we need to figure out what that coordination looks like in a better way.

And, just, I want to make sure that I acknowledge Council Member Riley and Council Member Ossé for joining us.

Summer Rising providers reported that different program performing the same work received different reimbursements which causes inequality. What justifies these differential reimbursement rates?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: I missed the beginning of that question, the differential between?

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Reimbursement rates. So, we're talking about community based versus school based and the different rates that they received.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: Well, just... I'll just say to start that we took stakeholder feedback about the price per participant we call it, which is the base price that people are funded for Summer



1 Rising. And we offered a rate better than ever  
2 before. We paid elementary school -- for elementary  
3 school seats \$1,414.00; for middle school seats  
4 \$1,320.00; and we felt... We heard from providers  
5 that they appreciated that we had given an increased  
6 rate for Summer Rising.  
7

8 CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: So, we did not give an  
9 increase for community based programs. So, we  
10 understand that that provides inequalities amongst  
11 colleagues at that point.

12 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: Okay, now I  
13 understand. Now I understand what you're saying,  
14 yeah. I think ,you know, the attention to the Summer  
15 Rising rate was really based around many of these  
16 operational questions that you're raising that  
17 acknowledge that there is an additional coordination  
18 and planning required for a Summer Rising program,  
19 because it is a program in partnership with  
20 Department of Education. And for that reason we  
21 assess the Summer Rising rate individually.

22 CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: So, I just... I want to be  
23 clear, I ran community based programming for almost  
24 15 years. We have way more responsibility. We are  
25 in charge of the building. We have to entertain

those kids. Most of them are in NYCHA developments that are leaking and all of those things. So to say that they are doing more or any of that, I think that that is a problem. Because they are actually working, if not harder, because they are solely responsible for the young people all day.

So, I think that that is... I just want to make sure I put that on record, because we're... mm-mm.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: I take your point, and at the same time I am just... I'm [INAUDIBLE]...

(CROSS-TALK)

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: I hear you.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: putting out there how... what our process was for a new program that began and identifying a rate for that really did acknowledge that coordination required with the principal in charge on the DOE side.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: No, and I get that, but I think that that is part of the problem. Right? Where it's this emphasis that if you're in a school that you're doing a better job than people in the community based. And I know that's not what's being said, but, unintentionally, that is what is being said -- that people who are working in the school

buildings are... are, at this point, being seen as more valuable than the people who are working in the community based programs and that's a problem. And so I have to make sure that is acknowledged in this space and in this conversation.

Uhm, providers reported issues with the continuum of care between after school and summer programs. Many of the after school participants were not assigned to the same providers who also operated Summer Rising programs. Even if they were in the same building didn't know each other, they didn't know the program staff. There were even situations where after school and Summer Rising providers were co-located in the same building, but for some reason the students were assigned... assigned students were swapped.

Would you explain what accounts for that, and what is the plan for those issues to be addressed for programs in the future?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: I think we heard that, we heard from community based providers early on in the enrollment process who were disappointed that young people that they served during the school year, were not able to gain a seat in the summer. We

definitely heard that feedback as well. And we are taking that into consideration. But, I want to come back again to the goals of the enrollment process...

(CROSS-TALK)

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: [INAUDIBLE]

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: [INAUDIBLE] we did launch was around centering students of highest priority. We located, you know, programs in TRIE, we were very successful engaging students in temporary housing, students who require academic remediation, and students with disabilities. So, that was the approach that we took to enrollment this year. And, I think we were centered around those families and not necessarily ensuring access to students who went to a particular school or participated in a program. So, we have heard that feedback from community based organizations, and that wasn't the... The focus was on families and on families with the greatest need.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Thank you

Why were academics and the recreational /enrichment portion of the Summer Rising program delivered at different and often far-spaced sites which amplified transportation challenges?

So, this is asking about D75 students, and I will go back a little bit, because this [INAUDIBLE] question for this.

One of the things that I noticed and heard from providers when I was doing my tours were that they had D75 students who were located at one site for the academic portion, but then were bussed to another site for the enrichment portion of the day. They were then in a different environment, which caused a lot of disruptions and the students had to settle down again.

So, can we talk about, like, why this happened? And how do we prevent this from happening again? Because it caused a lot disruption not only for the young people but also for the providers.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: Yeah, I will welcome my colleague from the Department of Education to weigh in on that, uhm, yeah.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TREYGER: I fully appreciate The Chair honing in on this issue, because this is a very, very important issue.

So, it's my understanding, Chair, that there were 70 sites that were selected and prioritized to make sure that D75 students had access to both academic

and after school enrichment within the same building. Where that did not happen, I absolutely hear your concerns and what that would mean in terms of issues around transportation, issues in terms of moving them to different sites. But I do know that there was an intentional effort to co-locate them to the extent at which they could. And over 70 sites were prioritized and selected to co-locate the D75 students with the same school program where they had their after school enrichment. But we are happy to look further in to the issues in terms of the school communities that you visited who needed extra help and support and coordination.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Well, while I have you Mark, I have another question for you.

So a question just around the IEPs, if CBOs have a waiver signed by parents, can the IEPs can be shared with providers?

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TREYGER: Chair, I would have to check with legal on that. I just know from my teaching experience there were very strict rules about who could see that IEP, but am happy to check with legal and get back to you on that... (CROSS-TALK)

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: Could I add to that Mark?

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TREYGER: Please.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: Has a parent of a student with an IEP, I just want to echo that in addition to the legal barrier of DOE providing that to the CBO, it's actually not the most valuable tool that a CBO provider could use. I think the most important communication there is from the family to the CBO provider around accommodations. And that's part of that supplemental form to say, like, here's what my child needs to be supported in the summer. And very often what's... the detail of an IEP is not necessarily the right tool. But there is nothing to stop a family from sharing that with the community based provider. Although DOE cannot do that directly, there would be nothing to prevent a parent from sharing that with the CBO provider.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Thank you.

Providers who reported that parents felt forced into DOE to what they felt complimentary (sic) (\*contradictory?) to what they felt summer activities for their children should be. Parents felt that Summer Rising could have academic elements, such as

1  
2 STEM activities, but integrating summer school isn't  
3 what community members want. In fact, many middle  
4 school children did not enroll precisely due to the  
5 built in summer school component. Is there a plan to  
6 modify the program to be more aligned with the  
7 community and families' wishes? Don't all answer at  
8 once.

9 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: We're taking  
10 feedback. We are taking the feedback. Really our  
11 goal is to have a full day program, which is, like,  
12 integrated academics and enrichment which provides a  
13 full day, wonderful experience for young people. But  
14 we are taking feedback in... even late in the spring  
15 process we allowed for on both the principal side and  
16 CBO side for families to communicate if they wanted  
17 to either, like, come late to the program or leave  
18 early. But, really our goal was to provide a full  
19 day program.

20 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TREYGER: Thank you,  
21 Commissioner, and, Chair, thank you for this  
22 question.

23 I think also, and I could speak to the spirit of  
24 this, even from the year before to certainly now, I  
25 think the spirit behind the academic component was a



1 recognition of the disruption to instruction that a  
2 lot of kids faced. And I would argue that all of our  
3 kids have varying degrees of needs. Even if summer  
4 school was not mandated for you, our kids have  
5 varying degrees of needs. So, I think the spirit  
6 behind it was how to just make sure that we put on  
7 the table that there was an instructional piece to  
8 it. But certainly we hear you loud and clear on the  
9 feedback to make adjustments moving forward to this  
10 process.

12 CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Yeah, I mean, you know, I  
13 think some of that, too, goes into just that people  
14 want to have camp, too. School is a thing, right?  
15 But, like, camp also provides academics and support  
16 and all of the things that you're speaking about.  
17 And I think that they both a hand. But, a lot of the  
18 providers and families -- I was out there -- were,  
19 like, could we just have camp again, because we're  
20 not interested in this, because kids feel  
21 overwhelmed. So, I think it's definitely one of the  
22 things we should definitely think about.

23 I'm just going to have... I am going to jump to  
24 some SYEP questions, because Val is looking at me,  
25 and she's, like, I want to be a part of the

1 conversation. So, we're going to add her in. And  
2 before we do that, I am going to acknowledge that  
3 Council Member Williams has just joined us here.  
4

5 So, onto SYEP. Don't worry, I will be back to  
6 Summer Rising. I still have more questions. But, I  
7 like to spread the love.

8 Well, Val, I am sad this is the first time I'm  
9 seeing you. I haven't seen you in so long. We went  
10 from speaking every day to not seeing each other for  
11 a while. But, let's get into SYEP.

12 Providers were reporting that when a young person  
13 is selected by a lottery for a community SYEP, they  
14 enrollment deadline is by midnight, which  
15 problematically became their need to shift to have  
16 staff willing to review the enrollment during their  
17 evening hours. The deadline should be instead the  
18 next morning. Do you plan to revise the enrollment  
19 process accordingly?

20 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MULLIGAN: Hi, Council  
21 Member, how are you? So, it's a great question,  
22 thank you for raising it. I... That is not feedback  
23 that I have heard a lot of, but I am absolutely happy  
24 you're raising it. It is something we can look to  
25 move. In general... (CROSS-TALK)

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: I heard that so much!

