

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON JUVENILE JUSTICE

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January 16, 2019  
Start: 10:27 a.m.  
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HELD AT: 250 Broadway - Committee Rm.  
16<sup>th</sup> Fl.

B E F O R E: ANDY L. KING  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Inez D. Barron  
Mark Gjonaj  
Robert F. Holden  
Mark Levine  
Bill Perkins  
Jumaane D. Williams

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

Felipe Franco, Deputy Commissioner, Division of Youth and Family Justice, Administration for Children's Services

Sarah Hemmeter, Associate Commissioner for Close to Home, Administration for Children's Services

Julia Davis, Children's Defense Fund

Christine Pahigian, Executive Director of Friends of Island Academy

Chris Norwood, Executive Director Health People of the Bronx

Kevin Holmes, Mentor, Health People

Mickey Woods, Staff attorney, Juvenile Defense Unit New York County Defender Services

Kate Rubin, Director of Policy, Youth Represent

Nancy Ginsberg, IOS and Practice of the Criminal Trial Practice of the Legal Aid Society citywide

Rebecca Consala, Senior Social Worker, Adolescent Representation Team, Brooklyn Defender Services

Dawn Rowe, Executive Director and Founder of Girl Vow, an Adjunct Professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice

Saniya Jackson, 17-Year-Old Single Parent

Jackie Torres-Douglas, Assistant Vice President,  
Children's Village in Charge of: MST, Multisystemic  
Therapy & Family Therapy programs

2 [sound check] [pause] [gavel]

3 CHAIRPERSON KING: Good morning, good  
4 morning, good morning all. Peace and blessings 2019.  
5 Council Member Andy King. Excuse my tardiness, but  
6 construction does it to the best of us, increased-  
7 pulled out some of the stuff and a student attorney  
8 on the road, but I want to thank everyone this  
9 morning for coming out. As the Chair of the Justice-  
10 Juvenile Justice Committee here in the City Council,  
11 today's oversight conversation will examine the  
12 success rate of various programs in the city of New  
13 York that provides services to our justice involved  
14 youth. I want to thank everyone that's here to  
15 testify. As I spoke to Deputy Commissioner Franco,  
16 our biggest goal today is to understand what services  
17 or programs that are in place for our young people  
18 who are in our system, and how effectively they are.  
19 One of the primary objectives of the Criminal Justice  
20 System is to provide individuals with services and  
21 support necessary to promote rehabilitation, and  
22 avoid cycles—and avoid cycles of reoffending. This  
23 is particularly true of our Juvenile Justice System  
24 where our youth are heavily exposed to programming  
25 that aims to rehabilitate the child, assist in

2 maturation and set them on a path to success. To  
3 that end, each year the city spends millions, tens of  
4 millions of dollars on providing services to justice  
5 involved youth. Again, with the hope of providing  
6 children with the necessary skills to ensure they do  
7 not return back to a life of criminal conduct or just  
8 misconduct. However, for so much—so many youth,  
9 reoffending or recidivism becomes an unfortunate bump  
10 in the road of rehabilitation with strikingly high  
11 rates of such as reoffending. We are committed. I  
12 know the Commissions of ACS we all, and all the  
13 partners in there are committed to making sure that  
14 our young people who—who have missed steps do not  
15 come back into a system as we offer help to prevent  
16 recidivism. We're here today to re-examine what the  
17 city and individual service providers do to evaluate  
18 the success of the services provide to justice  
19 involved youth. To what extent does the city track  
20 reoffending when evaluating service providers? What  
21 other metrics [coughs] are being relied on to ensure  
22 that city money is being spent well in advancing the  
23 overall objectives of the Juvenile Justice System  
24 quote/unquote "rehabilitation." Today, I'm looking  
25 forward and the committee—we're all looking forward

2 to learning in greater detail about how the  
3 department [coughs] Division of Youth and Family  
4 Justice evaluates the success of their internal  
5 programs and hold contractor service providers to  
6 high standards to review—to assure [coughs] that the  
7 city money is being spent well, and our youth are  
8 receiving the rehabilitative services they need.  
9 With that all being said, I want to thank my staff  
10 and the committee staff for putting this hearing  
11 together. I want to thank all of the Council Members  
12 in attendance, Council Member Holden who is here  
13 today [coughs] as well as all you. I want to say  
14 forgive me for my throat. It's kind of like one of  
15 those things. Yesterday we had a great big Martin  
16 Luther King celebration coat giveaway for over a  
17 thousand kids in the neighborhood. So, my voice is a  
18 little shot. Again, happy birthday to Dr. Martin  
19 Luther King for all he's done, and I'm pretty sure if  
20 he was sitting in the room today, he'd be inspired by  
21 today's conversation by all of you committed to  
22 making sure that we improve the lives of every young  
23 brother whether they are from Georgia, Alabama,  
24 Israel, Portugal, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Dominican  
25 Republic, Italy, wherever they may range from,

2 today's conversation is about saving every youth that  
3 comes into the Juvenile Justice System regardless of  
4 their origin, and I know Dr. King would be inspired  
5 by all of our commitments, and making sure that  
6 tomorrow we have a brighter future for everyone that  
7 has endured the system, but more importantly having a  
8 real dialogue to make sure that this system doesn't  
9 fail the young people as this system across America  
10 has failed so many of Americans. As we know, the  
11 shutdown still exists today. That's a failure in a  
12 system that-that has hit on every American regardless  
13 of what your-what your start date was or where your  
14 vote date started or where you were born. So, with  
15 that all being said, I'm going to ask the  
16 Administration right now if you would kindly state  
17 your name for the record so you can take-be  
18 administered [coughs] the oath, and excuse me again  
19 for my voice.

20 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FRANCO: Felipe  
21 Franco, the Commissioner, Division of Youth and  
22 Family Justice.

23 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER HEMMETER: Sarah  
24 Hemmeter, Associate Commissioner for Close to Home,  
25 ACS.

2                   LEGAL COUNSEL: Thank you so much. Do you  
3 affirm to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing  
4 but the truth in your testimony before this  
5 committee, and to respond honestly to Council Member  
6 questions?

7                   ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER HEMMETER: I do.

8                   DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FRANCO: Yes.

9                   LEGAL COUNSEL: Thank you so much.

10                  DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FRANCO: You know,  
11 be-before I go into the testimony, Chair King  
12 actually brought up something to-to mind when we talk  
13 about effectiveness and the use of tax dollars in our  
14 Juvenile Justice System. You know, I think today  
15 we're going to talk about what we're doing in New  
16 York City, but I think we also-I myself have to think  
17 in terms of perspective where I've been before. This  
18 is the first time that actually I can testify in the  
19 Juvenile Justice System where we can talk about  
20 investments in things that make sense on behalf of  
21 kids. Sadly, you know, in my--my previous role  
22 either in the State of New York or actually  
23 previously in the state of New York State, most  
24 systems could testify about the significant amount of  
25 expense in facilities. In New York State it used to

2 be about \$280,000 a year a kid in a CFS facility, and  
3 we all knew that actually it comes down to where we  
4 need work and that 80% of them will come back to us  
5 within a couple of years. The fact that actually I  
6 want to talk today about how the city is better and  
7 safer than every before, but more importantly-  
8 importantly that we invest in-not just in facilities  
9 far, far away, but we're investing in-in programs  
10 that keep kids such a fully through mentoring, and  
11 probation and others in the community, and programs  
12 that actually keep kids close to home and their  
13 families. It's-it's a testimony to the wiseness of  
14 New York City. So, it's-it's kind of a good place to  
15 be compared to where I've been before.

16 CHAIRPERSON KING: Thank you.

17 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FRANCO: Good  
18 morning, Chair King, and members of the Committee on  
19 Juvenile Justice. I'm Felipe Franco, Deputy  
20 Commissioner for the Division of Youth and Family  
21 Justice. Division of Youth D-Y-F-J within the  
22 Administration for Children's Services. With me  
23 today is Sarah Hemmeter, Associate Commissioner for  
24 Community Based Alternatives and Close to Home.  
25 Thank you for the opportunity to testify this

2 morning. We appreciate the City Council's interest  
3 in young people we serve and ensuring that programs  
4 and services for that provide—produce positive youth  
5 outcomes. As you know, the Division of Youth and  
6 Family Justice administers a continuum of Juvenile  
7 Justice services, which includes community based  
8 services for youth and their families, detention  
9 services for youth who are arrested and awaiting  
10 court resolution and resident placement services and  
11 after care through Close to Home from youth are  
12 adjudicated by the Family Court. In the Division of  
13 Youth and Family Justice we—we strive to improve the  
14 life of children involve in the Juvenile Justice  
15 System, reduce their likelihood to further get  
16 involved in the Justice System, and advance public  
17 safety, preventing future reoffending, protecting  
18 public safety and enhancing youth and family  
19 wellbeing are our top priorities. To do this, we  
20 have made substantial investment through our  
21 continuum of practices that have—and programs that  
22 have been proven to be effective in producing these  
23 positive youth outcomes. Our directions are clearly  
24 working. From 2008 to 2017 the number of juvenile  
25 arrests, juvenile delinquency has decreased by 70%

2 from 13,564 to only 4,080. Prior to Raise the Age,  
3 the overall admissions to juvenile detention  
4 increased significantly year after year dropping from  
5 64% in Fiscal Year 2007 when there were nearly 6,000  
6 youth detained in the Juvenile Justice System to only  
7 2,126 in Fiscal Year 2017. Likewise, the number of  
8 youth in placement has decreased by almost 80% from  
9 2009 to 2017. The number of young people entering  
10 Close to Home placement declined 40% just from Fiscal  
11 Year 2017 to Fiscal Year 2018. A recent study by the  
12 Research and Evaluation Center at John Jay College of  
13 Criminal Justice came to us and remind that measuring  
14 the success of youth-of justice interventions  
15 involved more than just an analysis of recidivism.  
16 It requires a greater focus on positive youth  
17 outcomes. In the story by Dr. Jeffrey Bott he notes  
18 that when given proper reinforcement and the right  
19 supports, youth will learn over time to refrain from  
20 antisocial behavior that might otherwise result in-  
21 that actually will result in fewer Justice System  
22 involvement. In New York City-the New York City  
23 Juvenile Justice System focuses on ensuring youth's  
24 success in school, at home and in the community not  
25 just in their failures. We know that fewer youth are

2 being arrested than ever before in New York City and  
3 fewer—fewer youth are being admitted to detention.  
4 Few—fewer youth are being adjudicated and few young  
5 adults are entering the Criminal Justice System, but  
6 that's not enough. We cannot become complacent with  
7 our success in reducing delinquency. We need to  
8 ensure that the few youth that come in contact with  
9 the system are acquiring the skills and supports they  
10 and their families need to transition to becoming  
11 productive adults. Due to this commitment, the  
12 Division of Youth and Family Justice has  
13 intentionally expanded our array of authority and  
14 evidence based interventions throughout the  
15 continuum, which are targeted to positive youth  
16 development, strengthening family functioning and  
17 promoting a new trajectory for our youth away from  
18 criminal behavior, and into adult success. We are  
19 seeing the positive impact of these interventions are  
20 having across New York City. New York City is the  
21 safest it has been in decades. Crime in New York  
22 City has decreased over time in both adult and the  
23 Juvenile Justice System. Thousands of families  
24 continue to receive community based justice—justice  
25 preventive services through the Division of Youth and

2 Family Justice contracted providers this year while  
3 the number of youth entering detention in Close to  
4 Home continues to decline very markedly over of the  
5 past several years. I will now discuss all the  
6 interventions employed throughout the continuum and  
7 the ideas behind them. We know that for most young  
8 people the best way to provide positive outcomes is  
9 to support them with their families and community.  
10 Along with our partners are the Department of  
11 Probation and the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice  
12 with work engaged youth in programs and services in  
13 their homes and communities whenever possible. The  
14 most effective interventions not only engage the  
15 young people, but also treat the whole family. The  
16 Division of Youth and Family Justice Family  
17 Assessment Program, FAP, is available to families  
18 with youth up to age 18 to help avoid involvement in  
19 the Juvenile Justice System by providing service.  
20 The Family Assessment Program services help families,  
21 address difficult teenage behaviors such as truancy,  
22 using drugs, runaway from home and their struggles  
23 with mental illness. FAP services offer—offer  
24 parents the skills they need to support their  
25 children, enforce limits, and steer them to positive

2 activities. ACS has administered the Juvenile  
3 Justice Initiative which serve youth under the  
4 supervision of the New York City Department of  
5 Probation. Specifically JJI is a program for youth  
6 who have been adjudicated in the Family Court and  
7 improvising intensive services to keep youth with  
8 their families in their communities while under  
9 probation supervision. The Family Assessment Program  
10 under Juvenile Justice Initiative, JJI, use home  
11 based interventions. For example, family function  
12 and family therapy has decades of critical research  
13 that must rate them on FAP, reducing recidivism and-  
14 and/or also of offending between 25 and 60% more  
15 effectively than other programs, and significantly  
16 reduces the potential new offending for siblings of  
17 under previous adoptions. Similarly, more systemic  
18 therapy is an intensive family and community based  
19 treatment program that focuses on addressing factors  
20 that impact chronic and violent juvenile offenders,  
21 and has been proven effective in reducing recidivism  
22 and out-of-home placement, and improving family and  
23 peer relations. With Raise the Age, we have expanded  
24 our runaway throughout the program to meet the needs  
25 of older youth, and we are invested in new evidence

2 based programs such as multisystemic therapy, MST-  
3 Psychiatry for youth with high mental health needs.  
4 MSTTSB for youth with programmatic sexual behavior  
5 and MSTEA for emerging adults who don't have the  
6 family resources that they need to seek independence.  
7 ACS has to provide secure and non-secure detention  
8 services for youth 16 and under who have been  
9 arrested and detained while waiting for judges to  
10 hear their case in court as specialize secure  
11 detention for 16-year-old adults and offenders. As  
12 you know, the Raise the Age legislation actually  
13 requires New York City to move all 16 and 17-year-old  
14 out of Rikers Island to a facility needed to be  
15 certified as a special juvenile detention facility,  
16 and is only operated by the New York City Department  
17 of Corrections and ACS. Horizons in the Bronx has  
18 been licensed as those specialized juvenile detention  
19 facilities and houses young people transferred from  
20 Rikers Island as well as the newly arrested 17-year-  
21 olds that are not part of the Raise the Age Law yet.  
22 The youth that are placed in detention are often  
23 among the highest truants (sic) in New York City and  
24 who have experienced various traumas within their  
25 communities. The Division of Youth and Family

2 Justice youth classes (sic) the New York City model  
3 within our secure detention system. A lab tech from  
4 the nationally recognized New York City Services  
5 Institute (sic), NYCSI model, the New York City model  
6 is a therapeutic approach for working with youth in  
7 the Juvenile Justice System. Facilitators from our  
8 group interactions are at the core of this group  
9 process, and includes components of positive youth  
10 development and connected behavior to help youth make  
11 positive and long lasting changes in their thinking  
12 and in their behavior. These therapeutic components  
13 are delivered to youth in a fully integrated  
14 treatment approach for social emotional competencies  
15 to learn and practice and administered by care and  
16 skill and well trained staff who work together as a  
17 team to help youth make better decisions, manage the-  
18 manage their negative behaviors and thinking. With  
19 Raise the Age, New York City is working to help the  
20 reentry to have for the first reentry specialists in  
21 detention who will work with each youth, the youth  
22 case management and the young person's family to  
23 connect to youth and the family with services in the  
24 community for continued support after discharge. It  
25 has been well documented in a positive engagement of

