

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

----- X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

----- X

October 16, 2017
Start: 10:17 a.m.
Recess: 12:59 p.m.

HELD AT: Committee Room - City Hall

B E F O R E: MATHIEU EUGENE
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Annabel Palma
Darlene Mealy
Margaret S. Chin
David G. Greenfield
Andy L. King
Laurie A. Cumbo

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

Bill Chong, Commissioner
Department of Youth and Community Development, DYCD

Andre White, Associate Commissioner
Youth Workforce Development
Department of Youth and Community Development, DYCD

Sandino Sanchez, Director
Teen Workforce Development
The Children's Aid Society

Elizabeth Clay Roy, Chief of Staff
Phipps Neighborhoods

Grant Coles, Senior Policy and Advocacy Associate
Citizens Committee for Children, CCC

Rebecca Gluskin, Chief Statistician
Measure of America

Ray Harmando, Program Supervisor
Education and Career Services
Chinese-American Planning Council, CPC

Gregory Brender Co-Director for Policy & Advocacy
United Neighborhood Houses & Campaign for Summer Jobs

[background comment, door bangs] [gavel]

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Good morning

everyone. Welcome to today's oversight hearing on Summer Youth Employment. My name is Mathieu Eugene, and I am the Chair of the Youth Services Committee. The last hearing on September—on Summer Youth—the last hearing on Summer Youth Employment Program was on February 25th, in 2016. During that hearing, DYCD allotted the increase in SYEP participants from the previous years. It's partial (sic) implementation of the Work Learn and Grow Program and its ongoing effort to increase the number of private sector employees. Some of the questions I asked DYCD included are the tracked—are the tracked participants offer the complete SYEP? Are participants evaluated their experience, and what if disconnected youth could be part of the Work Learn and Grow Program? I'm moving forward to learning what improvement or changes DYCD has made in those areas among others. Last year, the SYEP task force was convened by the Mayor Bill de Blasio, and New York City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito. The task force was responsible for assisting in the key areas where SYEP and WLG could improve and grow. The task force

gathered information from focus groups with over 70 key stakeholders including youth participants SYEP and WLG providers, employers and educators. Based on the information received from these meetings, the task force produced a report with a set of recommendations addressing some of the issues and concerns the focus group raised (coughs) including in these several recommendations where a set of pilot programs that DYCD was to implement this past summer with the intent that the outcomes of those programs will inform the agency's requests for result for next year's SYEP programs. As you are probably aware, the is now a six-week summer jobs programs between July and August that provide youth between the age of 14 and 24 with work experience, life skills training and much needed income. SYEP also provides workshop and job readiness, college exploration, financial literacy and opportunities to continue education and social worth. Programs are located with that community based organization and government, and return to the private sector as well. In 2015, there were 9,156 separate worksites throughout New York City located in all five boroughs. Youth have the point (sic) or option of applying for the program at

CBO or online. Applications are available from March to April, and candidates are then entered into lottery system specialized program for visible (sic) foster care, runaway homeless, and court involved youth are also available. As indicated, the Summer Youth Employment Program provides our New York City young people with summer employment, and educational opportunities both that teaches very important life skills as well. Before calling in the witnesses, I must assert a point that in all my years as a member of this City Council and certainly as the Chair of the Youth Services Committee, there has been issue near and dear to me than the trouble of our youth and the obstacles they face—they often face. We must keep our children engaged in both after school and in the summer month in addition to keeping them on the positive part that we enable them to reach their full potential as adults and lead a life filled with achievement and happiness. My background in youthful programming and my deep concern for all who are struggling in this society compel me to speak publicly, and as often as possible that right here in our great city there are literally thousands of young disconnected from their families and without a safe

place to sleep each night. That is the harsh reality that we in position, our first responsibility must never fail to consider on a daily basis no matter what else we do. Finally, we can't over-emphasize—we can't over-emphasize that the simple dignity gained from that first summer job must never be taken for granted. That first job has to ensure that in that any young, any youth so fortunate to be selected to by SYEP stay on track, and that there is hope for the future. No child in New York City deserves less than this. At time, I would like to my—to take—to take the opportunity to thank my committee and all the staff who worked very hard to make this hearing possible. I want to thank Aku Disharu (sp?), Michael Benjamin, Jessica Ackerman and also my Legislative Director Ethan Tucker for their hard work in preparing for this important hearing, and I would like also to take the opportunity to thank each one and all of you here, all the providers and all of you who are doing such a wonderful job in providing services to the young people of the good City of New York, and again, thank you very to all of you and welcome. Thank you. Will you please--?

2 LEGAL COUNSEL: Please raise your right
3 hand. Andre, too. Do you affirm to tell the truth,
4 the whole truth, and nothing but the truth in your
5 testimony before this committee and to respond
6 honestly to Committee members' questions?

