

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

----- X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

April 8, 2019  
Start: 10:06 a.m.  
Recess: 11:52 a.m.

HELD AT: 250 Broadway-Committee Rm, 16<sup>th</sup> Fl.

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS:  
JUSTIN L. BRANNAN  
MARGARET S. CHIN  
MATHIEU EUGENE  
ANDY L. KING

COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2

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

Sandra Gutierrez  
Deputy Commissioner of Community Development at  
The Department of Youth and Community Development  
DYCD

Mike Bobbitt  
Assistant Commissioner for Community Action  
Programs at the Department of Youth and Community  
Development, DYCD

Jack Chernak  
Assistant Secretary for Staten Island  
Neighborhood Advisory Board One

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

[gavel]

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Good morning, this hearing is now called to order, not that you would disorderly before. Good morning and I want to thank you all for coming. My name is Council Member Debi Rose and I am the Chair of the Committee on Youth Services. Today we are conducting an oversight hearing on neighborhood advisory boards or NABs. I would first like to thank Speaker Corey Johnson for his commitment to youth of New York City as well as his dedication to reducing poverty through New York... throughout New York City. I would also like to thank all the advocates, youth program providers and all those who came to testify today, for showing up to this important hearing. Finally, I would like to acknowledge my colleagues who have joined us, that's going to be easy, who will be joining us. They're... but on... in, in their behalf there is another hearing of multiple committees at the same time. The Committee on Youth Services has a special opportunity to help New York City through a specific focus on youth and community development. As the Committee provides general oversight over the Department of Youth and Community Development or DYCD, it is

1  
2 important to forge a collaborative path forward into  
3 progress. One of the main goals of DYCD and thus this  
4 Committee as well as the overarching New York City  
5 Council is to ensure that the community thrives by  
6 providing programming and funding within communities  
7 throughout New York City. Unfortunately, as great a  
8 city as New York is, there is still a large number of  
9 neighborhoods that lack resources and experiences  
10 high rates of poverty. That is why in supplement to  
11 city funding the New York... New York City receives and  
12 administers through DYCD federal funding known as the  
13 community service block grant or CSBG program. Since  
14 1996, DYCD has been New York City's designated  
15 community action agency or CAA thus allowing DYCD to  
16 administer this federal funding. The goal of this CS...  
17 CSBG program is to reduce poverty, revitalize low  
18 income communities and empower low income families  
19 and individuals in rural and urban areas to become  
20 self-sufficient thus aligning well into DYCD's  
21 overarching goals. In order to adequately disperse  
22 CSBG funding, DYCD targets low income communities  
23 which are designated as neighborhood development  
24 areas or NDAs. NDAs are clusters of census tracks  
25 that meet the criteria of 30 percent or more poor

1 residents within a minimum size of 4,000 poor  
2 residents. Throughout these NDAs, DYCD oversees a  
3 wide range of NDA programs which focuses on things  
4 such as high school youth, adult literacy, housing  
5 and seniors among others. Currently the New York  
6 City.. New York City has 42 areas throughout all five  
7 boroughs that are designated as NDAs. In efforts to  
8 effectively address problems within NDAs each NDA has  
9 a neighborhood advisory board or a NAB or N A B. a  
10 NAB has the power to directly influence DYCD's  
11 recognition of specific funding needs and priorities  
12 within the NDA and DYCD's allocation of federal CSBG  
13 funding to address these needs. NABs are comprised of  
14 at least six members selected by DYCD and up to six  
15 members appointed by elected public officials. A  
16 fully appointed NAB that is representative of the  
17 community and its elected officials is essential for  
18 impoverished communities to communicate their needs  
19 and priorities for an appropriate funding response.  
20 However, there appears to be a large number of  
21 vacancies or NABs throughout the city, this is  
22 concerning. An ineffective NAB could result in a lack  
23 of CSBG funding and thus could lead to a community's  
24 true funding needs not being met. In an effort to  
25

1  
2 provide real feedback on the service needed and gaps  
3 in programming that exist throughout New York City's  
4 many impoverished neighborhoods, DYCD releases  
5 community needs assessment report. The report was  
6 based on feedback from residents and institutional  
7 leaders as well as directors of DYCD funded programs  
8 and participants in anti-poverty programs funded by  
9 CSBG programs. This report revealed that there are  
10 significant disparities and poverty based on race,  
11 gender, immigrant status and geography. While  
12 identifying noticeable gaps to services in areas such  
13 as education, employment and basic needs including  
14 housing, legal assistance and emergency shelter. In  
15 response to the reports results, DYCD made several  
16 recommendations to lessen the challenges that NABs  
17 and NDAs experience. Today I would like to know the  
18 implementation status of the 217... 2017 community  
19 needs assessment report's recommendations and to  
20 understand what we can do to address the large number  
21 of N A B or NAB member vacancies. I also would like  
22 to know how NDAs lines are drawn as well as how this  
23 process is being improved to account for extremely  
24 diverse neighborhoods of New York City. Lastly, I  
25 would like to learn about NDA programs, any new

1  
2 programs that have been added to the portfolio and  
3 how these programs serve residents. I look forward to  
4 hearing from those invited to testify and would like  
5 to thank my staff and Isa Rogers and the Committee  
6 staff Paul Senegal, Kevin Kotowski, Michelle Peregrin  
7 and Elizabeth Arts and now...

8 [off mic dialogue]

9 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Oh, and we've been  
10 joined by Council Member Brannan, thank you.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Okay panel, would you  
12 mind raising your right hands? Do you affirm to tell  
13 the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth  
14 in your testimony this morning and to respond  
15 honestly to Council Member's questions?

16 [panel affirms]

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Would you please state  
18 your names for the record.

19 SANDRA GUTIERREZ: Sandra Gutierrez.  
20 Sandra Gutierrez.

21 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay.

22 MIKE BOBBITT: Mike Bobbitt.

23 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you. Okay. You  
24 can begin with your testimony. You can begin with  
25 your testimony.

1  
2 SANDRA GUTIERREZ: Okay, good morning  
3 Chair Rose and members of the City Council Youth  
4 Services Committee. My name is Sandra Gutierrez,  
5 Deputy Commissioner for Community Development at the  
6 Department of Youth and Community Development or  
7 DYCD. I am joined by Mike Bobbitt, Assistant  
8 Commissioner of Community Action Programs. On behalf  
9 of DYCDs Commissioner, Bill Chong, I want to thank  
10 you for this opportunity to testify on the  
11 Neighborhood Advisory Boards. The federal community  
12 services block grant or CSBG program originated as  
13 part of president Lyndon B. Johnson's war on poverty  
14 and is a tool for states and localities to address  
15 issues of poverty. CSBG is a legacy of the 1964  
16 economic opportunity act, which was intended to  
17 mobilize the human and financial resources of the  
18 U.S. to combat poverty. In 1981, Congress established  
19 a... the current CSBG program and authorized the U.S.  
20 Department of Health and Human Services to make  
21 grants to states. States are in turn required to pass  
22 along the funds to eligible entities, specifically  
23 the organizations which had been certified as  
24 community action agencies under the 1964 act. DYCD  
25 serves as one of over 1,000 local action... community



1  
2 action agencies nationwide that receives CSBG  
3 funding. DYCD's CSBG funding is administered through  
4 the New York State Department of State and DYCD is  
5 required to distribute the funding in accordance with  
6 the goals of the federal CSBG statute which is the  
7 reduction of poverty, the revitalization of low  
8 income communities, and the empowerment of low income  
9 families and individuals in rural and urban areas to  
10 become fully self-sufficient. The opportunity act of  
11 1964 also called for maximum feasible participation  
12 in how the resources were used. The city accomplishes  
13 this through the establishment of the community  
14 action board or the CAB. This board includes  
15 representatives of low-income communities targeted..  
16 low income communities targeted, the private sector  
17 and elected public official and meets every ten  
18 weeks. The CAB advises DYCD on the overall  
19 implementation of its CSBG program and acts as a  
20 policy resource group. DYCD further demonstrates  
21 maximum feasibility participation through 42  
22 neighborhood advisory boards or NABs, one of each..  
23 one in each neighborhood identified by DYCD to  
24 receive targeted anti-poverty funding. NAB members,  
25 who are selected to be representatives of the low-

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 income communities targeted by DYCD to receive  
3 services, fill 22 out of 45 seats on the community  
4 action board, local elected officials fill 15 seats  
5 and the private sector fills the remaining eight  
6 seats. About half of the city's 32.6 million dollars  
7 CSBG award is allocated to citywide initiatives  
8 including Fatherhood, Literacy and SYEP. The other  
9 half of the funding is distributed to the  
10 neighborhood development area or NDA programs whose  
11 program priorities are identified by the local NABs.  
12 The, the Neighborhood Development Area Initiative  
13 fosters community level engagement to ensure both  
14 that residents have opportunities to contribute to  
15 the change in their community and that the services  
16 provided address the most pressing needs of each  
17 community. Each NDA is represented by a Neighborhood  
18 Advisory Board or NAB with the authority to help  
19 identify community priorities and recommend specific  
20 programs. Each NAB has twelve seats. Six members may  
21 be selected by DYCD, and six members may be appointed  
22 by the elected public officials. Each member may  
23 serve two consecutive three-year terms. NABs must be  
24 full time residents of the NDA they represent; have  
25 lived in the neighborhood for a minimum of six

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 months; be at least 16 years of age; have no formal  
3 associations with any organizations that receive DYCD  
4 funding under the CSBG program. Given DYCD's  
5 commitment to full community input in, into the  
6 involvement... input in involvement in the process,  
7 recruitment of the NAB members is ongoing. We are  
8 constantly seeking out new members to join the boards  
9 to replace veteran members who leave for various  
10 reasons such as term limits or personal obligations.  
11 Inspired by the recent decisions to permit 16-year  
12 olds to serve as community board members, DYCD  
13 updated its rules to similarly permit 16-year olds to  
14 join NABs and we have begun to engage our providers  
15 in spreading the word about this opportunity. We have  
16 received helpful recruitment assistance from the  
17 offices of the Brooklyn, Brooklyn Borough President  
18 and the Queens Borough President and welcome the City  
19 Council's continued assistance in identifying local  
20 community members who wish to serve on the NAB. In FY  
21 19, DYCD used 14.8 million in CSBG funding to support  
22 approximately 200 organizations that provide services  
23 to residents of targeted low-income communities  
24 throughout the city. There are seven program areas.  
25 Opportunity youth, supportive work experience

