

PUBLIC HEARING

on the

**Proposed New York City
Child and Family Services Plan
Covering the period
January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2009**

September 20, 2006

4PM - 6PM

**Department of Youth and Community Development
156 William Street
New York, NY 10038
2nd floor auditorium**

Plan Working Group:

**Department of Youth & Community Development (DYCD)
Administration for Children's Services (ACS)
Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ)
Human Resources Administration (HRA)**

**Introduction to the New York City Child and Family Services Plan for
the period: January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2009**

Public Hearing

On September 20, 2006 the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD), the Administration for Children's Services (ACS), the Human Resources Administration (HRA) and the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), will convene a public hearing on New York City's upcoming Child and Family Services Plan for the period January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2009 ("the Plan"). This hearing will give the citizens of New York City an opportunity to comment on the areas that will be covered by the Plan. The Plan covers issues relating, but not limited to: children, youth and families, out-of-school-time programs, runaway and homeless youth programs, juvenile justice programs, child welfare and adult protective and domestic violence services.

The public hearing has been announced in The City Record and The New York Post, and invitations have been issued to the Board Chairs, District Managers, and Youth Committee Chairs of the City's 59 City Community Boards. All registered speakers will have an opportunity to testify. Those who pre-register will be scheduled to speak first. A stenographer will record these proceedings and all comments will be reviewed and included in the final Plan to be submitted to New York State's Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) in October 2006.

The Plan requires the City to describe strategic planning efforts, assess social service needs, outline resource allocation processes, and identify program outcomes and outcome monitoring procedures. The purpose of the Plan is expressed through the following OCFS planning principles and objectives:

- to support and acknowledge a local collaborative planning process inclusive of broad stakeholder involvement;
- to construct a planning process that has meaning and utility locally, while preserving accountability to state and federal requirements;
- to clarify a consistent planning process for counties;
- to support a process that focuses on outcomes for children, youth, families, adults and communities;
- to clarify the various components of planning; and
- to support the important respective roles of County Youth Bureaus and Departments of Social Services.

Citizens may testify to the above-mentioned goals and topic areas of the Plan following the delivery of testimony at the public hearing.

The following is an overview of OCFS-funded programs in agencies comprising the ICP Working Group.

Department of Youth and Community Development

Out-of-School Time (OST) Programs

After-school programs, once viewed as simply a safe place for the children of working families to stay until someone could pick them up, are now seen as an opportunity to contribute to the academic, social and emotional development of a young person. After-school programs offer children and youth the opportunity for enhanced academic programs and to improve their learning. Effective programming during the critical after-school hours also has the potential for reducing juvenile crime and violence, drug use and addiction, and sex and teen pregnancies.

In 2003, the City of New York began a year-long strategic planning process to design a more efficient and better coordinated system of Out of School Time (OST) programs for the city's school-age population. Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg initiated this OST system overhaul with the goal of consolidating and streamlining services and increasing accountability measures. These goals reflect the Administration's philosophy of making government more efficient and accountable while delivering the most effective services. The OST reform effort also builds upon the Administration's commitment to improving the academic performance of young people by insisting upon high standards and quality services.

The DYCD Out-of-School Time (OST) Programs for Youth is the largest after-school initiative in the nation. OST describes the major part of a young person's life that takes place outside of the school classroom – after school, on weekends, and during school vacations. This free time is optimal for developing a young person's social, emotional and academic capabilities. It also represents a time when many young people are without parental supervision and need to be in safe and supportive environments. As more and more parents enter the workforce, the City of New York is seeking to expand quality OST services to support young people and their families. Provided at no cost, the City's OST programs offer a balanced mix of academic support, sports and recreational activities, the arts and cultural experiences. OST programs not only build upon the school-day lessons, but they also open up new worlds and opportunities for youth.

Programs offer a wide range of services, incorporating youth development principles, including academic skills enhancement, culture, recreation and community building.

New York City's OST programs contain separate programs for elementary, middle school, and high school students. The programs are run by community-based organizations whose trained staff are familiar with the strengths and needs of young people.

For the first time, the City has collected and mapped programmatic and demographic data in a uniform way across multiple agencies and created a consolidated database on OST Programs. This data is being used to inform policy and program design. The maps provide a visual representation by school region and by zip code of OST programs, school performance data, and neighborhood risk factors.

The OST system is designed to bring resources into communities with the highest need. Funding pools is aligned with the 10 DOE regions. The amount each region receives is based on its share of the City's total youth population, youth living at or below 200% of poverty, and low performing schools. Additional targeting by zip code ensures that those neighborhoods and populations most in need of services receive them.

Objective: To provide high quality youth development programs for children during non-school hours.

Goals of OST programs are as follows:

- Provide a healthy, safe environment
- Foster high expectations for participants.
- Foster consistent and positive relationships with adults and peers, and a sense of community.
- Support the needs of working families.
- Support healthy behavior and physical well-being.
- Strengthen young people's academic skills.
- Support the exploration of interests and the development of skills and creativity.
- Support youth leadership development.
- Promote community engagement and respect for diversity.

