

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

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January 15, 2019

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HELD AT: 250 Broadway - Committee Rm.  
14<sup>th</sup> Fl.

B E F O R E: DEBORAH L. ROSE  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Justin L. Brannan  
Margaret S. Chin  
Mathieu Eugene  
Andy L. King

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

Andrew Miller, Senior Director  
External and Intergovernmental Affairs  
Department of Youth and Community Development, DYCD.

Eduardo Laboy, Special Advisor, Interagency  
Coordinating Council, ICC

Jarrell Danes, Research Assistant, Center for Justice,  
Columbia University

Theresa Moser, Legal Aid Society

Jamie Powlovich, Executive Director, New York State  
Coalition for Homeless Youth

Gisele Castro, Executive Director, Exalt Youth

[sound check] [pause] [gavel]

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Good morning. The youth, I woke you up, right? [laughter] It's actually afternoon. It's after lunch, and we're looking a little sleepy. The meeting--this hearing of the Youth Services Committee is now called to order. Good afternoon and thank you all for coming. My name is Council Member Debi Rose, and I'm the Chair of the Committee on Youth Services. Today, we're conducting an oversight hearing on the Interagency Coordinating Council, which will be referred to a lot today by ICC. City government has a tendency to use a lot of acronyms. So, it's the Interagency Coordinating Council. I first would like to thank Speaker Corey Johnson for his commitment to youth of New York City, and I would also like to thank all of the young people, the advocates, program providers and all those who came to testify today for showing up to this important hearing, and finally, I would like to acknowledge my colleagues who have joined us Council Member Margaret Chin from Manhattan. I'm sure we'll be joined by others, and as I always state, being a young person today is tough. In addition to the common stresses attributed to growing up, the

increased reliance on social media and technology combined with the current national political climate has most definitely exacerbated problems that youth have. With these problems come the need for comprehensive services, and although New York City is truly a wonderful place to grow up and live in, it can be difficult for youth to traverse the complex systems and services within the city. With many youth not knowing where to get help, notably vulnerable youth such as Runaway and Homeless Youth or RHY, of whom this committee and the Speaker have focused extensively on. They have expressed that there is a blatant lack of information on where to get services that they truly need. Problems can be exponentially worse when a youth is an LGBTQ or a court-involved young person like a Runaway and Homeless Youth might be. In an effort to more efficiently address the problems that all youth encounter, the ICC was created. The ICC is a New York City Charter mandate that looks to promote interagency collaboration on issues relevant to young people and to support youth and families by utilizing New York City's wide range of government resources. The work of the ICC is informed through a broad range

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

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2 of collaborations with New York City agencies,  
3 community based organizations and not-for-profit  
4 providers that all directly or indirectly support  
5 Youth Services. Approximately 20 city youth serving  
6 agencies are members of the ICC, of which include the  
7 Administration for Children's Services, the  
8 Department of Education, the Department of Aging.  
9 Did you know that Margaret?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: No I did not.

11 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: And Health and  
12 Hospitals, and more recently, last week I was  
13 appointed by the City Council Speaker to serve as the  
14 Council's representative to the ICC. Did you know  
15 that?

16 MALE SPEAKER: [off mic] Yes, I did.

17 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Oh, okay. [laughs]  
18 I'm very much looking forward to participating and  
19 seeing first hand the ICC in action, but in the  
20 meantime this committee would like to hear from DYCD  
21 as the Commissioner of DYCD is the Director of the  
22 ICC. How? We would like to know how the ICC is  
23 functioning and what support the Council can provide  
24 to help make it better. It is still disturbing to  
25 hear that a large number of youth even those who I

have personally spoken to, and Council Member Chin and I visited a youth serving agency, and we found out that a large number of youth do not know the services that they can access or have expressed that the services that—that do exist are not adequate at serving their specific needs. This was the impetus for this hearing. We want to examine the ICC and what functions and roles it takes on, as well as what could be done to improve upon what the ICC is doing, and ensure that future goals are met. I want to understand the value of the ICCs to what—to work groups and how work groups are determined to be established. I would also like an update on the status of the 2018 ICC Report, and its anticipated findings as well as upcoming activities and plans of the ICC for the coming year. I'd like to understand how the ICC ensures that all youth know where to find the services and resources that they truly need. I look forward to hearing from those invited to testify, and would like to thank my staff: Esma El Amari (sp?). I always say her name wrong. I'm sorry in advance, and the Committee staff Paul Senegal, Kevin Kotowski and Michelle Paragrín (sp?) along with

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES 7

2 our community engagement representatives Elizabeth  
3 Arndt and now we will swear you in.

4 LEGAL COUNSEL: Good afternoon. Please  
5 raise your right hand. Do you affirm to tell the  
6 truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth in  
7 your testimony today, and respond honestly to Council  
8 Members' questions?

9 ANDREW MILLER: I do.

10 LEGAL COUNSEL: Please state your names  
11 for the record.

12 ANDREW MILLER: Andrew Miller.

13 EDUARDO LABOY: I'm Eduardo Laboy. I'm  
14 Eduardo Laboy

15 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Is it on? Is the red  
16 light?

17 ANDREW MILLER: We got it.

18 EDUARDO LABOY: I'm Eduardo Laboy.

19 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay. Hold the mic  
20 closer to you so you can be comfortable.

21 ANDREW MILLER: Thank you.

22 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: [off mic] Alright, you  
23 may begin your testimony.

24 ANDREW MILLER: Good afternoon Chair Rose  
25 and members of the City Council's Youth Services

Committee. I am Andrew Miller, Senior Director for External and Intergovernmental Affairs at DYCD. I am joined by Eduardo Laboy, Special Advisor for the ICC. On behalf of Commissioner Chong, thank you for this opportunity to discuss the ICC. We also appreciate the Youth Services Committee's support of the ICC over the years. Now entering its 30<sup>th</sup> year, the ICC was established in 1989 to promote interagency collaboration on issues relevant to young people and to support families and youth by utilizing the city's multitude of government resources. This is accomplished in partnerships among city based agencies that also serve youth as well as community based organization and non-profit providers. As per the New York City Charter, the ICC is comprised of representatives of each of the city's youth service agencies. These include ADS, DFTA, DCAS, Corrections and Cultural Affairs. [background comments] Sorry. Sure. Sorry. So the Department for Children's Services, the Department for the Aging, the Department of Citywide Administrative Services, the Department of Corrections, Department of Cultural Affairs, the Department of Education, the Department of Environmental Protection, the New York City Fire