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 provided about 700 young people ages 16 to 24 who are  
3 not in school or, or working with work readiness  
4 training, counseling and up to 140 of the supported..  
5 of supported paid work experience in jobs that match  
6 the youths' interest and provides opportunities for  
7 the career... for career exploration. Providers also  
8 assist youth in, in developing post-program plans for  
9 education and unsubsidized employment. Educational  
10 support, high school youth helped 1,200 high school  
11 students in risk of dropping out to develop academic  
12 personal workplace skills necessary to obtain high  
13 school diplomas. Programs include youth leadership  
14 development and helps students gain skills to support  
15 their success in college, training programs and jobs.  
16 Adult literacy, adult basic education and general  
17 education development test preparation provided  
18 instruction in reading, writing, mathematics to, to  
19 prepare 1,565 adults who were reading below ninth  
20 grade level, to attain high school equivalency and  
21 transitioning into the labor force, vocational  
22 training and higher education. seniors; social,  
23 cultural and supportive services assisted 3,500  
24 homebound and non-homebound adults to maintain the  
25 highest degree of self-sufficiency and social

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 engagement so they can remain in their homes and  
3 engaged in their community. Housing, advocacy and  
4 assistance helped 3,100 individuals and families  
5 facing foreclosure, eviction, rent issues and  
6 substandard housing conditions to maintain safe and  
7 affordable housing. Immigrants; supported services  
8 provided 1,271 immigrants and their children with the  
9 tools and resources to become self-sufficient,  
10 navigate the system and obtain permanent residency or  
11 citizenship. This allows people to strengthen their  
12 families and improve their living conditions. Healthy  
13 families; support services worked with 3,400 families  
14 to address issues concerning child care, domestic  
15 violence, substance abuse, HIV/AIDS, physical and  
16 mental wellbeing. This includes advocacy and  
17 assistance in obtaining government benefits and other  
18 social services. To ensure that these services  
19 continue to meet the needs of local communities, each  
20 year, the 42 NABs invite CSBG funded organizations  
21 and community residents to meetings where they  
22 exchange information about their respective roles in  
23 the community. They give an overview of the scope of  
24 their services and testify about the community  
25 challenges they experience. They also discuss

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 strategies on how best they can work together. This  
3 forum also allows local community residents and also  
4 community stakeholders to understand the allocation  
5 decisions. Additionally, the NABs played a critical  
6 role in our 2016 community needs assessment or CAN,  
7 which we use to obtain stakeholder input on program  
8 design and quality. Through surveys and public  
9 hearings, DYCD collected feedback directly from New  
10 York City residents and institutional leaders on  
11 service needs and gaps in their communities. The 2016  
12 assessment involved DYCD's Beacons and Cornerstone  
13 community centers, allowing us to reach even more  
14 community members than in previous years. We also  
15 collected feedback from program directors in DYCD  
16 funded programs throughout the city and participants  
17 in anti-poverty programs funded through CSBG. The  
18 methods for collection included both street  
19 canvassing and public hearings for each NDA conducted  
20 by its own NAB members. As a result of this large-  
21 scale effort, over 1,300 surveys were collected from  
22 9,640 adults, 2,439 youth, 238 employers, 38 faith-  
23 based leaders, 372 CSBG program directors, 539 CSBG  
24 program participants and 155 public school  
25 principals. We are pleased to report that for the

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 second straight year, DYCD has received a perfect  
3 score, 50 out of 50 for meeting the federal  
4 organizational standards ensuring that the community  
5 action agencies such as DYCD can demonstrate having  
6 results oriented management and accountability  
7 principles in place to reduce poverty or alleviate  
8 the conditions of poverty in their respective  
9 jurisdictions. Categories range from consumer input  
10 and organizational structure to fiscal health,  
11 health. The score reflects DYCD's practices,  
12 including the operations of the community action  
13 board and the neighborhood advisory boards as well as  
14 our 2016 community needs assessment and our upcoming  
15 2019 community needs assessment plans. The data  
16 collected through the CNAs has been used throughout  
17 DYCD and informed the operation of programs  
18 throughout our portfolio. For example, the CAN showed  
19 a high number of youths reported being hungry and,  
20 and we used that result to establish greater  
21 connection between our programs and those that  
22 provide basic needs such as food pantries. The  
23 results of the next CAN will be helpful in setting  
24 funding priorities for CSBG funded programs in the  
25 future, particularly for the future plans in the next

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 concept paper and request for proposals. We look  
3 forward to continuing to brief the Council on those  
4 plans as we begin to move forward. DYCD is to... DYCD's  
5 vision is to improve the quality of life for New  
6 Yorkers by collaborating with local organizations and  
7 investing in the talents and assets of our community  
8 to help them develop, grow and thrive. We thank you  
9 for the opportunity to share DYCD's efforts to serve  
10 New York's low-income individuals, families and  
11 communities. We welcome any questions you may have.

12 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you for your  
13 testimony and I have a few questions... no, I'm only  
14 kidding, I have a few... [cross-talk]

15 SANDRA GUTIERREZ: Thank you... [cross-  
16 talk]

17 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: ...questions. How  
18 effect... how effective are the NABs in identifying  
19 funding priorities and recommending specific programs  
20 for CSBG funding and what type of performance  
21 indicators are tracked and monitored in order to  
22 understand if programs are effective or not?

23 SANDRA GUTIERREZ: So, to your first  
24 question, the funding priorities are identified by  
25 the questions in the survey or rather the results of



1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 the survey, the, the community needs assessment and  
3 so they get to choose various answers on the survey  
4 that tells us which are the most in need for their  
5 particular community and out of that information then  
6 we identify based on the funding or based on the  
7 answers what should be funded in that particular  
8 neighborhood. I'll let you speak to the second  
9 question.

10 MIKE BOBBITT: Thank you. Thank you,  
11 Council Member, Mike Bobbitt, Assistant Commissioner.  
12 You asked about metrics, DYCD determines some method  
13 of validated proof for each of the programs that are  
14 funded under CSBGs so there's a program design and  
15 when the request for proposals is issued the  
16 providers when they submit their proposals know  
17 there's going to be some objective measure of proof  
18 of the outcome that is anticipated to be obtained and  
19 then over the life of the contract, DYCD, program  
20 managers that go out in the field only observe  
21 programmatically and administratively how the  
22 programs are doing so that's how we're... the city is  
23 able to achieve assurances that what's anticipated to  
24 happen is happening and if agencies underperform we

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 go out and we provide technical assistance and  
3 coaching to try to help them meet the expectations.

4 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, what, what are  
5 some of the metrics that you look for to determine  
6 whether a program is effective or, or, or not?

7 MIKE BOBBITT: Sure, so one of the  
8 programs the Deputy Commissioner listed was healthy  
9 families... [cross-talk]

10 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uh-huh... [cross-talk]

11 MIKE BOBBITT: ...so the expectation of  
12 that program is that there are residents in each  
13 community who may have some social services need or  
14 there's something that they're looking for that will  
15 help stabilize either the individual or the family  
16 and that could be pretty broad ranging... [cross-talk]

17 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uh-huh... [cross-talk]

18 MIKE BOBBITT: ...so we've given a, a  
19 matrix if you will, there's a lot of different  
20 buckets and the Deputy Commissioner referenced some  
21 of those things people might be coming in to get  
22 health needs met or child care or elder care or other  
23 kinds of needs met so, in any case we would expect  
24 the provider to collect some sort of documentation  
25 that once the participant has come in and expressed

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 what it is that they're looking for, maybe they've  
3 prioritized okay, you need one or more things, what  
4 do you need first, what's a win that we can help get  
5 your family, once they've collected evidence that  
6 they've gotten that they would keep that in their  
7 files and we also make it easy for providers, they  
8 can upload that information to one of our program  
9 managers from the office can look and see that  
10 there's validated proof so that's the sort of thing  
11 that we look for.

12 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, that is reported  
13 to you via some sort of reporting mechanism?

14 MIKE BOBBITT: Yes, so as I said two  
15 things, one the providers would keep information on  
16 file... in their records on site, our staff review  
17 those records, the sample... they'll do a sample of the  
18 case load, can sample files while they're out in the  
19 field but we try to make it easier for the providers  
20 and very straightforward for ourselves so I hadn't  
21 mentioned this but there's also case notes and DYCD  
22 has a database that allows the providers, the staff  
23 that's funded under the contract to report on the  
24 progress of the case so we're able to follow through  
25

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 the case notes what's happening with the... with the  
3 participants.

4 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: And you revert... you  
5 review that at what level of frequency or is it...  
6 [cross-talk]

7 MIKE BOBBITT: The... [cross-talk]

8 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: ...randomly?

9 MIKE BOBBITT: The, the expectation is  
10 that programs are visited two to three times a year,  
11 if there are performance concerns, we will  
12 reprioritize those particular programs, give them a  
13 little love and, and attention... [cross-talk]

14 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uh-huh... [cross-talk]

15 MIKE BOBBITT: ...and as the Deputy  
16 Commissioner mentioned earlier in her testimony our  
17 funding is overseen from the New York State  
18 Department of State so we review how the programs are  
19 doing on a quarterly basis and then we share our  
20 analysis with the state so then they're also able to  
21 get assurances of the monitoring that we do.

22 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: What are some of the  
23 major challenges that the NABs face in trying to  
24 alleviate poverty and revitalize low income  
25 neighborhoods?

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 SANDRA GUTIERREZ: Some of the challenges  
3 are that we... first of all I think that the CSBG  
4 program does a great job of, of doing exactly that, I  
5 think we take great care to use the funds in the way  
6 that they're intended, I think the, the, the good  
7 news about this is that the communities are  
8 identifying their own priorities, right. We also have  
9 many programs that DYCD funds so we also invest in  
10 those same communities where those CSBG funds are, we  
11 have lots of other programs that we can leverage that  
12 can be, you know where we form collaborations and  
13 partnerships so that we are focusing on the poorest  
14 of those neighborhoods. So, in that way I think that  
15 DYCD does a great job of not only using the CSBG  
16 funds but the CSBG community needs assessment helps  
17 us to identify where the poorest, most vulnerable  
18 citizens in New York City are.

19 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, you do, do a good  
20 job with the CSBG funds but are there some challenges  
21 that, you know present themselves that the NABs have  
22 in, in trying to meet, you know the demands of...  
23 alleviating poverty is like a huge... a huge  
24 undertaking so, are there some challenges that  
25

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 present themselves that the, the neighborhood  
3 advisory action boards, you know encounter?

