

COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES JOINTLY WITH THE

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COMMITTEE ON JUVENILE JUSTICE

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CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES JOINTLY WITH THE
COMMITTEE ON JUVENILE JUSTICE

February 12, 2019

Start: 1:17 p.m.

Recess: 3:24 p.m.

HELD AT: Committee Room - City Hall

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

DEBORAH L. ROSE
Co-Chair

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

INEZ D. BARRON
JUSTIN L. BRANNAN
MARGARET S. CHIN
MATHIEU EUGENE
MARK GJONAJ
ROBERT F. HOLDEN
MARK LEVINE
BILL PERKINS
JUMAANE D. WILLIAMS
KALMAN YEGER

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

Caswell Senior
American Rapper, Casanova, Brooklyn New York

Felipe Franco
Deputy Commissioner of the Division of Youth and
Family Justice, DYFJ with the New York City
Administration for Children's Services, ACS

Sara Hemmeter
Associate Commissioner of the Division of Youth
And Family Justice, DYFJ with the New York City
Administration for Children's Services, ACS

Randy Scott
Assistant Commissioner for the Vulnerable and
Special Need Youth Division within the Department
Of Youth and Community Development, DYCD

Gisele Castro
Executive Director from Exalt Youth

Brian Lewis
Deputy Director from Exalt Youth

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2 [gavel]

3 CHAIRPERSON KING: Good morning, good
4 morning all...

5 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Good morning.

6 CHAIRPERSON KING: Welcome on a snowy
7 winter day. Thank you for all coming out and braving
8 the elements. I'm New York City Council Member Andy
9 King, Chair of the Juvenile Justice Committee. I'd
10 like to thank my partner in serving the City of New
11 York, Council Woman Debi Rose who is the Chair of the
12 Youth Services Committee for us coming together to
13 have a conversation about how do we manage runaway
14 youth in the city of New York and how it's impact has
15 on the Juvenile Justice System. I also want to
16 recognize our Council Member in, in serving our youth
17 in New York, Council Member Robert Holden is joining
18 us today from Queens as part of the Committee and as
19 well as being... our Josh Kingsley who is part of our
20 counsel here to help get things done and our
21 Committee Counsel Paul Sinegal, I like that name,
22 Sinegal. Well the Committee wants to recognize the
23 needs for sufficient comprehensive services for youth
24 who run away from home and become homeless. We as a
25 city need not to work only work together to prevent

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2 these youth from becoming runaways and homeless but
3 we also must work adequately to find care for special
4 populations if they become involved in the juvenile
5 justice system. It is also important that we ensure
6 that our youths leaving the juvenile justice system
7 will not force... be forced to return to life on the
8 streets but instead be able to be provided proper
9 discharge services that will reunite them with their
10 families in their communities. Today the community
11 looks to learn how the division of youth and family
12 justice has made efforts in innovative initiatives
13 and partnerships with many of our community-based
14 organizations to address the various issues facing
15 New York City runaways and homeless youth. We're
16 looking forward to hearing from advocates, runaway...
17 who runaway... excuse me; advocates of runaway youth in
18 order to learn more about relationships between this
19 population and their involvement in the juvenile
20 justice system. The committee further hopes to
21 explore ways ACS and DYCD can work together to reduce
22 the youth homelessness, to prevent their involvement
23 in the juvenile justice system. So, I want to thank
24 everybody again with that all being said, everyone
25 who helped put today's conversation together. I want

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to thank all the Council Members that are here. We're looking forward to testimony that is real, truthful and that's going to allow us to understand the system that we're dealing with each and every day because our jobs is to save lives regardless of our young people who are 13, 14, 15, black, white, whatever color we want to call or claim ourselves, whatever our sexual orientation is and at the end of the day we and the adults in this room made a, a claim to take a responsibility and vowed to responsibility to help young people who are in crisis whether their families are in disarray or whether their homes are in disarray, whether it's from drug use... drug use or whether it's just can't... not being able to deal with a parent or just the society norms that you're in conflict with which forces you to leave your home that you're not protected by society and then when you come into our system and I'd hate to say it, our system but if you are caught in a situation that you need help from the city of New York what is the city of New York doing real time, real talk, real services in making sure that that teen that ran away can run back to a home that's stable that will allow someone to be productive adults. So, with that all being said

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we're going to listen to testimony from our administration here, I want to thank you Mr. Franco... Deputy Commissioner Franco for being here and the entire team that's here that's going to tell us a little bit about what ACS is doing as well as the Juvenile Justice System is doing in making sure that our people get it right, got it right and we service them right. However, before we jump into your testimony, I'd like to bring up a young man who has been in the system, who, who can give real testimony as well as his story. I'm going to ask you all to vacate one of those seats or two of those seats to bring him up, one of... who just returned back from the Grammy Awards, I'd like to introduce you all to Hip Hop Artist, Casanova who is joining us to tell his story to help our young people and the city to understand what we can do to improve conditions that he had to experience, Brother Casanova we thank you for joining us today in City Hall.

CASWELL SENIOR: Hello, how you doing?

Hello, how is everybody doing? My name is Caswell Senior, I've been locked up in and out of jail since 13, running away that's regular, you know what I'm saying but I've been in solitary confinement 24

2 months straight. I thought of suicide, I thought of
3 all the things you could imagine. The jail system to
4 me, the criminal justice system I just think it's
5 harsh and it's, it's worse as a kid than an adult
6 because I think when I went to jail as an adult it
7 was just more calm, like as a kid it's just reckless,
8 you don't really got nothing to live for and the COs
9 is, is, is worse than the inmates because, you know
10 they let you get beat up, they let you get jumped. It
11 was traumatizing, I saw certain things hang up and I
12 think that we need, all of us need to help people
13 leaving jail because when you... when you... like me I
14 did seven years and a half straight as an adult and
15 coming home I had nothing, you know. I was blessed to
16 be in the studio and come up with some words that I
17 didn't even think I could come up with and become a
18 rapper signing under Jay-Z's label, Roc Nation but
19 all of my friends weren't that lucky, some of them
20 are back in jail 25 to life, 50 years, 10 years but
21 it all started with us being juveniles like... it was
22 like a repeated situation, we'll go to jail, come
23 out, go to jail, come out, go to jail and come out
24 but I think that's because we wasn't getting help in
25 jail, you know what I'm saying? It's like they don't

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give you an out when you're in there, it's like you're going to come back, don't worry you're going to come back, it's not like let's help you not come back. I think we need programs in jail so you can stay out of jail, you know what I'm saying? They got certain programs in there like ASAT, CASAT, I don't know if you all understand what that... it's like drug programs, anger management programs but it's not really programs to help you cope with being outside like I didn't even know how to go get my ID, little stuff that you should know as a man, you, you don't know, I didn't know how to do income taxes, I didn't know anything so it was like I was ashamed to even tell a girl like I need help going to the DMV, you know what I'm saying? We should have something where they... they'll get their IDs and stuff like that from in there, there's welfare from in there like some people are afraid to go to the welfare office to get their food stamps because they don't want to be joked on because you still... you're mental and still like a little kid. Like some people be like you... how you having so much fun, you, you're 31 you're moving like 17 because I still feel 17, I been gone so much years I still feel young and I just think we need to help

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2 from the inside for the outside because it's, it's...
3 there's, there's none of that in there, they don't
4 show you how to do that in there, they.. you just
5 working, you're just fighting, you're just doing the
6 things that criminals do in jail, convicted felons
7 too, you know but there's nobody in there telling us
8 how to cope with being outside and, and mental health
9 issues is, is, is crazy, you know what I'm saying?
10 Sometimes I got to catch myself like it's hard coming
11 home and then seeing your daughter that you never saw
12 before and being able to, to father her and you don't
13 even know how to care of yourself. So, if.. I just,
14 again, I just think we need to build something like
15 with.. 90 days of somebody coming home or 100 days, a
16 year even, come in this program we're going to show
17 you how to deal with being a civilian not just being
18 in the streets but being a civilian. I say civilian
19 because, you know you could come home and just be who
20 you want to be, I'm talking about coming home doing
21 the right thing, getting a job, understanding what a
22 pay stub is. My first pay stub I was like what, what
23 the.. tax.. what, why are they taking this out of my..
24 hey, you know what I'm saying so just something that

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2 will teach us what's going on in the streets. Thank
3 you, baby, thank you. Any questions?

4 CHAIRPERSON KING: I just want to say
5 thank you for your humble, humble... being humble and,
6 and being honest because so many... so many... we come
7 here in Council and I, I'm not going to talk for
8 anybody else but I, I know... I have not lived that
9 life of being incarcerated for eight years, I have
10 not lived a life of being in juvie, I've had to work
11 with young people who are trying to figure themselves
12 out but he makes a valid point to all of us, why we
13 have programs and the last hearing that we had was to
14 talk about what programs are designed in ACS to
15 prevent recidivism so someone doesn't go back into
16 the system but you clearly have laid... made it... laid
17 out that they're not doing a very good job because..
18 [cross-talk]

19 CASWELL SENIOR: Uh-huh... [cross-talk]

20 CHAIRPERSON KING: ...you were... for eight
21 years you were in and then when you came out no one
22 advised you how to just go get a regular ID card, no
23 one taught you how to be a civilian but you know the
24 same... the, the sadness is that this is the population
25 that we say are our future and we're not helping them

2 out but when... and I love the armed forces but we... and
3 we do the same thing to our men and women who serve
4 our country, sometimes we don't treat them well when
5 they come back home to teach them how to go from
6 shooting their gun and being, you know overly
7 aggressive to how to be calm and manage home again.
8 We as America, we as New York, as we of Bronxites
9 must do a better job when our people who are stressed
10 when they come back home. I want to thank you for
11 what your experience has been and telling us so we
12 can figure out solutions to get it right. So, I've
13 heard from you that one thing we need to focus on is
14 making sure that, and I like what he said,
15 Commissioner... Deputy Commissioner, I want to say
16 you're my brother, we need to figure out that six
17 month plan, what is the six month engagement plan, I
18 know we do have plans, what is the plan that teaches
19 somebody of civility because he says, I don't even
20 know how to be a civilian when I come out, I just
21 come out and I'm free even though you taught me how
22 to say hi to my mom in the right way, I still don't
23 even know what things in society that I need to focus
24 on.

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2 CHAIRPERSON KING: If I get a job, why is
3 somebody taking like... Caswell, you taking that much
4 taxes out of here, why they taking my money, you tell
5 me you're going to pay me 100 dollars a week why am I
6 getting 75, you know this is a reality for people who
7 are incarcerating kids when they come out they don't
8 understand that so we definitely got to do a better
9 job to help, you know... yes.

10 CASWELL SENIOR: And I think some people
11 are scared to ask for help especially grown men
12 because even me I was scared to ask like, you don't
13 want to ask your, your girlfriend or you mother or
14 somebody that, that, that is supposed to be equal
15 with you, why they took that out of my taxes, how do
16 you do that, how do you go get your license, it's...
17 you might not think it's hard but it's hard with
18 being in jail for five years or I should say as a
19 juvenile... [cross-talk]

20 CHAIRPERSON KING: Right... [cross-talk]

21 CASWELL SENIOR: ...coming home as an
22 adult, it's a big difference, you know things you had
23 to worry about when mommy and daddy took care of and
24 what if they didn't take care of it you had to learn
25 it in jail now you being... you being from a juvenile

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2 to adult you're lost. Any juvenile... anybody that gets
3 locked up at 17 or 18 and comes home 26 is lost, you
4 need more than god.. [cross-talk]

5 CHAIRPERSON KING: Yeah... [cross-talk]

6 CASWELL SENIOR: You're, you're lost, you
7 know what I'm saying? And that's what happened with
8 me, I was in and out of jail and then that long... that
9 long 19 to 26 lost me, I'm blessed, I always say it
10 because friends of mine don't, don't, don't get it
11 back like that, some of them are mentally ill, some
12 of them just go right back to jail because that's
13 where they're comfortable at, some people don't like
14 paying rent, you know some people don't like it,
15 that's hard.. [cross-talk]

16 CHAIRPERSON KING: Right... [cross-talk]

17 CASWELL SENIOR: ...as a... at... as... again,
18 coming home from a juvenile to adult to you got to
19 pay rent, why I got to... what, send me back to where
20 I'm comfortable at for free but anyway I said that to
21 just help out. Thank you, man.