Department, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Health and Hospitals, Department of Homeless Service, the New York City Housing Authority, the Human Resources Administration, the Mayor's Office to end Domestic and Gender Based Violence, the Department of Parks and Recreation, the New York City Police Department, the Department of Probation, the Brooklyn Public Library, the New York Public Library, the Queens Public Library and finally the Department of Youth and Community Development and we really want to welcome you on board, Council Member, and we look forward to working with you in the years to come. So Deputy Mayor Thompson is the Chair and Commission Chong is the Director the ICC and Eduardo Laboy oversees its day-to-day operations. So the ICC meets quarterly and conducts an annual public hearing as specified by the Charter. The ICC goes beyond this requirement as we invite community-based organizations to participate on the ICC through our two current work groups: Supporting Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning Youth and Court-Involved Youth. The ICC also holds special events to highlight emerging youth issues. To examine the prevailing attitudes towards Mental

health especially immigrant communities, the ICC featured an Asian-American Federation Report entitled: Overcoming Challenges to Mental Health Services for Asian New Yorkers. Attendees learned about overcoming the stigma associated with mental illness and how providers and agencies can empower individuals to seek mental health care. We held a panel discussion on how providing a young person with a roll model through mentoring can help them develop into successful adults. Panelists include a mentoring program with the Mayor's Fund to advance New York City, Big Brothers, Big Sisters in New York City, Department of Youth and Community Development, and the New York War Department's Youth Leadership Council. Recognizing the impact of getting young people involved early in their community, the ICC highlighted civic engagement opportunities. Panelists include representatives from the New York City Campaign Finance Board, the New York City Anti-Violence Project, DYCD's Cornerstone Youth Advisory Boards, and DYCD's Neighborhood Advisory Boards. In this regard, the ICC gives voice to young people and allow them to directly engage city agencies on their concerns. Last month, for example, at our annual

hearing we heard from dozens of young people. Their concerns included topics such as access to public transportation and to travel to and from after school and weekend activities, transgender rights in public schools, police concerns and even street lights, which weren't operating near young person's school. We actually asked the ICC members present to follow directly up with the young people on those specific topics. Understanding the need for agencies, providers and organizations to effectively deliver services that that meet the distinct needs of clients has led the ICC to administer culturally competent trainings annually. For example, with the support of the LGBTQ Center, we offered LGBT cultural competence training entitled Trauma Among Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning Youth during Pride Month. All ICC members and DYCD funded Runaway and Homeless Youth providers were invited. Additionally, the New York City Anti-Violence Project also developed-provided trainings on developing LGBT inclusive policies. We also heard from the Gay Men's Health Crisis about struggles faced by trans individuals in areas such as housing and employment. The First Lady's Office on the Media (sic) Project,

which is the city' first multi-agency strategy to deliver unique service to LGBTQ youth. Marsha's House spoke on the services provided to LGBTQ Homeless men and women and Destination Tomorrow, which provides LGBTQ services in the South Bronx. With the encouragement of City Council Speaker Corey Johnson, DYCD and the ICC Collaborative with the Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment and Newfest New York's LGBT Film and Media Arts Organization to host a special free screening of Saturday Church. This film raises awareness of LGBTQ homeless youth in New York City. Following the screening there was a Q & A with the director and lead actor. Our court involved work group invited several city agencies and community based organizations to highlight their approaches to meet the needs—needs of young people. For example the Mayor Office to End Domestic Violence and Gender Based Violence promoted awareness about services available to victims. Souls Sisters, which works to empower young black women spoke about their efforts to create a space—a safe space for women to examine their lives. Concerns included racism, bullying, harassment and career opportunities. Exalt, which works with Court-Involved Youth in

Downtown Brooklyn, promoted education—promotes education over Criminal Justice engagement, and Community Connections for Youth on the Credible Messenger Justice Center Liaison to bring together at-risk youth and formerly incarcerated mentors. Day One, spoke on their relationship with Youth Intervention Program, which works in high schools across the city on teen dating, violence prevention and intervention, and the NYPD's Youth Strategies Division on their programs to reduce youth violence, prevent drug use, promote child safety and improve relationships between police and youth. The ICC also continues to promote its resource directory *Coming Home: Transitioning Back into the Community*. I think you all received a copy of it in your packets. It was designed that the input of young people includes information about resources for youth leaving detention including housing, practical assistance, legal rights, drug and alcohol treatment and job searches. The guide is available for download on DYCD's website and has been circulated to youth in custody and their parents. Copies were also provided to the library systems for distribution at their branches, to the—to the Law Department,

Cultural Affairs and the Human Resources Administration just to name a few. Based on the great feedback we received, plans were underway to publish a third edition. The ICC also helps organize community events such as Spring Into Health. This was a joint effort by DYCD, Department for the Aging, New York City Housing Authority, Health and Hospitals, Department of Parks and Recreation, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and Human Resources Administration. It brought these ICC members and agencies together at 34 locations throughout the city from April 10<sup>th</sup> to April 14<sup>th</sup> 2018. The fairs engaged, encouraged, empowered and exposed community residents to an array of holistic services, local community based organizations, and city agencies in each neighborhood and once again, thank you for the opportunity to testify today, and we're happy to answer your questions.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you, thank you. It's quite a compilation of-of agencies, mayoral agencies and-and intergovernmental agencies. Do you mean that this a mandated charter-chartered by the-mandated by charter? In the Charter the ICC is supposed to plan and develop a comprehensive

informational service benefitting all stakeholders, conduct an annual comprehensive youth service Needs Assessment on citywide, borough wide and community district wide basis, and formulate an integrated comprehensive plan for the delivery of community based youth services. What—what is a comprehensive informational service?

ANDREW MILLER: Well, I think the—the best example would be the transition guide. This would be the comprehensive services, but the ICC decided that its top priority is to coordinate services from different member agencies was to help really the most at-risk youth, which is why we created the court-involved and the LGBT Youth Work Groups, and I think like you said the resource guide for Court-Involved Youth is one of those best examples.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Do you believe that the ICC is effective?

ANDREW MILLER: Wholeheartedly I do. Worked with—for DYCD, and actually in Youth Services for over 20 years. I can say that it—it is extremely effective and I'm very proud of the work that we've done.

2 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, being that—it must  
3 be difficult to work with all of the city agencies,  
4 right?

5 ANDREW MILLER: [interposing] Eduardo  
6 helps us greatly.

7 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Eduardo and so what  
8 would you say could be done to improve this body?

9 ANDREW MILLER: In terms of the current  
10 structure of the ICC, we are committed. I believe  
11 the work group set-up allows different agencies to  
12 come forward. I believe more dialogue along those  
13 lines or a workgroup would bring agencies together  
14 further.

15 ANDREW MILLER: But we particularly like  
16 that each agency brings their own unique set of  
17 challenges, issues and concerns and expertise in  
18 those matters.

19 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Are—are all of the  
20 members attending the—are they all participating in  
21 the meetings quarterly? It's supposed to be I think  
22 once per quarter.

23 ANDREW MILLER: So, yes so we have  
24 quarterly meetings and we also have the work group  
25 meetings and then we have the annual public hearing.



So, we have a very robust attendance at all of those, particularly if they're involved in certain workgroups, but I was very pleased for example last month when we had the public hearing, we had 20 some odd city agencies lined up and then young people could directly speak to them and it was a very powerful, powerful picture.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So you're actually meeting once per quarter?

ANDREW MILLER: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: As mandated. Okay, and are there limits in an agenda available? Could I get copies of those?

ANDREW MILLER: Absolutely. In fact we even take—we have a stenographer that actually takes notes during our public hearings as well. So, we could prove that to you.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, they—you feel that there's robust attendance by all of the agencies that are a part of this--

ANDREW MILLER: [interposing] Yes.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: --this group? Okay, and is there anything that you would do differently to amend the mandate of the Charter?