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MULLIGAN: I am so glad you're raising it. And, you know, for sure, again, I say this everywhere I am, like, Providers, please, talk to us and let us hear that on the ground. We definitely have heard that the pace is really fast. And the reason for that is because of the speed of SYEP. This year we had to get 90,000 young people enrolled in a really short amount of time. And so there has to be deadlines. We know that moves, but I think anything that makes it operationally easier for young people and providers to oversee the program, uh, we are absolutely open to hearing. I think it's really important for us to do that -- to make the program move more smoothly. So, thank you for raising it.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Yeah, I am surprised you guys have never heard that, because that was, like, one of the number one things that I heard around them. Because they are not allowed to get overtime and all of this... They weren't reimbursed for that, but, like, that was one of their number one concerns that I heard.

Is there a plan to use more innovative SYEP participant selection, uhm, other than a lottery moving forward?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: So, I think, you know, as we have grown the program, we have moved in the direction of more intentional direct recruitment. This year we expanded our career ready portfolio to over 20,000 slots. Those are slots that are school based and really targeted towards schools that DOE helps us select that have, you know, based on economic needs, index, graduation rates and all of that. We also expanded the number of slots targeted to specific populations. And so we are absolutely moving in that direction. And I would say one day, you know, the dream would be for sure to move away from that, but I think we have to continue to do that incrementally. For now, we are continuing to build on all of those initiatives within the program that helps us really reach young people that we want to reach the most.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: No, I hear you. But I think we need to start thinking a little bit more innovative, because the lottery is part of the reason why we have staff staying up to twelve o'clock at

night trying to input and get this data done.

Because we are using an antiquated system, and we should be thinking about how are we moving forward and being more, you know, innovative and creative.

And I think that there are much more creative ways than just saying that we're doing a lottery. Because at this point it is a lottery and it's weird.

Providers reported that some of them were giving SYEP worksite lists. But why wasn't this the case for all sites? So, I have heard that, like, some folks got, like, additional support around getting worksites. But there were a whole host of groups that said they had no support and did not get any.

So, could you talk about why that happened?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MULLIGAN: Sure, so I think one of the real opportunities this year was that we got the funding really early. And that allowed us on my team, really under the leadership of Daphne here, to grow our employer engagement team and to really invest in what we can do there. But, you know, that is a team that didn't exist six... well, now we're in October, so ten months ago. But it didn't exist before that announcement happened. We are really proud of the progress that they made recruiting

worksites and helping support providers. And I think there is a lot of work to be done in this front, but this year, for sure, was, like, a historic move in the right direction towards DYCD having the capacity to do more of the employer recruitment. One thing we always hear from providers is that that's one of the hardest parts of the job. And so we are really proud. I also have to shoutout all of our partners at ,you know, City Hall, the entire City, all of our city agencies stepped up to host worksites more so than ever before. City Council, thank you for your leadership. I want to share this number, because it's really and awesome. Last year we had 31 placements in City Council, this year we had 119. That is amazing. Many of your colleagues here were the ones that hosted the most. So, we're super excited about the movement there. And I think it's just one of those areas that there is always going to be room to grow and improve on how we work with providers to share worksites with them. But, again, I think this year was a huge step in the right direction.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: No, absolutely, I think that it was. But, could you talk about, like, how did

some getsites, and while... Like, how do you pick providers around who got work lists and who didn't, and how was that chosen?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MULLIGAN: Yeah, I think it... I will let Daphne speak to it for sure, but I think... It varied based on location. Based on when we looked at how many work sites providers had already recruited and the needs and [INAUDIBLE] do you want to say?

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER MONTANEZ: Yes, that is essentially the methodology, was sharing opportunities based on employer location, employer needs. We also, on the employer engagement side, worked very intentionally with our providers in helping to build to their own capacity around employer engagement. Our team developed social media and digital marketing tools to help job developers as they recruited. We also engaged in SYEP Week for the very first time this spring. That incorporated an advertising and social media campaign to help recruit new employers. And as those new employer came in, our employer engagement team connected those opportunities with providers. We held several job developer, uh, open houses with our employer

1 engagement team. And it was a learning community,  
2 and opportunity to share best practices. And also it  
3 was an opportunity for providers to say, hey, I still  
4 need opportunities within this individual sector,  
5 uhm, I have young people that are looking for an  
6 opportunity to explore healthcare, for instance, are  
7 there any centralized opportunities? And that was an  
8 opportunity for us to connect providers with  
9 available opportunities. But, to Val's point, uh,  
10 this was a learning experience for us. We were so  
11 pleased at the response with the New York City  
12 community to take part in the large expansion. And  
13 the lessons learned will help us continue with those  
14 efforts next year.

15  
16 CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Thank you.

17 And, so I know you gave us the numbers for  
18 council, and shoutout to my colleagues for stepping  
19 up and taking interns, and I am excited to double  
20 that number next year. But could you tell us... Do  
21 you have the breakdown for how many students were  
22 placed in city agencies throughout the SYEP program  
23 and throughout the city?

24 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MULLIGAN: Yes... (CROSS-  
25 TALK)



CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: And was there an increase?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MULLIGAN: Oh, yes! This is an area we are really excited about. Our colleagues across city agencies stepped up. We have over 8,700 placements at 82 city agencies. And those agencies - it's almost double where we were last year for context. Those agencies included Parks, CUNY, NYCHA, every NYPD precinct hosted SYEP participants this year -- they had a huge orientation for them and added a lot of wrap around services -- NYPD Career Day -- DYCD hosted almost 50 participants, which was something really exciting for me. I think my colleagues here know... (CROSS-TALK)

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Nice.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MULLIGAN: I think I emailed them approximately 72 times to say, how many are you taking?

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: That's what I did.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MULLIGAN: So, this was some, uh, an area where we made tremendous progress. And I also want to say that our city agency partners didn't only host themselves, but they helped us reach out to their vendor networks. For example, SBS connected us to bids to MWBEs, uh, we worked with DOT, we worked

1 with... across all of our agencies to really expand  
2 what they did... DFTA made a huge commitment to  
3 putting our young people in senior centers. So, this  
4 is an area that I think we made... We really cracked  
5 it this year and made huge progress.

6 CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Love it. Love to hear it.

7 So, I know at the beginning the Deputy  
8 Commissioner made in her statement... opening  
9 statement, she talked about, like, opportunities that  
10 were afford to specific interns. But, can you talk  
11 about how SYEP ensures that equity across all  
12 experiences is happening? You know, I heard some of  
13 the trips that they took, and The Mayor had some  
14 events and things like that, but what does equity  
15 look like across the programs with the young people?

16 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MULLIGAN: Yeah, this was  
17 something that we really newly focused on this year.  
18 We, you know, and because it was new, I think there  
19 is a lot of room to grow. But we are really excited  
20 about the fact that we were able to engage employers  
21 and city partners in a new way to host enrichment  
22 events. You know, this year, it was really looking  
23 at who we could recruit, what opportunities we could  
24 develop, and then looking to providers who had young  
25

1 people who were available to participate. But, I  
2 definitely think as we billed out what we're calling,  
3 you know, our enrichment opportunities around SYEP,  
4 that we want to grow those. Maybe do more virtual  
5 events or events that could host a lot more young  
6 people. So that, you know, to your point, it is  
7 equitable and every young people who participates in  
8 the program has an opportunity to do one of these  
9 really awesome enrichment events that we are working  
10 on developing.

12 CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: I am going to turn it over  
13 to my colleagues who have some questions.

14 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Council Member Riley?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Thank you, Chair Stevens,  
16 and good afternoon, everyone. It's always a pleasure  
17 to see my former colleague, Council Member Mark  
18 Treyger and the rest of the panel.

19 Just a few questions, I think I come to this as a  
20 parent for Summer Rising. Some of the concerns or  
21 maybe recommendations, I know a lot of the parents at  
22 the site that my daughter was at were inquiring that  
23 they didn't know who the workers there were. So, I  
24 know when Chair Stevens and I went to the site, they  
25 suggested that maybe they could put up a board in the

beginning that kind of has a picture of all of the workers there, so we could kind of have a better sense of who is actually working with our child on a daily basis. So, that's just a recommendation.

Two, I know this is something that was talked about, and I am going to say this for my 7-year-old, she was very displeased that she felt like she was just inside all day. There were no activities going on outside. And we don't have anything set up for them to take trips as well. I know something... I spoke with somebody, I forgot who I spoke to, but they said that we would have to start early with getting the busses to take the kids from certain locations. And I think that is something that we could start discussing now in the council and seeing how much money that would be next year, so we could make this a more fulfilling summer for our youth. So that's second.

So, I will just start with that. And then I will go to SYEP.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: I am going to ask my colleague, Darryl, to talk a little bit about the trips, uh, really good point and good feedback, thank you.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: Thank you, Council Member Riley.

So, we did encourage providers to start planning early with their trips. The Mayor set a charge to treat the City as a fun learning classroom environment. So, we also curated some of those trips. Everything from... the New York Liberty had a camp day. We had over 7,000 participants at that camp day. The Brooklyn Cyclones had a game. At one point we had a couple hundred participants able to attend. The Bronx Zoo, every Friday, hosted hundreds of young people from Summer Rising. All in all, we had hundreds of young people, thousands of young people, at the aquarium, botanical gardens across the City, museums, and movies were a big hit actually, bowling. Also there were learning environments like the zoo as well. And fun environments like amusement parks.