22 CHAIRPERSON KING: Appreciate you...

23 CASWELL SENIOR: Thank you for having me.

24 CHAIRPERSON KING: We really appreciate
25 your conversation and your testimony.. [cross-talk]

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2 CASWELL SENIOR: Thank you... [cross-talk]

3 CHAIRPERSON KING: ...today, thank you so
4 much Casanova, appreciate it.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Thank you.

6 CHAIRPERSON KING: Thank you, thank you.

7 I'm going to ask if the administration if you could
8 give Council Member and I five minutes, we'll be
9 right back.

10 [off mic dialogue]

11 CHAIRPERSON KING: Okay, we are back.

12 Again I want to thank everyone for their patience,
13 I've said to Deputy Commissioner Franco all the time
14 and when we started we need to figure out ways to
15 have conversations with people who really experienced
16 the system so we can get a real passionate thought
17 process together because while we sit on the
18 sidelines or read a book or visit a facility every
19 once in a while, if you're not spending the night or
20 ate the food or had to engage with the population at
21 a particular place you really do not know the
22 feelings of what people in our... especially our young
23 people so I want to thank Hip Hop Artist Casanova for
24 giving his life experience to give us an... insight of
25 what it is to really be in there and what you can go

2 through as a teen because we're adults in this room,
3 imagine being a 14 year old or 15 year old in lock
4 up, 16 and then transition into an adult, you know
5 I've, I've met friends that have gone in lock up,
6 when they come out after being in seven years they
7 still think we're in high school while we're all with
8 families, their whole world is like who's so... man,
9 people are going... there are people graduated and
10 moved on, you know what... their world stopped when
11 they went in so... and I... and then as I go to swear you
12 all in the final thing I want to say to one of the
13 greatest things... yes, we're, we're going to let
14 Council Member... one of the greatest things he said
15 was that how... what a feeling was for him to be a 14
16 year old to come out and all the sudden he's dropped
17 with all these responsibilities and not even knowing
18 how to navigate and the system failed him but he was
19 blessed that someone adopted him to help him to be a
20 messenger today, that's only can give credit to most...
21 dying Christ for all that. So, with that all being
22 said I'd like to turn the microphone over to the
23 great Debi Rose out of Staten Island, Chair of the
24 Youth Committee.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Wow, I got like a
3 Casanova introduction, I like that. I, I want to say
4 good afternoon because it is afternoon and I, I just
5 want to say ditto to the, the very passionate remarks
6 that Council Member King, you know made prior to us
7 leaving the, the room and upon our coming back and,
8 and I want to thank Casanova for his very prolific
9 remarks, you know this is a young man who spent his
10 formative years in prison and with no transition to
11 adulthood, no supervised, structured transition to
12 adulthood and I, I think his words should resound in
13 this chamber today and make us reexamine what reentry
14 programs look like for, for young people. With Raise
15 the Age we have people who are coming into the system
16 who are, are... young people who are juveniles who are
17 children and there's no mechanism to help them make
18 that transition from being a child to being an adult
19 and I, I hope that the administration takes back, you
20 know what was said today and, and we reexamine what
21 programs look like. So, now back to my scripted
22 remarks. Thank you, Council Member King, I want to
23 echo your welcoming of everyone in attendance at
24 today's joint oversight hearing on runaway and
25 homeless youth known as RHY and the juvenile justice

2 system. I am Council Member Debi Rose, I'm the Chair
3 of the Committee on Youth Services and I would first
4 like to thank the Speaker, Corey Johnson for his
5 commitment to youth of New York City and specifically
6 his dedication to runaway and homeless youth. I would
7 also like to thank all the young people especially
8 Casanova, the advocates, program providers and all
9 those who came to testify today for showing up to
10 this important hearing and finally I would like to
11 acknowledge my colleagues who have joined us today
12 because they too know how important our young people
13 are and they are Council Member Chin, Barron and
14 Holden. From the onset I want to admonish anyone who
15 unfairly completes runaway and homeless youth with
16 crime or concerns about neighborhood security.
17 Runaway and homeless youth are one of the most
18 vulnerable populations within our great city and they
19 are the ones who are so often victimized and who
20 deserve our attention. These young people find
21 themselves on the streets, homeless and without
22 support due to family conflict, lack of affordable
23 housing and poverty. Many youths have experienced
24 unspeakable trauma and abuse which has created
25 additional challenges for them to become stably

2 housed and are simulated into the general population.
3 This includes physical, emotional, sexual abuse as
4 well as neglect things that exacerbate and perpetrate
5 this endless cycle that they are in. A common thread
6 we see time and time again is that runaway homeless
7 youth lack knowledge of where to access services
8 while at the same time are extremely resourceful in
9 surviving out on the streets many times relying on
10 their peers, strangers and others and I think it's
11 very telling that that's exactly what Casanova
12 addressed. They, they engage strangers and others and
13 runaway homeless youth may engage in survival crimes
14 in order to access the kind of necessities we all
15 take for granted such as food, shelter and other
16 essentials and yes, runaway homeless youth may
17 interact with the juvenile justice system as a result
18 of this. However, I would like to state that many
19 runaway and homeless youth do not have a choice in
20 these matters and thus are forced through their
21 incredibly difficult circumstances to survive for
22 even just one night more on the streets. In efforts
23 to diminish the barriers and challenges runaway and
24 homeless youth go through DYCD provides services and
25 programming for the runaway and homeless youth

2 population throughout New York City. Although DYCD,
3 Department of Youth and Community Development, does
4 not offer specific programming geared toward runaway
5 and homeless youth within the Juvenile Justice
6 System, DYCD does offer general RHY services and
7 programs such as street outreach, referral services,
8 drop in centers, crisis centers and TILs, that's
9 Transitional Independent Living, yes of which this
10 Committee has looked at extensively. In addition,
11 family support, literary services, economic skills
12 building, and workforce development are provided by
13 DYCD for all youth. Notably, DYCD generally focuses
14 on a more wholistic model of building skills and
15 providing services that add to the whole individual
16 rather than specifically targeting runaway and
17 homeless youth involved within the Juvenile Justice
18 System. Specific to this hearing, we will examine the
19 interaction between RHY and the Juvenile Justice
20 System. As Council Member King discussed, the
21 Department of Youth and Family Justice is responsible
22 for providing detention services for youth throughout
23 the city. Thus, this leads to an interesting yet
24 subtle relationship between DYCD and DYFJ, Division
25 of Youth Family Justice. And through this hearing we

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would like to learn more about how these agencies interact. I would also like to learn about DYCD's future efforts to ensure that runaway and homeless youth do not touch the Juvenile Justice System as well as help runaway and homeless youth reenter society from detention successfully. I look forward to hearing from those invited to testify and would like to thank my staff and the Committee staff Paul Sinegal, Kevin Kotowski and Michelle Peregrine and thank you Council Member King again.

CHAIRPERSON KING: Thank you Council

Woman Rose, appreciate your words of wisdom and encouragement and I just ask as we listen to your testimony, I cannot reiterate the words of Casanova just shared with us why he... early in his life he joined a gang while he was locked up because the protection from the gangs because the family deserted him so he had to make new friends in jail and when he made new friends in jail they cook together, they sat down and read together, they fed each other, they got... they looked out for each other, they got money together, all these things became his family inside and then when he came out the system didn't lead him on the right path that you reunite with the strength

2 outside and then he was lost due to the fact where
3 was the family, where was the gang that he connected
4 with, they were just as lost on the inside and they
5 all walked outside of that jail without no hope and
6 no... there was no one fed them a path to being a
7 productive human being with love and support outside.
8 I'm hoping today's conversation allows us to
9 recognize that, come up with solutions and free
10 ourselves from old thinking to figure out a new way
11 of thinking to help our young people who are
12 runaways, who are in the juvenile justice system who
13 we need to make sure they don't ever return once we
14 get them on the right track. So, with that being said
15 I'm going to ask you all if you don't mind raising
16 your right hand and taking the oath to commit to tell
17 the truth, nothing but the truth as you share your
18 testimony today? We thank you and we're looking
19 forward to hearing today's testimony.

20 FELIPE FRANCO: Thank you. You know we,
21 we have testimony for the record and we... we're going
22 to go through it, we actually may try to kind of skip
23 some sections of it purposely because we want to have
24 a conversation and I think the way this hearing
25 opened which was unique and new, I mean it's

2 something that we should take advantage of and so on
3 that note before I read my testimony I, I want to... I
4 want to say two, two things that we should be... a few
5 things that we should be very proud in New York City.
6 For the first time after 100 years, New York State
7 finally raised the age and I think after hearing what
8 we just heard it's important to remind us that last
9 year, October, October of 2018 16 year olds came into
10 the system as juvenile delinquents, can you hear me?
11 Sure, so I think we should be all very proud that
12 last year as October of 2018 the 16 year olds came
13 into the system finally after 100 years away from the
14 criminal justice system that we just heard about and
15 this year, October, those 17 year olds that used..
16 that are still going to through the Criminal Justice
17 System will be finally be coming into the fold of the
18 Juvenile Justice System and that's something that we
19 should be very proud of in New York City. We were
20 actually a significant part of the effort to make
21 that happen in the state of New York. Another thing
22 that actually is important to keep in mind is that
23 New York City is very unique since 2012 because of
24 the enactment of Close to Home and while in many,
25 many, many places in the nation young people are, are

2 released from placement usually just with a train
3 ticket or a bus ticket to go back to their city, that
4 means Chicago or elsewhere, in New York City we make
5 the decision and commitment that our youth are our
6 youth and all of those young people are actually in
7 the community in Close to Home and all of them leave
8 their placement sites with at least four months of
9 aftercare where they are supported and they're
10 actually taken care of and connected to services in
11 preparation to be successful in the community, that's
12 something that we should be very proud of since 2012.
13 And then when we think about the Juvenile Justice
14 System and what's so eloquent posed by Casanova
15 before we work really hard with our partners actually
16 at DYCD to make sure that our young people in
17 detention get a summer job and get a bank account and
18 Louis Watts I know is going to talk about their
19 experience but I think we should all be proud in the
20 historic moment after 100 years finally those 16 and
21 17 year olds are going to come into the Juvenile
22 Justice System where they belong. On that note, good
23 afternoon Chair King, Chair Rose and members of the
24 Committee of Juvenile Justice and the Committee of
25 Youth Services. I am Felipe Franco, Deputy

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2 Commissioner for the Division of Youth and Family
3 Justice, DYFJ with the Administration for Children's
4 Services. With me today is Sara Hemmeter, Associate
5 Commissioner for Community Based Alternatives and
6 Close to Home, Assistant Commissioner Louis Watts
7 for, for Detention and Randy Scott, Assistant
8 Commissioner for the Vulnerable and Special Needs
9 Youth Division within the Department of Youth and
10 Community Development, DYCD. Thank you for the
11 opportunity to discuss the interventions that we at
12 the Division of Youth and Family Justice and our
13 sister agency and our non-for-profit partners provide
14 to help strengthen, strengthen families and support
15 youth in the community. Youth who have challenging
16 relationships with their families are vulnerable,
17 leaving them at a risk of foster care, homelessness,
18 sexual exploitation or in some cases juvenile justice
19 involvement. Much of ACS's work across all of our
20 program areas focuses on efforts to strengthen family
21 relationships and communication whenever it is safe
22 to do so. We know that for most young people the best
23 way to provide positive youth outcomes is to support
24 the whole family unit and we have invested heavily in
25 providing intensive family supports to families and

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youth to prevent delinquency, truancy, chronic running away and homelessness. Because we know that supporting families is so important and effective, we are extremely disappointed and concerned that the State Executive Budget for the Fiscal Year 2019/2020 proposes to eliminate the ability to keep youth safe by eliminating the capacity to place them in foster care, increasing their risk of homelessness and juvenile justice system involvement. In addition, the state's proposals budget... proposed budget will eliminate all state reimbursement for ACS's community-based alternatives that help divert the same youth from foster care and help... helping them and their families stay together. This is actually in the heels of last year's budget as all... you all know, which eliminated all the state's support for Close to Home and our juvenile delinquents and failed to fund Raise the Age implementation in New York City. We again need the City Council as you so well did last year, advocacy at the state on behalf of New York City youth and families. In the ACS Division of Youth and Family Justice we have a continuum of services, including community-based alternatives for youth and their families, detention services for youth who are

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arrested and awaiting court resolution, and residential services through our Close to Home for youth who have been adjudicated by the family court. An important part of this continuum is specifically target, targeted to support family relationships in families where the parents are seeking help for their youth who are engaged in status offenses, meaning activities that are not crimes, such as truancy, running away and missing curfew. If these things are not addressed, these youth are at risk of homelessness and juvenile justice involvement. ACS's Family Assessment Program works with these families through a statutorily referred as Persons in Need of Supervision, PINS, providing families with diversion services and foster care for the youth when necessary. We all remember how difficult it was at adolescence and we know that it can be complicated and oftentimes challenging time for young people and their families. These challenges can be compounded when substance abuse, mental illness and other complicating factors are present. Our experience with court involved youth in the Juvenile Justice System, PINS and the Child Welfare has taught us that many of these issues that contribute to difficult youth

2 behavior, as well as more serious criminal behavior,
3 either arise or are compounded when family
4 relationships are strained and parents feel that
5 they, they cannot cope. Many of the interventions
6 that ACS and DYCD offers provide youth and their
7 parents with the tools they need to work throughout
8 these challenges and build their relationships. Now
9 I'm going to get Associate Commissioner Sara Hemmeter
10 to talk to you about our community-based
11 alternatives.