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

18

2 EDUARDO LABOY: Well you have to--Yeah, I  
3 mean--

4 ANDREW MILLER: [interposing] When you  
5 take a look at it, the ICC was created 30 years ago,  
6 and so much has changed in the field of these  
7 services for the good particularly because of the  
8 commitment of our Mayor about providing these  
9 services but in 1989, we never had--we didn't have  
10 Beacon Programs and then when Mayor Dinkins created  
11 the Beacon model in the early '90s, it was really  
12 when we started utilizing public space more  
13 efficiently. So, now we have 91 Beacon Programs that  
14 are directly located in DOE locations. We have I  
15 think about 81% of our COMPASS Programs are located  
16 directly in public schools and each of those--it  
17 builds a relationship in terms of we have to have the  
18 School Partnership Agreement. So that the principal  
19 works directly with our providers in providing the  
20 best services possible and the service model is  
21 integrated. We also now have 94 teen centers based  
22 in NYCHAs. So we have a very strong partnership with  
23 NYCHA as well in that regard.

24 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: When you were--when was  
25 the last time you developed a Needs Assessment?

ANDREW MILLER: We in terms of Needs Assessments we rely very heavily upon a couple of things. One is the Department of City Planning has very robust information, and that helps guide whenever we issue RFPs in different areas. We also communicate a lot with the community boards who create those District Needs Statements and we read those carefully, and we actually respond to each and every one of those concerns. In fact, Sarah Marx of my staff is here and we—we go through painful steps to make sure we read everything that's in there and respond to it appropriately, and we meet with the community boards throughout the year.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So the Needs Assessment is a compilation of other agencies, the--

ANDREW MILLER: [interposing] Many different agencies. I mean we've spoken with ACS at these meetings and it's sort of more of a global approach.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay. So, DYCD doesn't conduct its own Needs Assessment?

ANDREW MILLER: We use--yeah. Well, we—we also--part of the agency we also do surveys and in all 42 in a--neighborhood development areas, and that

actually helps inform the kinds of programs that go into each of those districts--

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: And this is--

ANDREW MILLER: [interposing] In those districts there are thousands of people.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: And this is done annually?

ANDREW MILLER: I think it's done semi-annually.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Semi-annually?

ANDREW MILLER: Yeah. I could get more information as to the particulars of that.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So then does the Needs Assessment drive the Needs Assessment drive what the ICC the work it does every day?

ANDREW MILLER: [interposing] It does. I think it's more for DYCD's perspective and I could-- not to speak on behalf of other agencies, but in terms of how they would actually shape and locate their programs. Like for example, most of the DYCD programs are in, I would say 70% are in high need areas, which is a good use of the resources.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, the--the Needs Assessment that's done---

ANDREW MILLER: [interposing] That's--

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: [interposing] -which  
is a compilation of all of the agencies pretty much,  
right--

ANDREW MILLER: Uh-hm.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: --is used primarily for  
DYCD or--

ANDREW MILLER: [interposing] So, each  
agency chooses how to use that data for the best--to  
the best of their program planning purposes, yes. So  
DYCD looks at it in-in our-in terms of the programs  
that we're providing and they-like ACS and another  
agency would look at it differently what they're  
looking for whether it's for provide Pre-K services,  
childcare, that's-that kind of good stuff.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Just to go back to  
the-the structure of the ICC, would you recommend  
because you said that times have changed--

ANDREW MILLER: Uh-hm.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: --would you-do you  
think there's a need to amend to mandate some of the  
charges that the-the Charter, you know, has assigned  
to the ICC and if there should-should there be any  
new agencies added to this body?

ANDREW MILLER: I'm sure we could have like discussions as to how to modernize what the current charter mandates are because again, technology has changed. We—we're very grateful for that. In terms of like you were talking about data sharing, we have Growing Up NYC, which the Mayor's Office developed, which is a digital platform where a young person could go online and find any type of services that they want. So, maybe we could have further discussions as to how we could align the City Charter mandates of the ICC to sort of recognize where we are now in terms of the city.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: You have—the ICC has two working groups.

ANDREW MILLER: Uh-hm.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Can you tell me why only two and if there are others?

ANDREW MILLER: We—sure. Currently, we have two because we think they are the most at-risk youth, but we've also had in the past an after school work group, which was very robust, and that actually, and we also had Behavioral Challenges Work Group. So, I'll give you an example of their work. They actually produced a report to help young people with

special needs be served in after school services, and as a result of that, that actually helped inform an RFP we issued and actually helped build some of our capacity building services that are provided through Ramapo Services. So, workgroups could be created and disbanded as needed. So, we certainly welcome your input as to these other areas that you would like the ICC to explore as well.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: And since there's only--there's two working groups--

ANDREW MILLER: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: --are they the only--is that the only population that the ICC is addressing? Is--is

ANDREW MILLER: [interposing] Well, it--

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: --it formulating policy?

ANDREW MILLER: Well, we sort of kind of mentioned like any young person in New York City could benefit from a mentor, and that's why we had those kind of meetings. In terms of civic engagement, every young person could certainly engage in civic engagement. We, like for example, we--we particularly enjoy when we did our partnership with

the City Council with the participatory budgeting and how a lot of our SYEP participants were utilizing that, and we got great experience in being engaged and understanding the needs of their community and having people vote on what they want to see—what they want to see in the neighborhood.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: And the ICC has the ability to—to engage in policy. Are there any policy suggestions, recommendations that have come out of the ICC?

ANDREW MILLER: In terms of how we approach things, in terms of how we will provide information to young people absolutely. That's again why you see guides like this.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, I'm really happy that you referred to this. I t's called *Coming Home: Transitioning Back Into the Community* and this was specifically made for young people who are court involved, right?

ANDREW MILLER: Correct.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: And—and it's right--

ANDREW MILLER: [interposing] Hold—hold on for one second. All young people can provide benefits and information in this guide.



CHAIRPERSON ROSE: And that's my point exactly. So, where is--where is this guide distributed?

ANDREW MILLER: Sure. So, again, mostly those were given to young people in detention. You notice like it's an accordion. CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uh-hm.

ANDREW MILLER: So this was designed for safety. It also has nice colors, and so most--the bulk that we printed went to ACS to young people in detention. We brought some to--I mentioned in the testimony the public libraries all three of them, the Law Department, the Probation Department. Any place where you would see a young person who has contact with the law or their parents. This is--it can also benefit parents.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uh-hm.

ANDREW MILLER: So, you'll be pleased to know that we're actually having a work group this Thursday where we're going to actually do a focus group in our Intern Bradley from NYU, thank you Bradley, we're going to actually begin revising this. So, we welcome the Council's input as to how we can make this a better guide moving forward.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Is there a resource guide just a general Youth Services Resource Guide?

ANDREW MILLER: Sure. So, I mentioned earlier about—in terms of like obviously we have Growing Up NYC, which any young person or parent could access that website and find out not only DYCD services, but a multitude of services available to them. So, I would highly recommend using that as well--

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Because--

ANDREW MILLER: [interposing] --and Outback (sic)

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: --this is—is very comprehensive. I—I want to commend all the folks who have a part--

ANDREW MILLER: [interposing] I think—I think--

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: --in—in doing this and this is the kind of guide that I feel should be available everywhere, and it's—it's great that you targeted it for Court-Involved Youth, but when Council Member Chin and I visited and other Council Members, we visited an agency and we talked to young

people, and—and one of the common threads were that they did not know where to go for services.