4 SANDRA GUTIERREZ: I think that their job  
5 at the neighborhoods advisory boards, their roles are  
6 very specific to identifying the priorities to  
7 conducting those surveys, right, so if they were  
8 asked perhaps about there being a challenge it might  
9 be that they never feel satisfied in how many surveys  
10 they can collect because they want to do a whole lot  
11 more but there's ten board members so I think that  
12 they might say that they would like collect more or  
13 do more. I think they might say that, that, you know  
14 they'd like to know what other city agencies are  
15 doing in terms of poverty perhaps maybe more  
16 collaborations in that regard but I think those four  
17 people on the ground who are NAB members I think  
18 that's what they'd say that they'd like to be able to  
19 get... identify even more priorities through more  
20 people and one thing that might... they might say also  
21 is that these communities are changing rapidly so how  
22 do you... how do you get those... to those priorities  
23 every three years may change.

24 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Do you think that they  
25 have enough resources to, to get the job done?

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 SANDRA GUTIERREZ: We... the, the CSBG  
3 funds have been... I'll let you speak to that question.

4 MIKE BOBBITT: Thank you. We, we do. The,  
5 the CSBG... I think it was the Deputy Commissioner's  
6 point that the CSBG funding has remained stable even  
7 though... you know by any metric you might want to use  
8 it's, it's a lot more expensive to deliver social  
9 services etcetera... [cross-talk]

10 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uh-huh... [cross-talk]

11 MIKE BOBBITT: ...I'd say DYCD is, is  
12 thankful for the increase in it's overall budget and  
13 an important part of the service strategy is  
14 leveraging the CSBG funding with other funding both  
15 that DYCD has received and also pointing participants  
16 and families in need to other social services that  
17 the city is delivering so I think that's, that's an  
18 important part of it but I think the other thing to  
19 point to is we're appreciative that we have NAB  
20 members as stakeholders in the community so even  
21 though they... not even though, so they serve as  
22 volunteers at no cost to the agency but by being  
23 aware of their own charge through the needs  
24 assessment identifying the priorities and also  
25 becoming more conversive of what DYCD is funding

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 they're also able in the community to direct folks  
3 to, to the services that DYCD and the city are  
4 providing.

5 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: The CAB is a citywide  
6 body composed of 22 low income residents, 15 elected  
7 officials and eight private sector appointees that  
8 participate in the development of the CSBG funding  
9 opportunities, however, DYCD ultimately awards these  
10 funds. How much difference is paid to the CAB's  
11 recommendations in DYCD's funding decisions, are  
12 there any particular programs or funding areas for  
13 which DYCD has disagreed with the CAB recommendations  
14 and if so, can you describe them?

15 MIKE BOBBITT: Do you want me to talk..  
16 [cross-talk]

17 SANDRA GUTIERREZ: Well the CAB members  
18 participate in the survey and conducting the  
19 implementation of the survey, so they're partners,  
20 the CAB and NAB are partners in conducting the  
21 community needs assessment. We have not experienced  
22 recommendations that are different from what the  
23 community has said because they understand that these  
24 recommendations are coming from the community, they  
25 wouldn't trump the recommendations of the community



1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 that come through the community needs assessment.

3 That's probably... [cross-talk]

4 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So... [cross-talk]

5 SANDRA GUTIERREZ: ...something they  
6 wouldn't do... [cross-talk]

7 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: ...if there's complete  
8 consensus with whatever the CAB, the... their  
9 recommendations, DYCD hasn't had instances where you  
10 disagreed or, or felt that the funds should be spent,  
11 you know in a different area than what they're CABS  
12 recommended?

13 SANDRA GUTIERREZ: The NABs recommended.  
14 The, the community needs assessment recommendations.

15 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Well I'm talking about  
16 how much... now I'm talking about the CAB now.

17 SANDRA GUTIERREZ: Uh-huh, uh-huh.

18 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: And you know how much  
19 difference is given to their decisions, are they the  
20 overarching, once they make a decision that's the  
21 decision that is followed?

22 [off mic dialogue]

23 SANDRA GUTIERREZ: You can answer.

24 MIKE BOBBITT: I'm sorry. No, I just  
25 wanted to clarify that DYCD is one of maybe 200 of

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 the community action agencies of the 1,000 that are  
3 public community action agencies so in those  
4 instances as a government entity do, we have the  
5 (3417) responsibility... [cross-talk]

6 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Right... [cross-talk]

7 MIKE BOBBITT: ...so there is a  
8 relationship I would say very collegial, very  
9 collaborative relationship with the community action  
10 board but just in support with the Deputy  
11 Commissioner is, is, is saying since the findings are  
12 coming from the community, from the community needs  
13 assessment... [cross-talk]

14 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uh-huh... [cross-talk]

15 MIKE BOBBITT: ...when we're reporting to  
16 the board and I've, I've only been with the agency  
17 nine years but I'm not aware of an instance where  
18 there's been disagreement between the community  
19 action board and DYCD about what, what the data is  
20 pointing to... [cross-talk]

21 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uh-huh... [cross-talk]

22 MIKE BOBBITT: ...and then the  
23 administrative responsibilities to try to provide  
24 supportive services. What I can say is one of the  
25 ways that we demonstrate the maximum feasible

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 participation that Deputy Commissioner referenced and  
3 the oversight that I was mentioning with the, the  
4 state is we do an annual review with the board  
5 related to program performance and if there were  
6 corrective measures taken or, or other... what... I'm  
7 trying to think of a good... a good example, if  
8 programs are under or over performed and I'm happy to  
9 report sometimes that there's overperformance too, we  
10 share that... [cross-talk]

11 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: That's great... [cross-  
12 talk]

13 MIKE BOBBITT: ...with the board in terms  
14 of what does this mean for directions forward and  
15 generally the, the CABs have been supportive of those  
16 decisions, if there's any questions we can always  
17 follow up about... over the course of the contracts how  
18 things are going.

19 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: With your experience,  
20 is there... are there any areas in which you think the  
21 CAB could improve its efficacy?

22 MIKE BOBBITT: I'd point to one recent  
23 example where I, I think it demonstrates that they  
24 have so there's a few committees under the community  
25 action board, one was historically known as

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 membership and they recently changed their name to,  
3 to... I'm sorry, the strategic partnerships that better  
4 reflected with the ambition of the committee was and  
5 that was to increase the connectivity between the CAB  
6 and the NABs and the community at large so I'm, I'm  
7 appreciative of that as an illustration of  
8 recognition of roles and really working cooperative  
9 with DYCD.

10 SANDRA GUTIERREZ: I also think that in  
11 the last couple of years and particularly in the last  
12 month the CAB has the... we've changed the way that we  
13 do meetings to be more engaging. The, the meeting you  
14 came to and thank you for coming... [cross-talk]

15 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Right... [cross-talk]

16 SANDRA GUTIERREZ: ...was, you know we, we  
17 placed the seats the way that were because we  
18 expected... we expected some elected officials to show  
19 up that day but generally it's very interactive, we  
20 have people answering questions, giving us advice, we  
21 have all kinds of facilitative workshops or  
22 conversations happening where it elevates the  
23 conversation about the... not just the role of the... of  
24 the CAB but what is going on in the city so I think  
25 in the last couple of years we've really changed the

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 dynamics of that group so that they feel... and you saw  
3 that they have no qualms in asking questions, they  
4 ask... [cross-talk]

5 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uh-huh... [cross-talk]

6 SANDRA GUTIERREZ: ...incredibly good  
7 questions and they're very, very engaged, they, they  
8 love coming to that meeting.

9 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay... [cross-talk]

10 SANDRA GUTIERREZ: Which sometimes you  
11 can't not... you cannot say that about every meet...  
12 every community meeting.

13 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: I'm not going to  
14 comment; I'm not going to comment. In regard to the,  
15 the neighborhood advisory board members, which  
16 elected officials, City Council or state officials  
17 recommend members for the NABs?

18 MIKE BOBBITT: I'm sorry, you mean in  
19 terms of type of stakeholders... [cross-talk]

20 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Yeah... [cross-talk]

21 MIKE BOBBITT: ...so we look... [cross-talk]

22 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: ...would... yeah... [cross-  
23 talk]

24 MIKE BOBBITT: ...we look for... [cross-  
25 talk]

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: ...which officials...

3 [cross-talk]

4 MIKE BOBBITT: ...referrals by the City  
5 Council members as well as state assembly and senate  
6 and U.S. House of Representatives.

7 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Are they all City  
8 Council members or are they City Council members just  
9 where the, the neighborhood advisory boards are...

10 [cross-talk]

11 MIKE BOBBITT: The elected officials that  
12 correspond to the catchment area so the boundaries of  
13 that particular... [cross-talk]

14 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay... [cross-talk]

15 MIKE BOBBITT: ...neighborhood development  
16 area.

17 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay. And how does  
18 DYCD select the candidate, your candidates that serve  
19 on the NABs?

20 SANDRA GUTIERREZ: The selection of those  
21 candidates basically is... comes through other NAB  
22 members or community members that have learned of the  
23 NABs either through our website or at our... when there  
24 are public events, they can do that independently or  
25 come through an NAB member.

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: And when and how do you communicate with elected officials that they need to make appointments to the NAB?

SANDRA GUTIERREZ: Well I know that we send letters when somebody is getting off the board because they've termed out so that's one way, we communicate it and we also have an external affairs unit that helps, that supports the CSBG.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: I, I think there's a number of vacancies, right?

SANDRA GUTIERREZ: There are.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: That are on the board, can you tell me how many vacancies exist for the NAB and, and what the... what might be a contributing factor to those vacancies?

SANDRA GUTIERREZ: Well on the DYCD appointed we have 92 percent of the seats filled...

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uh-huh...

SANDRA GUTIERREZ: On the... on the elected officials there is 58 percent filled.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: What's... can you tell me why there's... why sort of your understanding these vacancies exist?

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 SANDRA GUTIERREZ: Sure, so on the NABs  
3 98... 92 percent is pretty, pretty standard only  
4 because, you know people are moving off the board and  
5 coming onto the board so that's sort the, the rolling  
6 participation that happens and so you, you have a  
7 little bit of cushion for people to get off, get on  
8 and then there's some people that move away from  
9 those areas or they have personal issues that they  
10 have to get off and can't participate fully.

11 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: And the vacancy rate  
12 for elected officials?

13 SANDRA GUTIERREZ: It's a little more  
14 difficult because we have other... we, we, we try to  
15 get in touch with the elected officials to let them  
16 know that these, these are vacancies but it's really  
17 up to them and that's really not in our control for...  
18 [cross-talk]

19 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: How frequent are  
20 these, you know communications, communications with  
21 elected officials to let them know that a vacancy  
22 exists and, you know is there a follow up if... [cross-  
23 talk]

24 SANDRA GUTIERREZ: Yes, you may... [cross-  
25 talk]



1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: ...there's no action...