2 the family and the community leads to improve  
3 outcomes in juvenile delinquency. Grounded in this  
4 knowledge, New York State and New York City  
5 established Close to Home in 2012. In only a few  
6 years Close to Home has been identified as a  
7 promising practice that a jurisdiction such as New  
8 Jersey Florida, Philadelphia, New York and others are  
9 looking to replicate, to reduce recidivism and help  
10 improve public safety. Close to Home allows for work  
11 to be seamlessly with the youth and the family and  
12 the community to ensure the factors that led--that  
13 led to delinquency in the first place are addressed  
14 before the youth returns to the community. In  
15 partnership with the Department of Probation, we at  
16 ACS have adopted the Risk needs framework, R&R and an  
17 evidence based assessment tool to the youth level of  
18 services wireless to carry that with intervention and  
19 ensure youth's likelihood to receive a grade. As I--  
20 as I stated before, we reducing delinquency in New  
21 York City is not enough. We have made--we have made a  
22 location a priority. We have worked in partnership  
23 with the New York City Department of Rehabilitation  
24 (sic) District 79 in this effort. In 2016-17, school  
25 year, there were 177 Close to Home youth enrolled in

2 the Passages Academy, and the other youth persons  
3 passed 91% of their courses and earned a 9—and earned  
4 9.3 credits. Of the Close to Home youth who took the  
5 New York Regents exams, almost half of them passed,  
6 and parents and family engagement restricted a  
7 component to our work with DOE. The youth living  
8 close to home in 2016, 224 of them, 81% were released  
9 to their parents or other family member. As you have  
10 heard today, the New York City—New York City has  
11 become a national model in Juvenile Justice System  
12 reform. As many jurisdictions and destination and  
13 world, we see that growing as an effort to  
14 understand—understand how we have achieved—how  
15 achieved such a decrease in juvenile arrest and in—  
16 and include back and forth youth. In March of 2018,  
17 the Columbia University Justice—Justice Lab  
18 published. *Does Keeping Youth Close to Home really*  
19 *matter: A Case Study*, and a full report will be  
20 published in a few months in 2019. In April of 2018,  
21 the Federal Department of Education conducted a  
22 webinar to highlight the positive educational  
23 outcomes achieved by Close To Home. In February,  
24 2018, the Center for Children loan on policy funded  
25 through the Annie Casey Foundation published

2 Implementation of the New York Close to Home

3 Initiative, a new model for youth justice. All of

4 these stories and reports by independent entities

5 have reaffirmed that New York City is doing what is

6 right. We at ACS believe that we should take a close

7 look at the—at the impacts of our work, and do more

8 further research on recidivism and positive with

9 outcomes. Recidivism is an important method that we

10 and—we and New York State will be examining in the

11 near future, and we will continue to expand the ways

12 in which we examine youth outcomes and—and how we can

13 reduce juvenile delinquencies and improve outcomes

14 for youth in New York City. Thanks for the

15 opportunity to discuss the support of the Division of

16 Youth and Family Justice provides for youth in our

17 Juvenile Justice continuum to promote positive youth

18 development and improve youth outcomes. We have made

19 deliberate efforts to connect young people to our

20 Juvenile Justice System Continuum with the services

21 and interventions they need to address their unique

22 needs, driving the community and further youths that

23 are involved Juvenile Justice System. We know that

24 there is still more work to be done. Nevertheless,

25 we should be proud of having a Juvenile Justice

2 System that focus on Youth outcomes and the safest  
3 city in the nation. We are now happy to take your  
4 questions.

5 CHAIRPERSON KING: Thank you.

6 Commissioner, I appreciate it [coughs] and Associate  
7 Commissioner, now you're Sarah.

8 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER HEMMETER:

9 Hemmeter.

10 CHAIRPERSON KING: Hem-Hem-Hemmeter?

11 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER HEMMETER:

12 Correct.

13 CHAIRPERSON KING: Got. Yeah, I got it.

14 So, thank you for breaking down the system of what is  
15 in place that's designed to help young people not  
16 return back into the system. Council Member Holden  
17 and I were--proceed to just go into questions to get  
18 more details--

19 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER HEMMETER:

20 [interposing] Uh-hm.

21 CHAIRPERSON KING: --of-of what that

22 really looks like with the goal that, you know, of

23 having on the record the success stories within your

24 system, and how do you manage those agencies or

25 organizations or CBOs that we've given funding to who

2 have not been successful because at the end of the  
3 day, I don't want to see those getting paid and our  
4 children keep going back in through the door. You  
5 know, if you're going to do it, let's do it right.  
6 So, we'll get a person on the right track so they can  
7 go a lot and be productive and-and have their own  
8 families and be a functioning father or functioning  
9 mother or a functioning individual in society. That  
10 should be the ultimate goal. So, I'm just going to  
11 jump right into a couple of questions that we have  
12 here because I'd really like to get an idea from the  
13 start how many programs can you say that we have in  
14 the system right now that ACS is contracted with  
15 that's designed to help prevent recidivism? Is the  
16 first question, and I'd like to know how successful  
17 have they been, and what is success for the system so  
18 we can get an idea of what that means in reality for  
19 our children? I'll start there.

20 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FRANCO: Uh-hm. I  
21 mean I think the way to think about it is based on  
22 the--to the parts of the continuum we have a  
23 significant number of investments. I think I  
24 mentioned them in terms of evidence based programs as  
25 part of our community based alternatives. Some of

2 them are part of the Family Assessment Program, and—  
3 and, you know, so the Commissioner is going to have a  
4 different talk about those programs, and some of  
5 actually in partnership with the Department of  
6 Probation and the Juvenile Justice Initiative. I  
7 think it is important to open up saying that many of  
8 these programs that have been proven to reduce  
9 recidivism without outcome research, they don't do it  
10 on their own. I mean so I think that it's important  
11 that program are not seen as individual programs.  
12 There are part of the continuum. So, for example, I  
13 used to be a functioning family therapist many, many,  
14 many years ago, and a lot of the work that I used to  
15 do when I was a provider was to work with the family  
16 and young person to improve communication, develop  
17 hope. But that's why it is very, very important to  
18 set up limits, and one of the things that I used to  
19 do as a clinician was to actually help the parent and  
20 the youth identify programs in the community that  
21 actually would be connected to, to ensure that  
22 actually leisure time and peers were new. So, in a  
23 way, FAP was kind of capacitating families to be able  
24 to navigate many of the programs that exist in your  
25 neighborhood and my neighborhood, and then making

2 sure that those kids were connected to those networks  
3 of support. When we go to Close to Home, which we  
4 could talk about the different providers that we  
5 have, and how we able to rate their performance,  
6 again, the purpose of Close to Home particularly in  
7 non-secure placement is that we actually  
8 intentionally make sur that young people are being-  
9 practicing new behaviors and new peer networks before  
10 they return home. So, most young people in Close to  
11 Home, and again the Associate Commissioner are having  
12 her go into details, they actually have a period  
13 where they actually are going home on weekends with  
14 supervision where they actually have to be connected  
15 to partners such as the YMCA and the Boys and Girls  
16 Club, and baseball leagues. So, again, all of these  
17 programs in New York City by the way they have been  
18 designed, really take advantage and normalizing those  
19 periods and connecting young people to social  
20 activities. When we get to detention, particularly  
21 in secure detention where we're limited by-by having-  
22 being able to help young people to go outside in  
23 secure detention. We actually intentionally have  
24 built programming that is actually based on having  
25 many of the folks who are in the community coming in,

2 and, you know, in there's at least about 16 different  
3 programs that are on a typical week go to Horizons.  
4 These are programs that actually are available in the  
5 community to other the kids. They actually in a way  
6 come in to the facility to ensure that young people  
7 understand that thy can be connected to those  
8 programs with their release. So, I think the  
9 framework has to be that New York City is different  
10 than many other places, have understood that actually  
11 it's through the normal life and experience of  
12 connecting families and young people to programs in  
13 the community, which we have and we're lucky compare  
14 to other places to have, so that those programs have  
15 the long lasting and supportive relationships. But I  
16 think your question and answer is about how are we  
17 sure that the programs in the community with  
18 alternatives in Close to Home and in detention are  
19 working? And we have a very strong set of  
20 accountability measures that we can go into detail  
21 for our preventive programs for our detention  
22 programs and for our Close to Home programs. I mean  
23 we have an Office of Planning, Policy and Performance  
24 whose only job is actually to ensure particularly the  
25 monitoring of Close to Home programs and when they

2 don't do well, we intervene quickly. I mean we  
3 either put them on higher (sic) monitoring or we put  
4 them on the Correction Advisement Plan, and it's not  
5 unusual for me in a typical week to have to meet the  
6 Executive Directors of an agency or even sometimes  
7 with the board members when they're not doing well.

8 CHAIRPERSON KING: So, Deputy  
9 Commissioner, I'll just stop you there because we had  
10 a meeting [coughs] and I just want to get it on the  
11 record. I want to get on the record some specific in  
12 details. We might not be able to cover everything in  
13 the interest of time, but what I want to put on the  
14 record is you gave us therapy programs in your  
15 testimony about the therapy, the structure of what  
16 you're looking to deliver. I'd like to get in some  
17 specifics of what programs that are being brought  
18 into the homes that these young men and women are--  
19 have to learn from--

20 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER HEMMETER:  
21 [interposing] Uh-hm.

22 CHAIRPERSON KING: --and understand  
23 whatever their names some of them might be sick in  
24 the room right now, but I-I need to know for the  
25 record what kind of program are we having young

2 people learning how to tie a tie? Are people coming  
3 and learning how to do Algebra. Are people learning  
4 how to do arts and are people coming—people come in  
5 and teaching young people how to stand upright or sit  
6 right or—

7 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER HEMMETER: Uh-hm.

8 CHAIRPERSON KING: --or what side a fork  
9 goes on or how to hold a glass. I'm trying to get  
10 some structure of exactly what are they being taught,  
11 and then from there we can understand whether these  
12 programs are successful or help them go back out into  
13 society or not, and how do you gauge those CBOs or  
14 those organizations who are walking in the door—

15 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER HEMMETER: Uh-hm.

16 CHAIRPERSON KING: --and saying this is  
17 what we delivered today. This is what we delivered  
18 for the last six months, and then we could say, well,  
19 why are they back here because they're having the  
20 same challenge and they went back out, and now  
21 they're back in, and they still can't demonstrate  
22 that they learned anything. So, now we engage that  
23 CBO on whether they were successful, and then we say  
24 no you don't get another contract because you were  
25 here for the last year and this guy still doesn't

2 know how to tie a tie. So, I'm saying to you that's  
3 why I want details like that. What programs are in-  
4 in the houses that these kids are exposed to, and how  
5 you measure the success of them, and whether we got  
6 to put them on blasters (sic) so be it, but that's so  
7 that we can understand how successful or who is  
8 doing--actually doing the work other than just having  
9 a contract and getting paid.

10 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FRANCO: I mean I-  
11 again, I think we--maybe we--we could take on Close to  
12 Home and maybe Sarah and I can talk about how many of  
13 the things that you're talking about are actually the  
14 elements of the program, and I think elements of the  
15 Close to Home day-to-day. I mean and again from  
16 waking up in the morning and, you know, doing what  
17 you need to do to be able to get in school on time,  
18 to making sure that actually you are ready to  
19 participate in entry when you're going to go for  
20 Summer Youth employment, and that's what our Close to  
21 Home programs do and maybe we'll begin there and then  
22 I can tell you a little bit more about what we do in  
23 detention.

24 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER HEMMETER: Yeah,  
25 I-I would just add that, you know, the--the programs

2 that we have are a continuum of programs as well, and  
3 so what we try to do on the community based side and  
4 also on the Close to Home side is match the youth  
5 with the right program that's going to address  
6 whatever the most pressing issue for that young  
7 person and their family are. So, for instance in the  
8 Family Assessment Program, we have a continuum of  
9 services that range from those therapeutic  
10 interventions like Functional Family Therapy and  
11 Multi-Systemic Therapy, but we also have mentoring  
12 programs and other things so that we can look at the  
13 youth holistically and say, what does this young  
14 person need, and how do we get them what they need?  
15 That being said, the Multisystemic Therapy and  
16 Functional Family Therapy are not just therapeutic  
17 programs. That's a big component of those programs,  
18 but they're also doing the things that you're talking  
19 about as well, which is trying to figure out how the  
20 young person can practice skills within the—in their  
21 own communities so they have skills coaches and other  
22 things that are working with young people so that  
23 they can inter—the practicing interview skills, and  
24 practicing talking to adults in a way that is not  
25 offensive, things like that so that they can come

2 back from wherever they are whether that's in Close  
3 to Home or whether they are in the community, and be  
4 able to do those things well. So, I just wanted to  
5 frame it in that context as well, and in Close to  
6 Home what we also do is we have I think the Deputy  
7 Commissioner referenced this in his testimony with  
8 the risk needs responsivity factors. So, we are  
9 using an evidence based tool to look at seven  
10 different domains that affect criminogenic behavior  
11 of young people. So, whether that's the--the use of  
12 the young person's leisure time, there are [coughs]  
13 substance use issues, if there are any of those.  
14 Their schooling and--and what they need there, and we  
15 are targeting specific factors for that young person  
16 so that we can provide those services to that young  
17 person to address those needs so that they do not  
18 come back into the system.

19 CHAIRPERSON KING: Okay. We were joined  
20 by Council Member Gjonaj from the Bronx as well. I  
21 want to--you probably have to get this information  
22 back to us later to the committee, but I think an  
23 ideal number of how many programs--

24 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FRANCO: Uh-hm.

2 CHAIRPERSON KING: -- are actually in the  
3 system.

4 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FRANCO: Okay.

5 CHAIRPERSON KING: Because if there are  
6 36-30 programs in the system, then we could evaluate  
7 each program and the effectiveness of the system. I  
8 don't--wheat I'm hearing, I'm just--I'm hearing a--I'm  
9 hearing the therapeutic conversation and I don't want  
10 to say blah, blah, blah, blah, blah, blah, but I want  
11 to hear detail of who was in the room and what are  
12 they doing, and how successful are they, and how are  
13 these young brothers and sisters improving their  
14 lives. That's how we can assess if it's Johnny Joe's  
15 therapeutic jump-arounds, whatever they are. Now we  
16 can go and cry--have a criteria on who they are. But  
17 then, I'll also ask you how do you gauge your  
18 success? Who was in the room that came up with the  
19 matrix of how you evaluate programs? Is it the CBOs?  
20 Is it the Administration? Is there doctors who are  
21 in the room who comprises of all of this evaluation?

22 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FRANCO: I believe  
23 that--that is a fair question. I mean I think I'm  
24 going to take your example of who teaches a kid to  
25 tie their tie. You know, I don't wear a tie

2 everyday. I did it today because of here. So, for  
3 example, if we're—if you're working in one of the  
4 programs outside I was talking about like MSD and  
5 MFP, one of the things that actually the clinician  
6 will do is do a unigram, and they will try to  
7 identify folks in the life of the kid who could be a  
8 good influence, but it could be an uncle. It could  
9 be a friend of the family or someone at the church  
10 who actually has a job where they wear a tie, and we  
11 will actually tap into those people who wear a tie.  
12 In detention, you know, and I think you may know  
13 this. We've talked about this before. We have a  
14 significant number of programs we're coming in to  
15 work with the kids where they're incarcerated or  
16 detained, and again, you know, one of them is wearing  
17 a suit. So they're really good at doing that,  
18 teaching kids how to put up a tie. But, you know, we  
19 have all the pictures, we have exemplify. We have  
20 good vow, we have yeah-yeah thinking. We have  
21 artistic knowing. We have Lead by Example and we  
22 have the Animation (sic) Project. We have Urban  
23 Heartbeats. We have the International Child program.  
24 We have Elite Learner. We have Proud by Design. We  
25 have Share New York City. We have Companion, which

2 is really popular around culinary arts. You know,  
3 the Westchester Barber Academy, the American Red  
4 Cross. A new program around coffee and Baristas, and  
5 Division Power, Giant Thinking. So, I was proud to  
6 design something. We—we have a significant number of  
7 programs who come in and do a piece of the puzzle. I  
8 think I would be cautious, too, though Councilman and  
9 anyone here that all of those pieces of the puzzle  
10 are part of something bigger that will actually help  
11 a young person do well, and exactly what you and I  
12 will do for our kids we want them to be in sports and  
13 music and other areas. But because we just don't  
14 want my kids to recidivism (sic) because we want them  
15 to be part of this program, and I wanted to evaluate  
16 the hiring of Annie Marie (sic) Program in terms of  
17 recidivism, and whatever there is and how they will  
18 deal with my kids around the gymnastics, which is  
19 that she does there I mean so—so all of these  
20 programs, and the ability of New York City actually  
21 having a self-contained system allows us and the  
22 Council and all of those before me to connect kids to  
23 all of those meaningful experiences, and not one of  
24 them on its own is going to reduce recidivism.