ANDREW MILLER: Uh-hm.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: These were Runaway and Homeless Youth, and they wound up in adult shelters where it was inappropriate and they were turned away, and it took quite a while for them to figure out and find out where, you know, where they could go and what services were available. So, I think this guide should become, you know, an overall resource guide, and it should be everywhere. It—it should be in our schools. It should be—it should be available to 311 operators. It should be, you know, more widely placed, and—and not just with that particular targeted group. I—I don't—I did not see your resource guide. I don't know if it—if it's comparable to this because this seems pretty comprehensive.

ANDREW MILLER: So, this is a very good guide particularly when you think a young person is in detention when their parents are visiting them, they had time to read this and start planning, and also working with their case managers writing with the potential about how—what kind of aftercare

services are we going to have when we leave here?

But again, we—we do have we based applications. I mentioned a—I mentioned already Growing Up NYC.

DYCD—discovered DYCD is very robust when a young person goes but I also think in terms of if you want to look at it from a case management perspective, we strongly young people who are having issues and concerns to visit all our Drop-In Centers, which are now—it's—we have 24-hour Drop-In Centers in all five boroughs.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: But—but, Andrew, my—my—my concern is—is that how do they know where these are? Unless they—the are at a point--

ANDREW MILLER: [interposing] So 311 knows.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: --with, you know, in the courts or I couldn't even say the Runaway and Homeless, you know. It's—it's not that easily available. Even when I looked for this on the website, I had to, you know—it wasn't user-friendly. It—it took a little to get to this. So, my—my point is, is that you seem to have, you know, someone developed a part of this that's very good, but it's not generally out there for—for all young people, and

I—I think that's something that the ICC should look at. I—I—I think all of the member agencies should have this available, you know, to the—the clients that come through, you know, through their agencies.

ANDREW MILLER: Well, Council Member, I certainly appreciate that. Again, recognizing that, we are again looking starting on Thursday on how we can improve this, and certainly that's going to be part of our discussions then.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: That is very important. Council Member has some questions.

ANDREW MILLER: Sure.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you. Just to follow up on—on this guide, are there in different languages or the required languages by the city?

ANDREW MILLER: We're actually starting to work on that. This currently is not, but we're going to—in terms of when it's going to be on—on the Internet, we're going to make sure that it can be translated into the 11 required languages, and we'll see in terms of when we print this up, how we can do that as well.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Yeah, because I think it's—it's not just enough to have it on the

Internet or website so that when you have a copy I mean you could—maybe one of the panel you have in the different languages saying that translations are available online. So at least people know to look for that. The other question I have is that what is the coordination with all the non-profits that work DYCD? I mean they're the ones that's running all these youth programs. How do they, you know, interact with ICC?

ANDREW MILLER: They are our hands on. They've been providing so much assistance. As we kind of mentioned in our testimony, they're the ones that bring the expertise. They're the ones that do presentations to all of our staff and—and agency staff about how can we better serve LGBTQ youth? How can we build a more cultural—culturally sensitive type of environment for young people so no matter who you are or what you are, you will feel comfortable in any type of programs we provide.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Is this—is this brochure available in all the non-profits that work with DYCD?

ANDREW MILLER: Unfortunately, no. That was our—this is our second edition of it, but

certainly that would be a goal of ours. Certainly if we do it electronically, it will be easier for us to distribute it to them, but if it's--again, money is always a concern, but certainly we could look at how we can better deliver this app to all of our providers.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Yeah because they're the ones that's dealing with young people every single day--

ANDREW MILLER: [interposing] Yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: --with their families, and the most important thing is knowing where the resources are--

ANDREW MILLER: Uh-hm.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: --what's available so that they can refer the kids and--I mean there simply with our Council office, you know, if we have information, we can help do that.

ANDREW MILLER: Uh-hm.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: It's not, you know, it's not enough to put together something that's really good and then it doesn't get around. I was looking at the agency list, and I was really surprised to see the Department for the Aging.

ANDREW MILLER: Uh-hm.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Right. So, can you just explain to me a little bit like what their role is in this ICC?

EDUARDO LABOY: Yeah, they actually do have some intergenerational programming, and they do—actually they—they—they attended our last the ICC hearing as well. So there are—some of them do surprise you but they do have some form of youth services available to them. Yes, they do intergenerational programming.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Well, I—I—that's what came across. I mean they do have a grandparenting program.

ANDREW MILLER: Yes, yes.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: So, I assume that they work with youth, and that's why they were there, but I mean unfortunately, I don't think the ICC is well known because I think this the first hearing, oversight hearing.

EDUARDO LABOY: I saw one in 2003.

[laughter]

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Well, I wasn't here [laughter] we weren't here in 2003 because I've been



on this committee since the day I started at the City Council in 2010, and I don't remember.

ANDREW MILLER: So, that's why we plan to share.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: [interposing] I have a very good memory, but I don't remember ever having and oversight hearing on ICC. [laughs] I felt the same because we've had some legislation and we're mandating this and I said, no, no, it's part of the Charter 30 years. So I think that's really—you've got to get out there.

ANDREW MILLER: So now that we're actually hitting our 30<sup>th</sup> year, we're going to start beginning the—the planning process about how to promote the ICC more and give it, you know for the next 30 years what's gong to be our charge.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Definitely.

ANDREW MILLER: We look forward to working with the Council on that.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Well we look forward to that, too, because I think it's just so critical. I mean a lot of the issues that we've been working on in the Council, you know, on, you know, Runaway and Homeless Youth and we're making progress—

ANDREW MILLER: [interposing] Yes, Uh-hm.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: --in terms of after school programs. We've got middle school. We're still fighting for our summer youth program—I mean summer program for every single kid, and after school programs for every single child in our public school. So those are the things that even we can, you know, coordinate and work with the ICC because those are still critical needs that are still out there that we have not met. So we look forward to really having a more robust relationship, and then to really get the word out there that this—this interagency was ICC out there.

ANDREW MILLER: We hear you. Thank you, thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Interagency Coordination Council.

ANDREW MILLER: Coordinating Council. It's a mouthful.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: There is going to be a test at the end of this hearing. [laughter] Everyone is going to have to tell us what ICC is before you leave the room.

ANDREW MILLER: Okay.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: But along the-the same lines with Council Member Chin, I-I think it's really important that maybe we hear, you know, from you what the specific functions of the ICC are. So that there is, you know, everyone is clear about what they are.

ANDREW MILLER: So, it's really a meeting place where all the youth service agencies-I-I don't even think there would be another one like that, but where every single Youth Service agency for New York City comes together and exchange ideas and build relationships and-and build ideas about how each agency can better work with each other whether it be-whether it be ACS and DYCD. Like for example now we have after school services in summer extension facilities, or whether it be how can we help homeless youth and why we have after school programs in homeless shelters? Those type of relationships I think are key. The ICC can play a key role in building and maintain relationships because look the 20 some odd agencies we all have different charges and we're always busy, but this is the type for them to be able to get together and-and chat on a regular basis about what's concerning them.