We did hear some feedback around transportation with some groups where, yeah, and I guess they hit a bottleneck on securing busses. But we also worked with our colleagues at DOE to identify some of their busses for trips that were used for that nature as

well. But we did encourage folks early on to plan and activate on trips -- for those field trips.

COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Okay, and to SYEP, real quick, I love to see the providers that you have, the private partnerships with like Google and Microsoft, I think that gives our youth an opportunity to get into technological spaces as well. I just saw that there... I don't know, if I missed it, but I saw there were only 30 people in Google. Is there any talk to kind of expand that for next year? And are we doing more private partnerships so we could kind of give our youth a taste on what's going on in the private sector?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MULLIGAN: Yeah, thank you, Council Member for that question. This is something that we are hyper focused on. I definitely want to let Daphne speak to some of the efforts around that. But we have been trying to build our private partnerships for years, and made huge strides this year, and for sure plan to continue to focus on it.

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER MONTANEZ: Yes, absolutely. Part of our efforts to increase employer engagement this year was a more centralized outreach strategy in coordination with The Mayor's Office, uh, Deputy

Mayor Sheena Wright's office, and The Mayor's Office of Youth Employment. And we were focused on forming pillars, which were the private sector, corporate and large businesses, small businesses, nonprofits, and of course city agency involvement.

In terms of the corporate sector, we held a few convenings with The Mayor's Business Leadership Council. And from those companies, we were able to source nearly 500 placements, uh, companies such as Cushman & Wakefield, Goldman Sachs, Mount Sinai, SL Green, Paramount Global for instance. We also worked very closely with Rebny on real estate and their companies as well... (CROSS-TALK)

COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: I was just going to ask about that... (CROSS-TALK)

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER MONTANEZ: Yes, yes, uh, so we are really thrilled to see their partnership come onboard, and we look forward to building upon those efforts.

COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Thank you so much. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: So, I just wanted to jump in around the trips and stuff, because one of the issues and concerns that I heard, uh, was one, because we

provided transportation for students with disabilities this year, if they did get a bus they had to be back by 3:00, which obviously was challenging when we had, you know, the school portion or the educational portion in the day. So, I think also when we are thinking about this, which is why folks are saying that they prefer camp, because it actually affords them an opportunity to now take what they're learning in the day to actually have experiences. And so I think about when we are thinking about planning, those things should be taken into consideration, because that's what ends up happening -- you can't really go on a trip and be back by 3:00 if you're ending the academic portion at 12:00. Like, there is no room for travel. And having one day a week, sometimes it just isn't enough. So, I think it needs to... When we are thinking about our planning, which is why I am having hearings so early, so we could be thinking about and working through those challenges moving forward for next year and thinking about how we move towards camp and not so much, you know, class.

COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: If I may, I'm sorry, Chair... When you are picking providers, do you get



any youth input on possible providers or corporations that they would possibly want to work with for summer youth?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MULLIGAN: so [INAUDIBLE] so, you're saying... You're asking do we... (CROSS-TALK)

COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: So, like, if... For youth, like, Google, Microsoft -- so, say if they want to work for a company like, I don't know Meta or Tesla or something like that, do you get their feedback, or how would they give you feedback if they wanted to work with those companies -- and wanted the City to partner with those companies for summer youth.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MULLIGAN: How do our CBO providers give... (CROSS-TALK)

COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY: Correct, yes... (CROSS-TALK)

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MULLIGAN: us feedback, or how... For sure, I mean, a huge part of what the CBOs bring to the table is relationships that they have with their providers. So, it's absolutely part of the role that they play to develop those relationships themselves. But, then when we develop those relationships, we work with providers who are

excited about the opportunity and try to find the providers who have young people who they think would be good fits for those opportunities. So, that's definitely a part of our practice.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: But, correct if I am wrong, uhm, Council Member, are you asking how they are getting feedback from young people about worksites? Because, I think that's what he's asking. How are we getting feedback for young people about the worksites that they want to work at?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MULLIGAN: Before they're enrolled or after?

UNKNOWN: [INAUDIBLE]

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MULLIGAN: Yeah, so, we, I mean, it's a core part of what DYCD does, that all of our program is informed by youth voice and choice. We say that all the time. And we have a regular process in the SYEP team of surveying all of our participants after the program -- and in the middle of the program. In the middle of the programming it's "How is it going?" "How do you feel your skills are?" "How is your relationship with your employer?" We even ask questions about, "Have you developed meaningful relationships with adults?" That is one

of the most important things we hear about -- what SYEP can provide. We collect all of that feedback at two points throughout the program. Actually, just last week, our whole team sat down to start to sort through this year's feedback.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Now, I will turn it over to Council Member Ossé for questions.

COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: Thank you so much. Thank you, Chair Stevens, for your leadership. I mean, your expertise at each of these hearings is amazing, so thank you so much for leading another wonderful hearing. And, hello to everyone from the administration and our city agencies.

So, the first question that I have is in regards to, I guess, I know that in 2021, some of our SYEP providers, you know, has issues with delayed payments for the work that they did for the year. In terms of, you know, the additional funds that The Mayor allocated towards SYEP in the expansion of the program, how did your agencies change, uh, your operations in terms of making sure that providers were getting paid in a timely fashion.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MULLIGAN: So, I can start, and for sure my colleagues across the board can weigh in.

You know, this is an issue that our entire agency is very focused on. We definitely acknowledge that there were challenges, especially in 2021 when all of our programs were expanding really quickly. And for sure this year, we had the same concerns about the massive expansion. But, I will say that the entire agency, over the last several months, participated in an initiative to clear the backlog, to the best of our ability that we had. We made a lot of progress on that initiative. I think there is still work to do. But, you know, DYCD is really proud of how far we have gotten. And we are definitely continuing to work internally on all of our processes. And for sure our [INAUDIBLE] and our fiscal teams are more equipped to speak to the details of that, but we have been working collaboratively with them on the program side to continue to share the feedback loop from the providers so, thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: And, uh, I'm not sure if you have the data yet from this past summer, but were you

hearing reports from providers that they were not receiving payments on time?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MULLIGAN: On the SYEP side, you know, I think we did a really good job clearing last year's backlog, and it wasn't as much as an issue this year. I'm not sure how my colleagues from the Summer Rising side feel.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: Yes, we absolutely heard that is a challenge. Valerie is right, like, our agency is really focused on... I mean, the whole city, frankly, has a concerted effort to improve the... (CROSS-TALK)

COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: Mm-hmm?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: contracting process. I am pleased to say that we are way ahead this year of where we were last year. And, still we have a long way to go. So, we will just continue to find ways to be innovative and stream line the process. There are some ideas already in the pipeline for how to do better even in upcoming contracted [BACKGROUND NOISE] [INAUDIBLE]... (CROSS-TALK)

COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: Mm-hmm?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: So, it's a really good question.

COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: And is this something that you collect data on, and it's public information in terms of the progress being made, uh, when reimbursing these providers?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: I don't know, I will have to get back to you on that. It could be, to Valerie's point, like, that our contracts team has data we could share with you. That's a good question.

COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: Awesome. And, another question that I have is, this is more personal to I guess the work that I did in my office this summer, we, you know, opted in the SYEP programs so that we could have some interns. And they wonderful. But we did receive 16 of them, which was a large amount of SYEP and young folks to have in our office this year. And, I know that, you know, in discussions with our providers, ,you know, it turned out that they just received a lot of people and accepted a lot of people in to their program -- especially with additional amount of money that was allocated towards this program. And obviously, uh, ,you know, going into next year, I think our discussions that we are going to have with these providers is going to be ,you

1 know, we can only accept a couple. But, what are  
2 your agencies doing in terms of... And, I am  
3 guessing that, you know, my case this summer was not  
4 an isolated case in terms of these providers that,  
5 you know, are accepting as many SYEP or young people  
6 as they can, and not really having much for them to  
7 do/places for them to go.

9 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MULLIGAN: Yes, well, first,  
10 thank you, I think you were one of the biggest  
11 contributors to our SYEP placements on City Council,  
12 so we are tremendously grateful for your support of  
13 the program and for hosting our young people. I  
14 mean, I think I would go back to what we were talking  
15 about earlier in terms of the City's coordinated and  
16 centralized employer engagement efforts. We  
17 absolutely know that one of the biggest hurdles to  
18 expanding this program is identifying really awesome  
19 worksites. We know our providers are really good  
20 [TIMER CHIMES] at doing that, but as we grow, we have  
21 got to continue to support them in doing more. And  
22 that's why I think I would just lean into the fact  
23 that we are building a really strong employer  
24 engagement team to do that work.