12 SARA HEMMETER: Thank you. Overall
13 admissions to juvenile detention and placement, as
14 well as foster care placements, have decreased
15 significantly year to year because of the intensive
16 preventive services that New York City has made
17 available. ACS has intentionally invested in programs
18 and services that are specifically aimed at working
19 with youth, but that also engage the whole family
20 unit to improve family functioning rather than
21 merely, merely looking at the youth's behavior. The
22 family assessment program. DYFJ's Family Assessment
23 Program or FAP is available to families with youth up
24 to age 18 to help avoid involvement in the foster
25 care and juvenile justice systems. FAP prioritizes

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2 therapeutic preventative services that help families
3 address difficult teenage behaviors like truancy,
4 using drugs, running away from home and or struggles
5 with mental illness, as the best way to improve
6 family dynamics and outcomes for youth, and prevent
7 running away and homelessness. To obtain assistance
8 with a challenging adolescent, parents often go to
9 the family court to file a PINS petition. Parents and
10 guardians are looking desperately for support through
11 court supervision, placement of their child in foster
12 care, respite, or quick access to services. Parents
13 who seek a PINS petition in family court are required
14 by statute, to participate in diversion services
15 before a PINS petition can be filed. Prior to a PINS
16 petition being filed, FAP's social workers meet with
17 families and conduct an assessment of the caregivers
18 and youth and determine which level of services in
19 our continuum meets their needs. FAP serves over
20 5,000 families annually throughout the five boroughs
21 and is able to prevent over 90 percent of parents
22 from filing a PINS petition in court against their
23 child. Currently there are only approximately 104 New
24 York City youth in foster care on PINS petitions,
25 which demonstrates the effectiveness of our diversion

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COMMITTEE ON JUVENILE JUSTICE

programs. Again, as Deputy Commissioner Franco mentioned in the opening, all of these services are at risk in the state's proposed 2019/20 budget. ACS respectfully asks the City Council to join us in our effort to prevent these budget actions from proceeding both so that foster... the foster care system can still serve youth who are a danger... a danger to themselves or others and so that the state maintains it's three million dollars of support for PINS diversion services. The Juvenile Justice Initiative. DYFJ also runs the Juvenile Justice Initiative, JJI in partnership with the Department of Probation. JJI serves youth who had been adjudicated in family court and provides intensive home-based interventions to keep young people who do not need to be confined safely in the community with necessary services and supports. JJI has played a key role in reducing the city's use of residential placements in juvenile delinquency cases without compromising public safety. With Raise the Age, as... we have expanded our array of preventative programs to meet the needs of older youth and we have invested in new evidence-based programs including Multisystemic Therapy, MST-EA, which will work with emerging adults

2 who are homeless or on their own and need help to, to
3 achieve independence. Among other goals, MST-EA will
4 target housing, independent living skills as well as
5 education and career goals for participating
6 adolescents. Crossover youth. The vast majority of
7 young people in the juvenile justice system, as high
8 as 90 percent regardless of gender, have experienced
9 some sort of trauma. We know that there is a close
10 correlation between child maltreatment and future
11 delinquency and so we have partnered with multiple
12 stakeholders to support children who have... who have
13 experienced abuse and neglect with the goal of
14 preventing their entry into the justice system. The
15 term crossover youth describes a young person who
16 enters the justice system while involved in the child
17 welfare system. ACS is committed to investing in work
18 that focuses specifically on these dually involved
19 youth, such as the Crossover Youth Practice Model
20 which was developed by the Center for Juvenile
21 Justice Reform at Georgetown University, it is a
22 multi-agency, cross systems approach that seeks to
23 improve outcomes for youth who are involved in both
24 systems. Many of these youth are at serious risk of
25 homelessness; they tend to be adolescents who have

2 either a long history of child neglect and or PINS
3 type behavior. The Crossover Youth Practice Model has
4 brought together numerous city agencies working with,
5 with youth to share information, collaborate on
6 solutions, and involve the youth and their family in
7 order to prevent further involvement in either
8 system. Close to home. If a family court judge finds
9 that a young person has committed an offense and at
10 disposition finds that the youth needs rehabilitative
11 services, the judge may order the youth to be placed
12 in a residential placement... residential placement
13 program for a period of time, generally 12 or 18
14 months. Before Close to Home these youth were placed
15 in large institutions two or more hours away from
16 their families leading to family disengagement.
17 Before 2011 and the enactment of Close to Home many
18 youths lingered in the system for years because of
19 lack of permanency. Now with Close to Home, youth are
20 placed in small group home... group home style
21 residences through, throughout the city where they
22 receive intensive and therapeutic residential
23 programming followed by after care support for the
24 remainder of their placement period. Close to Home
25 providers encourage family visits and, if needed,

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2 transport families to the residences for visitation,
3 meetings and other activities. The ACS Permanency and
4 Placement Specialist or PPS assigned to each youth
5 and the Close to Home provider work together to
6 ensure that the youth's needs are being addressed
7 through appropriate services, both in residential
8 placement and in the community on after care creating
9 a tighter network of supervision. The goal of Close
10 to Home aftercare is to build on the skills of youth
11 and the family and to develop a network of support
12 that will allow them to succeed in the community.
13 Other supports for youth and families. As a city it
14 is imperative that we all work to ensure that every
15 youth has the tools needed to become successful
16 adults and DYFJ is committed to supporting youth,
17 families and communities to achieve that goal. LGBTQ
18 youth. When we talk about runaway and homeless youth
19 and the connection to the justice system, we must
20 acknowledge that some youth are without family
21 support because they are not accepted for who they
22 are and are either put out of their homes or cannot
23 tolerate living with emotionally or physically
24 abusive parents. Some of these youth also identify as
25 LGBTQ. ACS has long made affirming and supporting our

1 youth a priority. The evidence-based services
2 available throughout DYFJ's continuum can often be a
3 catalyst for family acceptance and reunification for
4 LGBTQ youth and we have served many of these families
5 through FAP and JJI. We also commend our sister
6 agency, DYCD for dedicating significant resources and
7 programming to meet the unique needs of these youth.
8 For the last two years we have been working with Vera
9 Institute of Justice to develop a gender responsive
10 program that is inclusive and sensitive to the needs
11 of our LGBTQ girls. The program will serve girls who
12 are at risk... who are at risk of involvement in the
13 juvenile justice system, as an alternative to, to
14 placement or on aftercare. Services will be tailored
15 to meet the individual needs of each girl and we are
16 working with providers that have experience in
17 meeting the unique needs of our LGBTQ youth. CSEC
18 survivors. Commercial sexual exploitation of children
19 or CSEC is a form of child abuse experienced by many
20 justice involved youth. ACS has made supporting this
21 population a priority and at DYFJ we have partnered
22 with the Girls Educational Mentoring Services or
23 GEMS, a, a nationally recognized organization that
24 works with sexually exploited young women and girls.
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GEMS uses survivor leadership and transformational relationships to work with the young women in our secure detention and Close to Home facilities to educate young people about CSEC and encourage survivors to seek help. In August 2018, Commissioner Hansell announced the launch of the New York City Child Tattoo Eradication Project, a new pilot program at ACS that provides free tattoo removal services to trafficked, gang affiliated and other at-risk youth in New York City. Trafficked and gang involved youth are often branded with exploiter or gang symbols. ACS has partnered with medical providers who offer pro-bono tattoo removal services to youth affiliated with ACS whose brandings have hindered their ability to positively move on their lives. We are thankful to the medical professionals who have offered pro-bono services to help some of the most vulnerable children in New York City. The family support center. In June of 2017, ACS opened a family support center in the South Bronx, which provides a multi service, one stop space for youth and their families. I would like to thank Chair King and members of the Juvenile Justice Committee for visiting this center last summer and learning about the array of programs and services we

2 offer there. As we have discussed during the
3 Commissioner... the Committee's visit, the Bronx Family
4 Support Center houses, houses FAP, JJI and Close to
5 Home staff and enables families with justice system
6 involvement to have many of their service needs met
7 in one centralized location. However, services
8 offered at the Bronx Family Support Center are not
9 limited to families with justice involve... justice
10 system involvement and are open to anyone in the
11 community. DYFJ partners with Community Connections
12 for Youth to provide workforce development, parenting
13 groups, housing assistance, and education workshops.
14 The space is designed to be shared with the whole
15 community, welcoming everyone, including those whose
16 children are not at risk or court involved. The Bronx
17 location is presently the only Family Support Center
18 in the city, and we are planning to open a Queens
19 Center in 2020.

20 FELIPE FRANCO: Thanks for the
21 opportunity to discuss the supports that ACS and our
22 partners provide to youth and families in the
23 community. New York City's multiagency focus of
24 strengthening families and building competencies and
25 supports for youth is commendable and actually many

2 times emulated by others in New York State and
3 elsewhere and other cities across the state and the
4 nation. Now more than ever we need the City Council
5 to support advocating on behalf of New York City
6 youth to ensure that Albany does not cut our services
7 for youth and families. We are happy now to take your
8 questions.

9 CHAIRPERSON KING: Thank you, anyone
10 testifying or are we just going to ask you some
11 questions and just have a grand old good conversation
12 right now? Alright, well I, I thank you for your
13 testimony today both of you, I appreciate your
14 communication. And I'm one that... always say as we
15 come sit at the table how to continue to have real
16 conversations? Many people on the front lines
17 sacrifice their time, energy and blood in making sure
18 our children get better opportunities, get it right
19 after a mess up or a bad... a bad decision but it was
20 brought to my attention and I'm asking us as we
21 continue to move in these... as we kick into the budget
22 session Speaker, Speaker Johnson testified yesterday
23 up in Albany about proposed cuts to ACS and
24 reimbursement, I think it's appalling that in the day
25 and era that we always say that the two things that

2 should be off limits when it comes to the budget is
3 our children and our seniors and that we think that
4 it's okay in the... in the financial world that it's
5 okay to cut the souls of young people trying to
6 figure it out. Again if we're truly saying that they
7 are our future then why are we trying to misstep and
8 take away all the resources of the individuals that
9 are trying to help our future, I don't get it, I
10 don't understand it so I'm asking you to stand up and
11 make your voices heard when it comes to saving the
12 lives of our children, never be scared even if you're
13 going against the status quo or whatever agendas, the
14 only way we get it right is to fight back so I'm
15 asking you all, you're at the front lines for the
16 city of New York, don't let anybody from the state or
17 the federal government cut the budgets that you need
18 to make sure that our children have the access to
19 financial opportunities to make themselves better so
20 thank you for that. So, let's move on to a couple of
21 questions, I only have a few because I really want
22 my... I want our colleagues from both committees to, to
23 chime in to ask you all questions. So, my first
24 question in regards to all of the numbers, I just
25 want to get an idea of how many of our young people

2 that, that are in the.. that have ran away from home
3 how many would you say there totally that are in the
4 system that you've been servicing, how many of them
5 that you, you can track and say we've done a good job
6 that they're on the road of success and how many have
7 returned back that we need to continue to still help
8 them?