2 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, what-what kind of  
3 power do you have in terms of jurisdiction? Is there  
4 any ability to enforce any of the ideas or  
5 recommendations or --

6 ANDREW MILLER: So, all the ideas that we  
7 come up with are grown from the members of the ICC.  
8 So, it wouldn't be something that would let's say go  
9 on--like hinder and agency's ability to make their own  
10 programmatic decisions. So usually it's--if it's  
11 something involved in ACS, they will come up with an  
12 idea or the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene  
13 they will sort of help us and guide us in terms of  
14 creating recommendations that fit within obviously  
15 what they want, but certainly I know DYCD, for  
16 example, we wouldn't necessarily have the authority  
17 to tell any other agency exactly how to do their  
18 business.

19 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, it's just strictly  
20 advisory, is it? And what would you say was your  
21 biggest impact that you had during those last couple  
22 of years?

23 ANDREW MILLER: Again, the--the idea about  
24 how we can better serve Court-Involved Youth, I'm  
25 very pleased that the Council likes this and that

that's impactful. It's like little ideas that could become big ideas, and really could help young people. It's about how we treat LGBT youth across our program spectrums that they feel respected, and that they want to visit services that are-that-that-that accommodate their needs.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, Council Member Chin and I are very concerned about Universal After School and Summer Sonic and --

ANDREW MILLER: [interposing] Uh-hm.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: --the need for-for programming for middle school young people and elementary especially in the summertime. Is this a place where that particular agenda would be forwarded, discussed and recommendations come out of?

ANDREW MILLER: Well, as you know--

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: [interposing]  
Especially a needs assessment?

ANDREW MILLER: Well, usually we-you know, as you know we do go through the budget process. So, I would kind of say, we-that it would require further discussions with OMB and the Council.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: [interposing] But OMB is a member of this group, is it not?

2 ANDREW MILLER: It is.

3 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Yes, and so you make  
4 recommendations. Would this be something that we  
5 could look for the ICC to--

6 ANDREW MILLER: [interposing] We could  
7 certainly

8 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: -- further discuss  
9 and--

10 ANDREW MILLER: We certainly would be  
11 delighted to look into various areas of budgetary  
12 needs across our spectrum of interests (sic) yes.

13 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay and why-why-why  
14 have we not gotten our Annual Report for 2018?

15 ANDREW MILLER: So, we acknowledge that  
16 it's late. It's usually-it's usually due in October.

17 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: In October. Uh-hm.

18 ANDREW MILLER: So, we're actually-it's  
19 99.9% done. We expect it to be released shortly. So  
20 we do apologize and acknowledge that, but moving  
21 forward it's going to be released on a timely basis.  
22 In fact, we're already starting to assemble next  
23 year's report. So, come October you'll-you'll  
24 receive a copy as well.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay, but I'm going to receive 2018 shortly right?

ANDREW MILLER: 2018 shortly. Yes.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay, and the Annual Report seemed to—in the past seemed to have been a compilation of what the individual agencies did. Are we going to see more of the ICC driven, you know--

ANDREW MILLER: [interposing] Yes.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: --activity events because--

ANDREW MILLER: So, it's—it's a combination.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: [interposing] It was--

ANDREW MILLER: [interposing] We like—we like the agencies to themselves be able to highlight how they work with different agencies across the board in terms of interagency coordination, but you also see a lot about the services and the programs that DYCD—I mean the ICC did over the past year. A lot of it was actually highlighted in my testimony.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uh-hm, and how are—how was the public notified that there's a public meeting for—or the annual meeting of ICC?

ANDREW MILLER: So, yes, so we-we-we translate that widely-widely. The first thing, of course, is the New York City record so we need the the Public Meetings Law requirements, but we also publicize it. We email it out to all of our providers. We get such robust attendance. We send it to our after school providers. So, it's not uncommon for us to see young people attending Beacon programs in Flatbush to come and testify. Young people being served by you while you on Staten to come and testify about what their specific needs are, and not-they're not necessarily DYCD related. They could be other things, and I think I mentioned in my testimony sometimes it could be school related. It could be something like the street light is out in my neighborhood. It makes me feel unsafe to go home.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uh-hm, and at that-that time all of the agencies are present?

ANDREW MILLER: Yes. I-I-99.9%. We have very good attendance and it's Eduardo's job. He's kind of like the enforcer laughter] in a friendly way, but again, we had an entire deas full of city officials listening directly to young people, and this is something that we've been doing for a number



of years because we value youth input. We want to hear directly from them, and the fact they-I can't other than like the City Council hearings, of course, where they can-young people can directly like interface with city officials or any--

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: [interposing] And-and-and what level-I'm trying not to make this sound-

ANDREW MILLER: Staffing this. (sic)

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Yes. Who actually attends to represent the agency?

ANDREW MILLER: That is a decision generally that's up to the agency head.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Are they policy makers or-are they decision makers?

ANDREW MILLER: It runs the gamut depending on each agency. So for example we will have sometimes folks from like the NYPD Community Affairs Division, but also when it involves LGBT youth we also have folks that work on those issues as well. So, it really depends upon the focus of the meeting and that kind of thing, but it's generally up to the agency head to designate his or her representative.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Tell me about the representation and the function of the agencies that's on ICC that provide indirect—that are indirect service agencies? [background comments/pause]

ANDREW MILLER: So, OMB again, they attend meetings, they give input. If it's—if it's a—we'll get to receive information concerning the presentations we're having, and they could bring that back to their respective agencies. They can—when we're on the work groups themselves, they help—help to shape exactly the work group is working is working on, which could be like things like this.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uh-hm. On the web page member agencies are listed and the Deputy Mayor's Office of Policy and the Mayor's Office of AIDS Policy Coordination are listed. Are they still in existence?

ANDREW MILLER: We—they are not—we actually took a first look at—for the—recently anyway at the website and we will be making some updates to that to reflect what where we currently are.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay, okay. So, we're updating the website--

ANDREW MILLER: The website.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: --because we were then sort of redirected to the HIV Health and Human Services Planning Intensive.

ANDREW MILLER: Well, at one point they did. So at one point they played roles.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So--

ANDREW MILLER: So, we will--Eduardo and I will be looking at the website to make sure that it's up to date in each--the member agencies are listed there. I think they had our primary members and then we have secondary members, which were underneath that on the list.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, this HIV Health and Human Services Planning Council of New York are they still involved with the ICC?

ANDREW MILLER: They are not.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay, okay, alright. I am excited about being on this committee.

ANDREW MILLER: Than you, we are, too.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: If you couldn't tell. Yeah, I'm excited, but--I'm sorry. [pause] Oh, okay. That's why we have good counsel. The Youth Services, the ICC is also responsible for a Youth Services duplication and fragmentation.

ANDREW MILLER: Uh-hm.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Right and so can you address whether any of the recommendations that have been acknowledged or--

ANDREW MILLER: Well, if you--again, it's-- it's--if you look at everything we've done in terms of like we're looking at how we can share information where it's through this, whether it be through Growing Up NYC, about where a young person can access services wherever they are and whatever types of things they want whether it be signing up for SYEP, looking for information about SNAP benefits, all those can be found there, and that could kind of reduce the fragmentation of services and I think having all the agencies together so it's a robust big group, and talking about everything that they do, and it's through those meetings that we have discussions about well how can we partner together to make your specific services better and bring it to the forefront?