7 COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Yes.

8 LEGAL COUNSEL: Thank you.

9 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Before I start
10 asking the questions, I just want to mention that we
11 have been joined by our colleague Council Member
12 Annabel Palma. She has to go because she to got to
13 chair another public hearing. [background comment,
14 door bangs] And again, Commissioner, thank you very
15 much for being here for this hearing.

16 COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Good morning,
17 Chair Eugene and members of the Committee on Youth
18 Services. I am Bill Chong, Commissioner at the
19 Department of Youth and Community Development. I'm
20 joined by Andre White, Associate Commissioner of
21 Youth Workforce Development. Thank you for the
22 chance to testify today on the Summer Youth
23 Employment Program, SYEP. We certainly appreciate
24 the City Council's commitment and support of SYEP
25 over the years. SYEP is a vital program that helps

young people gain work experience, explore careers, build skills and prepare for their future. Together we have made incredible progress. With the Council's strong support, Mayor de Blasio has doubled the size of SYEP over the past four years. DYCD is very grateful for these investments since by doubling the program size through baselined funding, DYCE and its providers have been able to plan more effectively. This has helped to ensure the sustainable, the sustainable development of quality job placements for young people that are engaging, generating interest in exploring future careers, and offer positive exposure to the workplace. Essentially, stable funding means a higher quality summer job experience. This past summer, New York City's Summer Youth Employment Program set a new record serving nearly 70,000 young people the largest SYEP cohort in DYCD's history. With support of the Center for Youth Employment, the City also had a record number of Ladders for Leaders participants serving 1,855 youth, an increase of 21% from 1,538 in 2016. Summer jobs for vulnerable youth who are homeless, court involved or in foster care increased by 4% from 3,050 to 3,170. Private sector worksites in 2017 comprise 45-

45% of SYEP worksites, a 17 point increase from the 20% in 2014. In 2014, we set a goal of 45% private sector worksites by 2017, and I'm proud to say we have achieved it. Our partnership with nearly 40 city agencies also contributed greatly to the success of SYEP with job placements once again in the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, the Department of Transportation and Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and new ones at the New York City Police Department, and thank you again to the City Council for your role in hosting participants this summer. Twenty-six council members and the Director of the Progressive Caucus provided SYEP and Ladders for Leaders with the chance to work in the Offices of elected officials. In total, employers at over 12,000 worksites hired youth in diverse fields such as financial services, technology, real estate, fashion, healthcare, small business, law firms, museums and sports enterprises. With such strong interest and partnership from the City Council, providers, advocates, and employers, SYEP is poised to continue its success. We are planning for the future of SYEP and have issued a Concept Paper that will inform the upcoming SYEP Request for Proposal,

RFP. The Concept Paper builds on the recommendations of the Summer Youth Employment Program task force, which was commissioned in June 2016 by Mayor de Blasio and Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito to assess the key areas of growth and improvement for SYEP and Work Learn and Grow with implications for the full portfolio of New York City's Youth Employment Initiatives. Other stakeholders represented on the task force included advocates, providers and the philanthropic sector. The Primary Task Force Report recommendations include strengthening connections between SYEP providers and public high schools to improve in-school career development for young people; serving younger youth through career exploration and project based learning; enhancing support services including pre-program orientation and counseling to help meet the unique needs of vulnerable populations. The Task Force Report also affirmed what we already know as SYEP's overall goal to provide youth with a set of work related experiences that prepare them to succeed in employment. Through SYEP participants achieve the following objectives: Develop social skills including communication, critical thinking, decision

making and problem solving skills and self-management; learn work norms and feature-and culture; understand career pathways and decision points including the interrelationship between educational attainment, relevant experience, demonstrable skills, and career advancement, and build professional networks, and finally, learn to manage money. I would like to thank Chair Eugene, Chair Ferreras-Copeland, Councilman Matteo, and the-and their chair of colleagues, Council Members Chin, Gibson, Rodriguez, Torres and Williams for their leadership on the Youth Employment Task Force, and for working with us to plan the growth and evolution of this-of these programs for future generations of participants. Since the release of the Task Force Report, DYCD has considered how best to address its recommendations. We anticipate making the final strategic changes to SYEP; expand access to underserved populations by enhancing existing programming or creating new service options for vulnerable youth, youth residing in public housing developments with high crime rates, youth with disabilities and youth at risk of gun violence. Enhance connections to school year learning and