9 FELIPE FRANCO: I'm going to.. I'm going
10 to answer first from the Juvenile Justice perspective
11 and I think I, I mentioned in the opening, New York
12 City is unique and actually one of the few places
13 that actually for many reasons and in part because of
14 the support of the City Council and.. two things, no
15 one is discharged ever from detention without
16 actually having a family to go to, I mean family
17 court judges by practice ensure that everyone has a
18 go to go.. a place to go to before they get discharged
19 from detention and in the placement system again in
20 New York City, with Close to Home we actually think
21 exit at entry, every young person as you know
22 Associate Commissioner can expand gets assigned what
23 we call a permanency planning specialist that is
24 working to ensure that they don't, don't just learn
25 new skills and reduce the risk of reoffending but

2 also make sure there's actually a permanency resource
3 when the person goes, goes home. Today we opened up
4 the hearing talking about the importance of having
5 someone in the life of the person when they go home,
6 no one goes home from Close to Home without actually
7 having at least four months of aftercare.

8 CHAIRPERSON KING: Okay, you, you want to
9 add to that because what our... I, I thank you Deputy
10 Commissioner I was just trying to get an idea...
11 [cross-talk]

12 FELIPE FRANCO: I think... I think... [cross-
13 talk]

14 CHAIRPERSON KING: ...of what that... what
15 that... [cross-talk]

16 FELIPE FRANCO: ...you know what... sorry...
17 [cross-talk]

18 CHAIRPERSON KING: Excuse me for a
19 second... [cross-talk]

20 FELIPE FRANCO: Sorry, sorry, I mean...
21 what I think that is important to keep in mind we
22 should be very proud of what we do and how we do it
23 in New York City, most places across the nation sadly
24 young people may be discharged from the institutions

2 just with a bus ride back to the city where they came
3 from.

4 CHAIRPERSON KING: Okay, alright and I
5 appreciate it, I, I was just trying to get on the
6 record as well, what does that number look like of
7 how many runaway youth have we helped and they've
8 returned home or to a stable environment that they're
9 moving forward and how many of them couldn't figure
10 out who had to return back for additional services in
11 our system whether it's in the juvenile justice or
12 whether that's Close to Home or a foster care home
13 or... I'm just trying to get an idea of what that
14 number might look like because in your testimony I
15 think you said we serve like 5,000 families so just
16 trying to get an idea of how many have returned to
17 stabilization and then how many came back and needed
18 more help.

19 SARA HEMMETER: Right, so the, the family
20 assessment program which I think is what you're
21 referring to, the 5,000 families that we serve all
22 come in with their... with their parent to seek
23 services through, through the family assessment
24 program so they are all connected to their families
25 although they may have issues with whatever is

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2 happening in their... in their homes and what we try to
3 do at the family... at the family assessment program is
4 strengthen those families so that the... those young
5 people do not become homeless so, so the, the one...
6 the ones that are coming to us through the family
7 assessment program all come with a parent that's how
8 they reach us is the parent finds out about our
9 services and we offer them those services to keep
10 them together and reduce homeless, homeless service...
11 the kids from being homeless. I'm not sure we have an
12 idea of how many kids who are homeless end up in our
13 juvenile justice system, when they are arrested and
14 they do come to our detention facilities or to Close...
15 if they do end up in Close to Home our staff, our,
16 our case management staff and our placement and
17 permanency specialists are outreaching to those
18 families whoever the family might be in order to
19 reengage them in, in the services that we offer so
20 that the young person has a place to be discharged to
21 when they end their placement with us. If it happens
22 that the parent remains disconnected, then that's
23 when we are engaging our child welfare... the child
24 welfare side of ACS and potentially placing them in
25 foster care and I... we... I think I'd have to get back

1 COMMITTEE ON JUVENILE JUSTICE 42

2 to you on the number of young people that, that are
3 going into foster care after Close to Home placement,
4 we can get back to you with that number.

5 CHAIRPERSON KING: Okay, I, I appreciate
6 that and then before I turn it over to Council Member
7 Rose and I'll be back with more questions, when
8 someone does come to you who is a runaway is that one
9 of the first questions that is asked because we don't
10 they're a runaway until they come before you... [cross-
11 talk]

12 SARA HEMMETER: Right... [cross-talk]

13 CHAIRPERSON KING: ...so I'm just... do they
14 come and if that's so isn't that a... are we tracking
15 that to give us an idea from day one, from the time
16 of our first encounter with them whether they're a
17 runaway or not, shouldn't we have those numbers in
18 place so we can identify which line they go through
19 and how they get service and how do we track their
20 whole process in the system to the time they exit
21 out?

22 FELIPE FRANCO: They're... I mean so if a
23 young person gets brought in by the police for
24 example to our detention sites we immediately do
25 triage, you know and a certain amount of intake

2 within an hour but one of the things that we do in
3 our juvenile justice system, doesn't happen in the
4 criminal justice system is that every young person
5 gets assigned a case manager and that case manager
6 actually works with the family identifying the family
7 resources with the court, with attorneys to make sure
8 that actually everyone is involved in the care of
9 that kid, most young people actually may be released
10 on their own to probation, again only if they have a
11 permanency resource or family to go to or they could
12 be released back into Close to Home either
13 adjudicated, it's the practice of the family court
14 and the juvenile justice system that families are an
15 essential voice in the court so they're always
16 engaged, if they don't have a family being part of
17 the child welfare system provides a unique
18 opportunity to then find permanency resources of a
19 different sort but no one ever is released in New
20 York City without having someone to go to.

21 CHAIRPERSON KING: Okay, well I
22 appreciate it and I'm just going to ask... [cross-talk]

23 FELIPE FRANCO: And I can... [cross-talk]

24 CHAIRPERSON KING: ...that... I'm just going...
25 I'm just going to put on the record for you it's like

2 if you go to Olive Garden and they ask you for a
3 survey after it, there's specific questions that they
4 ask you that you're going to answer so I'm just
5 asking as we move forward since this is a hearing
6 trying to understand runaway youth and their
7 involvement in the juvenile justice system there has
8 to be some type of mechanism to track children who
9 are homeless in the system and how they are engaged
10 in the juvenile justice system, there has to be
11 something... [cross-talk]

12 FELIPE FRANCO: Yeah, yeah... [cross-talk]

13 CHAIRPERSON KING: ...and I'm not... I'm not...
14 I don't know if it's the microphones but I'm not
15 hearing what that looks like or what it is so we're
16 able to have a number and if it's not existing let's...
17 maybe we might want to consider something different.

18 FELIPE FRANCO: Council Member every
19 young person that actually comes in touch with the
20 juvenile justice system we map out who... where they
21 live, where they... who they're living with and if
22 there's actually no one in their... in their network
23 which doesn't happen often then we have to find
24 someplace to go and the child welfare system is the
25 place that we look into.

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2 CHAIRPERSON KING: I think you wanted to
3 say something.

4 RANDY SCOTT: I do, in regards to DYCD's
5 runaway and homeless youth system, contracted system
6 we... there are questions, when we... our providers do
7 intake in regards to the numbers and I just wanted to
8 give you some of the numbers that were relevant for
9 fiscal year '18 in terms of youth who identified as
10 having a juvenile or a criminal history, you know the
11 numbers are real small because a lot of the
12 information is self-report but I did want to give you
13 some numbers so that you can have those and then
14 explain to you what the process is for the contracted
15 providers in regards to assisting those youth with
16 respect to any needs that they have after they
17 identify as having a criminal or juvenile history.
18 So, for our crisis services and TILS programs
19 combined there were only 65 youth who reported that
20 they were either on parole or probation, alright, of
21 those 65 youth, 20 have reported adult probation and
22 25 have reported juvenile probation and of those 65,
23 33 reported reentry into incarceration from
24 incarceration and for our drop in services there were
25 59 youth who reported were either on parole or

2 probation and of those 59, 30 have reported adult
3 probation and 15 have reported juvenile probation and
4 of those 59 19 reported reentering from
5 incarceration. So, what is done in our contracted
6 programs is we have a... they have an extensive case
7 management system where they have staff who are
8 trained to work with youth on the issues that they
9 identify during that case management session. If a
10 youth should come in and identify as having a
11 criminal history or needing assistance with a
12 criminal issue then that staff creates an individual
13 service plan with that particular youth to address
14 that matter from either referring them to legal
15 services and then communicating with that legal
16 representative so that that youth stays on track in
17 terms of meeting the expectations of whatever is
18 identified for that path to resolving the issue. So,
19 this is done within our drop in services as well as
20 our residential programs and we have both short term
21 and long term residential programs so if a youth is
22 in one of our short term residential programs and
23 moves to one our long term residential programs that
24 information is, is mobile with the youth so that they
25 continue to work with that youth to address the

2 matter and resolve the matter so that they don't
3 reenter any, you know criminal, you know system.

4 CHAIRPERSON KING: Okay. Alright, I'm
5 going to turn it over to Council Member Rose.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Thank you, I just
7 want to piggy back on, on that question. Commissioner
8 Scott were... those numbers that you quoted were they
9 sort of gathered as a result of the 2018 youth count
10 and as DYCD recently conducted it's 2019 youth count,
11 do you believe that your improved approach I would
12 say will show a more accurate number of RHY
13 throughout the city and what are the ways in which
14 this count has been improved on the ones that were
15 previously used?

16 RANDY SCOTT: Thank you for the question,
17 these numbers were not obtained from the youth count,
18 these numbers... [cross-talk]

19 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Give me what the
20 youth count numbers were then.

21 RANDY SCOTT: The youth count numbers
22 for... [cross-talk]

23 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: For 2018...

24 RANDY SCOTT: For 2018... [cross-talk]

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: ...and 2019... [cross-
3 talk]

4 RANDY SCOTT: ...were... there were 220
5 unsheltered youth and that number is derived from the
6 HOPE count and the youth count that... [cross-talk]

7 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Okay... [cross-talk]

8 RANDY SCOTT: The HOPE count is done by
9 DSS/DHS and the youth count is done by DYCD. So, the
10 youth... HOPE count is usually done that Monday and
11 this year it was... I believe it was January 29th and
12 then the youth count is done the Tuesday to Friday
13 after HOPE count.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Okay.

15 RANDY SCOTT: Uh-huh but... [cross-talk]

16 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: And... [cross-talk]

17 RANDY SCOTT: ...these numbers were not
18 derived from the youth count.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Okay, so they were
20 as a result... the numbers you quoted Council Member
21 King were a, a... as a, a result of after care or, or
22 the social work... social workers gleaning that
23 information?

24 RANDY SCOTT: Yes, this... these numbers
25 were... come from intake when... [cross-talk]

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Intake... [cross-
3 talk]

4 RANDY SCOTT: ...the case management staff
5 at the provider level, you know has a session with a
6 youth and they divulge this information to them.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: There was some talk
8 about the, the count not maybe gleaning an accurate
9 number of young people that are out there
10 unsheltered, did you do anything to change that... the
11 methods by which you're, you're doing your youth
12 count now and do you find it to be more effective
13 than previous years?

14 RANDY SCOTT: Yes, very more effective in
15 terms... [cross-talk]

16 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: And what did you do
17 different?

18 RANDY SCOTT: Okay, well from the first
19 year that we've done this we only had seven sites
20 that we processed the youth count to... from this
21 youth count that we did this year we are close to...
22 close to 70 sites and we've included... and during the
23 first count we only did it at our drop in centers and
24 one, one cornerstone, to date we do it at our drop in
25 centers, at our crisis services programs, in the

2 public schools, we do it at libraries, we do it
3 street outreach wise so we've included... you know
4 grown the program to get to as many youth as we
5 possibly can at many different locations that have
6 been identified. What we've also done is we've
7 created a group, a work group, youth count work group
8 that has both government agencies on it, it has
9 advocates, it has youth as well as others who are
10 interested in youth services come and... [cross-talk]

11 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Is that part of the
12 ICC?