COUNCIL MEMBER OSSÉ: Thank you so much, that's all for me.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Now we are going to turn it over to Council Member Williams for her questions.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Hello. The first question I have is in reference to the providers and the advocates reporting problems with how DYCD interacts with them, particularly lack of clarity, inadequate communication, delays in responding to provider concerns and issues. What is being done to better support youth providers?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: I think if I... Your question is generally just how do we do a better job communicating, coordinating, and supporting with our funded providers? It's a great question. It's something we put a lot of attention to specifically thinking about Summer Rising. I think we have done more stakeholder engagement with this program, I think because of its sheer, like, scale and the newness of it than ever before. And it has been extremely valuable to get feedback. I hope that providers would acknowledge that we do... We have been making changes to the program as it involves in response to their input. As I mentioned earlier to



1 Chair Stevens, we had regular CBO convenings at  
2 multiple points. We had our provider convenings, but  
3 we also had, like, a CBO workgroup that involved DOE  
4 and City Hall. And we had a comment box. We had a  
5 Summer Rising email. We had coaching sessions and as  
6 many platforms as we could to make our interaction  
7 with them as informative as possible. We are open to  
8 more ideas about how to keep that communication  
9 flowing, and we want to continue to improve that  
10 process.  
11

12 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Okay, uhm, do you know  
13 if there are any SYEP providers in the southeast  
14 Queens community? Because, I don't think there are,  
15 but I'm not all the way sure.

16 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MULLIGAN: Let us get back to  
17 you on that. I'll through our [INAUDIBLE]...

18 (CROSS-TALK)

19 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Okay, so I just wanted  
20 to note that, uhm, while loved and appreciated all of  
21 my SYEP interns, none of them came from the  
22 community. They all traveled very far. I know there  
23 were some providers in that last that were sort of  
24 locally based, and when say I locally based, they  
25 don't have to be in my particular council district,

1 but in, like, the greater southeast Queens community.  
2 And I don't think that they got a contract or have  
3 had contracts. And so a lot of the students that are  
4 coming in to the program don't live in the community.  
5 And we definitely want to make sure that folks who  
6 live in my council district have opportunities, which  
7 actually leads to my next question, which is around  
8 the lottery system. I actually just came from the  
9 New York City Equity Summit being put on by the  
10 administration, The Mayor's Office of Equity. And  
11 sometimes I think we use lotteries as a way to say,  
12 everyone has a shot! It's a lottery system, but  
13 that's like not equitable, right? It doesn't really  
14 speak to equity. It doesn't really speak to, like,  
15 drilling down to our young people who probably need  
16 summer jobs the most. And, so I am wondering if you  
17 all have looked at other systems and tools that  
18 aren't simply a lottery system?

19  
20 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MULLIGAN: Yes, thank you so  
21 much for that question. It's a really important one.  
22 I think over the last many years, we have actually  
23 really intentionally moved to expand the number of  
24 slots that are done via direct recruitment outside of  
25 the lottery. We have massively grown all of these

1 programs. One of the key ways we do that is through  
2 the Career Ready portfolio, which just to give you a  
3 sense of scale of how fast we have grown that, last  
4 year we had about, I think it was 12 to 13,000  
5 placements in that program in around 90 schools.  
6 This year we were in 226 schools. And those schools  
7 are selected in collaboration with DOE based on  
8 economic needs index, based on graduation rates,  
9 post-secondary rates, so that is one of the ways that  
10 we really intentionally put slots into communities  
11 that we know need them the most.

13 I also want to share a huge change that we made  
14 this year to the lottery in terms of how we work with  
15 NYCHA youth. So, we have always had targeted  
16 programs in NYCHA developments that were directly  
17 recruited outside of the lottery if you lived in  
18 mapped developments. This year we actually expanded  
19 that. If you applied through the lottery but lived in  
20 a NYCHA building, you got priority in the lottery.  
21 And so we were able to grow the number of NYCHA  
22 participants selected through the lottery in the  
23 program. Overall we have reached 13,300 young  
24 people. That's an increase of over 3,000 from last  
25

1  
2 year. So, we are absolutely moving in this  
3 direction.

4 I also am incredibly proud of the fact that over  
5 90% of the enrolled youth live in high poverty  
6 neighborhoods -- Because of where we are placing our  
7 providers. Because of the way that they do their  
8 recruitment, we are really confident in saying that  
9 we are making huge strides forward toward making SYEP  
10 available to young people that need them the most.  
11 So, I really do appreciate the question. I think we  
12 are totally aligned in terms of how we are thinking  
13 about how we have to move the system.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Okay, and just to  
15 confirm, you will let me know about the providers in  
16 the [TIMER CHIMES] larger southeast Queens community?

17 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MULLIGAN: You got it...

18 (CROSS-TALK)

19 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: And, also I would love  
20 to know if you have any data on the students that are  
21 coming from the [INAUDIBLE] and this could be between  
22 the Speaker's council district -- Council Member  
23 Brooks - Powers and I are in the Career Ready  
24 portfolio initiative -- and any other programs that  
25

are pipelined into SYEP or some of the other initiatives and programs you have.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MULLIGAN: Absolutely, we can follow up with you and get you all of the data about what's going on in your community.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Good. And I just wanted to say, thank you, because I know I reached out to you, like, the first day of Summer Rising about some issues that we were hearing, so I want to just thank you for your responsiveness and for working with us to address the issues we were having.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Next we will turn it over to Council Member Avilés for questions.

COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Hello, everyone, thank you so much for being here. Thank you, Chair Stevens. Thank you for all of the work that you've done to get 100,000 of our students, certainly into SYEP, and also Summer Rising programs.

Of course the largest complaint I received is there is never enough seats. And parents who are just so disgruntled that, you know, they've just missed it. Somehow they missed this incredible opportunity. So, I think in the vein of [INAUDIBLE] continue to expand these services, uh, I am totally

in for universal after school, universal employment for kids all year long and not just summer and expanding it as much as possible.

In terms of Summer Rising in particular, we know that there wasn't an ability to select a specific site and a provider, which basically was kind of the luck of the draw. That was probably one of the largest complaints that I received from parents in our district -- that their children were traveling to all different places, and when there was a site that was so near to them, they didn't get selected for that site.

Can you explain to us why this was the case and how to... And how can we address this?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: Yes, I'll start, and Mark you can, please, uh, add anything. But one of the things that we really did well in streamlining the process is created, like, an easy process for parents to sign up and a very direct confirmation of their site. So within that system, a family was able to select the school and the provider within that school if they wanted to go to a specific program. And their response was directly to the application in that program. So we did offer families -- centering

1 families in this process, the ability to directly  
2 apply to the program of their choice. That was a  
3 priority for us, and I think the feedback that you're  
4 hearing may have been from families who were not able  
5 to secure a spot in their first choice program and  
6 picked maybe a second or third choice program in a  
7 different location.

9 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TREYGER: Thank you. Thank  
10 you, Commissioner, thank you, Council Member, for  
11 this important question and for your leadership on  
12 this and many other issues.

13 So, I want to confirm that, uh, that this year,  
14 this time, families were able to not only select the  
15 school location of their choice, but also the  
16 program, the CBO program within that school  
17 community. There was also a mechanism within the  
18 site to have translation available for the language  
19 which they spoke in or read. And even the  
20 confirmation message which they received was also in  
21 the language that they selected in terms of applying  
22 for that program.

23 As compared to the year before, uh, even if you  
24 applied to the site, uh, to the website, it didn't  
25 guarantee that you actually had a seat in that

1  
2 program. This time within... within five minutes or  
3 so, you were able to confirm right then and there  
4 that you had a seat in that particular school or  
5 community. Thank you.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Thank you. I think... In  
7 terms of, I know one of the areas that you mentioned  
8 in your testimony that you focused on were children  
9 with IEPs and children in temporary housing. And  
10 obviously, I mean I don't know what the 32,000 IEP  
11 children enrolled is a reflection of, like, what  
12 percentage increased from the last year. I want to  
13 say, is it a 100% increase?

14 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: I don't actually  
15 have that data in comparison to 2021. We would be  
16 happy to get that to you. I can tell you it was a  
17 much greater targeting focused on students with  
18 disabilities this year. So, we would be happy to  
19 look in to that and get back to you.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Yes, without knowing the  
21 specifics, I think it's a substantial increase from  
22 the year before. I had... Unfortunately, as I  
23 stepped out, I had heard Mr. Treyger mention an  
24 increase in having paras also available, which was  
25 another particular problem.



I would love to understand maybe the geographic spread of these students. I mean, the markers that you mentioned, a 139 CBOs, you know, the 32,000 IEPs enrolled in the school, 12,000 children in temporary housing. Without knowing, you know, obviously identifying markers, it would be beneficial to help us understand, what does that look like throughout the city and in neighborhoods? And also, even more specifically, in terms of the CBO partners, how many of the CBOs are new partnerships? How many of them are, like, you know, the top five agencies that seem to serve everybody across the city? I would love to understand in more nuance [TIMER CHIMES] what that looks like for our students. I am way out of time, I probably didn't even make it through any of my questions. But in terms of... In terms of, I'm sorry, back to the children with disabilities, can you tell us what the accommodations of the programs that you were able to run actually look like? And also, did you notice ongoing unmet needs that you want to plan for in the future?

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TREYGER: Thank you, Council Member. And also, I could say, pleased to be joined

by the Education Chair, Rita Joseph, as well, great to have you here.

COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Thank you

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TREYGER: Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Good job.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TREYGER: See? Collaborative effort, Chair.

But, Council Member, thank you, for raising this.