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Did the closing for Rikers Island and the moving of the young people to the neighborhood confinement areas, did--did the ICC

have any role in that? Was there any coordination because that did not go very well.

ANDREW MILLER: Yeah, the only—we did not. The only thing I can tell you is that the ICC really was at the forefront of talking about raising the age of criminal responsibility, and we had multiple panels held by Judge Michel Cordero about why we should and become like other states, and raise that age. So, that's—that is the role that the ICC played for the past several years, but particularly with that and that whole--

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay, is that something that will be talked about? I mean because that process hasn't--

ANDREW MILLER: We—we can explore that Council Member. [laughter]

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay. Oh, I did ask that, but about expanding if you think that the ICC should be expanded are there any—are there other agencies that should be included? Which ones would be included?

ANDREW MILLER: I mean we have so many I haven't really given it thought, but if you give me an opportunity maybe I could revisit the topic with you

either like that--there is our next meeting or at another hearing, but I hadn't even thought of that.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, is there somewhere written where sort of like why each of these agencies are--are a part of the ICC? Like, you know, for like it's for--

ANDREW MILLER: [interposing] I think it's just the Charter mandate about the Charter mandate about it.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, each of these agencies also are mandated to be a part of this Council? Is that--?

ANDREW MILLER: It's designate by the Commission, I believe. Correct?

EDUARDO LABOY: Yes.

ANDREW MILLER: Yeah. So I don't see if you can see the specific names listed in the Charter, but it's usually any city agency that has some type of Youth Service, and those are what they are.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay. So, MOCJ and--

ANDREW MILLER: We have worked with them particularly in terms of like the--the math programs and expanding SYEP and having evening programming yes, and we have the MOUs and those--

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: [interposing] But they're—but they're not a members of—of it?

ANDREW MILLER: No but so if—if so if there are particular agencies you would like to see on the ICC, we welcome that, and maybe we could get in contact with them and see if they kind of want to get involved.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay. I—I just want to acknowledge that Council Member Eugene was here for attendance purposes.

ANDREW MILLER: And if I can just acknowledge, we had—we are blessed to have a wonderful team of interns that help us do all this work from NYU. So we have Lou Bate, we have Bradley and we have Angela.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Very good. I thought you were city officials sitting there.

ANDREW MILLER: Yeah.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: You looked like it.

ANDREW MILLER: They make this work so much easier for us.

EDUARDO LABOY: Yeah, they do.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Well, that's great, and that's through DYCD?

ANDREW MILLER: Yes. We have a very strong relationship with NYU School of Social Work.

EDUARDO LABOY: That's right.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, I just want to once again ask about the--the--the report will be--

ANDREW MILLER: Very shortly.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: --soon. Okay, and have you looked at any way that maybe your assessments might be improved, the--the Annual Assessment?

ANDREW MILLER: Sure, that's something we--I--I would certainly welcome that opportunity to see how we could look at it from a largescale way that helps city agencies to assess their--the needs of the young people absolutely.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay, alright. Well, hearing no other questions, thank you for--for being here.

ANDREW MILLER: Thank you, Madam Chair.

EDUARDO LABOY: Thank you, Council Member.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Our next panel will be Gerald Daniels, DYCD Center for Justice at Columbia University; Theresa Messer, Legal Aid Society, Gisele Castro, Exalt Youth and Jamie Powlovich, Powlovich.



Coalition for Homeless Youth. [background comments/pause] Oh, Andrew, are you still here?

MALE SPEAKER: He stepped out.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Are you sure? Yeah.  
[background comments/pause] Alright, you may start.  
Speak into the microphone. Give us your name and  
your affiliation and you can begin your testimony,  
and we have three minutes each.

JARRELL DANES: So Good afternoon,  
Council Member. My name is Jarell Danes. I'm a  
Research Assistant for the Cent for Justice at  
Columbia University. I'm also here representing DYCD  
and Inter-coordination Council Committee, and I'm  
here to share my testimony on behalf of services that  
are afforded through the ICC. I had the privilege  
back in September to participate in the Civic  
Engagement Forum. I went there to present on how to  
expand DYCD services towards the larger community.  
As a youth mentor and at-risk justice involved member  
of the community, I offer insight and discipline for  
youth returning home from Juvenile Detention  
facilities, and also for Court-Involved Youth who  
have cases that are still pending or probation youth  
as well and in that position I do offer-allow young

people to come with me to travel to other sites so that they can share their perspective of being involved in the Justice System to other young people to inspire them to be civically engaged. And also to promote higher education as an ultimate source and resource for them to remove themselves from the communities and having that disenfranchised stigma associated with them. I also had another opportunity to be a part of the ICC's Inter-coordinating Council meeting where I went there to present the new initiatives that we're holding at the Center for Justice called Justice Ambassadors Youth Council, and that's a bridge program for people who are involved in the justice system between the ages of 16 to 24, and giving them the opportunity to work with different city officials and agencies for periods to develop policy proposals for them. So, I went down to ICC to do a 30-minute slide presentation to extend that opportunity for their court involved youth and have them be a part of this initiative at the Columbia University and I was just fortunate to be here just to share those words with you. So thank you.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: [off mic] Thank you so much. We'll--[on mic] we'll let everyone testify, and then if we have any questions we'll ask. Thank you.

THERESA MOSER: Good afternoon. My name is Theresa Moser. I am from the Legal Aid Society. I will—I have submitted more extensive testimony, but I will try and keep my comments brief. It—it—at the outset, I would just say that it appears from the description of the ICC and the City Charter and the mission of the Children's Cabinet, that those two entities have a lot in common in terms of what their missions and goals are. So, I would like to just raise the question whether there is any kind of coordination between those two entities. It seems that there should be. Mr. Miller mentioned multiple times Growing Up NYC, which is a web based platform that was created by the Children's Cabinet. It seems like there is a lot of potential for that to overlap with what the ICC is charged with doing, which is as Madam Chair, you mentioned and creating comprehensive citywide guides and resources for the public to be able to access services, right. So, Growing Up NYC and Generation NYC, which is for older youth, which is—was also created by the Children's Cabinet, seemed

to be something that the ICC should be looking at.  
They should be working with the Children's Cabinet.  
I also note I don't think Mr. Miller mentioned DYCD  
Youth Connect--

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: I don't know.

THERESA MOSER: --but that--that is on the  
DYCD website and that lists various resources for  
youth in the city, but there should be some attention  
given to, you know, how comprehensive any of those  
web platforms are, how accessible they are. Are they  
succeeding at reaching the public, and should they be  
integrated in some way because having two separate  
places for people to go is not necessarily the most  
efficient way to ensure that the public receive  
services in New York, right?

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Yes

THERESA MOSER: So, in my reading of the  
charter is that there are three main areas for the  
ICC to be working on, right? One is identifying what  
the service needs are throughout the city. One is  
ensuring that services exist to meet those needs, and  
that--and that encompasses looking at all of the city  
agencies--agencies that are involved, and make sure  
that there's not duplication of services, and that

they're coordinating our efforts, and then the last is again ensuring accessibility that making sure that the public gets the information and knows how to access the services. All of those things I think require taking a systemic look at the issues. The testimony that was given today talked about the value of getting the various agencies in the room together and that is I think part of [bell] identifying what the service needs are or sorry, identifying what services are available and where there might be overlap and gaps, but the charter really requires taking a comprehensive look. I know I'm out of time so I'm going to try and cut this short.