2 CHAIRPERSON KING: Okay. I'm going to  
3 move into another part of planning. I'd like to know  
4 does every young person who comes into the system is  
5 there a discharge plan or services created for  
6 everyone who comes in or is it just specific for  
7 young people who are a high risk or particularly  
8 getting in trouble, and are they part of their own  
9 discharge plan as well?

10 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FRANCO: Okay, maybe  
11 the big picture again. Every one of the programs  
12 that being in the community as alternatives. All of  
13 those programs even though they may be limited in  
14 time, may six, eight or nine months of intervention,  
15 all of them, however, is going to generate a section  
16 phase where young people have to be connected to  
17 things that are going to be there for the rest of  
18 their lives. I mean education, family support. When  
19 we get to detention, and again this is something that  
20 has been kind of very focused about this  
21 administration, young people who are I detention  
22 maybe discharged within a matter of days. Actually,  
23 most of them can be discharged within a matter of  
24 days. Our role is to make sure that they all get  
25 exposed to these programs and they would begin (sic)

2 begin their participation afterwards. Many of the  
3 young people who come through detention they're  
4 being—being adjudicated to Close to Home or they may  
5 be placed under the Department of Probation, and even  
6 in probation only Close to Home there's a significant  
7 amount of planning and dreaming (sic) and  
8 coordination. In Close to Home we could talk about  
9 it, which I think we should, but it really depends on  
10 has a plan that begins on day one, and actually it's  
11 a discharge plan and aftercare plan.

12 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER HEMMETER: Yeah,  
13 and so that also goes to that just needs responsivity  
14 framework as well, and so as we are assessing the  
15 youth in terms of what—where we want to target  
16 specific services, the young person is also involved  
17 in that service planning as well, and we are asking  
18 the young person and their family what does this  
19 young—what does he or she like to do? What can we  
20 connect the young person with? So, they are very  
21 involved in—in planning the services for themselves  
22 along with their parents and other folks. We have a  
23 group of—of people who lead family team conferences  
24 at regular intervals along the life of the case in  
25 Close to Home where we are bringing together the

2 youth, the parents or the caretaker whoever is going  
3 to be taking care of the young person, the providers  
4 and bringing everybody together and looking at the  
5 service plan, reviewing it, making sure that things  
6 are on track and going well, and if not, what do we  
7 need to do in order to tweak that plan so the young  
8 person is succeeding? But he or she is definitely  
9 involved in that service—in planning those services  
10 for themselves.

11 CHAIRPERSON KING: So you mentioned—okay,  
12 I'm glad to hear that a young person gets and  
13 opportunity to sit down and number of people assess  
14 them and evaluate them and say this is what you need—  
15 -

16 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER HEMMETER:  
17 [interposing] Yep.

18 CHAIRPERSON KING: --and opposed to  
19 listening to them and saying this is what I would  
20 like to—need as well.

21 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER HEMMETER: Right.

22 CHAIRPERSON KING: You mentioned the  
23 families are part of day one's conversations as well?

24 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER HEMMETER: Yes

2 CHAIRPERSON KING: So, a lot of young  
3 people, well most of them, or if they don't—God  
4 forbid that they have to go to a bigger jail, adult  
5 jails that they go back into the community--

6 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER HEMMETER: Uh-hm.

7 CHAIRPERSON KING: --do you connect with  
8 those sometimes because of whatever lack of support  
9 they may end up connecting with the same people who  
10 got them there from the start.

11 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER HEMMETER: Yep.

12 CHAIRPERSON KING: Do you ever in the—in  
13 the scope of your conversations with individuals ever  
14 bring some their close friends into the mix to help  
15 them understand we—we're kind of like extending the  
16 services not only for those who are in the system,  
17 but those who they might return to because they have—  
18 they have Jose's best friend is—is—is Jacob outside.  
19 He's going to still go back to hang out with Jacob,  
20 but if Jacob is still living the life, do we connect  
21 with them and allow them to be part of these service  
22 plans as well?

23 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER HEMMETER: Yeah.

24 So, the—the—those friends are not part of the actual  
25 service planning piece of it because we want it to be

2 focused around that—the young person's specifically  
3 and making sure that they are getting what they need.  
4 However, if they are connected to the Police Athletic  
5 League or the YMCA or some other organization like  
6 that, then there is definitely an encouragement to  
7 bring peers along and to help them also figure out  
8 what they need. We are definitely looking at peer  
9 relations also, and if there are negative peers that  
10 they young person is—is hanging around with, how do  
11 we help them either make better choices or figure out  
12 how to navigate that so that they are not—that they  
13 are not falling back into bad behaviors with those  
14 negative peers.

15 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FRANCO: And—and peer  
16 networks is something that actually when we look at  
17 the data, you know, we know the parents have been on  
18 probation (sic) is one of the factors that is very  
19 predictive of criminogenic behavior. So, one of the  
20 things that actually the City Council invested and  
21 pushed the agency to do is invest more in on the Cure  
22 Violence Continuum, and that has actually been very  
23 effective for those young people that we know  
24 actually are adhering (sic) to their activity to have  
25 these credible messengers in each one of the boroughs

2 that actually are doing what we cannot do. They know  
3 how to help a young person navigate away from those  
4 negative peer networks and they—they're—you know,  
5 this is what they do. They comingle with young  
6 people in detention, and in Close to Home, and  
7 they're still helping figure out how you're going to  
8 get back to your neighborhood in Far Rockaway, South  
9 Bronx or elsewhere and be able to be—be able to  
10 safely not affiliate with those negative behaviors  
11 any more.

12 CHAIRPERSON KING: Okay. We've been  
13 joined by Council Member—Councilwoman Barron from  
14 Brooklyn in the house. [laughs] I do want to help  
15 make this a good conversation. So, I know Council  
16 Members, of course, has comments as well. So, I'd  
17 like to turn the mic over right now to Council Member  
18 Holden.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Thanks,  
20 Commissioner for your testimony. I attended a joint  
21 hearing last month with the Cultural Affairs  
22 Committee, and the Criminal Justice Committee. We—we  
23 had the Department of Probation talk about their  
24 creative programs in—in connecting youth with the  
25 arts in poetry, the visual arts. There were

2 photographers in the room that were connected. That  
3 was probably the best hearing I have attended and  
4 that's such a great program. It s sounds like a  
5 wonderful program. They actually produced a  
6 magazine, the--the students. So, investments like  
7 that, I think we know are working and--because the  
8 students actually went on, and they were--they got out  
9 of the program and went into careers in--in the arts.  
10 So, I think if we can invest more in that area,  
11 because when I was interviewing a young man who was  
12 trying to get into the Army, he needed a letter from  
13 the Councilman and--and I sat down and interviewed  
14 him. He was in the Criminal Justice--in and out of  
15 the Criminal Justice system. I asked him what are  
16 your interests? What do you like to do? And he  
17 didn't know. He had nothing, and in--in hearing that,  
18 I said well that's what we need to--to focus on to  
19 get, you know, find what--what do you like to do,  
20 what's your interests to get them into whether it's a  
21 trade, whether it's the arts. Whatever it is, we  
22 need to focus on that to get--get them out of the, you  
23 know, gang activity, and maybe sometimes away from  
24 the neighborhood.

25 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER HEMMETER: Uh-hm.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: You know, away  
3 from hanging out with their friends. So, getting  
4 them an interest and then when they find out they're  
5 good at something, then I think they could lead  
6 productive lives. So, I think that's very important  
7 and—and I'd like to hear some investment as to how we  
8 plan to increase the support of programs like what  
9 the Department of Probation is doing.

10 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FRANCO: Yeah, I mean  
11 kudos to the Department of Probation, the work  
12 they're doing with the NeON Arts programs. It's just  
13 amazing, and again, as you know, I think I mentioned  
14 in the testimony whenever possible we want our people  
15 to be supervised and made accountable in their  
16 community. I—I will extend an invitation to everyone  
17 here February 1<sup>st</sup> is actually the Close to Home  
18 Carnegie Hall concert. Our young people in Close to  
19 Home have been working for the last three months in  
20 writing songs, and producing a concert at Carnegie  
21 Hall at 6:00 p.m. We'll make sure everyone gets an  
22 invitation, but there's no better place to see the  
23 parent of our young people and, you know, what we  
24 have learned the last five or six years of research  
25 in the work with Carnegie Hall is not just that they

2 produce an amazing piece of work, a concert, a CD, is  
3 it actually did become long lasting super  
4 relationships. Many of the young people who—who have  
5 been part of these programs in Close to Home for  
6 months and months while in placement continue to go  
7 inside of Carnegie Hall and some of them actually—I  
8 met one of them recently that actually is working at  
9 Carnegie Hall. So, their ability—so as you said,  
10 it's a big industry, right. It's not just about  
11 being a performer. It's about, you know, working in  
12 the union, and working in the stage, working in the—  
13 in setting up the—the—the productions. I mean we  
14 actually had through Carnegie Hall been able to place  
15 some kids in Summer Stage in Central Park, and—and w  
16 need to do more of that. We actually I believe that  
17 we'll get the invitation probably even next week in  
18 Queens with another one of our really good providers  
19 called the Kite who does a lot of spoken word work,  
20 and they are going to have a poetry café for again  
21 young people in the system. And—and I think you  
22 know, the city is full of opportunities through film  
23 and media and arts and theater, and it's something  
24 that we need to tap, and work on many advice. (sic)

2 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Yes. So I think we-  
3 but we need a plan to expand these programs because  
4 again giving, you know, the young people an  
5 alternative and actually expanding the Mentoring  
6 Program because every, you know, really that's what I  
7 think many of them are lacking in their lives at this  
8 point, somebody to actually to talk to them and tell  
9 them, you know--just show them the ropes. Show them  
10 how to survivor out there, and--and with, you know,  
11 without a life of crime, but--

12 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FRANCO:  
13 [interposing] And again, I would say we have adopted.  
14 I mean we--we jus released an RFP on mentoring, and  
15 maybe Sarah can talk about that program. We--we  
16 understood that program is focused on the family and  
17 it's essential and important, but programs that focus  
18 on getting some one in the youth is actually  
19 essential, and now we have this new program that get  
20 to kids before they get into Juvenile Justice System.  
21 We shouldn't wait until they get into probation and  
22 to Close to Home or to detention.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Sure.

24

25

2 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FRANCO: These new  
3 program are available to anyone before then. Do you  
4 want to talk?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: [interposing] So,  
6 what is—what are the programs that are working? I  
7 think that's what Councilman King was talking about.  
8 What are some programs that are really wonderful and—  
9 and have proven to be really worthwhile?

10 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER HEMMETER: Yeah.  
11 I mean so just for the mentoring program just  
12 started, and so we're just in the beginning phases of  
13 that. I think the contracts were just registered in  
14 November of last year. So, it is still a new  
15 initiative and so we hope to see good outcomes for  
16 that just because we know that mentoring is a good  
17 option for kids, and that it isn't just the  
18 therapeutic programs that—that we generally have had  
19 in place. We wanted to expand to other things, and  
20 not that the therapeutic programs aren't good. I  
21 think those also work for kids very well as well, but  
22 some of the arts programs that Felipe was just  
23 mentioning the Carnegie Hall program is amazing for  
24 kids to get them exposed to other opportunities is—is  
25 a really great program for kids. We have programs

2 the Girls Vow, which works with kids, young women  
3 writing poetry and doing spoken word. A lot of those  
4 things we have seen success in as well. I don't know  
5 if you want to--other?

6 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FRANCO: Yeah, I mean  
7 I think to the point about Council Member, maybe we  
8 should provide you like a big inventory of all the  
9 programs that we have and--and--

10 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: [interposing]  
11 Yeah, I--and I'd like to attend some of those.

12 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FRANCO: [interposing]  
13 We're talking about all.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Yes.

15 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FRANCO: Please--  
16 please, everyone pencil in February 1<sup>st</sup> at Carnegie  
17 Hall.

18 CHAIRPERSON KING: What time?

19 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FRANCO: 6:00.

20 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER HEMMETER: I think  
21 it's at--

22 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FRANCO: 6:00.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Good. Uh-hm.  
24 Could--could I ask one--one more?

25 CHAIRPERSON KING: Yes.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Alright. In  
3 visiting Horizons the facility, I-I wasn't very  
4 impressed with it, and it needs a lot of work. Did  
5 they open the recreational yard yet? Because that  
6 was due in January sometime. They were-they were  
7 still under construction. Is that open yet?

8 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FRANCO: Yeah, I  
9 know, we-we still are using the-the indoor-indoor  
10 courtyard.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: [interposing]  
12 Yeah, it's a-it's--

13 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FRANCO: We have to  
14 use that.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: --claustrophobic.

16 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FRANCO: And-and  
17 there's actually a new plan to kind of make some of  
18 the outdoor space available. I don't have to tie  
19 them in with me, but I could get it to you.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Yeah, they told  
21 us January or February that it would be open. Are we  
22 nearing that because it didn't look like much work  
23 was going on there, and I just felt if I was in that  
24 facility-you try to put yourself-when you visit a  
25 facility you try to say well if I was one of the

2 people here, living here and I just felt—I—I just I  
3 couldn't breathe in there and—and—and you would want  
4 outdoor space for the young people to, you know—you  
5 know, get some—get some, you know, activity, run  
6 around, you know, even in—in January or February  
7 would be useful.

8 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FRANCO: Uh-hm.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: The fact that it  
10 opened up and it wasn't ready, it—it was—it was  
11 really kind of sad and the indoor space was old. I  
12 didn't—I thought it, you know, from the outside it  
13 would be nice. It wasn't. It's not airy. It's very  
14 confining. I don't think it's much better than  
15 Rikers, to tell you the truth. So, it's just that  
16 they go into that facility and yes maybe they're  
17 getting some programs. It's just everything is small  
18 and confined. I hope that that outdoor space can be  
19 opened as soon as possible.

20 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FRANCO: I—I will get  
21 to you and into the department beside construction,  
22 but yes, it intends to open additional outdoor space  
23 this year.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: But we don't have  
25 a month yet?

2 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FRANCO: I-let me-no  
3 I don't have it with me.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Okay.

5 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FRANCO: I can get it  
6 to you.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Okay, if you-you  
8 think because that's very, very important I think for  
9 young people to have, you know, a soccer field and to  
10 have outdoor space where they could-they could, you  
11 know, actually get into sports a little bit--

12 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FRANCO: Uh-hm.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: --rather than  
14 being in a very confining space especially for young  
15 people.

16 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FRANCO: Yes, yes,  
17 they have--

18 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: [interposing]  
19 Even old people--[laughs]

20 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FRANCO: Or for  
21 anyone.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: --but young  
23 people especially need to-to, you know, burn off some  
24 energy.

25 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FRANCO: I agree.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Thank you.

3 CHAIRPERSON KING: Thank you Council  
4 Member Holden. I'm going to ask you if you can get  
5 to the committee maybe a breakdown of everyone who is  
6 providing therapeutic services--

7 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FRANCO: Uh-hm.

8 CHAIRPERSON KING: --and what therapeutic  
9 actually means, and then also those who are providing  
10 mentoring services, and then those who are providing  
11 skill services, and like Council Member Holden said,  
12 everything is not all about sitting there and you  
13 analyzing what's in my brain. Maybe if I just run  
14 and jump and--

15 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER HEMMETER:

16 [interposing] Yes.