3 [cross-talk]

4 SANDRA GUTIERREZ: ...call, we, we, we also  
5 recommend people that they could people that they  
6 could put on the boards.

7 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: You, you make  
8 recommendations to... [cross-talk]

9 SANDRA GUTIERREZ: You can make  
10 recommendations... [cross-talk]

11 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: ...who... [cross-talk]

12 SANDRA GUTIERREZ: ...yes.

13 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uh-huh and you, you  
14 let them know in writing that this vacancy exists?

15 SANDRA GUTIERREZ: Yes.

16 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, is there anything  
17 that might be done that could facilitate this process  
18 a little more efficient, efficiently... [cross-talk]

19 SANDRA GUTIERREZ: Yes... [cross-talk]

20 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: ...so that... because 58  
21 percent of the elected appointments is, is rather  
22 low.

23 SANDRA GUTIERREZ: It is but I think the  
24 good news is that in the last month, the last couple  
25 of months since January I believe, it... we went from

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 72 percent to 58 percent what that means is that we  
3 have been focusing... first of all we've been focusing  
4 much more at DYCD with identifying the right people  
5 that could get us the seats filled, the other is that  
6 we have more staff, we've added four more staff and  
7 because of that they are, you know very focused on  
8 getting the seats filled.

9 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Do you... so when do you  
10 anticipate being able to bring this number up, do you  
11 have a timeline?

12 SANDRA GUTIERREZ: We've not done... we've  
13 not had a discussion... well I've not had that  
14 discussion with my staff but I'm happy to go back and  
15 have it and, and give you answer on that.

16 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: You meet quarterly,  
17 the... what... how frequently does the... do the NABs meet  
18 and the CABs meet?

19 SANDRA GUTIERREZ: So, the CABs meet  
20 every ten weeks...

21 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Let me see...

22 SANDRA GUTIERREZ: And the NABs are  
23 required to meet four times a year but we meet many  
24 more times a year and in... on the year when we're  
25 conducting the community needs assessment, they

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 probably meet about three or four times depending on  
3 what the activities are. So, they meet... they also  
4 meet for training besides their meetings they also  
5 meet for training for an orientation training, for  
6 training on the... to conduct the needs assessment, to  
7 gain instruction and guidance on what should they be  
8 doing at their local communities.

9 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Is your year  
10 considered a calendar year or the fiscal year?

11 SANDRA GUTIERREZ: Calendar, right?

12 MIKE BOBBITT: The program year so,  
13 there's two ways to answer that... [cross-talk]

14 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uh-huh... [cross-talk]

15 MIKE BOBBITT: ...what... one... the... one is as  
16 the Deputy Commissioner mentioned they meet on a  
17 quarterly basis so there's neighborhood volunteers  
18 they meet frequently irrespective of when we have the  
19 report but in terms of corresponding to the CAB  
20 calendar the federal fiscal year starts in October  
21 and ends in September so the first time of the year  
22 the CAB meets corresponds to the start of the federal  
23 fiscal year and then they... [cross-talk]

24 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: The federal... [cross-  
25 talk]

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 MIKE BOBBITT: ...meet through, through...

3 [cross-talk]

4 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: ...okay... [cross-talk]

5 MIKE BOBBITT: ...June. I want to circle  
6 back to one thing, the Deputy Commissioner is being  
7 very modest but as one of the people that report to  
8 her I do want to advise there's, there's a vacancy  
9 chart that we review with the Deputy Commissioner and  
10 we do have targeted conversations about how vacancies  
11 are being filled over, over time so your  
12 recommendation is well received but I do want to give  
13 credit where credit is due.

14 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay, I was just  
15 trying to determine what your year was so that we  
16 would know that you might bring this number up by the  
17 end of your, your calendar year or your fiscal year  
18 or your operating year because I think it's important  
19 that, you know the appointees from the elected  
20 officials should be there and if there's anything  
21 that, you know we can do to help, you know please let  
22 me know because this number is, is troubling in terms  
23 of making sure that the... there's representation.

24 SANDRA GUTIERREZ: We really appreciate  
25 that, we really appreciate that and I think that we

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 both as the staff and the NABs really want to make  
3 sure that the... that the NABs are full and  
4 particularly because we have the community needs  
5 assessment coming up so we want everybody represented  
6 and we've done... I mean there's a whole bunch of  
7 strategies that we have employed in the last I'd say  
8 year and a half just getting ready for the community  
9 needs assessment and, and, and really looking at what  
10 representation we need from those communities so we  
11 really appreciate your help on that front.

12 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay, I just wanted to  
13 make sure that if there's anything, what your  
14 recommendations might be to improve the process so  
15 that no vacancies continue to exist.

16 SANDRA GUTIERREZ: Okay.

17 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Do NAB members decide  
18 what providers get CSBG funding or do they identify  
19 the funding priorities and then relay this  
20 information to DYCD to choose from the group of  
21 already pre-approved providers?

22 MIKE BOBBITT: The, the response is  
23 closer to the, the latter, the NAB members  
24 participate in receiving the findings, do the  
25 surveys, the hearings, etcetera that identifies the

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 funding priorities then DYCD will release a request  
3 for proposals. So, there aren't a... there aren't a  
4 predetermined number of providers that are going to  
5 get the awards... [cross-talk]

6 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay... [cross-talk]

7 MIKE BOBBITT: ...but as you know the, the  
8 city promotes the use of HHS accelerators so  
9 community service programs that have prequalified  
10 will see these requests for proposals once they're  
11 released, the... like they would see other funding  
12 proposals and they will submit proposals. Another way  
13 the agency demonstrates maximum feasible  
14 participation is NAB members join DYCD staff in  
15 reviewing the proposals so they will be aware of who  
16 has submitted an application, there's a recusal for...  
17 of a reason, oh I actually know that person, it's a  
18 family member, they wouldn't read those proposals but  
19 as long as its appropriate they join the staff in  
20 reviewing and rating the proposals so that the most  
21 competitive proposals are the ones awarded those best  
22 suited to perform the services ultimately are the  
23 ones selected.

24 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: But the, the ranking  
25 of the proposals and the determination is all DYCD's?

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 MIKE BOBBITT: Again, we invite NAB  
3 members to join and... to join the DYCD staff in the  
4 rating and reviewing of the proposals themselves so  
5 as another way as stakeholders in the community they  
6 get to help inform that the right decisions are being  
7 made.

8 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay, but outside of  
9 that process an NAB member would not have direct  
10 input into who a service provider would or should be?

11 MIKE BOBBITT: No, they wouldn't outside  
12 of that process.

13 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay and in terms of  
14 training for the NAB members how frequently is that  
15 and are they identified... are there duties to identify  
16 community fund and how well... let me start again,  
17 training for NAB members how frequent, what is... what  
18 does it look like and are there... is it ongoing?

19 SANDRA GUTIERREZ: We have different  
20 trainings for the NAB that will fill a particular  
21 purpose. For example the... we have new orientation  
22 training for everybody who's a new member, we have to  
23 do that twice a year, some people come... have been to  
24 that orientation training but they still keep coming  
25 because it's lots of fun then we have... will be having

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 soon our training that has to do with the community  
3 needs assessment, how to conduct it, why, what are  
4 the reasons for it. We also have trainings during the  
5 year that we invite the NAB to and they could be  
6 leadership development or all kinds of community  
7 involvement and, and things like that. We're also  
8 having borough meetings where we meet with everybody  
9 from particular boroughs or, or if the borough is big  
10 there's two meetings in that borough and we... thereto  
11 we talk about the community efforts and the community  
12 needs assessment.

13 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, do DYCD officials  
14 attend any of these NAB meetings?

15 [off mic dialogue]

16 SANDRA GUTIERREZ: Yes, yes.

17 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Is... and, and how  
18 frequent does that happen, do they... is there always a  
19 DYCD member at NAB meetings?

20 SANDRA GUTIERREZ: Yes.

21 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: There are?

22 SANDRA GUTIERREZ: Uh-huh...

23 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay. So, if there was  
24 a problem in terms of, you know a particular NAB



1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 where it might indicate that more training was  
3 necessary when and how would that happen?

4 SANDRA GUTIERREZ: Well the NABs... the... we  
5 have a, a liaison that works at DYCD who, who  
6 actually runs these... those meetings (5121) meeting  
7 with the Chairs, usually they're very involved in  
8 whether there's a problem with a particular NAB,  
9 whether they don't have enough members, whether  
10 there's... we don't have issues of... conflict issues in  
11 the... in those groups most of the time but a lot of  
12 it... a lot of times it's just getting more members on  
13 but they always have support and they can always call  
14 DYCD. They know us because we... when we invite them to  
15 meetings so they'll know Mike, they'll know me,  
16 they'll other staff at DYCD if they felt like they  
17 couldn't talk to that particular liaison they  
18 certainly... I know they feel free in coming because  
19 they ask questions and they call me, so I know that..  
20 [cross-talk]

21 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Is there an assessment  
22 made of the efficacy of, of NABs or how well... [cross-  
23 talk]

24 SANDRA GUTIERREZ: We... [cross-talk]

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: ...they're functioning,  
3 how... [cross-talk]

4 SANDRA GUTIERREZ: Yes, so this year we  
5 started to survey the NABs on the quality of their  
6 meetings, we wanted to know if they were getting to,  
7 to... do... if they have enough support, we wanted to  
8 know if they were getting to the issues that, that  
9 they thought were important. So, we've been doing  
10 sort of after, after the meetings we, we assess, and  
11 we evaluate whether that meeting was a good one.

12 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay. How much CSBG  
13 funding has New York received last year and do you  
14 anticipate receiving the same amount this year?

15 MIKE BOBBITT: The, the Deputy  
16 Commissioner referenced in her testimony to 32  
17 million, there... as I'm sure you're aware we monitor  
18 certain proclamations and suggestions that are being  
19 made from the federal administration thankfully  
20 there's been bipartisan support in the congress to  
21 maintaining, sustaining CSBG funding... [cross-talk]

22 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uh-huh... [cross-talk]

23 MIKE BOBBITT: ...so we continue to monitor  
24 the situation as well as look for any intelligence  
25 and, and support from the city's legislative affairs

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 office but at the present we're not anticipating  
3 discontinuation or a, a cut to the CSBG funding, we  
4 would expect level funding.

5 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Is there a figure you  
6 can give me?