13 RANDY SCOTT: This is not part of the
14 ICC, this is... [cross-talk]

15 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Okay... [cross-talk]

16 RANDY SCOTT: ...separate from the ICC,
17 this is done during the youth count approach, so it
18 usually starts around September and ends usually in
19 April or May to make sure that we have a full time to
20 do that. We've also identified... brought on youth
21 count coordinators who control focus groups which we
22 have done with the Coalition for Homeless Youth and
23 from those systems we've been able to create a
24 methodology on how we're going to do this, we've
25 identified places where we will make sure that, you

2 know the volunteers or the staff that go out to do
3 the surveys know where to go in order to conduct the
4 survey. We've enhanced the survey over the... from the
5 first year to now to make sure that the questions
6 that are identified are those that will get us the
7 best answer in terms of number of youth that are
8 homeless on the day of HOPE count and we've also used
9 this time to create and work with CIDI in order to
10 get the data to present and attach to the HOPE count
11 in the addendum to make sure that folks are aware of
12 the numbers that are out there and that's how we came
13 to the 220 number from both DHS and from DYCD
14 perspective.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: And that's the 2018
16 or the 2019 number?

17 RANDY SCOTT: The 2019 numbers haven't
18 been done because we just ended on 2019 so those are
19 in process right now, the 2018 report has not been
20 put out yet by CIDI, but they say they are in the
21 process of putting that report out however they did
22 give us the number so that we can share it.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Okay, thank you.
24 I'm going to let our colleagues because I think we

2 all have somewhere else to go, I'll come back for
3 another round.

4 CHAIRPERSON KING: Council Member Chin.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you.

6 CHAIRPERSON KING: For the record we've
7 been joined by Council Member Mark Levine from
8 Manhattan.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you Council
10 Member Rose and Council Member King. My question is
11 that I know from the DYCD hearing that we had, and we
12 have always continued to advocate for the increase of
13 beds for our homeless and runaway youth. Last year I
14 think Council Member King, Council Member Rose we, we
15 visited one of the shelters and we talked to some of
16 the youth and I think we were quiet impressed that
17 they found the center and they're getting the
18 services they need and in that center they also had
19 the, the legal lawyer there and he was telling us how
20 he actually accompany the youth to court and make
21 sure that they get those issues resolved and so my
22 question is that are we continuing to work to
23 increase the number of beds? I know that we had a
24 target and, and we're reaching... I hope we're reaching
25 that target but there's still a lot of youth that

2 we've heard that don't know that these programs are
3 available and they're still out there on the street
4 or couch surfing so we wanted to, to see how we can
5 continue to provide the resources because these
6 models are working, if they're working how do we make
7 sure that kids... the kids who need the services get
8 access to it and we're... you know we're willing... and I
9 mean your testimony you, you're talking to access to
10 support working, you know advocating with the state
11 and, and we will do that but also with the
12 administration that we got to continue on this track
13 to provide these services because we know it's
14 working. So, are there a, a target number that
15 you're, you're trying to reach or trying to expand in
16 terms of for the runaway and homeless youth?

17 RANDY SCOTT: Thank you for your question
18 and we are in the process of onboarding more beds
19 especially by... for under 21 by the end of this fiscal
20 year. As you know during... with the Mayor's investment
21 of 300 additional beds that needed to be online by
22 the end of fiscal year '19 we are in the process of
23 doing that, we have 146 of those beds that are still
24 waiting to be online and going through the state
25 certification process, the... they have been awarded to

2 various providers and the providers are in the
3 process of going through the certification and
4 getting those beds up and they're doing a great job
5 in terms of making sure that that happens. So, we, we
6 definitely are bringing on new beds, currently we
7 have 606... 607 beds that are online and the rest, 147
8 will be online by the end of this fiscal year for
9 under 21. As you know we issued... say again...

10 SARA HEMMETER: We also raised the, the
11 age to be able to accommodate and help the... [cross-
12 talk]

13 RANDY SCOTT: Yeah, I was about to...
14 [cross-talk]

15 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: ...the older, older
16 than 21... [cross-talk]

17 RANDY SCOTT: ...about to mention that
18 right now. And as you know we issued an RFP in August
19 of 2018 and awarded contracts in October to... for
20 providers for residential programs for age 21 to 24
21 and those have been awarded and the providers are in
22 the process of working with OCFS, again in terms of
23 getting those sites certified so that they can... the
24 youth can start access, accessing those sites. So,
25 with those 60 beds, 20 which were an investment from

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2 the unity project and 40 from the administration that
3 allows for a total of 813 beds for runaway and
4 homeless youth between the ages of 16... 753 for 16 to
5 20 and 60 beds for 21 to 24.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: I guess do you also
7 have an estimate of what's the need that's out there?
8 Maybe... and the advocates probably know but is the
9 administration, DYCD do you... do you have like a, a
10 number that you think that, that you should reach
11 because there's such a great need out there?

12 RANDY SCOTT: I do not have a number
13 that... and I hope that... that's the purpose of the
14 youth count is that we hope that the youth count will
15 provide us with some type of information in regards
16 to homelessness, youth homelessness in New York City
17 and then can be a driver to new needs but as you
18 said the advocates have been a great force in
19 communicating with... both with the administration and
20 yourselves in regards to beds and needs and so on and
21 that has been great in terms of us increasing from
22 where we were, you know prior to this administration
23 there was only 253 beds so now we've added 560 which
24 includes the, the higher age of 21 to 24 so the goal
25 is to definitely work to get these beds that have

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2 been invested by the administration on, on, online so
3 that youth can access them and then identify what the
4 new needs will be.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Great, thank you
6 Chair, I guess we will have to continue, right
7 because I think Council Member Rose and I we've been
8 on the, the Youth Committee and I guess Council
9 Member King too ever since we got to the City Council
10 and I remember, you know advocating for runaway and
11 homeless youth beds for a while and we're glad that
12 we're seeing, you know progress, thank you.

13 RANDY SCOTT: And, and I appreciate you
14 going out to visit this program because that's a
15 great way of learning more about the services that
16 they provide so if there's interest in seeing more
17 programming please let us know.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Thank you Council
19 Member Chin, no. Council Member Barron do you have
20 any questions.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Thank you to the
22 Chairs for holding the hearing and to the panel for
23 coming to give your testimony. Commissioner Franco
24 you sent a letter to the Juvenile Justice Committee
25 yesterday I believe and in it you talk about the

2 services at Horizon as well as at Crossroads and it
3 seems that there are 4,860 hours of service for
4 Horizon but only ten percent of that at Crossroads,
5 only 432 hours of programming over a course of 26
6 weeks, can you speak to why there's such a great
7 distance... difference between the two?

8 FELIPE FRANCO: Yeah, I don't... I don't
9 have the letter in front of me but actually the
10 amount of programming between Crossroads and Horizons
11 is equivalent maybe somewhere in the letter we talk
12 about the particular programming provided by Friends
13 of Island Academy... [cross-talk]

14 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Right... [cross-
15 talk]

16 FELIPE FRANCO: ...which only focuses on
17 adolescent offenders which is only one living unit
18 within Crossroads but then all the other young people
19 who are juvenile delinquents and juvenile offenders
20 that are in Crossroads are getting a significant
21 amount of, of services actually with support from
22 DYCD from another group called Center for Community
23 Alternatives but I think more than I, I think, you
24 know Assistant Commissioner Louis Watts who used to
25 be some years ago the Director of Crossroads and is

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2 actually now Superintendent of Horizons can give you
3 a better sense of what happens day to day to kids at
4 Horizons and in Crossroads.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Well I'd like to
6 get further clarification on that because it seems
7 like the descriptions of the programs at Horizon are
8 really, really great, you have All-star Working Dog,
9 animation project, autistic noise... artistic noise,
10 audio pictures, elite learners, educate to empower,
11 and FLEX, giant thinking, girl VOW, you have about 30
12 programs and then when I look at Crossroads I see
13 about five but... [cross-talk]

14 FELIPE FRANCO: Yeah, again it, it is
15 because in the letter we are describing the programs
16 that we have bought in by Friends of Island Academy...
17 [cross-talk]

18 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Right... [cross-
19 talk]

20 FELIPE FRANCO: ...which is only serving
21 adolescent offenders at Crossroads, we should
22 include, and we could include to you all the programs
23 that Community, Community... Center for Community
24 Alternatives is also providing at Crossroads and that
25

2 would be comparable in terms of hours and programs
3 and I can make that available.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Okay, I, I would
5 appreciate that.

6 RANDY SCOTT: Yeah and just to speak
7 back... I'm sorry, how are you Council Member?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I'm well.

9 RANDY SCOTT: Yeah, just to speak with
10 the Crossroads I would agree with Deputy Commissioner
11 Franco, at Crossroads there are a number of programs
12 that... I have not seen the letter that you have but
13 there are a number of programs at, at Crossroads
14 included; Carnegie Hall, Sprout by Design, the
15 Animation Project and the list goes on and on and on,
16 Freedom School Happens throughout the summer months,
17 through the children's Defense Fund... [cross-talk]

18 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Great... [cross-
19 talk]

20 RANDY SCOTT: ...so there is definitely a,
21 a number of programs that keep all of our young
22 people busy in both facilities...

23 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Uh-huh, okay,
24 great. Some... just a few other questions. Before a
25

2 PINS filing can be accepted families have to go
3 through the diversion program... [cross-talk]

4 RANDY SCOTT: Uh-huh... [cross-talk]

5 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: ...okay and I saw
6 that there were three levels of diversion programs;
7 family stabilization, functional family therapy,
8 multidimensional family therapy, JJR, MST but as I
9 looked at them I saw that the length of the programs
10 varied from 21 days in a non-mandated respite for the
11 JJR program up to four months for the other programs
12 that were identified and as little as 90 days in the
13 family stabilization program so if we're talking
14 about children who really have very, very deep seated
15 needs and issues that they're addressing with and
16 realizing that many of these issues have their roots
17 in poverty and in family trauma which is very deep
18 seated what are we doing so that beyond the four
19 months or the five months that they're interacting
20 with these diversion programs to sustain what it is
21 that's needed?

22 SARA HEMMETER: Right, so that's a good
23 question. So, the programs listed there are the
24 evidence-based programs that ACS contracts with and
25 so those programs were developed specifically... and

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2 researched specifically for at risk youth and youth
3 who are involved in the juvenile justice system, they
4 are extremely intensive programs. In fact, MST the
5 first week you're connected with MST a therapist is
6 out in that in home at least three times week,
7 they're on call 24/7 for the parent if there are any
8 crisis that occur so they're, they're very intensive
9 programs where they're working very holistically with
10 the... with the youth and the family. The... part of
11 those programs are to connect the families to other
12 services if they need them..

13 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I saw that but is
14 there any follow up beyond the time that the program
15 is listed to provide that, is there any follow up
16 with those CBOs to say hi, how's the Johnson family
17 doing, are they still involved?

18 SARA HEMMETER: Well once the... so the
19 contract provider will work with that family, it's
20 actually three to five months is the average length
21 of stay for those programs, once that ends they are
22 no longer involved but they can always come back to
23 the family assessment program if they need additional
24 services or some, some other assistance with any,
25 anything else.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: And... okay, so if
3 they were to come back would they be able then to
4 reapply or be re-involved in those programs as well?

5 SARA HEMMETER: Absolutely, if they... if
6 necessary, yes.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I, I think that's
8 great that there's that kind of ability to come back
9 again but when the roots of the problem are poverty...
10 [cross-talk]

11 SARA HEMMETER: Yes... [cross-talk]

12 COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: ...and family... deep
13 seated family conflict and lack of employment, until
14 those issues are addressed, I think we're going to be
15 just addressing the symptoms without getting to the
16 roots.