So, it's my understanding that principals, they had access to the roster earlier this year. They were able to see, and mentioned also, as part of phase two of the enrollment process, children with 12-month IEPs were automatically given prioritization in terms of placement. So, they had an idea already of what needs were identified earlier. There was an accommodation process, there were ongoing meetings between, uh, DOE, DYCD, school based staff, uh, with providers in terms of what additional needs have been identified and escalated. As mentioned, there were... We can get back to you on figures, but there was a record number of paras hired this summer to work in summer school. Were there areas where, as Chair Stevens pointed out, that we can do better? We will always have to acknowledge that there are areas

where we can do better, but it's my understanding that every school had funding prioritized if they needed additional support staff to better meet the needs of kids.

I will give you an example, if there was a walk-in, as part of phase three of the enrollment process, if there was availability in a particular school community, and a child enrolled who had an IEP who had a certain need, there would be an escalation process to make sure that they prioritize funding for that school to hire a paraprofessional to best meet with the needs of the kids.

So, that process was not as smooth the year before. Certainly there is always room for growth. But there was funding put in place and prioritized for schools to hire additional support staff as they became aware of these needs, and there were ongoing accommodation process meetings between DOE, DYCD, with the providers and school based staff.

COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: So, was there a... I appreciate that there was funding available. So, what kind of needs were did that funding meet at the time? And were there any identifiable areas that there are still gaps in that we need to address?

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TREYGER: That you, Council Member. My understanding is that there were escalations in terms of needing additional paraprofessionals. Funding, again, was prioritized. Whatever needs came our way, superintendents, other folks were made aware that, uh, funding was put in place. But, my understanding is that there were some escalations in terms of paraprofessional. I can get back to you about the other staff positions that we became aware of.

COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Great, I would love just specifics around what they found. Funding available for general needs is interesting, but it doesn't quite tell where the trends are and really what the need on the ground is.

In terms of, uh, excuse me... What was the process around transportation early dismissal in Summer Rising?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: I'm not sure, can you say more about your... the early dismissal part?

COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Uh... (CROSS-TALK)

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: So, I will ask my colleague, Mark, to respond about the transportation

for students eligible for students with disabilities... eligible for transportation. But I also want to add that students who were ,you know, far enough away and eligible for a MetroCard, were all ,you know, supplied with MetroCards for Summer Rising, which is what's an exciting development.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TREYGER: Thank you. Council Member, are you referring to, uh, early dismissal? I am just trying to...

COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Yes, sorry about that. Uh, I guess I am interested in particular, uh, the children who are far away, generally district 75 students, uh, who had assignments in different places, so this would imply bus transportation.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TREYGER: Right. And so there was an intentional effort this year to co-locate over 70 sites within D75 existing programs to minimize exactly what you're referring to as far as, would their children have to then, you know, get transportation to another site. There was much more of an intentional effort to do that this year than in the year before.

With regard to the overall transportation, there were certainly operational and contractual restraints

1 in terms of beyond the 3:00 p. m. hour, but within  
2 the D75 community, I could tell you, uh, that this  
3 time, Council Member, that there was much more of an  
4 intentional planning coordination to make sure that  
5 we minimize, to the extent that we could, uh, having  
6 D75 kids move around. Because, to your point, that  
7 is a well recorded issue both during... not just  
8 during summer, but also during the school of the  
9 school year as well.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Yes, yeah, yeah, go  
12 ahead... Uh, just one more question, uh, just  
13 jumping to SYEP related to transportation. Are SYEP  
14 students offered MetroCards during the summer?

15 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER MULLIGAN: Yeah, thank you  
16 for thank you for that question. So, this year for  
17 the first time, I think at least in my memory, uh, we  
18 were funded to provide MetroCards to every SYEP  
19 participant who was working in person. We are really  
20 excited about that opportunity. It went really well  
21 this year. It something that we advocated for really  
22 hard. So, this year, we were able to provide  
23 MetroCards, and we partnered with our community based  
24 organizations to distribute them... (CROSS-TALK)

COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Awesome, kudos, thank you, that's super important. I had an SYEP student come in from College Point all the way to Sunset Park -- an hour and a half on the train every day. So, I just wanted to... actually maybe close two, underscore Council Member Williams's point around looking at how far students are actually traveling to their sites. I was dismayed that received no students from our particular area. So, I would love a further... a closer look at what it actually looks like. I would never be able to be Council Member Ossé's office and have 16 SYEP students, but aspiring. But, bravo to the team, the MetroCards are so, so important for them, thank you.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Thank you, Council Member. I would just like to second that, too. I did not have as many SYEP participants as I wanted. I felt like I should have had much, much more. But, also too, my SYEP participants were not from the community. A lot of them did have to travel. So, I think we should definitely be looking at that as well.

And, I believe we have been joined by, uhm, the Chair of Education, Rita Joseph, my partner in crime

1  
2 this summer, who we had a lot of conversations with  
3 because of this joint partnership. So, we also  
4 worked in partnership. So, I believe she has a few  
5 questions.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Thank you, Chair, always a  
7 pleasure to partner up with you. Good afternoon,  
8 all.

9 A few questions I have, for some reason when I  
10 visited some of the sites, they were sites with one  
11 provider, why there were sites with clusters? Can  
12 you please tell me, how did you come to that decision  
13 that the sites were not distributed equally among  
14 providers?

15 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: The way... And I  
16 will just say a little bit about the process for how  
17 we site programs.

18 We worked with nearly... We had nearly 700  
19 individual programs in the Summer Rising sites. And  
20 you're right, like in some cases we had single  
21 provider, and then in some cases multiple providers.  
22 We, you know, we have existing summer enrichment  
23 contracts. And we kind of build Summer Rising around  
24 that infrastructure. So, the first thing we are  
25 doing is ,you know, there are programs that work all



1 year round in those home schools. And then there are  
2 programs that work year round in a different school,  
3 but are relocated to a Summer Rising site, so we can  
4 add seats. And in some cases, we want to add a grade  
5 band. Maybe it's an elementary school building that  
6 the elementary is in their home school, but we want  
7 to be able to serve middle school students at that  
8 site, so we will add that... one of the middle  
9 school programs. And, then, uh, in some cases we  
10 need to go even beyond that with capacity. So, we  
11 would have another provider program coming in to  
12 increase the... if that's a very high demand  
13 location, it's a big building with a lot of capacity  
14 to serve students, then we would add seats to that  
15 site for... through a new provider, through a  
16 different provider.

17  
18 COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Did you guys have the  
19 opportunity to make sure that the providers were  
20 talking to each other -- that they were on the same  
21 page?

22 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: We put a lot of  
23 energy in to that, and we introduced -- thanks to  
24 Department of Education -- we introduced the  
25 collaborative planning tool this year. And we want

1 to continue to put emphasis on that. That tool was  
2 designed to be a vehicle for the principal in charge  
3 and the CBO leadership from each of those CBOs in the  
4 buildings to come together and say, like, "What our  
5 schedule is going to look like?" "How are we going  
6 to share the space?" "What activities are we doing  
7 together?" and outline some of those factors of the  
8 program. And we also offered onsite coaching. Some  
9 partnerships are stronger than others. Some are just  
10 developing and they need a little extra support, so  
11 through a consult we offered coaching for that  
12 project if CBOs needed more support. And we want to  
13 continue along that path acknowledging that this is a  
14 partnership program, and the stronger the partnership  
15 is the stronger the program will be.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Question, did any of you  
18 guys visit any of the Summer Rising sites? What did  
19 you see for staffing? Because when I visited one  
20 site, and it was pure chaos. I walked into a  
21 building, and I was supposed to be there for 15  
22 minutes; I was there for two hours troubleshooting.  
23 So, uhm, I hope that Summer Rising is beginning to  
24 plan the day after Summer Rising ended and not in  
25 January. Well, you can troubleshoot a lot of

1 those... I saw students that were... had IEPs in a  
2 room with 20 other students. That's out of  
3 compliance right there. That mandated... needed...  
4 You have, uhm... I went to sites where they didn't  
5 have enough paras. You had a shortage... I know  
6 there's a shortage across the city for... for  
7 staffing. But, I... I am on the ground, and like  
8 Council Member Althea Stevens, we're hands on council  
9 members. You don't tell us, we show up. We want to  
10 make sure the work is being done. That's how I was  
11 as an educator for 22 years, and that's how I am as a  
12 council member. So that doesn't change. So when I  
13 was visited some of the sites, that's how I saw,  
14 like, so... five CBOs in one building, and I didn't  
15 see collaboration. Everybody was doing their own  
16 thing. So, I think that's one of the things you  
17 might have to really coach in on how you share the  
18 space and how you share the resources and the  
19 students in the work that you do. Or else, we'll...  
20 Summer Rising will... You will have defeated the  
21 purpose.