7 MIKE BOBBITT: Again, 32 million is what...  
8 [cross-talk]

9 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: 32... [cross-talk]

10 MIKE BOBBITT: ...at the present time  
11 that's what we would anticipate, the refunding  
12 application is usually made available sometime in the  
13 mid-summer so we would know concretely by the end of  
14 the summer.

15 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, that's the... that's  
16 the half... that's the... only for CSBG?

17 MIKE BOBBITT: I understood your... [cross-  
18 talk]

19 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Yes... [cross-talk]

20 MIKE BOBBITT: ...question to be... [cross-  
21 talk]

22 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Right, okay... [cross-  
23 talk]

24 MIKE BOBBITT: ...at... yes, that's for CSBG...  
25

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay, okay. And does  
3 DYCD know in advance how much the federal funding  
4 will be that will be provided to the CSBG?

5 MIKE BOBBITT: Again, no, we would be  
6 looking over the course of the summer to learn that,  
7 that's about when the Department of State  
8 communicates a decision to DYCD.

9 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uh-huh. Do you have...  
10 do, do you make a, a funding recommendation to, to  
11 the feds of what you would like or that you think  
12 would be adequate to, to address poverty?

13 MIKE BOBBITT: I would... I would say DYCD  
14 specifically may not make that recommendation but  
15 there are other parties who are allies to the city in  
16 that regard, there's the National Community Action  
17 partnership which is a technical assistance body that  
18 supports all of the community action agencies across  
19 the country and there's the National Community Action  
20 Foundation which is a lobbying group that supports  
21 the award so in particular the NCAF is very vocal...  
22 [cross-talk]

23 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay... [cross-talk]

24 MIKE BOBBITT: ...about the need to support  
25 and it has some institutional memory, my

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 understanding is the head of that organization has  
3 been around since the Reagan Administration and  
4 continues to fight for, for continues CSBG funding. I  
5 had mentioned the, the Mayor's Office in D.C... [cross-  
6 talk]

7 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uh-huh... [cross-talk]

8 MIKE BOBBITT: ...so DYCD does articulate  
9 the request to the Mayor's Office in D.C. we do seek  
10 to see sustained funding without disruption in  
11 service.

12 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay, is available  
13 federal CSBG funding ever left untapped or  
14 unallocated in New York City?

15 MIKE BOBBITT: No, it is... it is not, we  
16 always find useful purposes for CSBG. The, the Deputy  
17 Commissioner pointed to our support of the summer  
18 youth employment program so if there are which there  
19 aren't typically or not in a great degree if... but if  
20 there are under obligated funds, we're able to  
21 redirect those so we, we leave no money on the table.

22 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uh-huh. I, I know you  
23 don't have a crystal ball but are we anticipating any  
24 cut in, in funding in CSBG funding?

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 MIKE BOBBITT: I think in the stock  
3 market they say past performance is no indication of...  
4 I will say we've continued to monitor the situation  
5 as I gave in my prior response the last time the  
6 administration suggested eliminating CSBG it was not  
7 eliminated so we're continuing to monitor the  
8 situation, it was kept whole, we hope and presently  
9 anticipate that there won't be a, a cut or  
10 elimination of the funding stream.

11 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: If there are cuts how  
12 will these cuts be addressed in terms of trying to  
13 fill the gaps?

14 MIKE BOBBITT: I, I think the, the most  
15 honest answer to that to be is that we would have to  
16 take that... the, the question under advisement and  
17 we'd have to prepare a suitable plan but again the  
18 current thinking is we're not anticipating a cut to  
19 CSBG at this time.

20 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: In terms of the four  
21 focus areas that DYCD realigned their goals for in  
22 2014 what's the most challenging area to address?

23 MIKE BOBBITT: Could you just... I'm sorry,  
24 clarify the question further, yeah?

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Yeah, you, you  
3 identified four focus areas when you realigned your  
4 goals; at risk youth, poverty... at risk youth  
5 specifically high, high school youth who are  
6 struggling academically or at risk of dropping out;  
7 workforce development; providing adult literacy  
8 services and workforce training, support services for  
9 seniors, immigrants and programs designed to keep  
10 families healthy and four, disconnected youth.

11 MIKE BOBBITT: Thank you, give me...

12 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: And they will be...  
13 [cross-talk]

14 MIKE BOBBITT: It's a... no, it's a... it's a  
15 very reasonable question Council Member, it's hard to  
16 give a short answer though, I think any of the  
17 programs has anecdotal successes and in some ways  
18 faces challenges so I, I don't mean to be coy or  
19 evasive. I'll, I'll try and give a couple of, of, of  
20 examples then. So, under our youth portfolio we  
21 recently launched a program that was new to the NDA  
22 so the agency certainly has a rich history of  
23 engaging youth for us, this is the first time we had  
24 a neighborhood focus program that was looking at  
25 supportive employment so there were some operational

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 challenges in the first year or two of operating that  
3 program because it was a new type of program so it's  
4 that there isn't a demand, it's not that we haven't  
5 had a demonstrative history in serving that kind of a  
6 demand it was just new. There could be other  
7 challenges, I'll try to point to one under... working  
8 with seniors... it's not really a challenge, it's like  
9 an underexplored opportunity, we liaised very well  
10 with the Department for the Aging because they have  
11 the title V seniors employment program, we've tried  
12 to attach our programs as worksites so we could  
13 certainly look to continue to do more of that, it's  
14 not really a problem its more like an opportunity  
15 we're looking to try to maximize but to say each  
16 program offers it's own issues of concern and, and  
17 things that you monitor and try to coach the, the  
18 field up towards doing.

19 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, is there any type  
20 of plan to address the challenges that, that you  
21 face?

22 MIKE BOBBITT: Sure, we had mentioned  
23 earlier in the testimony that at least on an annual  
24 basis we share our observations of the year and in  
25 whole with the community action board but it is the



1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 responsibility of our program managers, deputy  
3 directors and directors to analyze performance as  
4 it's happening... [cross-talk]

5 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uh-huh... [cross-talk]

6 MIKE BOBBITT: ...so that happens across  
7 each program portfolio but it also happens within  
8 each program within each portfolio so if there are  
9 performance concerns whether they be about enrollment  
10 or retention or obtaining outcomes or seeming not to  
11 maximize some of the linkages and referrals that were  
12 expected, we, we call on agencies, we communicate  
13 with them, we try to do that cooperatively and  
14 helpfully with them because we recognize if they  
15 submitted the best proposal they have understanding  
16 of local knowledge how to serve those participants so  
17 we serve in a kind of coaching facilitator overall to  
18 help them out.

19 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, are they... are the  
20 providers evaluated and, and given technical  
21 assistance if in fact they are experiencing  
22 challenges meeting the goals?

23 MIKE BOBBITT: Yes, they are. They... there  
24 are written summaries of program sites visits which  
25 are shared with the providers and the findings are

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 reviewed both an atta boy, atta girl when things have  
3 gone well... [cross-talk]

4 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uh-huh... [cross-talk]

5 MIKE BOBBITT: ...and to flag if there are  
6 particular concerns noted and we follow up and look  
7 for a written follow up from providers if there's  
8 corrective action that needs to be taken and like  
9 other human service contracts, the, the year end  
10 results would be reflected in, in the agency's  
11 (10139).

12 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, if, if there was  
13 a, a problem with a particular contracted agency  
14 would you pull a contract mid, midterm, mid, mid  
15 contract?

16 MIKE BOBBITT: We try to perform that  
17 coaching and supportive relationship with the  
18 provider in real time as things are, are occurring..  
19 [cross-talk]

20 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uh-huh... [cross-talk]

21 MIKE BOBBITT: ...if there were long  
22 standing performance issues that couldn't be turned  
23 around we would have some tough conversations with  
24 the provider, in some cases providers have finally  
25 been able turn it around which is a great success and

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 in other cases providers have asked to give back a  
3 contract because they realize over time they haven't  
4 been able to, to pull it... pull it off.

5 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Have you experienced  
6 any special challenges working with disconnected  
7 youth?

8 SANDRA GUTIERREZ: So, I think that under  
9 the leadership of Commissioner Chong he has really  
10 taken this seriously, this population seriously and  
11 so we've strengthened many programs that have to do  
12 with workforce that really give support to young  
13 people who are struggling and what he's done is he's  
14 asked us to develop pathways so that young people can  
15 move through the continuum of care in ways that maybe  
16 they haven't had the opportunity before, if they go  
17 to individual programs once they leave that program  
18 that's it and if they fail nobody is watching but I  
19 think under his leadership we've had many discussions  
20 and plans and strategies that these pathways for  
21 young people who are opportunity youth or youth at,  
22 at risk can connect to DYCD programs but not only one  
23 DYCD program but they have multiple touches, one,  
24 multiple touches in that community and that they  
25 connect with people that they know with those

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 services providers that have seen them grow up. We  
3 also have the ability under his leadership to, to  
4 make sure that we're integrating the conversations  
5 about opportunity youth starting in like middle  
6 schools because we have... we fund middle schools so  
7 there's a lot of ways that we're looking at the work  
8 not just from the perspective of a funder to a CBO  
9 but more holistically in how all the... these  
10 communities and community based organizations really  
11 make up the village, right... [cross-talk]

12 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uh-huh... [cross-talk]

13 SANDRA GUTIERREZ: ...that then takes care  
14 of those young people.

15 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: When, when an NAB  
16 identifies they... when they do the assessment and they  
17 identify what the areas are of, of, of need and... are  
18 they... do they prioritize those areas, they'll have  
19 maybe six areas of need... [cross-talk]

20 SANDRA GUTIERREZ: Yes... [cross-talk]

21 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: ...are they... are they  
22 ranked in priority or... [cross-talk]

23 SANDRA GUTIERREZ: Yes, because the  
24 survey instrument is designed so that it's already  
25 ranked.

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay.

3 SANDRA GUTIERREZ: So, if in a particular  
4 community let's say in Bronx ten they pick senior  
5 services as... [cross-talk]

6 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uh-huh... [cross-talk]

7 SANDRA GUTIERREZ: ...the top ranking then  
8 that would be the priority.

9 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, if a... if, if a NAB  
10 indicated a priority that... have you found that there  
11 might be a disconnect in terms of the... that  
12 particular community being able to provide that...  
13 those services? I'm from Staten Island...

14 SANDRA GUTIERREZ: Uh-huh...

15 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: ...and so if they ranked  
16 disconnected youth... [cross-talk]

17 SANDRA GUTIERREZ: Uh-huh... [cross-talk]

18 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: ...the need for housing  
19 and there is no service provider that provides that  
20 service what, what's the process then, do you then go  
21 to the next ranked need or...