Indicators for OST programs, as reported in the Mayor's Management Report (MMR):

- Enrollment, broken down by school level: elementary, middle, high school, and multilevel
- Percentage of programs meeting enrollment targets by school level: elementary, middle, and high school

Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) Services

Youth become homeless in New York City for a variety of reasons. They run away from homes where they may have been subjected to abuse or sexual exploitation, or exposed to domestic violence or substance abusing parents. Some are rejected because of sexual orientation, pregnancy, problems at school, or issues with drugs and alcohol. Youth leaving detention placements or those aging out of foster care may also find themselves homeless. While living on the streets of New York City, these youth are vulnerable to abuse and exploitation, including violence and prostitution.

In keeping with the federal Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHYA) of 1978 and current New York State RHYA regulations, DYCD funds programs that are designed to protect runaway and homeless youth and, whenever possible, reunite them with their families. In cases where reunification is not possible, these programs are designed to help youth progress from crisis and transitional care to independent living. Program activities and experiences are designed to assist youth in becoming healthy, caring, and responsible adults.

DYCD contracts with community-based organizations for the following services:

- Borough-based Drop-In Centers and transportation services
- Crisis Shelter
- Transitional Independent Living (TIL) Programs
- Street Outreach Services

Goal: Provide a high-quality city-wide continuum of care model for runaway and homeless youth, including appropriate referrals, short and longer-term shelter, safe transportation between facilities and street outreach services.

Objective: Provide safe and welcoming shelter and other appropriate services to RHY youth.

Indicators:

- Total number of Youth Served in RHY programs
- Percentage of runaway or homeless youth reunited with family, or placed in a suitable environment
- Total number of Crisis Beds
- Utilization rate for Crisis Beds
- Total number of Transitional Independent Living (TIL) Beds
- Utilization rate for TIL Beds

Administration for Children's Services (ACS)

Goals of Title IVB of the Social Security Act Subpart I

Goal: Families, including nuclear, extended and adoptive families will be strengthened and supported in raising and nurturing their children; in ensuring their children's connection to their heritage; and in planning for their children's future.

Objective: Maximize placement of children in foster homes within their own neighborhood by placing 23 percent of the children in foster care in their community district of origin. ACS will accomplish this objective through the continued execution of Neighborhood-Based Services.

Indicators:

- Number of families receiving services in the community district where they live
- Number of placements into foster boarding homes in community district of origin

Objective: Enhance the developmental and educational opportunities of children by ensuring availability and accessibility of child care services in communities. ACS will accomplish this objective through the ongoing provision of Agency for Child Development administered child care and Head Start services.

Indicators:

- Child care total enrollment
- Child care vacancies
- Head Start enrollment
- Head Start vacancies

Objective: Ensure a continuum of services through increased effective Preventive Interventions. ACS will accomplish this objective through the ongoing provision of Preventive Services.

Indicators:

- Number of families receiving preventive services.
- Number of families who were named in a State Central Registry report during the time their preventive case was open or within a year of their preventive case closing.
- Active Homemaking Services cases.
- Number of families receiving housing subsidies.

Goal: Children who are removed from their birth families will be afforded stability, continuity and an environment that supports all aspects of development.

Objective: Continue to expedite permanent families for children by reducing the length of time children remain in foster care prior to family reunification or adoption. ACS will accomplish this objective through the ongoing provision of Foster Care, Youth Development and Adoption Services.

Indicators:

- Number of children in Foster Care
- Number of new children entering Foster Care
- Children discharged from Foster Care
- Time to reunification
- Number of children aging out of the system to Independent Living

Objective: Complete 2,500 adoptions. ACS will accomplish this objective through the ongoing provision of Adoption Services.

Indicators:

- Children adopted
- Average length of time to complete adoption
- Number of youth in care with goal of adoption
- Time to adoption

Goal: Victims of family violence, both child and adult, will be afforded the safety and support necessary to achieve self-sufficiency (adult), and/or to ensure their continued growth and development (child).

Objective: Improve the Agency's ability to protect children from abuse and neglect by: responding to 100% of all abuse and neglect allegations within 24 hours and assigning an average of five new cases per worker per month. ACS will accomplish this objective through the ongoing provision of Child Protective Services.

Indicators:

- Reports of abuse and neglect
- Reports founded
- Number of Article X petitions filed in Family Court
- New cases per worker per month
- Average child protective specialist caseload

Goal: Adolescents in Foster Care and pregnant, parenting and at-risk teens in receipt of public assistance will develop the social, educational, and vocational skills necessary for self-sufficiency.

Objective: Adolescents in foster care and pregnant as well as parenting and at-risk teens in receipt of public assistance will develop the social, educational and vocational skills necessary for self-sufficiency. ACS will accomplish this goal through the ongoing provision of the Teen Age Services Act (TASA) Program as well as Foster Care Services.