Comprehensive look at what the service needs are throughout the city and that I think involves more than just putting information in a report about data that's collected by other entities, right? Even if the ICC is using the data from the other entities, they need to evaluate that data through the lens of what our view service needs and make a comprehensive- a comprehensive assessment for the whole city, right, and then once that's done, the Charter also requires that they come up with a plan. Every year they're supposed to issue a report with a 2-year plan. It's

then a plan that includes a -year agenda right for the meeting the service needs and ensuring accessibility. So that has been absent in the reports that I've looked at. I hope we'll see some of that in the 2018 that--when it comes out, and I hope that the ICC will take this hearing as an opportunity to really appreciate the role that they have in looking at things on a systemic level and taking advantage of the really valuable technology that we have three years after the creation of the ICC to make its mission a reality. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you.

JAMIE POWLOVICH: And Good afternoon and Happy New Year. My name is Jamie Powlovich, and I'm the Executive Direct of the New York State Coalition for Homeless Youth. We're membership based agency representing 66 agencies that serve Runaway and Homeless Youth in one capacity or another across the state, and thank you Chair Rose for holding this hearing today, and to the rest of the Youth Services Committee for having me here. Obviously, the Coalition for Homeless Youth focuses on a very specific population that is Runaway and Homeless Youth. So, I'm going to focus my testimony on the

impact that the ICC should be having on that population. There's more background information, more content in my written testimony, but I'm going to try to finish before the buzzer dings. So, first and foremost, I've been in this field for over 12 years and I've never heard of the ICC before, and as one of the advocates for Runaway and Homeless Youth in New York City, that's concerning to me and in preparation for today's hearing I did reach out to a lot of my membership agencies who had not ever heard of it either. Some of those being the LGBTQ specific agencies in New York City. The two areas that I want to highlight is (1) the outcomes that are coming out of the ICC specifically as they point to the outcomes that they already report in the Mayor's Management Report. The Coalition has testified in length at previous hearings and we know that the Council is well aware about our concerns regarding the outcomes, regarding Runaway and Homeless Youth in the Mayor's Management Report but we feel strongly that if an annual report that's being issued by the ICC that are identifying the outcomes in the MMR as the outcomes they're standing by that those outcomes be realistic and true and we don't believe that they regarding

Runaway and Homeless Youth. In my testimony you can see all of the numbers that we have obtained via FOI'd data from DYCD that significantly contradict the outcomes that are publicly released in the Mayor's Management Report. And then the second area that I want to highlight is regarding the supporting LGBTQ workgroup that's under the ICC and what I gathered from the—I guess the Web, right is that one of the tasks of that work through—is to implement the recommendations that were identified in the 2018 Report all our children's strategies to prevent homelessness, strengthen services and build support for LGBTQ youth. It's a great report. The little data, but I don't think that anything that's being asked in that report is necessarily not still relevant. Unfortunately from what I can see from all of the reports coming out of the ICC, they've only actually focused their attention on one recommendation and that is strengthening the training and technical assistance of the needs of the LGBTQ youth population with city agencies, which we feel is really important. We don't want to downplay the importance of training, but there's nine other [bell] recommendations in that report, and those



recommendations are the ones that would have the biggest real time impact on Runaway and Homeless Youth especially those that are LGBTQ and we find it concerning that as advocates we've had to work tirelessly with allies in the City Council as well as other advocacy groups to actually push back on DYCD to implement things through legislation that are identified in the recommendations of the that report. So thank you.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you.

GISELE CASTRO: Good afternoon, Chair Rose. How are you?

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Good. How are you?

GISELE CASTRO: Happy New Year and good afternoon--

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you.

GISELE CASTRO: --Council Member Margaret Chin. I just want to highlight--my name is Gisele Castro. I'm the Executive Director of Exalt Youth and we are an organization that works with young people who are in the Juvenile Justice System here in New York. In the paperwork we are identified as Brooklyn based, but we serve the five boroughs, and hopefully by spring we will be moving to Margaret

Chin's area, 17 Battery Place, but we're an organization that we have been designed to address three particular categories, which is help young people who are involved the Criminal Justice System make academic progression, more away from the Criminal Justice System, and gain meaningful employment opportunities. What becomes really I would say remarkable about our organizations that we have been tested and evaluated, and we're one of the few organizations that have been, you know, funded by private dollars, you know through family foundations, and we went through this entire rigor of evaluating our work and where it was also encouraging. Less than 8% of our youth in two years out are convicted of a crime. 95% of our youth two years out are still engaged in school and making significant progress academically. They're going off to college and we have a growing body of young people who are graduating in four years to college. You know, and I highlight this because our Deputy Director Brian Lewis who is here has been invited to speak at the ICC and one it would be I would say encouraging, you know, opportunities that this brought was that we have been able to increase our internship

opportunities. We have been able to attend monthly meetings with the ICC, but also it's an opportunity according to, you know, Brian, you know, for us to further collaborate. A recommendation would be, you know, to go deeper in the work, which, you know, we agree with what everyone, you know, here is saying making sure that the ICC is more visible, but more importantly that it allows for an organizations like Partners that work together to not just identify opportunities, but to really strengthen the services that we have for our youth. Overall, my testimony begins to highlight the services that we provide for our youth. The logic behind our model, the reason why we create so much structure, you know, to ensure that our partnership, our referral partners are strong, and that is essentially it. I have actually more time left over. [laughter]

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you. So, two of the four panelists are—are familiar with the ICC. You've actually participated and you have, too, Drew, right?

THERESA MOSER: He's also familiar with it. Oh, Madam Chair. He is also familiar with the ICC>

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: [interposing] Oh, oh, okay, oh okay.

THERESA MOSER: The Legal Aid Society has actually testified at previous public hearings of the ICC.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay.

THERESA MOSER: Although, I don't think we received notice of 2018's hearing. So we didn't testify at that one.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So how do you think that ICC could be more effective? [background comments/pause]

ANDREW MILLER: Okay. So, one of the things that we've been working on me and Mr. LaBoy we were brainstorming ideas about how DYCD can mobilize more efforts inside of the community and one of the ways we were thinking about doing that is having DYCD and ICC representatives come out with myself and to these youth centers and sites throughout New York City to conduct presentations on the services available at ICC, and the way we imagined doing it is that would be a co-presentation together. I would basically introduce myself, which the students are already familiar with me, and then basically

introduce the DYCD representative and have them do a presentation of all the services that are for them. And the reason why I personally want to hold them accountable for making sure that it comes to the place is because I, too, have spoke to young people who haven't sought a utility in having this resource or service available to them. They've come across packets that are very similar to this, and they just don't see the utility of needs. It's the same thing for education. I come from a background where I'm formerly incarcerated so I do see the privileges that are afforded to people, but I had to first learn how to really utilize an opportunity that was afforded to me, and I had this—it had to be—come through Credible Messengers. So, that's why I took the time out to say that I would co-present the information with DYCD because I will first have to break that ice, and then I see DYCD as—as a hub organization that is beginning to build those bridges with the community, but they do need somebody who's more hands on the ground or boots on the ground I would say with the communities that can be the intermediary for the agency to extend those services because they can do all the presentations. They can pass out a million of these.