17 FELIPE FRANCO: And Council Member I, I
18 think one of the things that we have learned and we
19 need to do more of but we begin doing it in the Bronx
20 in the family support center, we need to take a two
21 generation approach to solving these issues, I mean
22 we, we, we have to take a two generation approach to,
23 to many of these issues so what we're doing in the
24 family support center which we testified about is
25 finally not just focusing on really good evidence

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based programs that help the family reunify and connect better but also support to the parents and that's why actually we're so eager to kind of build the relationship that we're building in the Bronx and elsewhere, we're actually... we have the kind of support programs to kind of cohesion for parents that actually are going to help those parents move forward, I mean they need the... as much support as our young people need.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: Okay, we, we have

to still get to the root, we have to get jobs for our... not just job training programs but jobs and we've got to make sure that we work on our children's self-esteem and that comes through the education system in making sure that teachers are aware of different stages of child development and address that and help children to feel good about themselves which means understanding their cultural backgrounds and respecting that and, and elevating that and there's a lot that we have to do beyond just addressing the symptoms that are manifested. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON KING: Thank you Council

Woman Barron and I would ask while we applaud all the

2 work that's been done with ACS, all the case workers,
3 all the case managers, all the specialists, all the
4 commissioners, the Deputy Commissioners, all the
5 advocates as Council Members... Woman was saying, you
6 know this is... goes beyond this generation, it's the
7 generation before that had a hiccup and possibly the
8 generation before that that was misguided but then we
9 have a system that's always perpetuated unfairness to
10 certain people who are in poverty and, and ethnicity
11 and once we really recognize that then we can be fair
12 and coming into this... coming into this house and
13 saying this is what we're doing even though we may
14 not be doing enough these are the issues that we get
15 to... got to continue to focus and fight on because if
16 we don't we're like a hamster in a wheel, you know
17 just spinning our legs around saying we're doing
18 something, this sounds good to save... to save our
19 titles but... and then again our children who are in
20 these systems the parents who have been caught and
21 they've been hit with the miseducation and the
22 misinformation and just the misdirection we'll
23 continue to be doing this kind of work and this song
24 and dance when we come before one another so while I
25 applaud each and every one of you I ask us to

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2 continue to be an advocate when we leave to call the
3 system because the system is flawed and we got to
4 figure out how to make the system right, not defend
5 the system but tell the system it's wrong itself and,
6 and since you all are sitting in that seat doing all
7 that you can to make sure that those children
8 understand that we're helping out because we're
9 working within a flawed system. Council Member Rose.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Thank you, it's
11 always hard to follow this guy, no, I'm... as RHY
12 programs are voluntary what types of educational
13 outreach is done in terms of letting both youth who
14 are in detention and the employees of DYFJ know their
15 privacy rights and what they can and cannot ask
16 about, we've heard from providers that they've
17 noticed that sometimes DYFJ will request runaway and
18 homeless youth programs to disclose information about
19 specific runaway and homeless youth. However, this
20 basically breaks their privacy rights and the privacy
21 laws that are in place to protect young people. So,
22 what is done to ensure that the runaway and homeless
23 youth rights are protected and can you address what
24 the interconnectional... what the, the connection is
25 between DF... DYFJ, whatever all these acronyms and,

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2 and, and runaway homeless youth providers? Do I need
3 to say that again?

4 SARA HEMMETER: I, I guess I, I... you know
5 we're I think puzzled because not exactly sure what
6 you mean in terms of... [cross-talk]

7 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: So, we've... [cross-
8 talk]

9 SARA HEMMETER: ...confidential
10 information... [cross-talk]

11 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: ...we've heard from...
12 we've heard from advocates where a, a probation
13 officer or parole officer will call the staff or... at
14 the... at the residence that the runaway and homeless
15 youth or at the TILS and ask are they keeping curfew,
16 are they abusing, you know substances, they will ask
17 questions that as the young person no longer under
18 your care now has some privacy rights because they
19 are in a voluntary program under DYCD.

20 FELIPE FRANCO: I mean I, I think... and I
21 think I opened talking about that, it's not unusual
22 at the national level and sadly to see it in New York
23 State that maybe... that all officers to share someone
24 out of a precinct with a metric... I mean with a... we,
25 we're never in the position that actually someone who

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2 is discharged from the Division of Youth and Family
3 Justice, Close to Home or detention where we're going
4 to be asking information to them about the young
5 person. We, we don't do that, I mean it sounds like
6 you're talking about practices by other agencies...
7 [cross-talk]

8 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: We've heard from
9 more than one advocate group... [cross-talk]

10 FELIPE FRANCO: Okay... [cross-talk]

11 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: ...that they have
12 gotten calls regarding a specific young person that's
13 now living in, you know a TIL or a voluntary program
14 and so I want to know, you know how far is your reach
15 and you know how you... how do you address... [cross-
16 talk]

17 FELIPE FRANCO: Again... [cross-talk]

18 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: ...their privacy
19 rights... [cross-talk]

20 FELIPE FRANCO: ...it, it may be that... it
21 sounds like based on what you just said you're
22 talking about practices by the state Department of
23 Parole or maybe by another agency called the
24 Department of Probation, the Department of Probation
25 supervision of young people is not under ACS Division

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2 of Youth and Family Justice so I don't want to
3 respond for another agency... [cross-talk]

4 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: So, no one from
5 your system... once they're released from Horizons or
6 one of your facilities no one, no staff has any
7 contact even if it's part of their aftercare plans?

8 SARA HEMMETER: So on after care... or, or
9 the juvenile... for juvenile delinquents so if the
10 court... family court places the young person in Close
11 to Home then the young person does get a period of
12 after care where, where they are in the community, we
13 are trying to... those kids are generally with their
14 parents and not in DYCD's system. Again if, if their
15 parents are disengaged generally, they're going to
16 our foster care system and not DYCD's run, runaway
17 and homeless, homeless youth system. I can speak for,
18 you know what my staff does in terms... you know if, if
19 they are seeking information from another agency...
20 [cross-talk]

21 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Uh-huh... [cross-
22 talk]

23 SARA HEMMETER: ...then consents are
24 required in those situations so, so if that were to
25

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2 happen consents should be signed but again, we are..
3 our, our kids are not... [cross-talk]

4 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Consent from the
5 young person... [cross-talk]

6 SARA HEMMETER: ...going to the DYCD
7 system.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Commissioner Scott?

9 RANDY SCOTT: And to add for our
10 programming there, there needs to be a consent as
11 well so if, you know I was from the Department of
12 Probation or Parole or even an NYPD police officer
13 and I called a particular site and said is Randy
14 Scott at that residence, the residents... the staff
15 there are not supposed to answer that question unless
16 they get the proper consent from the youth to release
17 that or some type of court order or some type of
18 document that forces them to release that information
19 but that information is not shared out there due to
20 the safety of, you know the needs of the youth
21 because of the type of services that are provided for
22 commercially sexually exploited youth, for any youth
23 that may be in a domestic violence situation that
24 comes to our programming so we do not release

25

2 information at the disposal of someone just calling
3 or just showing up, we do ask that they leave.

4 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Does... do any of you
5 advise the young people of those rights and at what
6 entry point?

7 RANDY SCOTT: So, when speaking from... for
8 detention they advise of those rights throughout the
9 process from the time they enter to the time they
10 depart, right, they're also advised by case
11 management and we also have an ombudsman that's
12 within the facility that actually advises our young
13 people of their rights while they're with us so they
14 are aware of their rights and when they feel that
15 they're wrong they will let you know.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Would that include
17 NYPD, inquiries by NYPD?

18 RANDY SCOTT: That includes N, NYPD,
19 inquiries with, within NYPD as well but it's not only
20 the information that we're sharing with the kids
21 we're also sharing it with the parents when the
22 parents come to visit as well.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Uh-huh...

24 RANDY SCOTT: So, this information is
25 shared during their visiting sessions, information is

2 shared throughout intake as we're sitting and we're
3 speaking to the parents so it's a, a collaborative
4 effort so that the young person always knows his or
5 her rights.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Same for you
7 Commissioner?

8 RANDY SCOTT: Yes, it's the same for us,
9 during intake the... you know there's the questions
10 that are, you know discussed with the particular
11 youth and again they have to go through the consents
12 to share any information externally with those that
13 may be of... interested in those... information.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: And while you have
15 the mic, could you tell us just what exactly are TILS
16 and crisis services providing in terms of skills and...
17 in terms of skills to better equip runaway youth to
18 become stably housed and not have interactions with
19 the juvenile justice system?

20 RANDY SCOTT: Yes, well within the
21 residential programming contract, contracted program
22 that we have there are usually five indicators that
23 the contracted providers need to work with the youth
24 on that includes education, employment, mental
25 health, housing and basic life skills, basic life

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skills could be any of the legal immigration issues that may arise with a particular youth, through the case management system they work to address those issues so even if it's just a matter of getting a job, do you have a resume, creating a resume; have you gone through interviewing, you know so you do that type of interviewing skills so things that will help them process to get to a desired outcome at the end. With respect to housing we work with our sister agencies in order to bring in resources so that youth can access particular housing from supportive housing to are now working with HRA around city FEPS so that they can have a voucher to help them move into secure housing so that they don't end up back into the system. So, there are things that we currently do in terms of making sure that one, we have integration, we have collaboration then two, we make sure our providers are knowledgeable of what resources are available to them even around training, we bring folks in to provide the necessary training and understanding and then three, to make sure the providers are delivering those services to the particular youth that come into their care.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: So, you would have
3 helped Casanova get his driver's license?

4 RANDY SCOTT: Yes, we would have, yeah
5 and he could have gotten it... he didn't even need to
6 go into our residential program to do that, he could
7 have gone through one of our drop in centers and as
8 you know we have five that are 24 hours, one in each
9 borough so he could have done it at three o'clock in
10 the morning if he needed to even though DMV... [cross-
11 talk]

12 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Okay... [cross-talk]

13 RANDY SCOTT: ...would have been closed.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: And how is this
15 information actually disseminated, how do young
16 people know that these are available, how to access
17 them...

18 RANDY SCOTT: Yeah, well for DYCD, you
19 know we have a major social media campaign where we
20 have a E-blast that goes out from our youth connect
21 department to about 25,000 people, we also have our
22 web, websites with Instagram and Facebook and we put
23 it up on our website all this information that they
24 can go to any of our drop in services to receive
25 additional information or they can call our youth

2 connect hotline and.. to receive other information and
3 as you know there's a, a... the new local law that
4 allows for additional information so we're putting
5 out palm cards, we're putting out flyers, we're
6 putting things up at different locations in order for
7 people to be aware of the services at DYCD office and
8 when we do presentations we provide those in
9 attendance with information on DYCD, we have a blue
10 book that describes all of the services because DYCD
11 is not only RHY, we have our summer youth programs,
12 we have a workforce, we have our community
13 development side so we make sure that folks are very
14 aware of what's happening within the agency so that
15 they can access the services.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Do... are, are... do
17 you also utilize educational sites and transportation
18 hubs? One of the things that was a reoccurring story
19 that we heard when Council Member King and Chin and I
20 visited Covenant House... [cross-talk]

21 RANDY SCOTT: Uh-huh... [cross-talk]

22 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: ...was that young
23 people were out there looking for somewhere to go and
24 they didn't know where to go, they didn't know how to
25 find out where to go, they actually wound up at adult

2 shelters that would not accept them and those
3 shelters in turn did not even give them the
4 information like to call youth connect hotline or...
5 [cross-talk]

6 RANDY SCOTT: Uh-huh... [cross-talk]

7 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: ...or 3-1-1 or
8 anything and they just kind of by I guess word of
9 mouth and whatever, desperation kind of landed at
10 Covenant House so... [cross-talk]

11 RANDY SCOTT: Well for, for DYCD we have
12 our monthly provider meetings so at those monthly
13 provider meetings is where we share updated
14 information and make sure that they're aware of
15 what's happening. We... like I said we try to get the
16 message out there as much as we possibly can so that
17 everyone is aware of the services that are available
18 to them, the fact that we have 24 hour drop in
19 centers now allows for youth not to have to go to
20 places that they may have gone before now they can go
21 to a place where they can get case management, they
22 can talk to a staff... [cross-talk]

23 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: But if they don't
24 know where that is... I, I mean I really think, you
25 know a lot of these kids come from other places and,

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you know they come through our port authority Penn Station, you know 125th Street train station, you know is there any effort to try to have that information posted somewhere, do we need to talk to the MTA and you know have some sort of joint campaign or something?

RANDY SCOTT: Yes and, and that look... goes back to the local law that I was talking about in terms of how now we're promoting our services more through the creation of posters, through the creation of flyers, also through the creation of palm cards which can be easily put into your pocket so that you can carry it around with you at all times that gives you the access numbers and the locations to make sure that you know where to go at any time to receive services on any service that DYCD offers as well as we are... have a great relationship with 3-1-1 so that if any youth should call that number they can then ask... provide them with information as well. So, we're looking at the many different streams that we can... we can access in order to get the information out and through some of the work that's being done internally we should have that out very soon and making sure that our providers are knowledgeable in terms of

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make... doing outreach in their communities so that

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they are aware of the services that are provided

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especially in our drop in centers.