17 CHAIRPERSON KING: --you know, do some  
18 boxing or just kick a ball, shoot a ball, you know  
19 half my other anxieties go and some of my other  
20 challenges that are in my head disappears as well.  
21 So, if you can give us that kind of breakdown then we  
22 can really start assessing who is delivering those  
23 programs and form a little three categories who are  
24 actually delivering because again I don't want us to  
25 be wasting money just paying programs who are not

2 delivering because again, I don't want us to be  
3 wasting money just paying programs who are not  
4 delivering on our young people. So, they keep going  
5 back into-back and forth into the system when they-  
6 their ultimate goals is to making sure young people-  
7 well that depends. If your ultimate goal is to not  
8 to have people come back because see in some cases  
9 when you provide enough services you end up putting  
10 yourself out of a job because there's no one to  
11 service. So, I'm just calling it for what it is.  
12 We've been joined Council Member Levine and if you  
13 don't have a comment I'd like to turn it over to  
14 Council Member Gjonaj.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Thank you,  
16 Chairman. Just to follow up on Councilman Holden's  
17 question about the Horizon facility that visit that  
18 the tour that we had was quite educational, and at  
19 that meeting, you recall, we brought up-in particular  
20 I brought up some of the safety concerns.

21 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FRANCO: Uh-hm.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Have those been  
23 addressed?

24 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FRANCO: Yeah, I  
25 remember clearly you having feedback around fire

2 signatures, and we worked with the Fire Department  
3 immediately and those were taken care of. You also  
4 had, if I remember and please remind me there were a  
5 lot of people on that tour. So, I made sure about  
6 maybe looking at further safety in the light  
7 fixtures, and those actually have been changed. If  
8 there were other things, I mean please remind me and  
9 I will look into them.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: I had mentioned  
11 about 10 items at that point, and my concern is for  
12 the safety and the wellbeing of the young men and  
13 women that are in the facility both staff and those  
14 that are going through the system. I put in there  
15 safety first. It means everyone's priority.

16 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FRANCO: Uh-hm.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: And there were--  
18 and those are my analysis of what weapons could be  
19 made there.

20 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FRANCO: Uh-hm.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: We're dealing  
22 with young men, energetic who've had incidents and I  
23 want to make sure that we remove all of those hazards  
24 and potential weapons that could be misused.

25 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FRANCO: Uh-hm.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: And we never  
3 heard back. I believe the--

4 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FRANCO:  
5 [interposing] No, I-I-my understanding there was a  
6 letter that was sent back to-to-to the members with  
7 the specifics, alright, but it-I will-I will get the  
8 letter to you guys again because I mean there was a  
9 letter sent to the City Council.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: And we got this  
11 letter.

12 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FRANCO: Okay, so-so  
13 the letter was addressed to the Speaker. We will  
14 make sure you get a copy of it.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: Okay, we didn't  
16 get that letter and we were part of that charge. I  
17 should have-it should have come to all of us, but  
18 there were a number of items including glass that  
19 could be used, the showers and I don't recall them  
20 all, and I would hope that we bring experts who do a  
21 walk-through.

22 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FRANCO: Yeah, we  
23 actually did. I mean I think almost immediately  
24 after your tour, the State Commission of Corrections  
25 came by and did a walk-through of the facility, but

2 some of them actually were seeing that and we had it  
3 identified and all those were addressed in the  
4 letter, but I want to make sure you guys got it.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: And you don't  
6 have a deadline or a set date to open up that yard?

7 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FRANCO: I'm sure  
8 there is, but I need to talk to the Department of  
9 Design and Construction. I don't have it with me  
10 today.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER GJONAJ: When you follow  
12 up on that, will you get us that information as well?  
13 Thank you.

14 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FRANCO: Yes.

15 CHAIRPERSON KING: Thank you, Council  
16 Member. I want to get back to—I know some of us do  
17 have concerns about our visit and the structure of  
18 the building, but I'm going to ask us all to really  
19 jump back into programming. The theme of today's  
20 hearing is to understand how effective is the  
21 programming that's designed to prevent recidivism  
22 whether it's at 16 because it doesn't just go back  
23 into a child coming—going from an unsecure placement  
24 and then going into secure placement, but if we don't  
25 get it right then, they're in the resident adult

2 going into a secure placement with also recidivism  
3 goes from being a 16-year-old to 19-year-old going  
4 back into an adult facility, and that—I'd like to  
5 know are we tracking programs that are—that does  
6 handle that young person to make sure that they're  
7 leaving—as they leave your system going to a bigger  
8 system?

9 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FRANCO: Yeah, I  
10 think that you cannot tap into the placement or  
11 recidivism. It's not just returning--

12 CHAIRPERSON KING: [interposing] Would  
13 you say that for me again?

14 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FRANCO: I mean  
15 you're—you're kind of beginning to define recidivism.  
16 It's not just returning to the program in the  
17 Juvenile Justice System. It's ensure that they're  
18 not returning either to the Juvenile Justice System  
19 or the Criminal Justice System to extend their times  
20 to be two years, and I mean the numbers actually  
21 speak for themselves. The number of young people  
22 entering--the number of young adults entering the  
23 Criminal Justice System has actually decreased  
24 significantly. I mean it's just—just think about the  
25 number of young people who are 17 that have been

2 arrested since the Raise the Age, continues to  
3 reduce—in reducing New York City the fact that  
4 actually I mean a few years ago, there were  
5 approximately almost 200 young people and in—in 16  
6 and 17-year-olds in Riker. We have 70 kids in  
7 Horizons today.

8 CHAIRPERSON KING: Uh-hm.

9 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FRANCO: It's not  
10 just that you have a system that continues to shrink.  
11 Particularly the young adult system is actually  
12 shrinking. To your point, you know, we're getting  
13 out of business.

14 CHAIRPERSON KING: So, I want to ask you  
15 a question in regards to contractor service  
16 providers. The metrics are they attached as a  
17 condition, and their success to continue because I'm  
18 still not clear on how you're evaluating anybody, and  
19 who is evaluating them, and if they haven't been  
20 successful have you released them of their contract.  
21 So, if you can give us some clarity on how you gauge  
22 those who have been in the system working with you,  
23 and as you got Raise the Age, you guys are going to  
24 have a new conversation because now you end up with a  
25 new system. So, the first question is how have you

2 really evaluated what's already on your table, and if  
3 they're having the success, what have you done to  
4 make sure that they don't come back or if they're  
5 coming back, why? And how are you adjusting to the  
6 new system of Raise the Age?

7 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FRANCO: So, let me  
8 see if I can—just two questions. I mean one question  
9 is about the effectiveness of the system, and again,  
10 you know, based on the numbers and the reduction  
11 significantly with a number of young people coming to  
12 the Juvenile Justice System particular placement and  
13 detention and even the younger the system, the  
14 programs are being effective making the city safer.  
15 But I think your question, too, is also about within  
16 the continuum of programs how do we know which ones  
17 are doing better than others? And—and yes, and we  
18 have a monitoring unit that actually tracks  
19 performance, and actually more importantly actually  
20 goes to the homes and those are unexpected visits and  
21 we make sure that they're actually—our providers are  
22 doing what they need to do. When they are not doing  
23 what they need to do, or things actually happen  
24 because we keep track of other incidents, we move  
25 them in highly monitoring and correction action, and

2 if you think about, you know, the history of Close to  
3 Home and these are monitoring of five years, there's  
4 providers that we have in the contracts. I mean  
5 there's providers that actually are not in the city  
6 any more because we felt they couldn't do what they  
7 had to do.

8 CHAIRPERSON KING: Have they ever tried  
9 to come back in another form or another way or  
10 another name?

11 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FRANCO: No, actually  
12 the ones that left, actually some of them just left  
13 the city and don't want to come back to the city, but  
14 yeah, I mean there's--there's programs that have been  
15 closed, and providers that have been completely out  
16 of the Juvenile Justice Continuum.

17 CHAIRPERSON KING: Okay, I'd like to turn  
18 it over to Council Member Barron. You ready.  
19 Councilwoman Barron.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you to the  
21 Chair and thank you to the panel for coming. As  
22 we're talking about reducing recidivism, and we're  
23 talking about those after care programs, in the  
24 briefing papers, it talks about the services that are  
25 needed are employment, housing, mental health and

2 substance abuse. Is there one location where all of  
3 these services are offered or is there a case worker  
4 who's going to help the student, the child that's  
5 coming back particularly getting back into school.

6 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FRANCO: Uh-hm.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Is that seamless?  
8 Do children definitely come out and get right back  
9 into school or is it a process? Who takes care of  
10 that to ensure the children are re-enrolled in  
11 school?

12 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FRANCO: Yeah, I mean  
13 one—one of the things that actually New York City has  
14 that few places have I guess in most Juvenile Justice  
15 Systems I mean it's across the river to New York City  
16 and young people actually are removed from their  
17 district. They're sent to a facility far away. For  
18 example Jamesburg, which I think is going to be  
19 closing next week, and then they have to go from that  
20 facility back to their district again. There's  
21 usually a gap. That doesn't happen in New York City  
22 any more because young people when they're arrested  
23 they go to Horizons. Horizons actually does  
24 schooling under the Department of Education. If they  
25 get placed to Close to Home, they go to a Close to

2 Home site. The schools are also run by the  
3 Department of Education, and then the Department of  
4 Education, you know, cannot get sent back to the  
5 community. It's not perfect but the Department of  
6 Education invested in transitional guidance  
7 counselors. So, they actually have a transitional  
8 guidance counselor who works for the Department of  
9 Education helping navigate of, you know, usually 60  
10 days before the kid goes home into what is the right  
11 educational setting. On top of that, the providers  
12 and our staff are part of those conversations with  
13 the family to figure out what is the right place to  
14 go back to. I mean sometimes it could be the school  
15 that used to before, but many times it's not.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: So, is there a  
17 gap between a student coming back?

18 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FRANCO: No, not any  
19 more. I mean young people that actually they live in  
20 the parent location, are actually in the new school  
21 within a couple of days. That's-that's not have  
22 always been the case. I'm looking at Legal Aid back  
23 there. I mean you guys had a lawsuit against the  
24 city many years ago because there used to be a time  
25 when where kids actually would be home waiting and

2 watching Rikki Lake. I mean those are the shows that  
3 they were watching in those days for—for a month.  
4 That's what they--

5 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: [interposing] So  
6 there—there are no gaps?

7 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FRANCO: There's not  
8 gaps.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Okay, and what  
10 about housing? If there are students—if their  
11 children are coming back and for whatever reason  
12 they're not returning to the home where they were  
13 before?

14 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FRANCO: Yeah. I  
15 mean I think you heard that our numbers of permanency  
16 are very good compared to what it used to be when—  
17 when the kids were far away. Having said that, I'm  
18 going to let, Associate Commissioner Sarah Hemmeter  
19 talk about it because it's something that we really  
20 are keeping an eye of. As we get older I think we  
21 need to be diligent and ensure that young people can  
22 go back home or actually the resources that they need  
23 to get into housing.

24 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER HEMMETER: And so  
25 one of the things that we've been working on from day

2 one when a young person comes into Close to Home is  
3 where are they going to go when they leave us, and so  
4 that is part of engaging that family and making sure  
5 the family understands what's happening, and what  
6 services are going to be in place, and that's why we  
7 have those family team conferences on a regular basis  
8 where everyone is coming together and saying this is  
9 what's happening, and this is what the plan is, and  
10 we have pretty—as Deputy Commissioner Franco said, we  
11 have a pretty good success rate in terms of kids  
12 returning back home to parent or a family member,  
13 but there are kids that the families disengage and  
14 that is a problem. One of the benefits of having the  
15 Juvenile Justice System along in the same agency as  
16 the Child Welfare System is then we can engage the  
17 child welfare system if we need to in those  
18 situations. Then we have had kids go from the  
19 Juvenile Justice System into the child welfare system  
20 as a last resort into foster care when the parents  
21 have disengaged from the planning for their—for their  
22 child. And we also—sorry—just so-- We have a unit  
23 actually that—that monitors those kids either who are  
24 coming from foster care into the Juvenile Justice  
25 System or who—who need a foster care placement at the

2 end of the Justice System to make sure that they are  
3 achieving that type of permanency when they need to.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Is there a case  
5 manager assigned to each child that's coming back?

6 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER HEMMETER: Yes.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: So, there's one  
8 person who's dedicated to make sure that all of these  
9 pieces are in place?

10 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER HEMMETER: Yes.

11 So, the—so ACS has staff are called the Permanency  
12 and Placement Specialist who are the case managers of  
13 the case—of the case in Close to Home. They are  
14 assigned on day one when the young person is placed,  
15 and they follow that young person all the way to the  
16 end of—of the disposition to make sure that  
17 everything is in place for that—for that child, and  
18 making sure the provider is doing what they need to  
19 do as well. So, they're—they're overseeing the case  
20 from beginning to end. The other thing that we  
21 recently did was that we amended the contracts for  
22 our providers so that there's continuity of care on  
23 the provider's side as well so that there isn't a  
24 hand-off of the youth between the residential  
25 placement and aftercare. So, they're responsible for

2 both now. So, there isn't that gap as well, which we  
3 recognize was as problem because things were dropping  
4 off through that handoff. So, the providers are now  
5 responsible for planning for the aftercare services  
6 from day one as well. So, we have both the ACS staff  
7 as the case manager of the case from beginning to end  
8 and the provider working with that young person from  
9 beginning to end.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: [coughs] And you  
11 mentioned the Peer Network, and would you talk a  
12 little bit more about that so I can get a better  
13 understanding of how that works.

14 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FRANCO: Yeah, me and  
15 Sarah can go to the specifics. I mean we—we, you  
16 know, in partnership with the Department of Probation  
17 and—and others again, you know, have been looking at  
18 what really works in reducing criminogenic behavior  
19 and juvenile delinquency and, you know, we know that  
20 young people—not all young people get in trouble for  
21 the same reasons and it has to be individualized.  
22 You know, it's not about the program. It's about what  
23 specifically that young person needs. I think Sarah  
24 could do it better than I and talk about the  
25 different domains, and one of the things that we're

2 very conscious about when we meet someone is to try  
3 to figure out the initial time because it's a-it's a-  
4 it's a important factor. How they think about stuff,  
5 you know, which we're-doing a lot of, you know,  
6 helping young people connect to different ways of  
7 thinking about reality, and then quit hanging around  
8 it, and-and I think that's essential. So, we-we  
9 really planned for the times of when young people are  
10 returning home particularly Close to Home to-with  
11 them have the conversation that, you know, the  
12 Council Member asked us to do about how you're going  
13 to be spending your time, and is that going to help  
14 you move forward or not. And you can talk about how  
15 to do that. I mean-

16 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER HEMMETER: Yeah,  
17 so there's a lot of conversations with a young person  
18 about their-their family, you know, who is in their  
19 family, but also who their peers are so that we can  
20 kind of get a sense of what is going on with them,  
21 and also trying to create positive peer networks for  
22 young people so that they don't return to the-to  
23 negative peers and get into trouble again. So, that  
24 is some of the work that we do in trying to engage  
25 youth with-we call it pro-social activities. So,

2 those are the things such as Carnegie Hall or a  
3 soccer team or something like that that the young  
4 person is interested in so that they are connecting  
5 with youth who are not involved in criminal behavior  
6 and falling back into--into that when they return  
7 home. So, we're--we're working with the young person  
8 to figure out what their--what they like to do, what  
9 their interests are, and trying to find a program  
10 within their community that will assist them with  
11 that.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: [off mic] Okay,  
13 and just [on mic] one last question. You talked  
14 about the Carnegie program. Is there another  
15 largescale program that you can bring to our  
16 attention that would give us an idea of other  
17 alliances of the agencies that you made with large  
18 organizations?