Indicator:

- Active TASA pregnant/parenting client cases

Human Resources Administration (HRA)

Domestic Violence (DV) Programs

Goal: Victims of family violence, both child and adult, will be afforded the safety and support necessary to achieve self-sufficiency (adult) and/or to promote their continued growth and development (child).

Objectives:

- Enhance coordination between shelters and non-residential services to increase family stability
- Increase domestic violence victims' placement in permanent housing
- Enhance current DV prevention efforts through the Teen Relationship Abuse Prevention Program currently in 30 public high schools

Indicators:

- Number of domestic violence victims leaving shelter who are referred to the aftercare component of HRA's non-residential domestic violence programs
- Track the number of permanent housing placements made each week
- Track the number of high school students receiving counseling and participating in Teen Relationship Abuse Prevention classes

Adult Protective Services (APS)

Goal: Impaired adults, who are abused, neglected or exploited by others will be identified, have their situation thoroughly investigated and be protected.

Objective: Vary Outreach to Identify Impaired Adults

APS's focus over the coming year is increasing the variety of referral sources through continued community outreach to law enforcement agencies non-traditional referral sources (houses of worship, community groups, etc.), and individuals in the community at large. This strategy involves continued outreach to District Attorney Offices and non-traditional referral sources, supported through a NYSDSS funded special project in Brooklyn and Queens.

Indicator: Identification will be measured by the number of referrals received from the community and other sources.

Goal: Impaired adults who are at risk of harm, unable to make decisions on their own behalf, and refuse necessary services will be assessed and served pursuant to the appropriate legal intervention.

Objective: Meet NYSDSS Timeframes. Investigation of client situations can be measured by adherence to NYSDSS timeframes for initial investigation. APS's objective is to assure that it meets these standards in all borough offices over the coming year.

Indicator: Monthly monitoring of compliance and borough specific corrective plans if necessary.

Goal: The mental health, developmental, health and social service needs of impaired adults will be thoroughly assessed to assure that service plans with an appropriate mix and level of services are developed.

Objective: Evaluate Pre-screening Program to Determine Value of Expansion.

HRA is evaluating an APS proposal to implement pre-screening of Marshal referrals for two borough offices. If the pre-screening is implemented and successful it will be expanded to all offices and will reduce APS caseload.

Indicator: Reduction of referrals that go to field offices for a full assessment.

Goal: Place adults who are unable to live on their own in appropriate residential care facilities, including adult home-like settings.

Objective: The mental health, developmental, health and social service needs of impaired adults will be thoroughly assessed to assure that residential service plans with an appropriate mix and level of services are developed.

Indicator: Adults who require residential care will be placed in appropriate facilities.

Goal: Measure appropriateness of acceptances or rejections.

Objective: To assure that each case rejected has sufficient justifications for this action.

Investigation also will be evaluated by assuring that cases are appropriately accepted or rejected. APS has developed new procedures to assure such justification. It will use auditing teams to study rejections as to their appropriateness.

Indicator: Clients are protected if they receive the correct level of services.

Goal: Streamline the process for visiting and reassessing clients.

Objective: Meet NYSDSS standards for visiting and reassessing of clients.

APS will meet NYSDSS standards for visiting and re-assessment of cases. This will be monitored through material in monthly reports from borough offices. Achievement will be facilitated by borough specific remediation plans.

Indicator: Number of individuals referred who are visited within three working days.

Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ)

Goal: Provide custody and care of youth in secure and safe detention facilities

Objective: Maintain safety and security in detention facilities

The Department's key objective is to ensure the safety and security of residents and staff. DJJ will continue to expand the real-time Group-Oriented Analysis and Leadership Strategies (GOALS) performance measurement and management system, which provides current data on individual youth, and allows the Department to identify and respond to the needs of its residents.

Indicators:

- Youth-on-youth assaults and altercations
- Youth-on-staff assaults and altercations
- Searches conducted
- Contraband recoveries

Objective: Assure quality health and mental healthcare for youth

The Department is focused on providing quality care to youth in its custody, and manages the significant health and mental health needs of its residents through a comprehensive health and mental healthcare services program. The Department will continue to monitor indicators to identify and meet the needs of youth and to manage the provision of healthcare services, which includes rigorous screening, monitoring and treatment of health and mental health needs.

Indicators:

- Youth who received mental health services
- Youth who received medical screening within 24 hours of admission
- Youth seen within 24 hours of sick call report

Goal: Provide services to prevent youth from returning to the juvenile justice system

Objective: Maximize the effectiveness of prevention and aftercare services

The Department will continue to provide discharge plans for youth based on medical and mental health needs that refer youth to community based programs in order to maintain continuity of services after release. The Department continues to expand its programming for residents to include topics that address specific needs of youth, such as gang prevention, and to enhance youth development through leadership workshops, and the creative arts.

Indicators:

- Youth who received discharge plans (for State-bound youth and those released to parent/guardian)
- Readmission rate