22 SANDRA GUTIERREZ: Well if some... if, if...  
23 [cross-talk]

24

25

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: What if they're... what  
3 if the... you know the community isn't able to provide  
4 the resources to address the need?

5 SANDRA GUTIERREZ: Yeah...

6 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: And that could be a  
7 part of the problem.

8 MIKE BOBBITT: Yeah... no, I, I can't  
9 recall that circumstance having developed. So, as the  
10 Deputy Commissioner is pointing out the need's  
11 assessment... well the needs assessment process itself  
12 determines the, the needs... [cross-talk]

13 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uh-huh... [cross-talk]

14 MIKE BOBBITT: ...and the prioritization of  
15 the needs... [cross-talk]

16 SANDRA GUTIERREZ: Right... [cross-talk]

17 MIKE BOBBITT: So, to use your example,  
18 if in a particular NDA the highest presenting need  
19 was high school and the second was housing and the  
20 third was seniors then the NAB in its role of having  
21 discretion as community stakeholders could have a  
22 conversation about the allocation that's available,  
23 the money that's available to serve the community and  
24 whether that money goes so far to adequately support  
25 programs to address all three of those needs or if in

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 there election they wanted to invest more money in  
3 the top two of those needs but there isn't a  
4 conversation or instruction about skipping the most  
5 important need and jumping down to the... to the third.  
6 So, once the priorities are set and determined by the  
7 NAB when DYCD then releases the request for proposals  
8 we will seek community based organizations to deliver  
9 the services related to the highest presenting needs  
10 as determined by each NAB and we have been able to  
11 find providers to do those services. I had mentioned  
12 earlier in my testimony that when we did opportunity  
13 youth it was a new program area so because it was new  
14 we had a little bit of, of an effort initially when  
15 we were procuring those services but we did find  
16 provide... and we have providers who are serving those,  
17 those needs as well.

18 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you.

19 SANDRA GUTIERREZ: The community I think  
20 and the... these NDAs are very attentive to, to the  
21 needs and often times community based organizations  
22 do want to apply for funds but maybe they, they  
23 haven't had the opportunity so when the need meets  
24 the, the person who wants to provide that usually  
25

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 that makes good sense for the community based  
3 organization.

4 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Moving to the NDAs,  
5 how are NDAs zoned or mapped?

6 MIKE BOBBITT: Thank you. DYCD relies on  
7 the New York City Department of City Planning..  
8 [cross-talk]

9 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uh-huh... [cross-talk]

10 MIKE BOBBITT: ...and their use of current  
11 data that aggregates information about poverty so,  
12 actually in your own opening statement you, you  
13 shared some of this information so, because we try to  
14 target the NDA programs to areas where there's  
15 concentrations of, of poverty we can rely on City  
16 Planning and their use of what they term neighborhood  
17 tabulation areas so, stacks of let's say two to three  
18 NTAs, Neighborhood, Neighborhood Tabulation Areas are  
19 used to form the neighborhood development areas which  
20 we try to align around community districts but we're...  
21 again we're using their, their, their data and so  
22 that's how we know if the, the community warrants  
23 focus in terms of the... in terms of the NDA and its  
24 priorities.



1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: What steps if any does  
3 DYCD take in communities that... you know to address  
4 gentrification that may exist or, or occur in pre-  
5 zoned NDAs?

6 MIKE BOBBITT: I... our hazard one response  
7 and the Deputy Commissioner may have more to say  
8 about it but earlier we noted that along with the  
9 NDAs themselves we do support various citywide  
10 initiatives through DYCD so reflecting in your  
11 question I was thinking that there are certain trends  
12 that happen over time related to, to poverty so by  
13 investing in both kinds of approaches we're able to  
14 make sure that, that, that citywide there are  
15 programs that participants and families can, can  
16 access so I'm... I think that that's the response to  
17 your question I don't know if there's anything you  
18 want to, to add to that.

19 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Well not quite, when  
20 NDAs... you already have pre... you know pre-zoned NDAs  
21 and some of them become less impoverished, right, as  
22 a result of the gentrification, you know and it  
23 forces, you know the lower income... sometimes lower  
24 income families out of those neighborhoods... [cross-  
25 talk]

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 SANDRA GUTIERREZ: That's... [cross-talk]

3 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: ...how do you... [cross-  
4 talk]

5 SANDRA GUTIERREZ: ...that's exactly why  
6 you need a community needs assessment to happen every  
7 three years because every three years that assessment  
8 is done, we find the pockets of poverty and those are  
9 the neighborhoods that would be funded. The  
10 gentrification certainly has an impact on how poor  
11 people move around the city and so that's the reason  
12 why we take our job so seriously with the community  
13 needs assessment setting priorities wherever the...  
14 those, those... that population goes then we can fund  
15 in the... were it not for the community needs  
16 assessment we couldn't do that.

17 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay and that happens  
18 every three years, the assessment is done every three  
19 years, right?

20 SANDRA GUTIERREZ: Yes, every three years  
21 and the, the NDAs are allowed to, to serve people  
22 outside the area for a half a mile also. So,  
23 sometimes they'll move... [cross-talk]

24 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay... [cross-talk]

25

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 SANDRA GUTIERREZ: ...just from one  
3 neighborhood to another so they still can... [cross-  
4 talk]

5 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: ...perimeter... [cross-  
6 talk]

7 SANDRA GUTIERREZ: Yes.

8 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uh-huh, uh-huh. So,  
9 when do you... so, is it every three years that maybe  
10 the lines would be redrawn for an NDA or when, when  
11 do you redraw the lines or districts?

12 SANDRA GUTIERREZ: In... whenever we are  
13 going to do prioritization of, of programs and... or of  
14 needs. For example, right now we have been... our  
15 community needs assessment will determine  
16 prioritization so there will be a look at the lines.  
17 When, when... the community... [cross-talk]

18 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay, so... [cross-talk]

19 SANDRA GUTIERREZ: ...assessment... [cross-  
20 talk]

21 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: ...I have a community  
22 that's been gentrified... [cross-talk]

23 SANDRA GUTIERREZ: Uh-huh... [cross-talk]

24 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: ...and so that's not...  
25 that's no longer the nucleus of, you know my poverty

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 area, it's, it's now moved. When will that be  
3 redrawn, when will we look at changing where and  
4 following where the poverty has shifted, am I making...  
5 [cross-talk]

6 SANDRA GUTIERREZ: We're, we're... [cross-  
7 talk]

8 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: ...sense?

9 SANDRA GUTIERREZ: Yes, yes. We're in  
10 that process now so the community needs assessment  
11 will start in July and end sometime in November. We  
12 will begin to study those... you know those tabulation  
13 areas and collect data about where people are moving  
14 and then based on those two things, the results of  
15 the community needs assessment and the data collected  
16 on the tabulation areas we will then look at where  
17 are the lines, how much have they moved in order to  
18 set the priorities.

19 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay.

20 [off mic dialogue]

21 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Did you want to... no,  
22 okay. So, you're... okay. So, if... you know I guess I  
23 was trying to get at whether... like the census every  
24 ten years, you know we look at, at certain areas and  
25 we re-district... [cross-talk]

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 SANDRA GUTIERREZ: Uh-huh... [cross-talk]

3 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: ...so, I was just trying  
4 to get to whether there was a specific time that you  
5 look at the, the NDAs so... okay. What official...  
6 [cross-talk]

7 SANDRA GUTIERREZ: It's, it's not every  
8 ten years, we, we, we want... we, we do the community  
9 needs assessment every three years and they... it can  
10 be like five years before we actually fund the  
11 programs but... because, you know those contracts can  
12 continue for another couple of years.

13 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay, what official  
14 entities outside of New York City does DYCD report to  
15 regularly regarding its administration of CSBG  
16 grants? We know that the Department of State is one.

17 SANDRA GUTIERREZ: Uh-huh...

18 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: And what information  
19 is required to be reported, how frequently and are  
20 these reports made public and posted online?

21 MIKE BOBBITT: Yes, Council Member we do  
22 report to and share information with New York State,  
23 Department of State... [cross-talk]

24 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uh-huh... [cross-talk]

25

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 MIKE BOBBITT: ...there's a quarterly  
3 report which is filed and I'm looking to external  
4 affairs, I believe we make this available to the City  
5 Council, it's not posted publicly but it's shared  
6 with the, the Council...

7 [off mic dialogue]

8 MIKE BOBBITT: ...and there's an annual  
9 program report that is also filed and that  
10 information includes the participants served and a  
11 demographic... demographic, excuse me, profile of those  
12 served as well as the projected and actual outcomes  
13 that were obtained, that information... for your  
14 information the state aggregates both DYCD's  
15 information and all the other grantees through the  
16 state and their data in turn is reported to the  
17 federal department... excuse me, the Federal government  
18 through Health and Human Services. The Department of  
19 Health and Human Services has the authority to audit  
20 any particular community action agency, they have  
21 come to DYCD on occasion, most recently was the end  
22 of the summer last year, the government  
23 accountability office, New York was a sample of the  
24 states, the Congress wanted to see a sample so DYCD  
25 was the sample of the... New York sample, it was

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 largely a programmatic review and they reported that  
3 they were very satisfied with what they... what they  
4 saw when they came on site.

5 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay, do you require  
6 sort of some type of similar reporting from the NABs  
7 and if so, how frequently and you know are their  
8 reports made public?

9 MIKE BOBBITT: The NABs function and very  
10 complimentary with DYCD but distinctly different from  
11 the way human services are procured... [cross-talk]

12 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uh-huh... [cross-talk]

13 MIKE BOBBITT: ...so volunteers must sign  
14 in for their attendance and I think we had mentioned  
15 we reimburse them for the cost of their travel, you  
16 know to attend meetings but there isn't a... there's  
17 not the same kind of programmatic responsibility  
18 placed on volunteers and there is a contract agency  
19 so there isn't the same kind of a quarterly reporting  
20 that we expect but as the Deputy Commissioner  
21 mentioned the liaisons attend the NAB meetings and so  
22 we do track attendance and time that volunteers spend  
23 engaged with our programs and that's actually a part  
24 of the quarterly reporting that we do to Department  
25 of State.

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uh-huh...

3 SANDRA GUTIERREZ: They also keep minutes  
4 of their meetings.

5 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: And how, how have you  
6 been able to sort of address the participant concerns  
7 that do not have an NDA program or activities in  
8 their neighborhood or do you?

9 MIKE BOBBITT: I want to make sure I  
10 understand the question; you were talking about...  
11 [cross-talk]

12 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So... [cross-talk]

13 MIKE BOBBITT: ...participants in New York  
14 City... [cross-talk]

15 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: ...so we're, we're  
16 looking at the community needs assessment report and  
17 so I want to know how have you been able to address  
18 the participant concerns that did not... that did not  
19 have NDA programs or activities in their  
20 neighborhoods?