19 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FRANCO: I mean  
20 there's so many and again I mean I think one of the  
21 things that I--I want to be cautious is that Carnegie  
22 Hall is an amazing program. It's really big, but  
23 it's actually--

24 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: [interposing]  
25 Right.

2 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FRANCO: --really  
3 it's more CBOs in every community that we tap into.  
4 So, again, it's not unusual for a young person who's  
5 coming back to Washington Heights to connect to a  
6 program that is actually--

7 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: [interposing]  
8 Except that the CBOs have limited budgets and  
9 Carnegie Hall has a much larger budget, and we know  
10 that money plays a significant part in this, and I  
11 don't know how many children are able to get into the  
12 Carnegie program, though. Is anybody who is  
13 interested able to get in or is there a cap on that?  
14 So, that's why I asked about other largescale  
15 organizations that might offer programs that they can  
16 sustain.

17 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FRANCO: Yes. I  
18 think I'm going to see some--some of the really good  
19 programs in the log-ins (sic) and again, I want to be  
20 cautious that again, you know, we have young people  
21 who actually are really focused on workforce  
22 development and--

23 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: [interposing]  
24 Sure.

2 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FRANCO: --how they  
3 may connect to Exalt or there's young people who are  
4 actually going back to Jamaica, Queens, and you know  
5 with the Queens YMCA it's--it's amazingly receptive to  
6 actually take our kids under their wing. I mean  
7 we're doing some really good work in the South Bronx  
8 and--and in Manhattan with The Door. I would have to  
9 give you--

10 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: [interposing]  
11 Okay.

12 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FRANCO: --the  
13 inventory, which I think would be many, many pages of  
14 all the great people in New York City who are  
15 stepping up on behalf of those kids.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Okay, great.  
17 Thanks, and I'm also concerned about the timeline for  
18 completion of the recreation area in the facility we  
19 visited. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

20 CHAIRPERSON KING: Thank you, Council  
21 Member, and we do have some of our organizations here  
22 that we want to hear from, but before we get to them,  
23 I do want to ask how has it been with all the other  
24 agencies or who are responsible for making sure that  
25 these young people move forward and onward? How has

2 the relationship been with everyone sitting at the  
3 table [coughing] complying with one another? Has  
4 there been challenges of all of you coming together  
5 and not try hit those among yourself because at the  
6 end of the day the young people lose when adults  
7 don't get it right.

8 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FRANCO: Yeah, I mean  
9 it's—it's never fully small. I mean, you know, the  
10 young people that we work with sometimes have been  
11 redressing (sic) a community and in schools and in  
12 clinics and so forth. I think it takes—it takes our  
13 PPS's and our providers and actually some of the  
14 advocates in the room to be consistently advocating  
15 so theses kids---continue to give kids a chance, but  
16 again as I opened—the—the hearing, many people envy  
17 what we have in New York City. The fact that  
18 actually we have an educational system that is  
19 willing to take some ownership as this case is  
20 unique. The fact that we actually have the  
21 Department of DYCD, you actually being willing to  
22 invest in our programs, that doesn't happen  
23 everywhere. We still have challenges. We—we—we, you  
24 know, we have a lot of—a lot of young people who need  
25 mental health, and some of these our focus is not

2 just at the city level. You know, I testified last  
3 month in Albany because I—we do believe that OMH has  
4 to step up the Office of Mental Health at the state  
5 level and make more resources available in particular  
6 communities so that kids can actually get the  
7 services they need. I'm trying to do the same with  
8 the Office of OPWDD because there are some young  
9 people who—who have some cognitive delays that  
10 actually the state has—the state has to step up and—  
11 and—and help them out. I mean if those services are  
12 available and—and the supports are available, most  
13 young people do well.

14 CHAIRPERSON KING: Congratulations  
15 because I'm just jumping because my question, next  
16 question is going to be how does the individual who—  
17 who is experienced in any type of mental illness, how  
18 does programming for them—how do you gauge the  
19 success of a program for them? Is—is that  
20 programming different than the person who is not  
21 suffering from any type of mental illness?

22 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FRANCO: Yeah, again  
23 one of the things that we have been again very lucky  
24 in New York City is the partnership with Health and  
25 Hospitals Corporation. We made an announcement last

2 year and actually also two weeks ago Health and  
3 Hospitals actually took over the operation of Health  
4 Services in Horizons, and their partner is Bayview  
5 Hospital have actually been a longstanding partner in  
6 the provision of mental health services in Horizons  
7 and Crossroads, and they continue to invest not just  
8 in the provision of services, but helping our staff  
9 be better in monitoring these young people. We're  
10 doing some new things around, you know, for example  
11 the MSD and as we talk about our being second rate  
12 three capacity to help people go to their home and  
13 helping these kids.

14 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER HEMMETER: Right.  
15 So, MST, which is one of the therapeutic programs  
16 that we have talked about has an adaptation for young  
17 people and their parents who have significant mental  
18 health issues. So, they will work intensively with  
19 the young person and their family in their homes and  
20 their communities to address not only the behaviors  
21 that are bringing the young person to our attention,  
22 but also the mental health issues, and trying to  
23 connect them—make sure that their diagnosis is  
24 correct if they have a diagnosis making sure it's  
25 correct, making sure any medication that the young

2 person or the family or the parents is on is the  
3 right medication and connecting them to a clinic that  
4 can help serve them once they are done working with  
5 that family. So, we have connections with Article 31  
6 clinics throughout the city, and other smaller  
7 organizations that do mental health work in the  
8 communities as well, but that is one of the programs  
9 that we are bringing on board—hopefully bringing on  
10 board with the Family Assessment Program, but we also  
11 have that in our Juvenile Justice Initiative, which  
12 is the alternative to placement program.

13 CHAIRPERSON KING: So, I'm just going to  
14 make a—not a random comment. I'm just going to make  
15 a comment. I could injure myself, and I can go to a  
16 doctor and the doctor I'm seeing evaluates me. They  
17 say do this. That should work, but I did it and it  
18 didn't work. There comes a point when I got to say  
19 that doctor is not getting it right. I need to go  
20 get another doctor, get another assessment and figure  
21 out what's wrong. So, my question even though we're  
22 asking them, the question of someone who's dealing  
23 with any type of mental illness or anyone who is not  
24 doing the program of being able to really assess the  
25 program. Because even if I am going to have mental

2 illness, what is the matrix? What is the evaluation  
3 process? How do we judge whether or not these  
4 children have gone through that part of therapy are  
5 actually being helped and being able to move forward?  
6 That's the answers I'm trying to get on, and I'd like  
7 for us to figure out what programs whether they're  
8 mental health services or they're just other  
9 therapeutic? How do we get that on record to find  
10 out what works because again, I don't us to continue  
11 to spend money on programs. It sounds good, but I  
12 don't know how many kids out of the 85 or 87 that's  
13 in the system right now has returned who's been in  
14 there before, who's gone to the same—gone to the same  
15 doctor, who's gone through the same other program.  
16 You know, sometimes in the Juvenile Justice System we  
17 have this prison—prison education system—a form of  
18 educating our kids, and nothing that steps outside of  
19 helping them seeing themselves as a person. It's  
20 that—that prison education we're always keeping  
21 vacant and that—that this is the therapy I get when I  
22 go to prison, and not something else that makes me  
23 feel worthy of being an individual. So this is why  
24 I'm trying for us to get to a place of how do we  
25 evaluate those programs so if they're not doing it

2 right? You mentioned Carnegie. They have the  
3 finances to expose these kids to a whole different  
4 world ,and why I appreciate some of the community  
5 based organizations and our neighbor, if they're  
6 working on with a \$100,000 budget, you know, they're  
7 not going to be able to deliver what, you know, what  
8 Jose and Malik or Israel needs. They're going to be  
9 able to deliver on it. So, but we won't know that  
10 unless we actually look at who's doing great work and  
11 if there is someone who is doing great work that you  
12 know of, then maybe we got to find the funding for  
13 them because we mat be giving too much money over  
14 here ad we're not delivering. So, this is what I'm  
15 trying to get to so I'll turn the mic back over.

16 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FRANCO: You know, I-  
17 I think you are asking the right question. I think  
18 we-we purposely or I purposely won't talk about any-  
19 talk about positive youth outcomes. At the end of  
20 the day we have plenty of them. Actually less kids  
21 are coming to the Juvenile and Criminal Justice  
22 System, and-and that-that would show the resident is  
23 getting better, but that's not enough. I mean I  
24 think your question to me is a fair one. I mean the  
25 few people who are coming to the system and they're

2 doing better. We believe that actually we don't have  
3 all the statistics. I mean we-I-I-we have some  
4 numbers around education that are very, very  
5 impressive, and that's why the federal government has  
6 been pounding about Close to Home to our  
7 jurisdictions, but I think to your point and maybe to  
8 be cautious I mean I-I've been one of those providers  
9 in the community. Every-providers have to mean  
10 they're going to do a really, really job, and they  
11 have something that they can do that is beyond  
12 recidivism. I mean the commitment of someone from  
13 the South Bronx who is in the community raising (sic)  
14 those, you know, the housing developments where it's-  
15 it's one division (sic) that has been long lasting  
16 and our young people are not going to get right at  
17 the beginning. They need it-they need people in  
18 their side, in their court who are going to be there  
19 for the long haul, and those-that's not all. So,  
20 it's not ACS. I don't want to be in their life  
21 forever, and those are the CBOs that you're talking  
22 about. I-I think-I think if you think about Juvenile  
23 Justice and there has been so much money to spend in  
24 the wrong ways historically like facilities far away,  
25 where we could really grow at times. New York City

2 has done the right thing by bringing the kids closer  
3 to home. Should continue-to continue to-continue the  
4 narrative and continue the rest in the community  
5 where our case come from. I mean we have talked  
6 about this before in hearings. We know that cases is  
7 going to come from everywhere in New York City. They  
8 come from maybe 10 neighborhoods. Anything that you  
9 guys can do to push to invest in those neighborhoods,  
10 I welcome.

11 CHAIRPERSON KING: Well, I believe ono  
12 the committee we will support. I always see a lack  
13 of funding. It doesn't mean lack of service, but if  
14 you have-we have programs that just have a lack of  
15 funding, but to have it to makes it serve, and maybe  
16 we do help them and-and the only way we can find that  
17 out is because of the big guy who's getting the big  
18 money from the city. It's not doing it, and they  
19 continue with the big guy just to get the money in  
20 their own way. The two CBOs, the local neighborhood  
21 organization that's doing the work, the child that's  
22 in-that live in Tilden Houses or lives either Evan  
23 Wan (sic) Houses on 149<sup>th</sup> Street, it never leaves the  
24 neighborhood because the CBO doesn't have the money  
25 to even take them out of there, and just constantly

2 with crisis all the time or sometimes we need to  
3 expose our kids to different environments, well I  
4 can—I wish I can do it, I just don't have the  
5 funding to do it, but someone else who does the  
6 funding to do it, is not doing it because the  
7 commitment isn't there, and that where we would only  
8 know that if we evaluate how they're delivering the  
9 services to our children. So, we really need for you  
10 all to help us. Put something together with who's  
11 doing what, how they've been delivering, and if they  
12 are worthy of continuing to being a part of the  
13 system or not be a part of the system. Kids will age  
14 out of the system, and move forward. You had talked  
15 about mentoring programs earlier. I'd like to know  
16 before we kind of conclude with this conversation,  
17 how do those are a part of mentorship when a child  
18 ages out and moves onto the next phase of life, how  
19 does that relationship—how do you monitor that  
20 relationship? Are we committed to keeping those  
21 relationships?

22 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER HEMMETER: Yeah.

23 So, as I mentioned, the—the mentoring program that we  
24 have just started so it's—we haven't gotten there  
25 yet, but I do think that it is something that we

2 should be looking at in terms of when we are looking  
3 at evaluation there's what are the connections that  
4 the—that the young person has post their time with  
5 us, and how do we make sure that they are still  
6 connected to either amend that mentor or somebody  
7 else who can provide those services to them, but  
8 that's definitely something that I think we should  
9 look at when we are evaluating that program.

10 CHAIRPERSON KING: Okay. So with that,  
11 I'll just say I want to thank you for your testimony  
12 today. God bless us all and a great 2019 and I just  
13 say to us all in the room, Dr. King said he had a  
14 dream and sometimes everyone who doesn't believe in a  
15 dream don't want a dream to fulfill itself. So, if  
16 we are all in this committee to making it happen,  
17 then let's get the people who are not doing the right  
18 thing by programming, and tell them, Hey, you got to  
19 go sell something else, but you can't come in and  
20 sell it to our children. So, thank you again and  
21 appreciate your testimony today.

22 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER HERMAN: Thank you.  
23 [background comments/pause]

24 CHAIRPERSON KING: Okay, we're going to  
25 call up our next panel. Julia Davis from the

2 Children's Defense Fund; Christine Fagan and of  
3 course, Friends of Island Academy. If I said that  
4 wrong, correct me and announce yourself. [laughs]  
5 Kevin Holmes, Help-Help People of the Bronx; Chris  
6 Norwood, the Bronx. [background comments/pause]  
7 Alright, so we can start from left to right or right  
8 to left depending which you read or write.

9 JULIA DAVIS: Good morning, Chair and  
10 member. I'm Julia Davis from Children's Defense Fund.  
11 Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. By  
12 way of context, we serve as co-lead of the Raise the  
13 Age Campaign in New York and so, part of the  
14 testimony I'd like to offer is in the context of  
15 seeing the city succeed in this reform, and before I  
16 talk a little bit about the specific needs of youth  
17 in New York, I just want to address some of the  
18 things that ACS raised today in terms of encouraging  
19 youth to think broadly about the outcomes for  
20 children in Juvenile Justice. If we're more about  
21 their connectedness to the community, their reentry  
22 into school, their reengagement with education, their  
23 mental and physical health, their connections with  
24 families and really long term about the competencies  
25 they need to succeed as young adults in the world.

2 And so, very happy to hear that the conversation  
3 today was about all of those different components.  
4 You know, as we think about Juvenile Justice, best  
5 practice is really about positive youth development.  
6 The focus is on all of these different components  
7 that make sure that young people's lives and the  
8 measures of the success of programming in Juvenile  
9 Justice really are about evaluating their strengths  
10 and seeing them not only as risks to the community  
11 and moving away from that model, but seeing them as  
12 people that need connections with services, and long-  
13 term connections with communities including adults  
14 will help them succeed. I think nowhere is this more  
15 important and was more visible than at Horizon with  
16 the transition of young people from Rikers Island  
17 where the availability of programming, the  
18 consistency of services provide by Friends of Island  
19 Academy, who I think you'll hear from today as well  
20 as the other service providers there made an enormous  
21 difference in reducing the conflict of violence in  
22 that facility. After the first couple of weeks what  
23 we saw were decreases in incidents and the safety of  
24 young people and staff improvements. It's all about  
25 the consistency of programming there. So, as you

2 think long-term about the impacts on young people as  
3 they leave these systems, we also want to talk about  
4 the importance of the programming while in side. I  
5 also just want to focus on the fact that folks like  
6 Friends of Island Academy and their service provider  
7 partners have made enormous investments in making  
8 sure that the connectivity of services when young  
9 people go back into their community are paramount,  
10 and that means the engagement with just the issues  
11 you're describing: Mentoring, family engagement, the  
12 services they need to be supported and successful and  
13 reengagement with school. And this is true not only  
14 at Horizon, which is essential to the success of  
15 Raise the Age but also with regard to Crossroads.  
16 So, I wanted to highlight those things for you today.  
17 Thank you.