22  
23 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: I just... I really  
24 appreciate that comment. I... We want to put more  
25 attention on the collaboration. And we share your

1 approach in terms of, like, you need to be on site  
2 to... seeing that directly. I... I went to a  
3 dozen or two sites myself, and I know my colleagues  
4 did to. And, I didn't see anything that looked like  
5 chaos. I saw a lot of amazing work going on and good  
6 collaboration. I know it wasn't perfect, and there  
7 were spots where there were challenges, but I am also  
8 really proud of the way DOE and DYCD worked together  
9 to address issues that were on the ground. We had a  
10 very tight escalation process where communication  
11 went out to senior leadership and those situations  
12 were addressed immediately.  
13

14 So, I feel badly that you saw that, and I look  
15 forward to bringing you to Summer Rising sites next  
16 year so you have a better experience. Uhm... (CROSS-  
17 TALK)

18 COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: No, the... The experience  
19 was necessary in order for you to perfect it. You  
20 understand? That experience had to happen in order  
21 for me to say, hey, you have to work on this [TIMER  
22 CHIMES], you have to work on that.

23 Chair, I have one more question. (LAUGHING)  
24 That's my partner in crime.  
25

1  
2       So, Summer Rising providers reported that  
3 principals could decide whether participants were  
4 allowed to opt out of the summer school component but  
5 not providers. Why were on principals given that  
6 discretion?

7       DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: My understanding is  
8 really, again, we planned a full day program. It was  
9 on the family. What we introduced hearing feedback  
10 about, hey, I don't... "My kid's not going to get  
11 there until later in the day." "My kid wants to  
12 leaver earlier in the day," that was the family's  
13 choice. And if the family would put in writing, you  
14 know, and bring it to the program that they could  
15 amend the schedule for their child. We were not  
16 encouraging that, because we really wanted... We  
17 believe in the strength of the full day experience.  
18 But we did make accommodations hearing that feedback,  
19 and that was really the family's choice, not the CBO  
20 or the principal, but a parent to communicate that to  
21 the program.

22       COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: So, why wasn't that given  
23 to... Why wasn't that option given to providers?  
24 Because I spoke to many providers, and they were,  
25 like, that was not given to them, that was never

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: I think that is one of the things that we can improve in terms of communication. It was definitely not a policy that we implemented that was only for principals or only for CBOs. It was definitely a parent choice. We had... Another strength we had this year, that we will continue to build on, is a single operations guide. And that was update throughout the summer with any policy change, and this change was communicated in that guide. We understand there is a lot going on during summer, uh, sites are busy, and not everybody gets a chance to recheck. We had, as I mentioned, multiple touch points with providers where we tried to emphasize this, but it was introduced, not maybe on day one of the planning and enrollment session, a little bit later as we started to hear feedback. So we will communicate that even more strongly as we figure out what our plans are for 2023.

COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH: Why was the last minute enrollment at the front desk was happening (sic)? Because I remember... I clearly dropped my son off at Summer Rising, and that's how I know when something

1 is [INAUDIBLE]... My kid participated in public  
2 school. I have a public school kid. And when we  
3 showed up at the school, they allowed the front desk  
4 registration. And that principal was overwhelmed.  
5 At one point, she was giving out tickets as if I was  
6 at a raffle. Like, you got to hold on to your  
7 ticket, because you pre-registered, so she can figure  
8 out 300 families in front of her. And, I think  
9 that's something we have to look into as well. And  
10 that was one of the things I met with Mark on.  
11 Language access; not everybody has internet; what are  
12 they options for a parent to register. I serve... I  
13 represent a huge immigrant community who may not have  
14 access to WIFI -- cannot sign on. So, I think maybe  
15 based on the school having parent coordinators get  
16 involved in enrolling kids from the schools, would  
17 also alleviate what I saw at my son's school.

18  
19 Thank you, Chair.

20 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TREYGER: I want to... Thank  
21 you, Council Member, thank you, Chair Stevens, as  
22 well because I clearly remember the feedback that you  
23 gave and Chair Stevens gave, which was very helpful  
24 and important and timely -- in real-time. So, folks  
25 watching the hearing, know that this council is

definitely for real. They were visiting sites. Gave us real-time feedback. We had to make adjustments accordingly. There was an enrollment issue that I remember you had escalated to us as well. But, I do want to center the piece with regards to centering the family. Because, as mentioned earlier, Chair, this time around, families were able to... And the website, which they are able to translate into their native language, the confirmation email was in their native language. The parent coordinators working with their schools were supposed to be equipped to make sure that they provide support to families. And, matter of fact, the registration period for Summer Rising was moved not during Spring Break, but after Spring Break for that very reason. So, slots kind of get kind of gobbled up during the vacation period, where if extra families needed help... needed help and support. Even family feedback shaped, in terms of what accommodations we were making, even around transportation or constraints during summer, uh, in terms of also many MetroCards that were issued to kids who needed transportation help, but it was not on their IEP, uh, over 8,000



ride share trips were made available for families as well.

There is certainly more work to do. But I think getting... centering family feedback compared to the year before to this year, was very key. And to the issue, uh, Chair Stevens, which you had flagged as well, during the course of summer, as far as there were children who wanted to go into the afterschool enrichment portion, that's critical feedback for us. In the operations guide, it does state that families should communicate with both the CBO and the school staff, and adjustments, you know, certainly have been made and will continue to be made based upon the feedback that we get from, obviously from stakeholders and from families, thank you, Chair.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Yeah, no, so I do... I just wanted to also just say again, I know that... I did reach out in real-time about one of those issues. But, the pushback still went back to the principal, where they would say, no. And so; although, the guide was updated, and they might have had those directives... but providers told me, and I have seen specifically where principals said all enrollment went through them, and so they decided who was coming

1 in and out of the buildings. Because there were  
2 students who wanted to be part of the enrichment  
3 piece and not the academic piece, because they said  
4 they had passed the grade, and they didn't feel like  
5 they should have to be there. But principals would  
6 not allow them to enroll, because it had to go  
7 through DOE.

8 So, I just, you know, it was a glitch in the  
9 matrix there.

10 And also I just wanted to go back to the cluster  
11 sites. Because I know you talked about how it was  
12 looked at for, like, bigger schools and programs.  
13 Part of my tour and the reason for doing this, is  
14 because I knew at this moment there would be things  
15 that would be said that I would be able to verify,  
16 because I saw them with my own two eyes. There were  
17 schools that were large schools, and they had big  
18 contracts, and they had, like, 200 kids who were in  
19 there by themselves. And there were other programs  
20 who had a 100 kids, and they had school buildings to  
21 themselves. And, then for some reason in my  
22 district, almost all of the Summer Rising were co-  
23 located. And they had contracts of 150 -- 200. So,  
24 I really want to ask, how equity looks... How does  
25

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: Well, I think in terms of considering equity that was initiated when we established where schools were going to be located. So, we definitely focused on TRIE neighborhoods. We also needed geographic diversity across the City. And we built, as I said, on the foundation of DYCD baselined programs, which are in areas in highest need, which are rooted in the areas of highest need. So that was where started in terms of trying to reach students with the greatest needs. And I think the data bears out that overwhelmingly we reached students high needs, poverty, and again students with disabilities, students in temporary housing. And I think the... The issue around having multiple CBOs I think is... That does require a lot of partnership work, and we want to, like, double down on that partnership work. And I think it's...

So, it's a way to expand the reach. And it's a way for some programs who may have, like, the building they typically work in is going to be under construction, for example, so we locate them somewhere where there is demand and need.

But, uh, you raise a good point about like the challenges partnerships and good communication uhm, around shared space and other responsibilities.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Yeah, I did, and I mean, some of the challenges were, especially even when it came to enrollment, it started to become The Hunger Games, right? So, you had some students who were, like, no, that's the program I'm supposed to be in, and they were recruiting them, they were talking to other... "What is happening?" Like, what, "Everyone calm down, like, everyone relax." So, I think that, like, you said, it does take a lot of coordination, which is why, I, once again, I'll say it again, we have to start early. Because, that takes coordination and people to talk and understand what that looks like.

And I am happy you brought up construction, because that's my next question. Uh, providers reportedly reported construction in buildings and hosting Summer Rising sites and impacts on programmatic delivers such as restricted access to gyms and cafeterias. How will school construction have an effect on programming and being taken into account?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: Uh, I don't know if DOE wants to jump in that. I will just say, like, our goal was not to site programs where construction

would inhibit the ability of the program to work.

And in those cases, we have relocations. I didn't receive feedback about construction being a barrier to programs that did operate. We didn't hear that feedback, I'm not aware of that.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TREYGER: What I could add, uh, Chair, is that, you know, DOE did work and coordinate with [ECF] (sp?) in terms of which sites ,you know, were going through some major capital work. I know that there was some major work happening on Staten Island, which led to some schools, you know, some issues there. But, uh, and also, this is an opportunity to thank the Council, uh, because of your extraordinary RESO A support, capital priorities in terms of major upgrades to schools, that also contributes to some of the issues in terms of work happening over the summer. So, your major budget victories in terms of school improvements also factor in to what schools are capable of being used in summer as well. So, I want to thank the chairs on that and the council members.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Yeah, no, and I mean, obviously we know construction is needed in a lot of our schools, and upgrades in summer is the time that

1 that happens, but ,you know, just thinking about how  
2 we think about that moving forward. Because there  
3 were a couple of sites that I did visit where the  
4 school yard was under construction or the gym was  
5 under construction or they could only use half of the  
6 cafeteria or... It just caused a lot of confusion.  
7 So, I just ,you know, hopefully we can start thinking  
8 about that and identifying that early -- and then  
9 helping providers and schools find other alternatives  
10 to thank I thing would also be helpful.