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COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: I just... you don't

6

want to beat a dead horse but I, I... [cross-talk]

7

RANDY SCOTT: I know... I know... [cross-

8

talk]

9

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: ...just want you to

10

know how important this is for the safety of our

11

young people who find themselves without a place to

12

be, they need a safe refuge and... so that they don't

13

have to depend on survivor skills... [cross-talk]

14

RANDY SCOTT: Correct... [cross-talk]

15

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: ...and wind up in, in

16

detention or in, in the criminal justice system just

17

because they're trying to get a place to stay or to

18

eat or... [cross-talk]

19

RANDY SCOTT: Yep... [cross-talk]

20

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: ...someone decides to

21

make them a sex trafficking victim in order for them

22

to have, you know a domicile so, I... [cross-talk]

23

RANDY SCOTT: Yeah... [cross-talk]

24

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: ...I just think it's

25

really, really important and I, I just keep thinking

2 about a young man that came from Philadelphia, you
3 know he, he passed through, you know our major
4 transportation hubs and you know for days he was all
5 over the place and you know adult shelter and things
6 like that so I just want us to.. because it's great to
7 have a card but you got to know where to get the
8 card, you got to figure out where to get that
9 information so I, I just think we need to.. [cross-
10 talk]

11 RANDY SCOTT: And.. [cross-talk]

12 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: ...be much more
13 visible.. [cross-talk]

14 RANDY SCOTT: Yeah and, and to add that
15 we're, we're also working with our sister agency, we,
16 we now have a relationship with DOE to make sure the
17 information is spread there, we're working with DOHMH
18 to make sure this information is spread throughout
19 their agency and their providers that they work with
20 so we are definitely making sure that the information
21 is not just kept internal at DYCD but it's spread
22 across the entire city and to all of the different
23 agencies so they are aware of runaway and homeless
24 youth services because you know not many people even
25 know that there is a division.. [cross-talk]

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Right... [cross-talk]

3 RANDY SCOTT: ...for that... [cross-talk]

4 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Right... [cross-talk]

5 RANDY SCOTT: ...at DYCD so we are making

6 sure we put forth the best effort to make that

7 information available.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: So, I, I thank you

9 I just, you know I just want you to know you have to

10 have the information where the kids are, you know not

11 where we are but where the, the, the young people

12 are. Council Member King.

13 CHAIRPERSON KING: So, I'm going to just

14 jump in and kind of... I don't want to use the term

15 piggy back but just but say consistent with what she

16 was sharing with us. I'll never forget a time about

17 20 years ago someone says just send it to me on g-

18 mail, I had no idea what g-mail was so even though I

19 was in my adult years I wasn't on the internet, I

20 wasn't using emails so when our world says we are

21 here we have to talk and we know as, as... when you're

22 working with children you have to meet children where

23 they are and have that type of system, that

24 communication with them. So, while we may know where

25 access points of some... how to... where people need to

1 COMMITTEE ON JUVENILE JUSTICE 80
2 go everyone doesn't know the access, Casanova clearly
3 made it clear to us today no one even taught him what
4 it is to take taxes out of a check, no one taught him
5 how to go get an ID card so we can't sit up here and
6 say well I posted it here and then expect a 14 year
7 old who's lost, who's running from a traumatic sit...
8 traumatic situation to know our system so how do we...
9 how are we... how do we... how are we better in having
10 that communication again, not having a communication
11 for the... you, you, you know the term, don't, don't
12 write for the reader, you know you got to... you got
13 to... you got to write... you can't speak to the writer,
14 you got to speak to the reader. So... and that means
15 our, our conversation and our plans have to change so
16 if we have an idea that teens are coming through our
17 hubs they got to be that... you know you... like you, you
18 when you walk... you walk in... that first Geico
19 commercial that that big banner that's up there well
20 why can't you have when you walk in and it's... you
21 know if you are just entering the city and you're
22 homeless or you're a runaway or you got challenges
23 call this number whether it's at 42nd Street or 125th
24 Street or 34th Street how... at... the question then goes
25 how are we reaching young people who are out there

2 because as I looked at the numbers here which you all
3 did not... and I'm not... I don't mean to put you on
4 blast but in 2008 there was over 3,600 runaway
5 youths, it... don't go down. According to 2008 New York
6 City survey determined that there was 38 runaway
7 youths so I'm... 38,000 runaway youths, today the city
8 is estimating 1,600 spent the night but in 2019 we
9 can't figure out what that number looks like, I
10 didn't hear that, that's what I was trying to get
11 from the start because when you figure out what your
12 number is then you can figure out where you are, who
13 you're looking to serve and where do we go to reach
14 to see who, who's who. According to your... according
15 to the, the, the report here we also know that 90
16 percent of the brothers that are in there, 90... 90
17 percent of your runaways are people of color so how,
18 how does that have an impact in your communication
19 and your outreach and where do we go with those
20 numbers now that we know that those are the numbers
21 and is this a real number and if it is we got a
22 bigger problem. Again, I'm sorry, I want to
23 apologize, earlier I said that the system is flawed,
24 no the system isn't flawed the system is doing
25 exactly what the system was designed to do, we just

2 got to help the young people understand that they're
3 living in a flawed society that's doing what it's
4 supposed to do... that they're not getting it right so
5 what are we doing in that system to understand the
6 change and have a paradigm shift to save these souls?
7 That's my question it goes by how is the system doing
8 a better case of outreach to knowing the numbers so
9 we know who we're serving, how do we serve and what
10 is our messaging to say this works and it doesn't
11 work because if a 26 year old man can come... 27 year
12 old man can come in and say I didn't know and I've
13 been in your system for eight years what
14 relationships are we having with the adult system and
15 the youth, youths at the juvenile system because he
16 came in... they come in at 14 but still at 27 no one
17 educated him enough even though you just said well he
18 could have did this, he could of did that but someone
19 inside... so my question... the second question goes to
20 how when you're working the adult systems because if
21 the 14 year old we met who came from Philadelphia
22 comes to New York, goes to an adult shelter and the
23 adult shelter acts like they don't have a clue that's
24 scary. They... that's scary that the adult system... so,
25 the... that next question is how are you working with

2 the adult system, everyone has the same information
3 whether you're 14 or 28?

4 RANDY SCOTT: Well in regard to... one
5 thing I wanted to add to what I was saying before is
6 that we also have a street outreach team... [cross-
7 talk]

8 CHAIRPERSON KING: Okay... [cross-talk]

9 RANDY SCOTT: ...and our street outreach
10 team canvas the New York City area engaging youth at
11 many different locations in order to make sure that
12 they have the necessary resources and information so
13 that's one way that we continue to do that on a
14 nightly basis in terms of the youth that we
15 encounter... [cross-talk]

16 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: What are those
17 hours?

18 RANDY SCOTT: The hours... [cross-talk]

19 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: What are the
20 starting hours... [cross-talk]

21 RANDY SCOTT: Currently the hours for
22 street outreach are seven p.m. to two a.m., alright
23 and with respect to conversations with the adult
24 system we, we have worked with our sister agency, DHS
25 on many issues in terms of making sure that they have

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2 knowledge of our system even giving them access to
3 our available beds so that they can make the
4 necessary referral to the beds, we provided training
5 to them meaning their staff at their different intake
6 centers so that they know how to access our system
7 and communicate with us on a daily basis and if they
8 should come into contact with youth that may fall
9 within our age criteria so we, we, we continue to
10 work with them, we continue make sure that they have
11 the updated information so that they can work with
12 any youth that come into their care that might be
13 best suited for our system.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Can I just ask you
15 BRC, they work with the homeless population, they are
16 out at night, you know trying to get homeless people
17 shelter, would you work with an agency like that, a
18 not for profit that's, that's not funded by DYCD,
19 does not... a city agency but is out there who
20 encounter young people who might encounter young
21 people out there at night?

22 RANDY SCOTT: BRC I believe is funded by
23 DHS and what we've done is I've myself gone out to
24 speak to their outreach teams and I provided them
25 with the necessary information and contact number so

2 that if they should come into contact with a youth
3 they know how to navigate our system so that they can
4 transport a youth to our respective sites so they
5 definitely are aware and I've done actually two
6 trainings to their outreach programming and I did BRC
7 most recently.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Thank you...

9 RANDY SCOTT: Uh-huh.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Council Member I
11 have one more question. What conversations are being
12 had by DYCD with runaway and homeless youth providers
13 in terms of Raise the Age, are there funding concerns
14 in regard to DYCD and its runaway and homeless youth
15 providers as a result of the implementation of Raise
16 the Age?

17 RANDY SCOTT: You want to...

18 CHAIRPERSON KING: There, there... [cross-
19 talk]

20 FELIPE FRANCO: And to clarify are you
21 asking about Raise the Age on the DYCD side to older
22 than 20?

23 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Yes.

24 FELIPE FRANCO: Yeah.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Excuse me?

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2 RANDY SCOTT: So, the 21 to 24-year olds?

3 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Yes, yes, yes, uh-
4 huh...

5 RANDY SCOTT: In... well actually they are
6 very excited about... [cross-talk]

7 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: With the providers...
8 [cross-talk]

9 RANDY SCOTT: Yes... [cross-talk]

10 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: ...the conversations
11 you're having.

12 RANDY SCOTT: And I'll provide our
13 meetings that we have on a monthly basis, we
14 definitely talk about the, the new age in terms...
15 [cross-talk]

16 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Uh-huh... [cross-
17 talk]

18 RANDY SCOTT: ...of 21 to 24 and getting
19 those beds online so they're very excited about the
20 fact that they are... we're now branching into new
21 residential type of programming so we now have to
22 wait for these programs to come online so that we can
23 see how... the impact that it may cause and we hope to
24 have that up soon, we, we're working with the state
25 as well as, you know the Department of Buildings and

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2 the FDNY because you know with buildings you have to
3 make sure that they're safe for youth to... [cross-
4 talk]

5 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Uh-huh... [cross-
6 talk]

7 RANDY SCOTT: ...reside in or anyone to
8 reside in so we're going through that process of... for
9 certification and once we have those sites up then
10 I'll be able to share more information with you.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: So, the 60 beds
12 that are going to be certified this year, right,
13 there's 60... [cross-talk]

14 RANDY SCOTT: Well they're going through
15 certification currently... [cross-talk]

16 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: They're going
17 through it now, right... [cross-talk]

18 RANDY SCOTT: ...right now with the state...
19 [cross-talk]

20 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Uh-huh... [cross-
21 talk]

22 RANDY SCOTT: ...and the state has it's,
23 it's process that they have to go through in order...
24 before they can give a certification to a program...
25 [cross-talk]

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Uh-huh, uh-huh...

3 [cross-talk]

4 RANDY SCOTT: ...so, we're working within
5 that, that system right now.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: And we have enough
7 capacity to, to absorb those 60 beds right away,
8 right?

9 RANDY SCOTT: In terms of youth being
10 able to... [cross-talk]

11 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Yes... [cross-talk]

12 RANDY SCOTT: ...access those programs, I'm
13 sure the providers will definitely say that they can...
14 all... any youth that are aging out can go into those
15 programs, it's 60 beds so I feel that we, we should
16 be able to fill those beds once they're online.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Do you have any
18 funding concerns with needs in terms of Raise the Age
19 and being able... [cross-talk]

20 RANDY SCOTT: I, I... [cross-talk]

21 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: ...to provide the
22 services?

23 RANDY SCOTT: I would have to go back and
24 get that, speak to my upper management in terms of
25 any concerns that may arise.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Okay, the budget
3 hearing is coming up soon... [cross-talk]

4 RANDY SCOTT: Yes... [cross-talk]

5 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: And I'm going to...
6 [cross-talk]

7 RANDY SCOTT: It's in March, right...
8 [cross-talk]

9 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: ...expect an answer.