18 CHRISTINE PAHIGIAN: Chairman, thank you.  
19 My name—and committee members. My name is Christine  
20 Pahigian and I'm the Executive Director of Friends of  
21 Island Academy, and I—I have a much too long  
22 testimony here so I'm going to deviate from it and  
23 I'll just from it. The—the work that Friends was  
24 born on the school floors of Island Academy, which  
25 was the school on Rikers Island back in the '80s, an

2 the reason for its birth really it was—it was the  
3 vision of the first principal and a group of people  
4 who saw that young people of color were coming back  
5 at the rates 70 and 80% back into the same classroom  
6 and to the same jail, and that was the seed that gave  
7 birth to the organization. And over most of—it was  
8 almost 30 years ago, and for the majority of those  
9 years, that is essentially what we've done on a small  
10 scale. On the heels of criminal justice reform  
11 around 2013-2014, we cooked up an idea essentially  
12 with a group of partnered community member and  
13 partners where we wanted to take this thing to scale  
14 so that every kid who got off a correction bus and  
15 walked into a door at Rikers Island would have  
16 somebody meet them at the door and say hi. How are  
17 you holding up? Is there somebody I can call for  
18 you? What do you need right now? And then from that  
19 spark of a relationship, stay with that kid  
20 throughout the period he or she was in—in detention  
21 with and eye toward building it such that that  
22 relationship goes back to the neighborhood where that  
23 goes home. If you—the testimony that I did give out,  
24 if you look at the cover sheet—let me just say one  
25 more thing. So, we peddled this idea, and eventually

2 the city through the Department of Correction gave us  
3 a-what turned into a three-year demonstration pilot,  
4 and this pilot had a few pieces to it. Piece Number  
5 1 was what I just described. Every kid gets an  
6 advocate, and as many advocates as possible follow as  
7 many of the kids that we can engage post-release  
8 directly back to the neighborhood connecting them to  
9 organizations for example like Pearl Valligan (sic)  
10 talked about before who is one of our partners.  
11 Directing them directly to whether it's a pastor on  
12 the corner or Mr. or Mr. Rivera who owns the bodega  
13 upstairs whether it's Youth Force on the corner of  
14 Linden Boulevard or organizations at the grassroots  
15 level that are meaningful to the kids when they go  
16 home to the block. Through what became a 3-year  
17 demonstration pilot, that's what we started doing,  
18 and we started doing it in November of 2016. If you  
19 look at his map, the map essentially shows you that  
20 over a 2-year period that ended a couple of weeks  
21 ago-over this 2-year period, 2,828 young people met  
22 with Friends advocates who said to them: Hi, my name  
23 is Chris of Friends, and of those 2,200 we discharged  
24 to communities in New York City. The darker the blue  
25 on your page, the greater the number of young people

2 [bell] went to those communities. Can I just have  
3 another minute? I'm just seeing this through. Thank  
4 you, and of those we know that 1,262 of them engaged  
5 with kids post-release in those neighborhoods. I  
6 think—and then if you looked also at the back page,  
7 you'll see sort of the breakdown by facility and how  
8 that happened. When we're—in the middle of this  
9 Raise the Age went into effect, and on October 1 when  
10 those kids who were 16 and 17 at Rikers were put on a  
11 bus and delivered to Horizon, their advocates  
12 followed them, as did the group of community partners  
13 who do things like spoken word, poetry, job skills,  
14 financial management, fun stuff that followed—they  
15 also followed to Horizon such that every day at  
16 Horizon for example from 4:00 to 6:00 and the  
17 Commissioner may have testified to this, every day  
18 from 4:00 to 6:00 in ten halls this group of  
19 community partners are in there doing these different  
20 things in groups and in the Cohorts, and on Saturdays  
21 and Sundays as well, and the similar stuff is  
22 happening at Rikers with the youngest people there 18  
23 to 21, but the—this—the heartbeat of this is the  
24 advocate that follows the kid all the way out to the  
25 community, and thank you.

2 CHRIS NORWOOD: Chris Norwood, Executive  
3 Director--

4 CHAIRPERSON KING: Talk to the mid.

5 CHRIS NORWOOD: Oh, I'm sorry. It's that  
6 way. Thank you. I need the red light. It should be  
7 red. Okay thank you. Chris Norwood, Executive  
8 Director of

9 CHAIRPERSON KING: [interposing] Did you  
10 press the red? Is the red light on?

11 CHRIS NORWOOD: Hmm. Yes.

12 CHAIRPERSON KING: There you go.

13 CHRIS NORWOOD: Now it's on.

14 CHAIRPERSON KING: It went over and out.

15 CHRIS NORWOOD: It was winking at me  
16 before. [laughter] Hello. Chris Norwood, Executive  
17 Director of Health People of the Bronx. I want to  
18 thank you for this very important hearing.  
19 Evaluation is very helpful, and it helps all of us  
20 understand how to do better. Health People from the  
21 beginning has been one of the community groups, which  
22 had the pleasure of implementing Arches. The  
23 Department of Probation deserves enormous credit both  
24 for developing Arches and making it their first  
25 program contracted to community groups as part of its

2 strategy. Intensive evaluation has shown that this  
3 group and individual mentoring program where older  
4 men who were in the Criminal Justice System are the  
5 mentors, had outstanding results with at least 60%  
6 fewer re-arrests than similar young men not in  
7 Arches. I would like you to you consider evaluation  
8 in a wider scope, which is how to go forward with  
9 success. The first point is to continue the success  
10 of Arches. It is only nature within organizations and  
11 city agencies that there are new challenges  
12 constantly. In the Department of Probation there is  
13 turnover probation officers for example and the new  
14 officers can't always know the importance of making  
15 referrals, but we can't enroll anyone without a  
16 probation officer signing off. We really need more  
17 and I'm sure all the community groups to work more  
18 closely with the Department of Probation to get the  
19 referrals back up to what they were at the beginning  
20 of the program so we are all at full capacity, which  
21 his what we should be. And now that ACS is involved,  
22 perhaps Probation and ACS can work more closely  
23 together to see which young people should be in  
24 Arches. The department also obviously has been under  
25 great pressure to implement Raise the Age. For

2 Arches Raise the Age meant that that 16 and 17-year-  
3 olds could no longer go to the established Arches  
4 groups, which were originally for 16 to 24-year-olds  
5 even though evaluation clearly showed that 16 to 17-  
6 year-olds were doing particularly well in the Arches  
7 groups. Under Raise the Age with funding the last  
8 time I looked the department could only start Arches  
9 programming for about 32 16 to 17-year-olds in each  
10 borough. By policy, the Bronx and Brooklyn have to  
11 take the brunt of the serious problems and challenges  
12 with Raise the Age. All-all Dale (sic) young people  
13 are being placed in the Bronx and in Brooklyn. As  
14 often happens in our city there is a huge discrepancy  
15 between who has the funds and where they are needed.  
16 Most of these youth are in the Bronx and Brooklyn,  
17 but the Manhattan District Attorney's Office had  
18 reported \$734 million in assets forfeiture—it's a  
19 hard word to say—funds as of June 30<sup>th</sup>. The money  
20 was gained by enforcement of federal laws, which  
21 while this federal money the key location of the  
22 Manhattan District Attorney gives that office an  
23 incredible advantage [bell] in claiming these funds.  
24 By contrast, the Bronx only had \$3 million in asset  
25 seizures. The Manhattan District Attorney amazingly

2 gets single-handedly to decide where this money goes.  
3 I have not been able to find that he has donated any  
4 funds whatsoever to youth and justice programs in the  
5 Bronx and Brooklyn, although he is actually used some  
6 of this money for out-of-state programming for a  
7 National Rape Kit Initiative. I realize the City  
8 Council does not provide oversight of the district  
9 attorneys, but I think we all need to ask how it can  
10 be proper for this amount of federally derived money  
11 not to be fairly used for the city, and allocated to  
12 where the needs are unquestionably highest and  
13 especially since it is derived from—from crime not to  
14 be used for programming so well shown to keep our  
15 highest need youth from further crime. Thank you.

16 CHAIRPERSON KING: Thank you. Before—  
17 Arches is in the Department of Probation?

18 CHRIS NORWOOD: It is.

19 CHAIRPERSON KING: Okay. We should add  
20 for the record. Can you like in 30 seconds define  
21 what Arches is?

22 CHRIS NORWOOD: Yes, it is a—and—and  
23 Kevin can speak more to that because he's the  
24 credible mess-messenger. [laughs] It's a group and  
25 individual intensive mentoring program where older

2 men who have been in the Criminal Justice System are  
3 mentors for younger men. They do both group  
4 mentoring, individual mentoring. They're really  
5 available 24 hours a day, at least by phone, and  
6 Kevin, do you want to just talk about more what you-  
7 you know.

8 KEVIN HOLMES: Thank you. What we do at  
9 Arches- Oh, Kevin Holmes, Employee of Health People.

10 CHRIS NORWOOD: A mentor.

11 KEVIN HOLMES: A mentor [laughter] What  
12 we do at-what we do at Arches we try to-we try to  
13 meet them where they're at. You know, we-we-we go to  
14 probation where they're sitting there just ready to  
15 see their probation officer, and we recruit them.  
16 So, the referral comes from the probation officer to  
17 us and a lot-we have-we have like one-on-one  
18 sessions. We know if they want to get in school, we  
19 get them in a school. If they need a toilet, we try  
20 to find them a toilet. You know, whatever they need,  
21 we-we-we try to help them with that, and once they  
22 graduate, you know, like I always keep in contact  
23 with them. You know as I told them you can always  
24 come back, you know from, you know just for that

2 follow-up. You know, just to make sure that  
3 everything is going smooth, you know.

4 CHAIRPERSON KING: [off mic] I know we do  
5 have [on mic] I have a question and then Council  
6 Member Barron has one. I have a question and then  
7 Council Member Barron also has a question. Friends  
8 of Island Academy, how-how well do you work with ACS  
9 on this whole conversation we're having about  
10 programming because I know you're advocates? You're  
11 not a program just advocates?

12 CHRIS NORWOOD: Yeah, it's so hard to  
13 understand what we are because it's hard to explain  
14 it. [laughter] We're-we're sort of all of that.  
15 This particular thing and-and-and Commissioner Franco  
16 did speak about it as well. It's rolled into one-two  
17 separate things. We do provide programs. We are an  
18 organization that does a number of things. We have  
19 this youth reentry network, which is sort of our-the  
20 core of our work, which is you meet a kid inside  
21 custody, you stay with that kid for as long as you  
22 can hang onto him, whatever that takes, and not just  
23 referring somebody to Project X, but-but taking them  
24 by the hand, being there at 2:00 a.m. when they call  
25 up to say, My-my-my mother's-my mother's boyfriend

2 just kicked me out. Where do I go? Can you help me?  
3 So, there's that aspect to it. This particular, and  
4 then we also operate at a couple of school sites in  
5 collaboration with DOE, and we have Career Services  
6 Center that serves any young people however they come  
7 to us to do both a combination of internships,  
8 placements, jobs and supporting their tenure and  
9 their retention. So, that's the--the big picture.  
10 This particular thing that the map is of, is part  
11 youth advocacy and it also encompasses a group of--  
12 right now I think it's a total of 40 community based  
13 partners. A lot of them spend time inside the jails,  
14 and put in sort of one, two or three hours a day in  
15 designated halls at Horizon or--and that only started  
16 because the kids transferred over to Horizon.

17 CHAIRPERSON KING: Uh-hm.

18 CHRIS NORWOOD: But it's--we work almost  
19 daily with the folks at ACS right down to sort of a  
20 day-to-day discussion about who--who should be in what  
21 hall because Kid X is really interested in the spoken  
22 word and Kid Y is interested in that, and so--

23 CHAIRPERSON KING: [interposing] So, then  
24 this sounds like it's part of our service plan for  
25 the--when the young people come in?

2           CHRIS NORWOOD: The -the role of the  
3 advocate is to do that, and another piece to this is  
4 that the Court system intersects because the majority  
5 of the young people that we're serving also have open  
6 pending cases. So, there's a piece of ourselves that  
7 also do mitigation work. So, we'll reach out to the  
8 defense attorney and they work--

9           CHAIRPERSON KING: [interposing] So, then  
10 they have it where it's in the essence of time. So,  
11 you're an advocate. You're not—you're not case  
12 workers or anything like that.

13           CHRIS NORWOOD: Huh-um.

14           CHAIRPERSON KING: Okay, where do you get  
15 your funding from?

16           CHRIS NORWOOD: Until about three years  
17 ago, about 85% of it was from different private  
18 foundations, and from DYCD. Starting with this, a  
19 large chunk of it now comes from the city. This  
20 thing is from our—it's through the Department of  
21 Correction, and it's at risk. So, we need to make  
22 sure that doesn't--

23           CHAIRPERSON KING: [interposing] So, my  
24 last question, and then I will turn it over to  
25

2 Council Member Barron. You said when you walk into  
3 the door--

4 CHRIS NORWOOD: Uh-hm.

5 CHAIRPERSON KING: --you greet them at  
6 the door.

7 CHRIS NORWOOD: Uh-hm.

8 CHAIRPERSON KING: You hold onto them.  
9 Are you at the table when ACS, psychiatrists or  
10 whoever, or the stakeholders in there have an  
11 assessment, and individual assessment plan, service  
12 plan for these--for the young people?

13 CHRIS NORWOOD: Yes.

14 CHAIRPERSON KING: You're all sitting at  
15 the table at the same time?

16 CHRIS NORWOOD: Yes. In different ways  
17 in different times, yes. We're part of that same.

18 CHAIRPERSON KING: Okay, alright. Thank  
19 you. Council Member Barron.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: [off mic] Uh,  
21 yes, thank you. [on mic] A questions for Friends of  
22 the Island Academy. In your testimony you say that  
23 the network is comprises of the partnership of 40  
24 youth organizations, which provide programming  
25 support.

2 CHRIS NORWOOD: Uh-hm.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Can you give some  
4 of those--

5 CHRIS NORWOOD: [interposing] of that or  
6 who they are?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Yes.

8 CHRIS NORWOOD: The girl there (sic) was  
9 one of them. What I can do is follow up with the--

10 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: [interposing]  
11 Okay.

12 CHRIS NORWOOD: --full list for you--

13 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: [interposing]  
14 Okay.

15 CHRIS NORWOOD: --rather than trying to  
16 remember them all. [coughs] Many of them are  
17 grassroots organizations at the neighborhood levels.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Uh-hm.

19 CHRIS NORWOOD: We have incredible  
20 messengers specialized things at Richmond Tech  
21 Programs, and the way that it works is that this is  
22 all sort of in the body of the network and it's  
23 called the network because it's all in the body of  
24 one contract, and so all of this is done through the  
25 network. So, when there's risk the reason this is

2 relevant is if there's risk to the funding of this  
3 contract, there's risk to the whole.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Okay.

5 CHRIS NORWOOD: So, not just to the  
6 advocate or not just to the service providers.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Okay, and to Ms.  
8 Davis, in your testimony you have a sentence, which  
9 caught my eye, which I ask you on page 2 to perhaps  
10 expound upon, and you said: According to New York  
11 City Commission of Probation, recidivism is at least  
12 in part a gauge of police activity and enforcement  
13 emphasis, and because of different-differential  
14 policing practices in minority communities, using  
15 recidivism as a key measurement may disadvantage  
16 communities of color. So, I want of you to expand on  
17 that. I think that's a really key point.

18 JULIA DAVIS: It is a key point and I  
19 think it's-it's a caution of using recidivism as a  
20 metric of success in Juvenile Justice when we know  
21 that most of these kids are leaving-living in  
22 communities that over surveilled and over policed.  
23 And so, we're only looking at measures of arrests,  
24 conviction, prosecution, while we may actually be  
25 looking at our communities that are over-surveilled

2 and over policed, and we're not looking at how our  
3 services and programs are serving and the impact  
4 we're having on young people. S o, I'm—I'm glad that  
5 caught your eye.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: It did. Thank  
7 you. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

8 CHAIRPERSON KING: And I'm just going to  
9 say thank you for all of your testimony today, but  
10 that's real—and that's something that needs to be at  
11 the head of the conversations because there's not.  
12 We get—once they get in the system, we try to figure  
13 out what's broken inside of them. A lot of times  
14 it's not what's broken inside of them, it's what's  
15 broken outside in their environment, and that's one  
16 of those things that are broken. So thank you for  
17 putting that on the record, and we'll make sure that  
18 as we continue to have these conversations, that's  
19 part of the conversation because we had a whole--the  
20 people out there keep bringing them back in the door  
21 when they shouldn't be inside these doors once they  
22 get—starting to get their lives together. So, thank  
23 you all again. You want to say one more—

24 CHRIS NORWOOD: Well, just—just hear that  
25 Arches has other measures of success, too, and how

2 many kids went back to school, how many got a job,  
3 how many actually completed over time so.