12 I mean, I think I have a bill that would address  
13 that, but that's here nor there.

14 Summer Rising providers reported that DYCD did  
15 not accommodate meaningful weight in providers'  
16 feedback in planning the program, and that whenever  
17 focus groups are held constituents are only a  
18 performative gesture. Would you please explain why  
19 this is the case? And what is the plan to address  
20 this?

21 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: I think, if I... I  
22 think you're saying there wasn't adequate opportunity  
23 for input in advance... (CROSS-TALK)

24 CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Yeah.  
25

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: of the programs  
[INAUDIBLE]... (CROSS-TALK)

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: So...

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: [INAUDIBLE] CBOs?

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Yeah, so the feedback that  
we are getting back, a lot of the providers feel like  
the communication is performative and that you're not  
really taking it into consideration, because they  
don't see it being trickled down.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: Well, I think, you  
know, I would like to hear... I would like to invite  
any providers giving you that feedback to reach out  
to me directly. We definitely are taking, very  
seriously, input, and we got a lot of feedback. We  
got it from evaluation processes last year. We  
had... We got it from, you know, umbrella groups  
like United Neighborhood Houses. And we continued  
the CBO interagency work groups through the summer --  
that began prior to Spring 2021 -- through the year,  
so that we were meeting with some of our core Summer  
Rising providers all through the year leading up to  
the spring. And that continued, uh, that was on top  
of the CBO convenings and other groups. So, I... I  
think there is evidence that we really did hear



provider input and that we made significant changes. I outlined some of that in my testimony. But, I acknowledge that we need to continue to hear from CBOs. And I welcome ideas. You know, we also try to balance -- like not overwhelming them with our convenings, and feedback sessions, and evaluation surveys. But there is no limit to our desire to take in additional feedback from community based organizations and we welcome that.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: No, absolutely. And I think we... And we have spoken about this, Deputy Commissioner, where I think sometimes providers, we acknowledge that you're not only, you know, helping with the service, but you're also their funder. So, it's a really hard for a provider to come to their funder and say, "Hey, I am struggling" or ask questions, because that can put them in jeopardy. So, I think if... We have to get to a place where we acknowledge that and understanding why I get feedback that you might not get. Because you're their funder in addition to helping them with the services. And so, you know, sometimes that puts us in a conundrum. So, I just think we have to think what we... how do we really get real feedback where people do not feel

threatened? And, I am not saying that folks threatening anyone, and I want to make that clear, I'm just saying it becomes really awkward.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: Understood. We will keep thinking about processes where we can account for that. And then we know we have a whole lot of providers who are not afraid at all to share their feedback and we can... (CROSS-TALK)

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Yeah.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: rely on them to be the sounding board in addition to trying to solicit additional input.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: How many ELL students were served in Summer Rising this year?

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TREYGER: Thank you, Chair, I actually have, uhm, make sure I provided that question. We have... The number was 18,000.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Thank you.

Providers and advocates report staff shortages they pointed to a number of contributing factors such as inadequate wages and benefits and a flight of youth workers to be betting paying DOE positions and other industries. Although, vaccine mandates and childcare issues, and background check backlogs among

others. What is being done to assist the providers with recruitment and retaining youth workers?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: That is a great question. This challenge is across the board in the Human Services sector, not just in New York City, but across the country in other sectors as well. It was a real challenge that we heard over and over again from the beginnings of our planning stages. It accounted I think for some of the times when providers would say, look I can stretch this far, but I can't stretch any further. And some of the things that we did to support were to plan job fairs, we had a technical assistance come in and offer tips for recruitment strategies; we streamlined the regulatory framework for Summer Rising, so that we reduced the background clearance burden, which is something that is sometimes a deterrent for a [INAUDIBLE] person who is in the process, but then, you know, finds a job in retail, you know, before they are fully processed. And, then finally, uhm, we are grateful to the support from Department of Education who provided, in some of the real extreme circumstances, DOE substitutes to supplement the CBO provider staff. So, we definitely heard much

feedback from providers about that challenge, and we did our best to try to mitigate that, and we are open to more ideas and opportunities to give them support going forward.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Yeah, uhm, and I think it is just acknowledging, like, Human Services we have been experiencing this across the board. So, I think it is one of the things that we do need to kind of like think about, and how do we have... Like, what is our long-term plan? Because that has been very challenging across the board.

Providers also had concerns about staffing issues [INAUDIBLE] to meet the participant to staff ratio, and; therefore, negatively impact enrollment. Their contracts may affected, and this seems rather unfair. What, if anything, is being done to address this concern?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: I think that's the same question really about, like, how to meet staffing challenges.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Mm-hmm

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: I will say that working under DOE authorization, that regulatory

change that we talked about, did offer some flexibility for CBO providers around staff ratios.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: And, Chair, that is one of the items that came up relatively early, is feedback from providers, how we implement the programming for Summer Rising, whether or not they are running -- and you're familiar with this -- under their SACC licenses or camp permits. But we were able to do it as a DOE authorized program, which actually opened the door for them to on board staff a lot faster and quicker.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Thank you.

These are some more general questions, and these are some questions from our providers that they provided from you guys... to say to ask you guys. And some of them have already been asked. But I want to make sure that I am honoring them in this space, because this is about them.

So, what percentage of increase on youth providers' contract reimbursement rates do you believe is necessary when we are thinking about, like, the summer camp? But I think you guys already asked this question. So, I am going to actually skip that one, so I apologize.

What weight should be accorded to stakeholders and advocates input on the Youth Services RFP process?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: Can you repeat the first part of that question?

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: What weight should be accommodated to stakeholders and advocates' input for the Youth Services RFP process?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: Is it rate?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: No, weight.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Weight.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: Weight, oh! (CROSS-TALK)

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: To their input... (CROSS-TALK)

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: A tremendous amount of weight. We plan... Our goal is to launch a concept paper for COMPASS after school programs before the end of this year.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: This year?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: And, we look forward to feedback... (CROSS-TALK)

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Oh, wait, I just want to make sure we're saying 2022, we are going to have a concept paper for COMPASS?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: Our goal is to release a concept paper before the end of this calendar year. And... (CROSS-TALK)

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: 2022?

[LAUGHTER IN CHAMBERS]

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: In preparation for that concept paper, we have, uhm... (CROSS-TALK)

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Don't make me do a happy dance. And you're also trying to ruin my whole holiday, because we've got two concept papers out, so that's going to be my holiday reading? Come on...

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: This is our goal.

[LAUGHTER IN CHAMBERS]

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: [INAUDIBLE]... (CROSS-TALK)

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Ruin my holidays, got it. (LAUGHING)

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: We look forward to continued feedback from our providers to inform the RFP.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Alright, so, we've got that on record. They said 2022, so...

[LAUGHTER IN CHAMBERS]

Folks know that, that just... That is very exciting to hear, because we have been, like, asking for this, but I am, ya'll are really ruining my... Because that means two concept papers, ya'll coming out back to back? All of them? Alright. Alright.

How can DYCD better support youth providers?

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: That is a great question to frame every day that I get up in the morning and come to work. How can we better support CBO providers? I think it's, like as I mentioned at some point, like, communication, coordination, stakeholder engagement. You mentioned that we are the funder, so funds are an important part of that [BACKGROUND NOISE] and how we structure contracts. So, I think we need to be conscious of what to... We need to be in communication with providers constantly about what they need from us. Because, you know, we have contracts and we have requirements of them, and I just think it's, uh, a two-way communication. And we... Darryl?



DEPUTY COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: Yes, and just adding, uh, how do we use our partnership as DYCD with the providers that we fund to mobilize them in neighborhoods -- to come together to meet the efforts that they are all trying to serve, uh, but doing the partnership? And how do we break the barriers of competition for funding versus, look, we have funding, and we're here in this neighborhood, and we are trying to meet the needs of young people, adults, and families. And how does DYCD help create that platform for them to work together?

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Yes, I think that that is really important just around... Because a lot of providers and folks in the community operate off a scarcity model, where it's like there is not enough to go around. And, I don't believe that, I think that there is always enough to go around and there is always need, and there's... it's always something that we are going to support. And, so, but that is how it has been set up for folks to compete against each other instead of saying, how are we working together for the collective goal and the collective impact? And so, I think it's going to take work, not only from DYCD, but the elected officials and

community leaders, to an understanding that we need to be looking at goals and how we are working towards the ultimate goal, which is supporting our young people and create space for them to be loved and appreciated and accepted. So, I agree, so, there is going to be some undoing that we have to do, because it's been drilled into them for so long that it's a competition.

And, then I have... We are wrapping up! We are coming to an end with these questions. Ya'll did a good job today. Shout out to you all.

What is the long term plan for funding for Summer Rising? It is currently funded through stimulus funding, which is drying up in 2025.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: Well, to start, I am very pleased that the Summer Rising budget, like, for DYCD contracted services, is baselined. So, that is very exciting, it puts us in a good position for planning for 2023.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: I, yeah, I think I said until 2025. But, I guess that is a ways away, so you don't... You want to talk about it in 2024? (CROSS-TALK)

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: Our funding is  
baselined. Our funding is baselined... (CROSS-TALK)

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Okay... (CROSS-TALK)

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: Our funding...  
Yeah... (CROSS-TALK)

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Okay, great.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HASKELL: Our funding is  
baselined.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Well, thank you to the  
administration for being here with us today. Like I  
just stated, thank you for answering the questions,  
and, as always, I am going to continue to push and  
ask questions and be that person. Because everyone  
knows how much I love our young people.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you, everyone. We are  
going to transition to public testimony shortly.