10 RANDY SCOTT: Okay.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Okay, thank you,
12 thank you Council Member.

13 CHAIRPERSON KING: Thank you Council
14 Member. We want to thank you today for today's
15 testimony and I just ask us to continue to look at
16 our numbers, find out our bottom lines and really
17 look at the root of everything, you know I'm a...
18 I'm a kind of guy, you know I say hey listen if
19 you really want to resolve an issue you got to go
20 straight to the core and you cannot cure a
21 venereal disease with Tylenol so we can't have the
22 Tylenol conversation and when we know we need to
23 get some... we need real penicillin to solve a
24 problem so I'm asking us to do that and, and then
25 when we get back because like she said the budget

2 is coming across we really need to know what the
3 numbers look like because how... what is your
4 capacity in your system to handle the number of
5 young people that might be homeless that are
6 homeless but if we don't know what you're working
7 with now and what your capacity could possibly be
8 how do we manage the dollar amount to help you
9 serve our young people in, in whatever that agenda
10 looks like to help them, you know pull themselves
11 out of their scenario and being one day sitting on
12 that side with a suit and tie and testimony...
13 having a testimony with us because they're a
14 Commissioner or a Deputy Commissioner or whatever
15 that looks like. So, I want to thank you again, we
16 got a couple of advocates and other folks who want
17 to share their, their story so thank you again for
18 your conversation, we look forward to continuing,
19 god bless.

20 SARA HEMMETER: Thank you.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Commissioner Scott
22 can we have an offline conversation...

23 CHAIRPERSON KING: I want to call up the
24 next panel advocate; Gisele, I'm sorry, I don't
25 read shorthand very well so forgive me, Gisele,

2 yeah... Exalt, come on sister, Exalt. You are our
3 advocate.

4 [off mic dialogue]

5 CHAIRPERSON KING: Oh, well you are the
6 sole survivor and you are our... winner, winner
7 ding, ding, ding.

8 [off mic dialogue]

9 CHAIRPERSON KING: Yes, you may. Go for
10 it. So, I'm just going to ask you to say your name
11 for the record so we have it correct, and, and
12 just introduce your team that's with you as well
13 and then you will have... well, since you are the
14 last person to speak you get four minutes to share
15 your... whatever you want to share with us.

16 GISELE CASTRO: Thank you, thank you...
17 [cross-talk]

18 CHAIRPERSON KING: Okay... [cross-talk]

19 GISELE CASTRO: ...so much. Gisele Castro
20 from Exalt Youth, the Executive Director and with
21 me... good afternoon. And with me is our Deputy
22 Director Brian Lewis. So, because we're the only
23 ones and I believe that people are familiar with
24 our organization I'll just give a very brief
25 synopsis and more specifically the work that we

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have been able to do with young people who have been impacted by the juvenile justice system and then also impacted by homelessness. Can you hear me? Oh, thank you. Thank you. We are Exalt Youth, good afternoon and we have been in existence for over 12 years but we are a spin off from cases, one of the oldest alternative to incarceration program and overall our model has been able to show that we have been able to work very well with young people who have been impacted by the criminal justice system. So, we focus on three particular areas which is educational progression, ensuring that young people move out of the criminal justice system and employability. Overall what we heard today was the impact that most of our young people who are both impacted by the system by poverty are challenged by homelessness and we know from the last report, the data count... I'm sorry that I'm not following the, the script but I think that what... since we're the only group here I would like to, you know just to capture the work that we have been able to do with our youth particular those who are our most vulnerable, you know the last data in 2017 begins to show that

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about 7,000 young people have been impacted by homelessness. With our youth we serve young people ages 15 to 19 and we're growing to essentially serve more young people throughout the five boroughs. Exalt has been in existence and we have tested a model that literally begins to show that two years out of graduation a percent of our young people are not reconvicted of a crime and that's significant, 95 percent of our young people are going... are graduating from high school but we're seeing a growing body of youth who are going off to college and then our internship model we have been able to engage youth in some of the best places, we've had many of our youth testify in front of City Council because they intern with... oh, my goodness I'm blanking out the name, Innocence Project, the Children's Defense Fund so I just want to, you know close here because I've, I've never had Brian Lewis, you know with me to testify but he has been the one who's working very closely with the teachers, with the program coordinators, we're growing, we're scaling the organization to serve more young people and we've made a commitment, you know a very long time ago

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to ensure that we assist with the many young people who are unfortunately, you know still struggling in both... two areas, academically and deeply involved in the criminal justice system.

BRIAN LEWIS: Yes and I'd just like to reiterate as the artist who is with us earlier, Casanova mentioned and also as Andy King has mentioned as well, incarceration is one of the root causes of homelessness and for instability in housing for our youth and so we are not a housing organization however, we do find that many of our young people through the course of their participation with us lose their housing or encounter unstable housing and our model has an answer for that because we're providing young people with skills, we're providing them with paid internship opportunities, we are helping them to understand how to navigate the nuances and complexities that exist between the incarceration system and the outside world and we're really preparing them for a life of success, opportunities and freedom by speaking to them at their level from a place that they can understand. At Exalt we utilize critical pedagogy which is

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Paulo Ferraz's methods of engagement to capture youth where they are so that they can pursue freedom and understand the connections between education and freedom. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON KING: I'm going to let you wrap up, thank you.

GISELE CASTRO: No, I, I think that we want... you know just to capture in terms as an organization, you know that we really are here for our young people, New Yorkers particularly, you know we have as I said before a real tested model, you know we have been for the past few years collaborating with other non-profit organizations. You know one thing that I want to highlight, you know about our organization and the work that we're doing in particularly Brooklyn we have been able to have judges and DA reduce sentencing, you know from felony charges to a misdemeanor or vacating, this is significant because when we talk about the cycle of poverty we do know that if a young person is convicted of a crime and we've heard this so many times, you know young people are not able to find... gain employment, they're not able to access housing, you know so we are doing

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something, you know very... not necessarily different but I would say it's the courage, you know to ensure that we're advocating correctly. We're coming into Manhattan, I had the pleasure of meeting with your office I think on Friday and we're serving more young people coming in from Staten Island. We've met with the judges all of them that have been newly appointed by the youth part and it's a significant time in New York and as, you know the Chair has been highlighting there's still a lot of challenges but we have been in existence for quite some time, you know addressing the two I would say most critical areas for our young people which is education, criminal justice, employment is employment but we know that that's a journey, you know for our youth and we have a pretty good strong model that begins to show that we have, you know good results so thank you for this afternoon for allowing us to speak on our program and the work that we plan to do moving forward... [cross-talk]

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Well thank you, thank you for the work that you're doing and what is it that you think that... what is it that you're

2 doing right that the system is doing wrong, you
3 know and is there some way to, to connect so that
4 the same type of culturally competent services
5 that you're delivering and the results that you're
6 getting, you know translate, you know for...
7 systemwide... [cross-talk]

8 GISELE CASTRO: Uh-huh... [cross-talk]

9 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: ...because you're,
10 your graduation, your retention numbers are very
11 impressive and we don't see that same kind of
12 number on the... on the, you know on the city side...
13 [cross-talk]

14 GISELE CASTRO: Uh-huh... [cross-talk]

15 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: ...so it... since we're
16 trying to prevent homelessness, we're trying to
17 prevent recidivism and you seem to have been able
18 to master that, what is it that you're doing right
19 or that you're doing differently and can it... can
20 we sort of connect the dots here so that we... you
21 know we're able to make a difference in a lot of
22 young people's lives?

23 GISELE CASTRO: Absolutely... [cross-talk]

24 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: All young people?

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GISELE CASTRO: Absolutely and that's a great question, it's one that we're always asking, testing, we have been evaluated, you know by Annie E. Casey, by John J, by independent, you know consultants, at this point NYU and there's a few things; one is our curriculum, you know when we say that we're culturally relevant it, it is, you know cultural relevancy, you know we are one of the few organizations that really address mass incarceration head on with our youth, the school to prison pipeline, I mean that's our adult language, you know our young people they live the school to prison pipeline, you know racism in this country as well and the real challenge that a young person will have to make significant progress academically unfortunately they're the ones being received by the police officer so what we have been able to do is like really bring language to the challenges that a young person is facing even before we prepare them for the world of work and that's... one thing that we have been able to see that creates a lot of success we also want to bring the passion of learning back, I mean our young people and we know this, they test the

2 sixth, sixth grade reading level but our staffing
3 model becomes really, really important, we want
4 our young people to come and feel excited about
5 learning. If you come into our office which I have
6 invited you we have no rules, we set a tone and I
7 think that at the core tenant, you know what we're
8 saying is that we humanize our youth. There... I
9 think that... you know some of the things that we do
10 bring to the table it is real relationship, you
11 know when I think about the results that we gain
12 with judges and with the DAs who are elected,
13 appointed, you know officials that is beyond
14 trust, you know we have our mechanisms, we have
15 the way that we, you know communicate the
16 challenges that a young person has but
17 essentially, you know we're highlighting and we
18 follow the stages of change, you know methodology
19 which is a, a relapse is not a relapse, it is that
20 something happened. So, some of the things that we
21 could provide is, you know technical, you know
22 assistance, we do follow the... I would say the
23 youth development principle which we all do but it
24 is that a, a loving, caring adult navigates a
25 young person but that adult needs to understand

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that the... a young person is facing a lot of significant challenges. And I do appreciate, you know what you said, you know Andy which a lot of times is, you know we come up with language, our kids are saying something else, we're always getting their input. The other thing and I could go on and on like in terms of onboarding, we also have, you know some of the educators from Banks Street College and Brian could probably talk a lot about this, adult development, there is something that happens to us every year that passes we have change as an adult but our young people they're still 14 and 15 so there's a lot of rigor in the organization and I think that that is something that it's very important and it's giving people who are staff the opportunities to really learn, to really assess what is happening in the landscape and then also giving an opportunity, you know to establish stronger relationships across the board, I don't know if you want to add... you know sure you do.

BRIAN LEWIS: Well and that's exactly right and we're happy to provide technical assistance and training because we oftentimes

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within institutions are dehumanizing our youth and

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our young people that happens in the legal

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institutions, that happens in the educational

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institutions in our society and even for those of

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us who are well educated and well trained. We

7

received training and education that perpetuates

8

that dehumanization so I have a masters I

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education but the kind of training that we're

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providing to our staff is wholly different, it's

11

really about unlearning a lot of the things that

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the system has taught us to do to perpetuate

13

dehumanization for our young people so it's very

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unique what we do and, and we're happy to work

15

with our partners and collaborate to, to spread

16

that and, and show how that works.

17

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Thank you, thank

18

you so much.

19

GISELE CASTRO: Thank you.

20

CHAIRPERSON KING: We appreciate your

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testimony today and your conversation and my last

22

question, are, are you working with the city, the

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city has given you a contract or are you part of

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ACS, are you part of anybody, you just a

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standalone CBO trying to.. you know when people

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trick a lot you're just there to hold a flag say
come with me or how does... how... what's going on?

GISELE CASTRO: So, what's going on
that's a... that's a... that's another great question.
For many years this was our financial model, we
wanted to, you know study and test and examine our
organization and we did that for over 11 years so
we never pursued any, you know government funding
and now we are in a place where we are looking for
real partnerships so in terms of ACS we are
interested in supporting the work that they're
doing and the same thing is true with DYCD and
then obviously, you know we're here because this
is the... I mean I've been in the field for many
years like for over 20 years and when I think
through the amount of people who are really
pushing for a change, you know the organization
that's right, you know to partner so we no longer
want to be the stand alone, you know CBO, we
really feel, I'm going to call it an obligation to
then share what we know. One thing that we have
done so that we stayed in our lane, you know for
many years, this, this is where we've tested this
one, you know particular area, we have a lot of

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rigor so we're not going to say that we're an

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expert on many things but the one thing that we

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are is the two areas is moving young people away

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from the criminal justice system and ensuring that

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they do as best as they can academically so I

7

welcome the opportunity, you know to partner with,

8

you know city agencies.

9

CHAIRPERSON KING: Okay, well we thank

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you, we thank you for your energy, we thank you

11

for your effort and thank you for being part of

12

the solution.

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GISELE CASTRO: Thank you so much, thank

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you, enjoy and be safe.

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CHAIRPERSON KING: With all that being

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said I don't see any others to... who are willing to

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share their story, so we want to thank you, I want

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to thank Council Woman Rose, the staff here, Josh

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Kingsley and Paul Sinegal for today's

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conversation, thank everyone. We are adjourned.

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[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

March 14, 2019