4 CHAIRPERSON KING: Okay, thank you.  
5 Thank you again. Have a blessed 2019. The next  
6 panelist is Nicky Woods, New York County Defender  
7 Services; Rebecca Kinsella; Nancy Ginsberg and  
8 Christine Bella; Nate Olay; Kate Ruben. [background  
9 comments/pause] Okay. Everyone has been pretty good  
10 with the three minutes. So, thank you. So, you may  
11 begin.

12 NIKKI WOODS: Thank you. Good morning  
13 Chair King and members of the Committee of Juvenile  
14 Justice. My name is Nikki Woods, and I'm a staff  
15 attorney in the Juvenile Defense Unit, at New York  
16 County Defender Services. Thank you for the  
17 opportunity to be heard today as the committee  
18 considers the effectiveness of programs that aim to  
19 reduce recidivism among court involved youth. I'll  
20 focus on two issues in my testimony: The  
21 effectiveness of therapeutic counseling programs and  
22 the educational requirements that exist for the  
23 participation in most court involved youth programs.  
24 Our juvenile clients have participated in programs  
25 such as Esperanza and Families Rising that provide

2 services such as family counseling, individual  
3 counseling and peer counseling. Our clients who have  
4 -who have at least a somewhat familial structure and  
5 tax familial structure benefit most from these  
6 programs. These programs are less effective than our  
7 clients who are also involved in the child welfare  
8 system. Programs that are focused only on peer  
9 individual and family counseling seem to be less  
10 effective for our clients because we—and because of  
11 that we need more programming that involves not only  
12 a focus on traditional talk therapy, but also on play  
13 or recreational therapy. This alternative type of  
14 engagement is critical for reducing recidivism rates  
15 in the likelihood that they would reoffend.

16 Recently, I represented a 16-year-old client whose  
17 case was removed from Family Court under RTA and  
18 deemed suitable for adjustment services. He was  
19 compliant with probation, but he did not openly  
20 engage in the traditional talk therapy that probation  
21 offered for him. Because of his arrest, he was also  
22 expelled from his private high school, and because of  
23 that, he could no longer participate in his  
24 basketball program. I was able to connect him to a  
25 New York City based non-profit called We Will

2 support. (sic) The program was funded—was founded by  
3 two therapeutic recreational therapists one who  
4 happens to be my sister-in-law. The mission of We  
5 Will is to—and this is the only program that I could  
6 provide. I actually spoke to my social workers and  
7 other individuals to try to find a basketball  
8 program, but this is the only one that I was aware  
9 of. The mission of We Will is to provide high  
10 quality sports programs that serve underserved and  
11 at-risk youth while creating and promoting  
12 connection, unity and empowerment in young male and  
13 females. My client not only participated in the  
14 winter basketball workout, but he also began to open  
15 up to his coaches about the choices that he made that  
16 led to his arrest. Our clients need better access to  
17 programs like We Will, programs that engage—that in  
18 recreational and arts therapy because these programs  
19 aid in reducing recidivism and promote teamwork,  
20 leadership and the rebuilding of the self worth of  
21 these vulnerable children. Many of the court  
22 sponsored programs that are offered to court involved  
23 youth, also require that the child not only engage in  
24 multi-disciplinary counseling sessions, but that they  
25 also regularly attend school. A child who

2 participates in or is mandated to one of these  
3 programs and does not regularly attend school could  
4 be detained dramatically increasing the likelihood  
5 that they will reoffend. Allowances must be made for  
6 children who are engaged in these programs, but are  
7 not enrolled in the appropriate academic setting.  
8 Many of our juvenile clients are not on a path to  
9 receiving a Regents Diploma, but they are interested  
10 in vocational programming. New York City has more  
11 than 400 high schools with over 50 [bell] career and  
12 technical education designated high schools and close  
13 to 90 schools that offer career and technique-  
14 technical education programs as part of their  
15 school's offering, but these programs don't seem to  
16 be readily accessible to my clients because they're  
17 often not even aware of their existence. A direct  
18 partnership with programs for court involve youth and  
19 New York City's career and technical education  
20 programs would be-would drastically-would be optimal  
21 for our clients [bell] and engaging them in these  
22 programs would teach our clients a trade that would  
23 drastically reduce reoffending (sic) grades and lead  
24 to lifelong employment opportunities. What's  
25 required is an expansion into these alternate

2 conceptions of success that may not perfectly fit the  
3 standard emphasis of aca-on academics and the results  
4 could be transformative for our most vulnerable  
5 clients. Thank you.

6 CHAIRPERSON KING: Thank you. Are you  
7 together?

8 No.

9 CHAIRPERSON KING: Okay. We'd love to  
10 just use up one of your minutes, but that's alright.  
11 [laughter]

12 KATE RUBIN: Good afternoon. I'm Kate  
13 Rubin. I'm the Director of Policy at Youth Represent.  
14 We provide criminal and civil reentry legal services  
15 to court involved youth 24 and under. We're part of  
16 the Friends of Island Reentry Network, and thank you,  
17 Chair King and to the committee for the chance to  
18 testify. While keeping youth out of jail is at the  
19 core of our mission at Youth Represent, we don't rely  
20 in recidivism as the most important metric for  
21 youth's success. I appreciate that this was discussed  
22 at the prior panel, but I just want to emphasize. I  
23 think it's worth emphasizing. When young people have  
24 been incarcerated they nearly always return to the  
25 same circumstances that led to their arrest in the

2 first place: under-resourced schools, unstable  
3 housing, lack of consistent and culturally competent  
4 services. Compound this are the significant  
5 disruption of arrest and incarceration and possibly a  
6 criminal record. Because of racial disparity in law  
7 enforcement, recidivism is an especially imperfect  
8 sometimes dangerous measure of the young person's  
9 success, and because teen-agers and young adults are  
10 by their nature impulsive, risk taking, and  
11 susceptible to peer pressure, even arrests for more  
12 serious offenses can be aberrations from overall  
13 positive behavior, but on the other hand not getting  
14 arrested is really just a measure that the person was  
15 arrested not that they're actually doing well. For  
16 all these reasons, we need holistic measures we need  
17 to asses especially in reentry and holistic programs  
18 to help young people meet them, and these measures  
19 have to go well beyond recidivism to look at youth  
20 wellbeing in areas like work, education,  
21 relationships, community, health and creativity.  
22 Again, glad to hear that those have all been part of  
23 the discussion today, but programs that can develop  
24 strong relationships with young people and keep them  
25 engaged particularly Credible Messenger programs that

2 can work with young people even in times of crisis I  
3 think are especially critical. With the goal of  
4 improving our own internal program evaluation, Youth  
5 Represent has engaged in three evaluation projects  
6 over the past five years. There is a lot more detail  
7 in my written testimony, and I won't take up lots of  
8 time, but all of these evaluations have focused on  
9 the impact and results of our legal intervention. So  
10 we looked at measures like how well our Know Your  
11 Rights trainings actually increase participants'  
12 knowledge of their legal rights, and responsibilities  
13 The value placed on our services by staff at the  
14 partner organizations that we collaborate with, and  
15 the economic impact of our Criminal Record Clearance  
16 Services. We actually found that by correcting  
17 errors on rap sheets and clearing young people's  
18 criminal records, we were able to create what the  
19 researcher who looked at it predicted was over \$3  
20 million worth of sort of economic benefits to those  
21 young people over four years. These measures are  
22 more useful to us than recidivism rates, which can  
23 hinge more on a client's race and zip code than their  
24 actual wellbeing. And one critical thing that we  
25 learned in the evaluation process, and just in the

2 course of providing services is the importance of  
3 continuous and coordinated service at every point in  
4 the system especially as Raise the Age is implemented  
5 and as my colleague Julia Davis spoke to, these  
6 programs have been absolutely essential in Raise the  
7 Age implementation especially in address conflict and  
8 reducing incidents at Horizon as Raise—as the Raise  
9 the Age transition happened. Our legal work is only  
10 successful because exist in the context of other  
11 essential services provided by partner organizations  
12 including preventative services, mental health and  
13 substance abuse treatment, counseling, criminal and  
14 juvenile defense mitigation, Credible Messenger  
15 mentoring, career development and reentry services  
16 that follow young people from incarceration all the  
17 way into the community. Thank you.

18 CHAIRPERSON KING: [off mic] Thank you.

19 NANCY GINSBERG: Good afternoon my name  
20 is Nancy Ginsberg. I oversee the IOS and practice of  
21 the Criminal Trial Practice of the Legal Aid Society  
22 citywide. I apologize for my colleague Christine  
23 Della. She had to go to court and she could not be  
24 here. I have submitted extensive written testimony.  
25 I'm not going to read it. I'd like to address some

2 of the things that came up earlier. I would join in  
3 all of the earlier emphasis that recidivism should  
4 really only be one aspect of what is measured, and  
5 that many—and the reason for that is that many of the  
6 kids who are court involved particularly who are  
7 deeply court involved have a deep set of needs, and  
8 their families often have a similar set of needs, and  
9 they really need to be addressed, and because kids  
10 often do not travel on a straight path, from the  
11 moment they are—they come into the system to the  
12 moment they leave the system, there are fits and  
13 starts to their progress, and for that reason many  
14 kids—and I do appreciate that we love the Carnegie  
15 program, too. We love arts programs. Many of our  
16 kids are very talented. They have tremendous visual  
17 art skills and written art skills, but many of our  
18 clients are not ready to engage in those kinds of  
19 services when they first meet us. They need very  
20 intensive therapy and interventions, and work with  
21 their families and their siblings to be able to  
22 accept those types of services, and for many of—many  
23 kids, who have experienced serious trauma, expressing  
24 their thoughts and their histories through spoken  
25 word or through visual art is itself traumatizing

2 unless they work through those issues with a skilled  
3 clinician. And so, earlier when you referenced  
4 prison therapy, the therapy that and the mental  
5 health services that are now in Crossroads and  
6 Horizon are the result of many, many years possibly  
7 decades of advocacy of many of the groups in this  
8 room. We have finally gotten real clinicians who are  
9 real doctors that that these kids would be accessing  
10 on the outside if they were in the communities. They  
11 are very highly qualified doctors, psychiatrists,  
12 psychologists, clinicians who are employed by HHC.  
13 They are trained through NYU Bellevue. They have  
14 completely changed the level of care that has been  
15 provided to our kids who are incarcerated, and many  
16 of our kids for the first time in their lives are  
17 receiving that type of intensive [bell] high quality  
18 services that they need, and part of I think what has  
19 been discussed here is allowing for a continuum of  
20 services that is so important is that as the kids who  
21 are the most in need start to heal, then the system  
22 organizations like Friends and their various partner  
23 agencies push in the other services that are  
24 necessary for them so that they can learn how to  
25 access those services, benefit from those services,

2 and learn how to connect to those services once  
3 they're in the community so that that they can  
4 develop those pro-social relationships in the  
5 community that perhaps they have not had an  
6 opportunity to access in the past. So thank you for  
7 your time.

8 CHAIRPERSON KING: Thank you.

9 REBECCA CONSALA: Good afternoon. My  
10 name is Rebecca Consala, and I'm a Senior Social  
11 Worker in the Adolescent Representation Team at  
12 Brooklyn Defender Services. I'm thank to Chairman  
13 King and the Committee for holding this hearing  
14 today. BDS is fortunate to have great relationships  
15 with several programs that provide many of our  
16 adolescent clients with holistic services and who are  
17 aware of the reality young people live in. I'll  
18 reiterate the point that all my colleagues have made,  
19 and though we are fortunate to work with such great  
20 partners, we need to understand that recidivism  
21 programs cannot fix it all. A three to six-month,  
22 nine month, one-year program cannot undo generational  
23 trauma, and address internal factors, and external  
24 factors that lead to young people committing crimes.  
25 Placing that expectation on these programs is

2 unrealistic and it—and it takes the responsibility  
3 away from other agencies and institutions that need  
4 to transform if we're truly trying to address the  
5 violence and build safer communities. That be said,  
6 we have a couple of recommendations for the Council.  
7 The city should improve access and increase funding  
8 to community based programs particularly as my  
9 colleagues have mentioned those led by Credible  
10 Messengers. I know my colleagues have named some of  
11 those. We'll reiterate example Exalt, the Paid Youth  
12 Internship Program, the Brownsville Community Justice  
13 Center and it's doing really strong work in  
14 Brownsville; Families Rising, and Esperanza, which  
15 are family based therapy programs and the Door. They  
16 all have proven track records of working diligently  
17 with our youth, and helping them to achieve their own  
18 personal goals. Additionally, we recommend that the  
19 city expand funding for adolescent social work  
20 services for public defender offices, and funding for  
21 youth detention facilities such as Crossroads and  
22 Horizons. Additionally, the city must provide safer  
23 shelter space and respite centers for homeless and  
24 formerly incarcerated individuals. Public defenders  
25 in Brooklyn serve around 500 homeless 16 and 17-year-

2 olds every year, the vast majority of whom are not  
3 being served by runaway homeless youth because of the  
4 lack of beds in Brooklyn. About half of these are  
5 made homeless by Criminal Justice System when orders  
6 of protection are issued at arraignments, often times  
7 involving their family members. Young people  
8 surveilled for an assumed gang affiliation should be  
9 connected to a social worker and provided additional  
10 rehabilitation services. In our experience these  
11 young people are incarcerated and not given access to  
12 alternative to incarceration options and, therefore,  
13 we suggest them being connected to social services,  
14 social workers aimed at improving their social,  
15 economic and emotional wellbeing before they become  
16 justice involved. Finally, we recommend that the  
17 program's benchmark should be individualized to the  
18 needs of each young person. Recidivism is a  
19 difficult concept to measure. This can result in  
20 programs creating a rigid standard of success that  
21 needs to be achieved within a specific timeline. In  
22 our experience using the concept of recidivism,  
23 meaning interactions with the Criminal Justice System  
24 or being rearrested has not an effective measure of  
25 success of rehabilitation or individual

2 transformation. As my colleagues have pointed out,  
3 many of our young people live in heavily policed  
4 neighborhoods. They go to schools with heavy police  
5 presence, and are often stopped and frisked by police  
6 on a regular basis. There is a constant risk of re-  
7 arrest. In addition, our young people have different  
8 needs. People have different levels of cognitive  
9 functioning and I know that mental illness was raised  
10 earlier. We should be changing our expectations  
11 based on each individual young person. We thank the  
12 Council for the consideration of our recommendations.