Thank you, everyone for your patience, we are  
going to transition to public testimony at this time.

I would now like to call on our first in person  
panel: Eddie Silverio, John Williams, and Dante  
Bravo.

You may begin your testimony when the sergeant  
starts your clock.

JOHN WILLIAMS: Good afternoon, thank you to Chair Stevens and the committee for giving me an opportunity to testify in support of expanded summer youth and year round employment for young New Yorkers.

My name is John Williams, I am the Co-Founder and CEO of Reel Works. We are a Brooklyn based youth arts and career development nonprofit that has mentored and trained thousands of young filmmakers citywide through in school, after school, and workforce programs for over 20 years. Today my testimony is about bringing our successful career exploration program MediaMKRS to additional youth through summer and year round SYEP.

I want to start by thanking Chair Stevens for your support of our CASA grant. It enabled us to bring our filmmaking programs to J.H.S. 022 in your district.

Our CASA partnerships are the first step in a continuum of opportunity that Reel Works provides young New Yorkers to discover film making, tell their stories, and explore a careers in film and television. A key component of that is internships - meaning paid internships starting in high school.

Through MediaMKRS, which is a partnership between Reel Works, The Mayor's Office Media and Entertainment, CUNY, and leading media companies, high school and CUNY students explore careers through multiple paid internships, over two to three years combined with workforce readiness training, one on one coaching and industry-backed credentials. We partner with over 80 employers including major studios like Paramount, Warner Brothers Discovery, NBCUniversal, Netflix, and Amazon.

What began as a work readiness program has become a jobs program with over 87% of our graduates securing employment -- once they enter the workforce -- within 12 months of graduation.

So, MediaMKRS works, our participants graduate with résumés and success, knowledge of industry, professional networks, and wrap around support as they seek employment. [TIMER CHIMES]

We strongly support year round youth employment as well as summer youth employment. And we are seeking to become a provider with SYEP when the opportunity arises. Until then, we are seeking opportunities to connect with providers with whom we

might sub contract to bring our services to New Yorkers.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Thank you, and thank you for your testimony. And, yes, I am excited about you guys being a CASA at J. H. S 22, one of my many schools, and look forward to expanding the work that you're doing in the Bronx as well.

JOHN WILLIAMS: Thank you so much.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Dante Bravo, are you testifying on behalf of...

DANTE BRAVO: (NO MICROPHONE) I am testifying on behalf of United Neighborhoods.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Got it, uh, you may begin when the sergeant starts your clock.

DANTE BRAVO: Thank you so much.

Thank you, Chair Stevens and members of the New York City Council, for the opportunity to testify. My name is Dante Bravo, and I am the Youth Policy Analyst over at United Neighborhood Houses (UNH). UNH is a policy organization that reaches New Yorkers from all walks of life.

Based on feedback from the larger CBO, community, UNH urges the City to consider the following for a successful Summer 2023:

Beacon and Cornerstone summer programming deserve cost-per-participant rates on par with their school-based alternatives, if not higher rates, given that these programs are responsible for facilities maintenance, more hours of operation, and many more concerns not present in a school based program.

The City must register the immediate payment of any outstanding contracts for any work done in Summer 2021 and Summer 2022, and implement procedures that allow for swift registration of contracts for all future services rendered.

And, finally, in the conversation in the of K through 8 summer programing, UNH does not support continuing the Summer Rising model -- the only available form of programming widely available to children and their families.

Summer Rising's model at best sidelines youth development in favor of saving young people as deficient because of their academic achievement. At worst, Summer Rising signals a gentrification of youth work from youth work professionals with largely women of color from their local communities being devalued from their expertise in a field that they have led in for decades in favor of largely white,

DOE led programming that has far more resources attached to it.

To reduce our young people to academic deficits - and then design programming exclusively on that basis -- ignores the urgency to recognize their creativity, resilience and strength throughout a collective traumatic event.

The City has yet to provide meaningful research to compel New York City's families to continue in this model despite the fact that traditional summer camp has positive academic benefits while it also teaches core skills that are difficult to attain in a classroom setting.

The City must restore power to CBOs to do the following:

1. Manage their own budgets without having to go through inefficient processes to justify their spending.

2. Maintain their own rosters so that if there are young people who cannot attend a CBOs programming, CBOs have the power to un-enroll that youth, so that the slot does not go to waste.



3. Maintain SACC licensing ratios of staff to youth and allow for budgets that account for the additional staff and OTPS costs. [TIMER CHIMES]

4. Access more recourses to support D75 district youth.

Non-academic experiences are what our young peoples' wealthier counterparts use to build skills in the summer; it is fundamentally unfair that students whose families cannot afford expensive private camp experiences must therefore experience summer school in order to access something similar.

Working families of all backgrounds deserve better options for their families than a program that essentially amounts to summer school with minimal amounts of recreation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. You can reach me at [bravo@unhny.org](mailto:bravo@unhny.org).

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Wow, I do know where to reach you. And this is the first time I am meeting you in person! I have been talking to you...

(CROSS-TALK)

DANTE BRAVO: I know [INAUDIBLE]...

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: over the last two years, this is crazy! So, very nice to meet you in person.

DANTE BRAVO: Lovely to meet you too, Council Member.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Very nice! You have legs, I see them. Look at that, I have legs, too! Alright, sorry.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you very much to this panel. We are going to transition to a virtual panel next.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Great.

DANTE BRAVO: Thank you so much.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: This will be our last panelist. I would like to call on Randi Levine to testify. You may begin with the sergeant starts your clock.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

RANDI LEVINE: (NO RESPONSE)

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time starts now.

RANDI LEVINE: Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you. I am unable to start my video it says the host has stopped it. But, I will, uhm, I can testify... (CROSS-TALK)

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: [INAUDIBLE] the hearing out. I'm sorry, you can continue.

RANDI LEVINE: Okay. Okay, I am still getting the error message on video that I am not allowed to turn it on, so I will testify.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you about Summer Rising and SYEP. My name is Randi Levine, and I am the Policy Director at Advocates for Children of New York.

Given our limited time, we will give just a few examples today of the barriers we have seen in the past and recommendations for change to help ensure that all students have access and the opportunity for full and meaningful participation in the City's summer programming.

We heard from families whose students with disabilities did not have the accommodations and supports they needed to participate in Summer Rising programs in place for the start of the summer, despite the City's legal obligation. Given how short the summer program is, the City should roll out a process for requesting and approving accommodations with enough time to ensure that the individualized support each student needs is in place for the first day of summer.

We heard from families whose children were unable to participate in afternoon enrichment activities because the DOE provided bus service only at 3:00 p. m. – and not at the end of the day at 6:00 p. m.

While the DOE offered a prepaid rideshare service for families to use a 6:00 p. m., it was rolled out just before the start of the summer – without time for families to make informed decisions about their children's summer participation – and required a parent to accompany the student in the car. This summer, the City should ensure that all students who need bus service to get to school, including students with disabilities, students living in shelter, and students in foster care who have a right to transportation, have bus service or a comparable door-to-door alternative to get to and from the full day of summer programming that does not rely on parents having to transport their children when it's the City's obligation to do so.

We also heard about the difficulty of finding available Summer Rising seats for children living in shelters given how quickly seats filled. The City should launch a strengths-based outreach plan to ensure families of historically marginalized groups

of students know about summer programs and have needed support in enrolling, including targeted outreach and support to families living in shelters and immigrant families, and should ensure there are seats available for students whose shelter or foster care placement changes...

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Alright, time expired.

RANDI LEVINE: after the enrollment period.

This past summer, the SYEP application and instructions were available online only in English – posing a barrier to the thousands of young people whose primary language is a language other than English. The City should ensure that SYEP information and applications are available in at least the nine most common languages that the application asks if youth need language support at their placements, and that the City allocates funding to make sure youth receive the language support they need to participate regardless of their home language. The City should also ensure that students who are undocumented have the opportunity to participate.

Our written testimony has a couple of additional recommendations. We look forward to working with you to ensure that all youth have the opportunity to

participate in summer programming. Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you, and I am happy to answer any questions that you may have.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you, Randi.

That concludes this panel.

I would like to do a last call just for any folks online, or for any folks in person, just to make sure anyone who has registered to testify had the opportunity to do so. Looks like we are all set.

I would now like to turn it over to Council Member Stevens for closing remarks.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Well, today's hearing was really about making sure that we are having the discussion and planning process start a lot earlier than any other year before. Because, as we know, in summer, there are so many moving parts that there is need for a lot of collaboration and communication. And that often does not happen, because we are rushing to put programs together. So, I am excited that we absolutely had an amazing summer where young people learned, thrived, and got new experiences. But my goal is always for us to be better and do better.

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COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

So, thank you all who have joined us today. I appreciate DYCD who came out, all of the advocates, and all of those who testified.

And with that, I conclude this hearing.

[GAVELING OUT] [GAVEL SOUND]

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 9, 2022