21 SANDRA GUTIERREZ: So, you know that the  
22 DYCD budget has basically doubled and so we have  
23 many, many more programs, the, the information that  
24 we've gotten from the community needs assessment  
25 really has informed us about not just about what's



1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 happening in the CSBG programs but also all over  
3 because all over the agency and, and other services  
4 that are provided through the agency because we have  
5 taken information from participants that are not in  
6 CSBG, the principals as you read, the, the program  
7 directors so we've gotten... we got a lot of  
8 information that were not just from the NDAs and  
9 from... acquired through the NAB, those... and I'll give  
10 you an example of how this has informed us, so, how  
11 we've used the community needs assessment. In the  
12 community needs assessment and I read in my testimony  
13 that we found that a lot of young people were hungry  
14 and so we started to drill down on that question,  
15 right, what, what, what was happening, what we found  
16 was that young people... there was a lot of young  
17 people who were eating not, not only not eating but  
18 if they were eating they were not eating nutritional  
19 food. So, the first thing that the Commissioner did  
20 was to meet with the people at HRA where we started  
21 to do... to develop some strategies and ultimately  
22 ended up doing some more targeted strategies and  
23 programming for the young people in our RHY programs  
24 or on homeless runaway youth but we found also that  
25 there were many programs that were funded through the

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 City Council, right, through our discretionary unit  
3 that we had a whole list of food pantries and those  
4 programs were... those lists were given out to our  
5 community based organizations who serve in CSBG so  
6 that the word could get out about where we could  
7 address food insecurities in those poor and local  
8 communities so there's a lot of ways that we use the  
9 data not just in terms of setting priorities but also  
10 to look at many of the programs that DYCD funds and  
11 how could they be leveraged or collaborations could  
12 be had or partnerships can be developed so that we  
13 could address that particular need.

14 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: And how has the CNA  
15 improved this surveying methodologies over the year  
16 and what's being done, you know currently and how  
17 would you improve the methodology?

18 SANDRA GUTIERREZ: I think the  
19 methodology has been improved over the last four  
20 years at least, the first survey of 2013 was a very  
21 simple survey and it got the job done, we then in  
22 2016 we developed that survey so that there were many  
23 more questions where we can get... drill down on what  
24 really were the community needs. The... we then did a...  
25 an ambassador's project where... because you... I think

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 you asked this question, that if the community needs  
3 assessment is being done every three years then what  
4 happens in between and so we decided that we would do  
5 these year... or mid-year... mid-CNA strategies where we  
6 could go and have conversations with the community  
7 about whether those needs that, that they named a  
8 year, a year and a half ago were they the same needs  
9 or had anything changed, what we found was that in  
10 some cases because there were conversations many  
11 other things came up. For example, things like  
12 services for young people who have special needs,  
13 veterans' services, things like that. We do... and so...  
14 and our next community needs assessment it's sort of  
15 a hybrid between that first one I described and the  
16 second I described and so its simpler but it does get  
17 to each community based on what they've said before  
18 so I think the methodology continues to improve. We  
19 have a unit at DYCD that is dedicated to improving  
20 that methodology and we're very proud of the work  
21 that they've done because I think that the community  
22 really will appreciate the way that we're, we're  
23 going to do it this year and we're happy to send you  
24 some information on that later.

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Of the... of the  
3 employers who you survey what industries did they  
4 represent in the community needs assessment?

5 MIKE BOBBITT: I can respond generally,  
6 we targeted employers who work with the ladders for  
7 leaders' program so they're pretty familiar with DYCD  
8 and so, you know Council Member understand that's a  
9 pretty wide ranging array of, of occupations across  
10 the board.

11 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, of the employers  
12 in the CNA employers indicated that they wanted  
13 employees with industry specific knowledge;  
14 leadership skills, critical thinking and problem-  
15 solving skills, how has DYCD addressed these concerns  
16 in terms of programming and services that they  
17 provide?

18 MIKE BOBBITT: I would reference the  
19 Deputy Commissioner's earlier testimony about some of  
20 the stated priorities of the Commissioner, we're  
21 looking to promote an overall pathway and... yeah, so I  
22 don't want to oversell... over, over answer, yeah.

23 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay...

24 MIKE BOBBITT: Yeah, so I, I think that's  
25 another illustration related to something the Deputy

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 Commissioner said but we've learned from the 2016  
3 needs assessment to promote different directions.

4 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, do you think that  
5 you successfully implemented, implemented all of the,  
6 the recommendations the community needs assessment  
7 recommendations?

8 SANDRA GUTIERREZ: We have... we have  
9 addressed many of the local needs through the  
10 prioritizations of those needs by those communities  
11 but then there were overall recommendations or  
12 insights that came out of the CNA that had to do some  
13 with marketing for example, getting the word out,  
14 right... [cross-talk]

15 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uh-huh... [cross-talk]

16 SANDRA GUTIERREZ: ...so what we've done...  
17 actually we've done a lot of thinking about how to  
18 market programs, what does that look like, giving  
19 coaching and guidance to the community based  
20 organizations around how could you get the word out,  
21 we used the DYCD engines or social media to, to get  
22 the word out, we're doing a lot of thinking with  
23 young people about how to... I'll give you an example,  
24 we renamed a lot of the workforce programs, the young  
25 people actually renamed those programs themselves to

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 Work, Learn and Grow, all those kinds of programs  
3 were named sort of by acronyms but they... we changed  
4 the marketing and looking at each one of our  
5 departments and units and seeing how is it that we  
6 can get the word out more, efficiently and how many  
7 people can we tell about these programs so that  
8 people really do know what the program means and does  
9 in that particular community.

10 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, Commissioner one  
11 of the things was the CNA report recommended  
12 improvements to DYCD's data collection practices and,  
13 and the use of better surveys to empower the NDAs,  
14 was that one of the recommendations that you looked  
15 at and did you... and did you try to implement some  
16 change to that?

17 MIKE BOBBITT: Yes, that, that process is  
18 underway, when you talk about data collection the,  
19 the agency was able to receive a significant award to  
20 improve it's IT systems and so portfolio by portfolio  
21 we're looking to migrate our programs in better data  
22 collection, easier and more straightforward for the  
23 providers to interface with, we haven't moved the  
24 CSBG portfolio yet but we are planning to so there's  
25 a lot of meetings that my team and other teams are

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 having about setting up the appropriate business  
3 rules to, to make that migration but ultimately  
4 we're... we'll get the, the agency along with greater  
5 efficiency is the, the intention for the new system  
6 will better allow the providers to make referrals  
7 from one to another within the system so this is  
8 another way the agency is looking to leverage the  
9 impact of one contract to another and make it easier  
10 for participants to find their way through navigating  
11 all of the services they may need so that's the  
12 desired end state over the next couple of years  
13 working with IT.

14 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: And to help the NDAs...

15 [cross-talk]

16 MIKE BOBBITT: This... it will positively  
17 impact the NDA programs... [cross-talk]

18 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uh-huh... [cross-talk]

19 MIKE BOBBITT: ...but cutting across the  
20 board it will be to the betterment of all the  
21 programs that DYCD is, is funding.

22 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Last year the Youth  
23 Services Committee had a hearing on youth civic  
24 engagement and DYCD provided more opportunities for  
25 youth to volunteer and become more involved in civic

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 issues in community projects, has that happened  
3 actually because that was one of the recommendations  
4 on the CNAs, was there more youth opportunities for  
5 volunteers and civic engagement?

6 SANDRA GUTIERREZ: So, one of the ways  
7 that we did that we mentioned that in the testimony  
8 that we want... we really do want 16 year olds and  
9 above on our boards so they could be part of this  
10 process, obviously that would allow them to develop  
11 leadership skills but early in the process could you  
12 imagine a young person setting priorities, funding  
13 priorities for their community? so, I think we're  
14 doing that through involving young people in boards  
15 that... and sitting at the table and making...  
16 influencing those boards in terms of funding  
17 priorities but apart from that DYCD has developed a  
18 civic engagement statement that we have, have begun  
19 to look at how best to engage young people not just  
20 young people but also our, our NABs in civic  
21 engagement endeavors, you, you can describe the, the  
22 thing that's going to happen soon with the... [cross-  
23 talk]

24 MIKE BOBBITT: Summit... [cross-talk]

25 SANDRA GUTIERREZ: ...step, step...



1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 MIKE BOBBITT: You mean the summit?

3 SANDRA GUTIERREZ: Yeah...

4 MIKE BOBBITT: On May 11<sup>th</sup> the agency is  
5 holding a youth summit and so in our internal  
6 discussions we've looked historically at attendance  
7 and to a large degree younger youth participate in  
8 those events so the neighborhood advisory board  
9 liaison team is doing a special track for older youth  
10 on civic engagement broadly and there will also be  
11 the opportunity for young people who are on boards to  
12 join with other young people that the agency recruits  
13 through other programs and other means and by the end  
14 of the day they will also be advised of the  
15 opportunity to join a board if that's appropriate for  
16 them but we want to provide value to current members  
17 and to the community alike so it's another  
18 integration strategy, we're trying to make sure we're  
19 bolstering a segment that hasn't necessarily taken  
20 fully, full opportunity of the summit and we're  
21 actually looking forward to it.

22 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Do all of the NABs  
23 have a youth member on them currently?

24 SANDRA GUTIERREZ: Not at this point but  
25 we're working on that, that is something that we have

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 as a goal this year, we want to make sure actually  
3 this summit were... would be a recruitment vehicle for  
4 that to happen but as I said in my testimony we're  
5 looking to the community based organizations to send  
6 us young people to be on these boards and to engage  
7 in civic engagement projects.

8 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: What would you say was  
9 maybe the percentage of boards that do have a young  
10 person on it at this time?

11 SANDRA GUTIERREZ: About 30 percent.

12 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: About 30 percent and  
13 you're going to use the youth summit and, and you  
14 reach out to community-based organizations, are you...  
15 [cross-talk]

16 SANDRA GUTIERREZ: Also, our Cornerstones  
17 and our Beacons.

18 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uh-huh, okay and our  
19 schools?

20 SANDRA GUTIERREZ: Yes.

21 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Yeah...

22 SANDRA GUTIERREZ: Because some of the  
23 youth leaders, we have other leadership programs that  
24 are... that come through our Cornerstone and our  
25

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 Beacons and our schools so that's where we would  
3 recruit young people.