13 CHAIRPERSON KING: I think you, we thank  
14 you. We have one panel left. Just they can say—like  
15 they just talked a little more, but thank you. You  
16 brought some valid information to the table, and we  
17 put it on the record. So appreciate your commitment  
18 to helping change the world. Thank you. The final  
19 panel is Dawn Roe from Girl Vow, Saniya Jackson and  
20 Daphne Torres, Children's Village. [background  
21 comments/pause] Alrighty. So we are going to end the  
22 last panel with the Supremes. [laughter] Alright,  
23 Diana, you're on. [laughter]

24 FEMALE SPEAKER: That's you.  
25

2                   DAWN ROWE: Oh. [laughter] Okay. Is  
3 this on? Yeah. So, Good afternoon everyone. My-  
4 good afternoon, Chair Andy King, Council- City  
5 Council members and the Committee on Juvenile Justice  
6 and everyone in their respective places. So, my name  
7 is Dawn Rowe. I'm the Executive Director and Founder  
8 of Girl Vow. I'm also an adjunct professor at John  
9 Jay College of Criminal Justice. So, I just want to  
10 talk a little bit about Girl Vow and who we are.  
11 We've been mentioned quite often this morning, which  
12 is, you know, pretty good. So, Girl Vow is a Bronx  
13 based 501 (c) (3) birth to minimize the risk of girls  
14 impacted by the Juvenile Justice System, poverty and  
15 foster care, and what we do is we provide direct  
16 service collaborate with public and private  
17 institutions in order to transit-transition  
18 disadvantaged girls into services that will lead into  
19 career sustainability training or post-secondary  
20 education. So, one of the things that we do is we  
21 provide intensive mentorship, and like I said, we are  
22 gender focused for girls doing aftercare as an  
23 alternative to placement in schools and anywhere  
24 specifically where girls are failing. So, of the  
25 work that we're doing right now through out Friends

2 of Island Partnership, we've been working on—we've  
3 worked on Rikers Island for over a year. So we are  
4 part of that whole Raise the Age transition. We've  
5 done work at Horizons, Crossroads and many of the  
6 LSTs, NSDs, et cetera, even our partnership with ACS.  
7 So, a partner of our young people that we work with  
8 are—they range from age 12 to 24. So they could be  
9 chronic runaways. They could be sex survivors or  
10 girls victims as juveniles. Some of the cases that  
11 we work with the young ladies may have like for  
12 example an attempted murder charge. So, one thing I  
13 think that's key about our program is that we don't  
14 turn anyone away. Even if we feel like that we can't  
15 provide direct services for them, we find someone  
16 that can, and I think that's been part of the success  
17 for our particular program is the fact that we worked  
18 with young people throughout any stage and process of  
19 their life as well as their families. Chair King,  
20 you did mention early on, you talked about  
21 programming that's willing to do the work and go  
22 above and beyond, but doesn't have the funding and  
23 that's an example of the program that we are. Even  
24 though we're Bronx based, we do work throughout the  
25 five boroughs. As a matter of fact, on the past

2 Saturday I got a call at 11:00 at night for a young  
3 lady that tried to commit suicide. She was in the  
4 middle of trying to commit suicide, and she had been  
5 trying to commit suicide all week long, and she  
6 called me. She said I don't feel well. So, by the  
7 time I got into the conversation with her, one of the  
8 things that I learned is that not only has she been  
9 trying to commit suicide all day, but she had been  
10 drinking like bleaches and cleaners and all types of  
11 stuff in order to try to kill herself. So when I  
12 asked her I said, where's your mom? She said my mom  
13 is downstairs. So that tells you the type of  
14 connection that we have with young people that they  
15 would call us to find-to-to ask for support and  
16 services, and really being responsive to when-  
17 whenever the need is no matter what it is. So, you  
18 know, lo and behold I was able to get that young lady  
19 into the hospital. She's in the hospital right now,  
20 and I was able to contact her mom, and tell her what  
21 she was in the process of doing. [bell] But we do  
22 everything from girls' advocacy to leadership. We  
23 have youth summits. I think our partnership with  
24 Friends of Island Academy have been-have been  
25 critical. We also work with juvenile prosecutors.

2 We're in the courts. We've attended FTC meetings,  
3 and like I said, we do a lot of work even with youth-  
4 youth ambassadorship. Taniya is going to talk a  
5 little bit about that. [background comments]

6 SANIYA JACKSON: Good afternoon, Chair  
7 Andy King and City Council Members of the Committee  
8 of Juvenile Justice. Good afternoon. My name is  
9 Saniya and I'm a 17-year-old single parent of 7-  
10 month-old baby boy named Aden. At the moment I am  
11 current--currently facing some challenges that have  
12 prevented me from moving forward. When I was 16, I  
13 was arrested on felony assault charges with a deadly  
14 weapon and a--and a result. (sic) I quickly--I quickly  
15 became a product of the system. I was sent to Rikers  
16 Island. On the island, I started a program called  
17 Cases. Since then there have been a variety of  
18 domestic violence issues that have taken place  
19 between myself and my son's paternal grandmother  
20 leading to multiple arrests and the removal--the  
21 removal of my child while my son was cared for by the  
22 state. After numerous arrests, I started to  
23 internalize on how I have been--have to be--have to be  
24 a successful mother for my kid during my time  
25 incarcerated. Rikers offered many programs and which

2 I attended one of them being Girl Vow. Dawn will come  
3 in twice a week and there was something about her  
4 that inspired me to attend. Although I attended  
5 other programs, it was Girl Vow that I looked forward  
6 to attending to—to the most since my release. Dawn  
7 will come in with much excitement, happiness and  
8 positive vibes just cheering all the girls up, and  
9 has the same energy every time she conducted  
10 workshops. Through her workshops—wait. Through her  
11 workshops I learned to realize my life decisions, and  
12 gave me a different perspective on life. Upon my  
13 release, I met one of the volunteers, and I was  
14 informed more about Girl Vow program. They assured  
15 me that no matter what my situation was, they were  
16 going to help me no matter what. Girl Vow offered  
17 unconditional support and because of that, I  
18 discovered and unfound love for everyone that works  
19 in the—at Girl Vow. I began to attend, and as time  
20 progressed, I met Leslie who worked with Dawn, and  
21 later became my mentor. She has not only ben an  
22 example for me as a person, but as a young mother as  
23 well. I learned through her that not every sit—not  
24 every situation needs a reaction, and that it's  
25 better to steer away from problems that will get me

2 in trouble. So, now I am working on me. I've been  
3 with Girl Vow for over a year, and from the other day  
4 I joined, they provided nothing but a safe  
5 environment. I am no means perfect, and  
6 unfortunately I became a product of the Criminal  
7 Justice System, but it's programs like Girl Vow that  
8 help girls just like I need to integrate back into  
9 society and find a better way. During my time on the  
10 Island, I've seen 16 and 17-year-olds suffer from all  
11 walks of life. Although some stories were harder  
12 than others, the one thing we all shared is the love  
13 we have [bell] for another, and it's only a bond that  
14 we can understand. We need more programs and  
15 facilities that help girls like me continue on the  
16 right path. One thing I learned during my time on  
17 the Island is good support is limited, and a small  
18 window of opportunity is the difference between going  
19 back to jail and beating the odds. Throughout my  
20 accomplishments, I've gone back to school. I found a  
21 job. I got my son back, and I am a Girl Vow Youth  
22 Ambassador. Mentorship with Girl Vow is changing me.  
23 Three things I recommend for girls in my position is  
24 to never look back, never trust someone whose  
25 intentions aren't better than you can dream of, and

2 know that even though we've committed mistakes, we  
3 are here because God gave us life so we can live it  
4 the way we want to, and also-[laughter]

5 CHAIRPERSON KING: Yes. [laughs]

6 SANIYA JACKSON: I am doing so good that  
7 they gave me like a Saniya party a success party, and  
8 I got a certificate from them. [applause/laughter]  
9 Here it is. On my certificate it says: Welcome to  
10 the Saniya Success Party. Today we are celebrating  
11 the growth and many accomplishments of Saniya  
12 Jackson. Saniya is a strong willed, intelligent and  
13 determined who overcame the obstacles that tried to  
14 knock her down. She has prevailed.

15 CHAIRPERSON KING: Congrats. [laughter/  
16 applause]

17 JACKIE TORRES-DOUGLAS: So, I'm nervous  
18 coming up here. [laughter] I'm so inspired. Thank  
19 you for sharing. My name is Jackie Torres-Douglas.  
20 I work at the Children's Village. I did have a  
21 statement, but I'd rather speak. I think it's more  
22 helpful speaking about our programming specifically.  
23 I am a Vice—I am an Assistant Vice President at the  
24 Children's Village. I oversee the MST, Multisystemic  
25 Therapy and the Family Therapy programs. We're one

2 agency out of many that provides MST. So, one of the  
3 things that came up earlier was the metrics. So, MST  
4 what we do is when we—when we get referred a youth,  
5 we don't look at the youth as the problem. We look  
6 at the behaviors that the youth is exhibiting, as a  
7 symptom of everything that's going on around the  
8 youth, and so as we've already talked about,  
9 disproportionality, poverty. I mean unless we're  
10 going to solve why people are poor, we're going to  
11 continue to see systemic issues that impact the  
12 families that we serve in certain practice of New  
13 York that we serve. And so, looking at the youth, we  
14 look at the determining factors or the correlating  
15 factors that come from family that come from the  
16 individual, the come from school, that come from the  
17 peers, that come from the community, and all of those  
18 different systems impact the youth as well as the  
19 youth impacting those systems. And what we try to do  
20 is understand based on those correlations that the  
21 family wants to do to address those different  
22 determining factors that continue to make the youth  
23 at risk to engage in anti-social or criminal  
24 behavior. So, we work with the family three times—  
25 two to three times a week in their homes. There's no

2 office space, but we're doing the work in the home to  
3 help the family address those behaviors, and—and what  
4 we really look for is a change in the parent and  
5 child via their communication pattern, their—their  
6 ability to engage differently. And so our QI system  
7 because it's evidence based programming we follow—we  
8 track the success of each of family. We look at  
9 clinical successes such as has the parent gained  
10 parenting skills? Has the parent engaged in  
11 increasing their social network? Is the parent and  
12 child relationship different? Is the youth engaged  
13 and doing well in school? Is the youth engaged in  
14 pro-social activities? Those are very basic things  
15 that are on the—on the clinical level. Now, on the  
16 contract level that most stakeholders pay for is the  
17 youth at home still at the end of treatment? Has the  
18 youth not committed any crimes and is the youth doing  
19 well in school and program, and we've been pretty  
20 successful. Twenty percent of recidivism about and  
21 85% of youth not being—not being rearrested. So, our  
22 numbers are starting to look really good, and we're  
23 really proud of it, but it doesn't change the fact  
24 that there's so many things that the parents are  
25 exposed to, and these limitations to earn access—

2 limitations and access to resources in the community.  
3 So, when we talk about legitimate access, we need  
4 more programming. We need programs that start at an  
5 early age to help youth very early on, programs such  
6 as My Brother's Keeper that can help youth  
7 academically from early ages, and—and help them  
8 acclimate into the school system so that we can see  
9 less suspensions from people of color. When we look  
10 at community programs, we need [bell] more  
11 partnerships with community programs, more resources.  
12 There's not a lot of resources for youth in the  
13 communities that they live in, and then  
14 transportation outside of those communities are a  
15 hardship as well. We need job searchers. I mean  
16 last—last summer we had all of our youth apply for  
17 Summer Youth. We had all of our families. We were  
18 able to get partnership with YMCA and have families  
19 go on a family pass for the summer. So those kinds  
20 of things that increase family functioning that  
21 increase prosocial outlets and participation. They  
22 give families hope and doing something different than  
23 their norm, and also they build a bond. Those are  
24 things that we're really committed to and we need to  
25 invest more funding into. Thank you.

2 CHAIRPERSON KING: Thank you for your  
3 testimony. Congratulations sister girl.

4 SANIYA JACKSON: Thank you.

5 CHAIRPERSON KING: Council Member Barron,  
6 I think you—you wanted to share something?

7 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Yes. I just  
8 wanted to say to the panel thank you. So, it's great  
9 to have the community come, particularly people that  
10 have been impacted by the programs make a great  
11 impression. I just want to say congratulations.  
12 Keep up the good work, and the world is your oyster.  
13 Open it up and do what you want to do with it. Keep  
14 up the good work.

15 JACKIE TORRES-DOUGLAS: Thank you.

16 CHAIRPERSON KING: I believe there's a  
17 couple of pearls in that oyster, and you might be the  
18 first one. [laughter] As we conclude, I just  
19 thought over saying [coughs] an ounce of prevention  
20 is better than a pound of cure, and we heard Rebecca  
21 talk about recidivism can't be the only metrics, and  
22 the services that are being provided, and there's a  
23 whole host of things that push people, young people  
24 back into a system that I call oppression and  
25 incarceration, and if we really want to have the

2 right conversation one day, I look forward to us all  
3 in society having the right and the real conversation  
4 because you can go back to the '70s and the '60s  
5 where the families were starting to get—especially  
6 when we talk about the black families who are getting  
7 broke up, and at that point if you make sure that  
8 communities because it's no way to dance around. The  
9 numbers tell us in the city of New York and even  
10 throughout the United States, people who make up the  
11 incarceration system are people of color. So, if you  
12 really want to end incarceration and recidivism that  
13 means you got to make sure that people have proper  
14 educational opportunities. That means our schools  
15 from Pre-K all the way to college got to be  
16 accessible, they've got to be full of quality and  
17 they got to deliver to make people fill themselves  
18 with good information. So then they can go out and  
19 seek the opportunities to provide for their families.  
20 I don't care how anybody wants to tell it, I know if  
21 my dad and my mom were in my house, I could not tell  
22 where I would be today. As much as I love my mother,  
23 my mother could teach me how to be a man. So, how  
24 many of these young children are growing up with a  
25 father that's locked up because his father couldn't

2 get it right, or the system set up that his father  
3 couldn't provide and the mother and father couldn't  
4 figure it out. If you go back 50 years ago where the  
5 mother and father got together especially that they  
6 need for survival. So they can rip that survival  
7 from us. So, in every other store, every other  
8 corner we got liquor stores next to churches. We  
9 crack going on in our neighborhood. Now they want a  
10 legalize—legalize marijuana, something else that's  
11 going to trip people up. I'm against legalizing  
12 marijuana. I'll put it on the record and I'll stand  
13 with that commission (sic) any day. But at the end of  
14 the day, how do we make sure that our young people  
15 have the advice of the family. The family is  
16 functioning. That means two parents in the house,  
17 you know. We can no longer advocate for the  
18 housewives of whatever that we're watching on TV and  
19 thinking that's our reality with all the drama in our  
20 young sisters, and think it's okay to behave like  
21 that amongst each other. People got to—a woman got  
22 to be a woman. They got to teach our young girls how  
23 to be young ladies. The same thing, fathers got to  
24 be around to teach their young—young brothers how to  
25 be fathers. Your first encounter with that is say if

2 a father is in the house is with the father. If the  
3 father is strong and deliver for his family, she  
4 doesn't mess it up. She doesn't get out of character  
5 because the dad is in the house. The same thing for  
6 a young-young brother. If he's-his first  
7 relationship with the opposite sex is with the-is  
8 with the mother, and if he respects the mother  
9 because the mother is providing and teaching and  
10 guiding and nurturing, he doesn't disrespect the  
11 young lady out here. This is where we got to get  
12 back to real talk so we don't even have to figure out  
13 why we got to have programs because the kid made a  
14 bad decision. Well, if you give them access to  
15 opportunities, good food, good loving, good spiritual  
16 belief, we're not in here having this conversation  
17 why a 16-year-old is going back to-to a Juvenile  
18 Justice System. That's real conversation for us all.  
19 Once the time-once we get to where we want to have  
20 that real conversation, then we'll move the matrices.  
21 I started this conversation earlier with Dr. King had  
22 a dream, but not everybody wants to see a dream  
23 fulfilled and makes-makes the system that much better  
24 for those who are running the system if half of the-  
25 half of the population is dysfunctional. Again,

2 America's shutdown of the government. It tells us  
3 that American government is not always about the  
4 American people. It's about itself. I want to thank  
5 everybody today for their testimony. You keep on  
6 striving and survive sister girl. We got your backup  
7 in here alright.

8 SANIYA JACKSON: Okay

9 CHAIRPERSON KING: Okay, everybody, we  
10 want to thank you for coming out to today's Just--  
11 Juvenile Justice Committee hearing on recidivism and  
12 we're going to move forward to making sure that we  
13 save some souls and save some lives. Council Woman  
14 Chin. Does anybody have things to say? God bless  
15 you in 2019. [gavel] Adjourned.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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



Date January 23, 2019