If a young person doesn't see the utility, they'd be useless whether they are distributed all across the world. So, that's the way that we would imagine and how we can expand the services of DYCD and I do.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So you--you see the value of--of DYCD--

ANDREW MILLER: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: --and-and what they're--what they're doing, but have you seen the coordination with the other agencies to actually carry out what the needs of young people are.

ANDREW MILLER: Right. So, I'm relatively new to ICC.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uh-hm.

ANDREW MILLER: Again, I've only presented twice there down at the Hub. I wasn't able to go to the public hearings even though I was invited to just because of my work schedule, but one of the things going into this new year, which we've made a promise at the conclusion of 2081 was that moving into this New Year we would conduct frequent ones, two or three sites a month, and I am a Peer Youth Mentor for Friends at Island Academy. I am familiar with it. They have two sides, one in the

Bronx and one in Upper Manhattan and out outreach network out in Brooklyn is another site and Exalt Youth is one. I was going to contact Yvonne to conduct a presentation there as well. So there are different youth centers and sites that that I've done presentations there already, that I'm familiar with that I would like--

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: [interposing] What about Staten Island?

ANDREW MILLER: I have—I haven't [laughter]

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Oh, rough day.

ANDREW MILLER: Yeah, I haven't met anybody there. [laughter] I haven't made that connection, but that's something that we're willing to extend the services too, as well.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay. Alright.

GISELE CASTRO: I just wanted to add that now that we're moving and we serve the five boroughs, we met with some of the judges over in Staten Island in terms of, you know, how do we connect? You know, it's very important I would say, you know, to also have the voice of our youth embedded in this entire process. I know that one of our young students was

able to give a toast—you know, testimony, but the feedback that a lot of young people always have is that you have an adult in the room, they're selling the program or talking about services. There's always a disconnect, very different when a young person begins to explain why they, you know, really enjoyed or were able to make significant gains in terms of an experience. One thing that I want to highlight in terms of our organization is because of having our young people participate, we're seeing an increase of referrals based by our young people themselves as opposed to in partnering agencies.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Yeah, we—we understand that that's—it's definitely a model that works. We see it with MOCJ and Cure Violence. Credible Messengers have, I—I really believe sort of turned the tide in terms of—of youth violence and—and—and bringing young people into—to get the resources that, you know, are available and needed. I was interested in--

THERESA MOSER: So on the other end of the spectrum--

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: [interposing]  
Absolutely.



THERESA MOSER: -- my testimony really emphasized the systemic nature of the mission of the ICC and I think I would, you know, continue to emphasize that and just highlight that, you know, we-- we live in a changing city, right, and so the way the Charter is written gives the ICC the opportunity to recognize the changes that happen, and develop the plans and change them over time to meet the needs of the youth of this city. Raising the Age is a good example, right. So, one thing that the ICC could be thinking about is what service needs or how service needs might look different now that more 16 and then 17-year-olds would be going through the Family Court system rather than need-it-all (sic) system. The Charter also really has built into it a continuous quality assurance, right? The--it calls for a report every year, and the report has to have a two-year plan in it. So that is great opportunity to be constantly looking at where the gaps are, what needs to be done, encouraging more communication among agencies so to ensure that there's not overlap and that there is coordination and--and communication. All of those things are essential to quality improvement, and I would just--connected to that say I

think it's great that this is being update. I-I think that--your point is very well taken. I looked at it and I would say well it's like, you know, it's really colorful. It looks like something that somebody might at least take a look at, but I felt that some of the information in it is not really organized very well--

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: [interposing] Oh, uh-hm.

THERESA MOSER: --and it could be more comprehensive, and having a web based platform or expanding the existing web based platform could be even better if young people will access it because you can just have more information there. I also just wanted to mention there's another guide that's on the ICC's web page that is a guide for parents about navigating the justice system--

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Yeah.

THERESA MOSER: --and it's--it's available in five languages on the web page. However, it hasn't been updated since the Department of Juvenile Justice was abolished, and Juvenile Services were taken over by ACS. So, it doesn't include that. It doesn't include anything about raising the age. So,

I heard you to also make that a part of your upcoming plans for updating.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you. I-I appreciate your-your remarks because [coughs] we saw the same sort of things in the Annual Report, and we are-we're-we're really excited that we're going to be working together to make sure that our mandated, you know, our required efficiencies are-are going to be met. Did you want to say something?

JAMIE POWLOVICH: I mean I-I'll just echo what everyone else said. I think that definitely what you reported that you and Councilwoman Chin witnessed when you went out to a program and spoke with homeless young people, them just not knowing where the resources are is something that is very much true. I mean I know if you Google like homeless youth NYC, our website is one of the first things that pops up, and we average about 5 to 7 calls or Facebook messages a week from young people in New York City just like I don't know where to go. Help me and as a staff of one, I try to do the best I can, but it would be really helpful if there was a place to point them in. I know for Runaway and Homeless Youth specifically there is also the Homeless Youth

Task Force out of the Mayor's Office that just issued their plan to end youth homelessness in New York City and the first recommendation in that plan is to make sure that there is a centralized place for information for young people to access in real time because I think the other thing that sometimes happens with printed materials: (1) Young people that's not how they access information any more, and (2) It's easier to get outdated whereas if it's online, it's easier to just make a revision than to reprint entire documents, and then I think what you were saying about, you know, Credible Messengers I think that that's really important. The Coalition has the privilege of having ten youth advocates that I work very closely with that are formerly homeless young people, and they inform all of the work that we do, and I think it's also about bringing it further and not just hearing young people's experiences or feedbacks or, you know, questions, but it's also then inviting them into the room when decisions are being made about how programs are created or evaluated or if you're doing community assessments, actually having a young-young people be a part of that process because I don't think we're going to ever meet all

young people's needs unless they are a part of that process. Because adults, right, we like to pretend we know what's best, but it's also—it's often very shocking to hear what the young people actually want.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Well, I—I want to thank you. I think I know you've given us some really good feedback. I—I think the duplication of—of some of the—the information that's online between, you know, Youth Connect, Grown NYC, I think we need to—to look at—at those sources, but we also will be looking at—at the plan, and actually follow through in implementation. I think the plan shows that there was some—some good work put into developing the plan, but we haven't gone far enough for implementation and—and follow-through. So, I'm looking forward to seeing you all at the Annual Meeting, and working with you. I want to thank you for—for actually being out there and being a voice, and showing young people that there is a way to sort of navigate the system, and so I think the job you're doing is as important if not more than the job that we're doing, and so I want to thank you for—for doing that. And—and so, I think your testimony has really been, you know, elucidating, and will be—we'll have something for the

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

70

2 agenda at the ICC meeting. So, I want to thank you  
3 and the next panel please.

4 JAMIE POWLOVICH: Thank you.

5 THERESA MOSER: Thank you.

6 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Is that it?

7 MALE SPEAKER: Yes it is.

8 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Oh, okay. So, that  
9 concludes this hearing at 2:30. Thank you all for  
10 being here. [gavel]

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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



Date January 27, 2018