4 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay. I guess we've  
5 asked you about all the questions that we, we, we  
6 wanted to or need to. I want to thank you  
7 Commissioner Gutierrez and, and Deputy Commissioner,  
8 I'd like the... Assistant Commissioner, okay...

9 SANDRA GUTIERREZ: Assistant  
10 Commissioner... [cross-talk]

11 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: ...thank you for  
12 testifying... [cross-talk]

13 SANDRA GUTIERREZ: I would like to...  
14 [cross-talk]

15 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: ...today... [cross-talk]

16 SANDRA GUTIERREZ: ...Chair Rose make  
17 another appeal for your help with filling the seats...  
18 [cross-talk]

19 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Oh, absolutely...  
20 [cross-talk]

21 SANDRA GUTIERREZ: ...and so any way that  
22 you could help that would be amazing because really,  
23 really want to get these boards fully filled so that  
24 we can begin our... [cross-talk]

25

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: And if you could...

3 [cross-talk]

4 SANDRA GUTIERREZ: ...community needs  
5 assessment... [cross-talk]

6 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: ...provide us with a  
7 list of the elected officials that need to make  
8 appointments that would be helpful, okay?

9 SANDRA GUTIERREZ: Thank you so much.

10 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you, thank you.

11 And, and we, we had been joined by Council Member  
12 Eugene, I'm so sorry. The next...

13 SANDRA GUTIERREZ: Okay, thank you so  
14 much.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Thank you so much.

16 [off mic dialogue]

17 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Oh, okay. And our next  
18 panel and only panel is Jack Chernak and when you get  
19 to the microphone would you identify yourself and  
20 your organization. Okay, identify... turn the mic on,  
21 give us a... [cross-talk]

22 JACK CHERNAK: Yes... [cross-talk]

23 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: ...give us your name.

24 JACK CHERNAK: Good morning... [cross-talk]

25

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: ...and your  
3 organization.

4 JACK CHERNAK: Good morning, my name is  
5 Jack Chernak and I am part of the Neighborhood  
6 Advisory Board, I am the Assistant Secretary at  
7 Neighborhood Advisory Board one in Staten Island. Can  
8 I read?

9 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: And you can begin your  
10 testimony.

11 JACK CHERNAK: Thank you. Good morning,  
12 my name is Jack Chernak, I am the Assistant Secretary  
13 for Staten Island Neighborhood Advisory Board One.  
14 Today I will testify on the youth services that are  
15 needed in Staten Island district 49. Our Council  
16 Woman Debi Rose is a champion for her constituents.  
17 Our Council Woman has advocated and fought for needed  
18 resources that have created a safer environment on  
19 Staten Island. She has personally fought for funding  
20 for violence prevention programs as well as after  
21 school programs that have resulted in proactive  
22 solutions for families and residents in her district.  
23 As great as she is, our at-risk neighborhoods are  
24 still in need of funding to keep crime down and to  
25 help support the youth in a positive way. We need

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 extra funding to help provide more summer youth jobs.

3 Summer youth jobs are one way to keep the youth

4 engaged in a positive way to make money. Being a

5 product of summer youth employment, I remember how it

6 saved me from the social ills of the 80's crack era.

7 I lost quite a few friends to the streets because

8 they didn't have a job. The same situation still

9 presents themselves today. after school and summer

10 school programs are needed for elementary age

11 students. Most are too young to qualify for summer

12 youth, but they still need to have an outlet and a

13 safe space to have fun. Parents also need to know

14 while they are at work that their children are in

15 safe environments. Youth programs are critical in at

16 risk neighborhoods. It is a way to build neighborhood

17 morale and to keep young people on the right path. If

18 we don't have funding focused on youth, we will bring

19 the incarceration rates back up. High school dropout

20 rates will increase and possibly teen pregnancy.

21 These are all things that can be curbed with proper

22 funding. Please continue to allocate funds to help

23 support our youth. I believe the children are our

24 future, let us do all we can to help ensure their

25

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 lives will be productive and positive. Thank you for  
3 allowing me to speak and to be part of this process.

4 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you so much,  
5 thank you for testifying and I, I just have a few  
6 questions for you, okay?

7 JACK CHERNAK: Sure.

8 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: You serve on the  
9 Neighborhood Advisory Board, right?

10 JACK CHERNAK: Yes.

11 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Action board... [cross-  
12 talk]

13 JACK CHERNAK: Very proud to do so as  
14 well.

15 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay, alright. Do you  
16 believe that they are effective and what challenges  
17 have you witnessed?

18 JACK CHERNAK: Yes, I do believe they are  
19 very effective, I like the way that we do the  
20 surveys, I believe that its very important that we go  
21 into the community to get a post of... [cross-talk]

22 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uh-huh... [cross-talk]

23 JACK CHERNAK: ...what the community is  
24 saying more than just having people from higher ups  
25 and maybe that are not from the community just saying

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 where the money should be spent so I do believe in  
3 the process. And some of the challenges I think we  
4 face, I would like to have more youth involvement, we  
5 are looking to have more youth come on... [cross-talk]

6 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uh-huh... [cross-talk]

7 JACK CHERNAK: ...we have youth groups, we  
8 are focusing on more of the youth to come in to give  
9 their... the way they feel and to maybe even possibly  
10 join so that this way they can become part of the  
11 Neighborhood Advisory Board and learn about the way  
12 that the process works and this way we can hopefully  
13 get the information out so that more people will be  
14 excited to do the surveys and understand the process.

15 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: You participated in  
16 the community needs assessment?

17 JACK CHERNAK: Yes.

18 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay, did you think  
19 that the... it was effective, and do you think that it  
20 actually captured the true needs and concerns of the  
21 community?

22 JACK CHERNAK: Yes and no. I would like  
23 to say that it, it did... we were able to go into the  
24 community, we were able to ask questions, we were  
25 able to again get a post of what came back, sometimes



1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 I also feel that it all depends on who we ask the  
3 surveys and the demographics of the people who fill  
4 out the surveys because that's the biggest part of  
5 the funding so if we as neighborhood advisory chair  
6 people or people who are involved in the... in, in the  
7 actual group... [cross-talk]

8 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uh-huh... [cross-talk]

9 JACK CHERNAK: ...we just need to get into  
10 more different diverse communities in order to get a  
11 real pulse on what's going on. When it comes to just  
12 my community or the north shore of Staten Island,  
13 let's say if I just went to one neighborhood... [cross-  
14 talk]

15 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uh-huh... [cross-talk]

16 JACK CHERNAK: ...and I asked these  
17 questions that wouldn't really be a real  
18 representation of the entire district.

19 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, you think that the  
20 community needs assessment should be broader, it, it  
21 should expand sort of the boundaries of the catchment  
22 area that the... it represents?

23 JACK CHERNAK: No, no I do believe that  
24 it, it does that, I just think that we might need  
25 more of a diverse staff, more of a diverse group of

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 members so that this way when we go out into the  
3 community it's being filtered throughout the entire  
4 community.

5 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, do you think that  
6 there should be more members of the... of, of the NAB  
7 or when you say diverse are you talking about what...  
8 [cross-talk]

9 JACK CHERNAK: I'm, I'm really just  
10 talking about age... [cross-talk]

11 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: ...economic... ethnically...  
12 [cross-talk]

13 JACK CHERNAK: Age... [cross-talk]

14 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Age... [cross-talk]

15 JACK CHERNAK: Economics as well... [cross-  
16 talk]

17 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uh-huh, uh-huh...  
18 [cross-talk]

19 JACK CHERNAK: As you can see, I'm not a  
20 very young man anymore and... [cross-talk]

21 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: I'm not going to  
22 mention...

23 JACK CHERNAK: ...and I just would love to  
24 see younger people involved because I think again  
25 like I stated here that they are the future so if we

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 can have them involved and get their... and get them to  
3 participate maybe more in surveys then I think that  
4 we can have a better representation of what's needed.

5 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: You think there should  
6 be more than one youth member on the... on the NAB?

7 JACK CHERNAK: Yes.

8 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Yes, okay. And do you  
9 have any other recommendations on like what the, the,  
10 the composition of the NAB should, should be or...

11 JACK CHERNAK: Well I'm going to be  
12 honest with you, Jorge does a real good job as well  
13 as, I forget your name, Anita does a real good job in  
14 getting the word out... [cross-talk]

15 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uh-huh... [cross-talk]

16 JACK CHERNAK: ...I just think it has to do  
17 with just participation from the community, I haven't  
18 figured that out on how we could possibly get to  
19 them... [cross-talk]

20 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uh-huh... [cross-talk]

21 JACK CHERNAK: ...but it is a need that I  
22 think that I would like to try to figure out.

23 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: And do you think that  
24 the, the needs that were expressed in the community  
25 needs assessment have been addressed?

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

2 JACK CHERNAK: Yes, yes and no. I believe  
3 that the last time we did the survey I don't think we  
4 had anything to do with substance abuse as part of  
5 the survey. Again, our community coming from Staten  
6 Island we are leading the nation in opioid overdoses  
7 so... and again for such a small population, us having  
8 one of the smallest boroughs here in New York City to  
9 lead the nation I think that speaks in volume or  
10 maybe on just some of those needs assessments and how  
11 they could possibly be changed.

12 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: And do you think the  
13 period of time between the three years duration  
14 between the community needs assessment and, and any  
15 other surveys that happen is sufficient, is adequate?

16 JACK CHERNAK: At times, no because I  
17 think things change, I don't want it to be a year, no  
18 but sometimes three years can be a long time when it  
19 comes to the needs of the community especially again  
20 coming from Staten Island there's a lot of changes  
21 that are happening, our north shores are going to  
22 start looking really, really different when it comes  
23 to Stapleton, Saint George as well as New Brighton..  
24 [cross-talk]

25 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Yeah... [cross-talk]

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

JACK CHERNAK: ...these are areas that are going to have some real economic development, businesses are moving in, I was even hearing certain gossip about certain housing complexes no longer being under NYCHA, you know and it becoming more of a public housing type of thing so, you know I'm, I'm very concerned about that and again three years could be a long time when it comes to the needs of that community in... on how quick it can change, I'm sure that, you know three years might be too long.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: I want to thank you so much for coming and testifying today.

JACK CHERNAK: Thank you for having me.

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thanks a lot Mr. Chernak, Jack. Well, seeing that there are no other individuals to testify I want to thank DYCD for coming and for testifying. I want to thank you Mr. Chernak for, for testifying today and this hearing is now adjourned at...

[off mic dialogue]

CHAIRPERSON ROSE: 11:52. Thank you for coming.

[gavel]

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 April 30, 2019