instruction by supporting the new service models that offer youth more cohesive career development experiences. These models will provide students with summer experience to complement the school year academic and after school activities, and enable schools to give students summer enrichment activities including work experience. Implement a sector focused approach to align with New York City's Career Pathways approach and task force recommendations. DYCD continues to encourage opportunities in all sectors by emphasizing (sic) connections and partnerships with high growth sectors including but not limited to technology, hospitality, real estate, fashion, culinary arts, media and entertainment, business and professional services, healthcare, construction, transportation and manufacturing. Based on the task force recommendations and the strategic changes DYCD anticipates making to SYEP, DYCD issued an SYEP Concept Paper on September 13, 2017. We extended the comments one additional week until this Thursday, October 19th. We welcome all comments. So please submit them if you have not directly done so. The Concept Paper proposes three different SYEP RFPs: The Community based SYEP RFP will have three service

options. Younger youth will meet the developmental needs of young youth ages 14 and 15, and provide them with an enriching career exploration and skills based opportunities through project based training. Older youth will meet the developmental needs of youth ages 16 to 21, and utilize a sector focused approach that encompasses meaningful career exploration, college readiness and exposure to post-secondary education options, work readiness training and job placement in the relevant sectors.

Ladders for Leaders is designed to help eligible youth ages 16 to 22 transition to the professional world of work through internships in growth sectors. The Special Initiatives RFP will have five service options: Year-round sector focused programs is designed to strengthen connections between school year instruction and education with sector based summer job opportunities for youth ages 16 to 24.

Vulnerable Youth is designed to meet the needs of vulnerable youth ages 14 to 24 and provide them with supports and readiness skills to help them succeed. Vulnerable youth include homeless or runaway youth, justice involved youth, youth in-in or

aging out of foster care or youth and families who are receiving preventive services through New York City's Administration for Children's Services. SYEP for the Mayor's Action Plan, MAP for neighborhood safety is designed to expand access to career readiness as well as summer job opportunities for youth ages 14 to 24 residing in the 15 New York City Housing Authority NYCHA developments with some of the highest crime rates. Mayor de Blasio launched MAP in 2014 to reduce violence and make neighborhoods safer in and around the 15 NYCHA MAP developments.

Youth With Disabilities is a service option to increase job opportunities among youth with disabilities ages 14 to 24. While this is a new specific service option, all SYEP programs will continue to serve youth with cognitive, emotional and physical disabilities.

SYEP for Cure Violence will provide skill building and work readiness programming with Cure Violence participants for youth ages 14 to 24, most at risk of gun violence, gang involvement and/or violence related arrest. Cure Violence is an evidence based set of public health strategies to reduce gun violence operating in 17 police precincts

across the city. Finally, the school based SYEP RFP will fund programs designed to strengthen connections between academic learning and summer career exploration. Annual participants are youth ages 14 to 21 or enrolled in participating schools. Due to Mary de Blasio's leadership, we have made tremendous progress in expanding SYEP and supporting more young New Yorkers to gain the skills and workplace experiences that will support them to find stable and engagement-engaging employment as they transition to adulthood. The future if SYEP is very bright as we seek to develop more specialized models to meet the unique employment and skill building need of New York City's young people. We look forward to continued partnership with the City Council to ensure that the city's youth are well prepared to succeed in the labor force and contribute to the city's economy. Thank you again and—for the chance to testify today, and we welcome your questions.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much, Commissioner. Thank you. Commissioner, in your testimony you said that—you expressed that we have been able to—DYCD has been able to increase the number of youth served—served by SYEP where more

young people who are involved in the program, 70,000 that's remarkable, and I commend you for that, and I commend the City Council Members. All of us we work hard to make this happen, and I commend our city providers. That was historic, as we know, and we have--this is a giant step in the right direction. We don't get there yet, you know, because we in the City Council we have been fighting and advocating for every single young person in New York City to have a job, and now we got to continue to work toward that because--because the City of New York it makes sense that we provide to the young people the resources and the skill that they need to become the leaders of tomorrow. We see that all the time, and again I commend you and all the partners who worked hard to make this possible to serve more young people. Again, we don't reach the number we want yet, but by increasing the number of the young people that benefit from the SYEP, what can you tell us about improving the quality also of the services at SYEP? Increasing the number is wonderful, but what steps have--have been taken to make sure that by increasing the number, we keep--we protect or we improve the

quality of the services that we are providing to the young people through SYEP.

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: So, let me do the short-term response and the long-term. I think the quality will improve through the--meanwhile we're developing through the Concept Paper but in the short term one of the things that I think everyone has taken for granted is the fact that the program didn't have stable funding and, you know, I try to explain to my friends who don't work in government that the Summer Youth Employment Program didn't have a final budget until the two weeks before the start of summer, and people were kind of like, how does--why does government do that and for 16 years after the federal government stopped funding the Summer Youth Employment Program, the budget dance, as you're very familiar with always involved the Summer Youth Employment Program, and what--it has real world consequences on the quality of the program because when we find out what the final budget is two weeks before the start of summer, there's a mad scramble by everyone, by the staff at DYCD, by the network of hundred programs to find job placements. Last year, this past summer for the first time when we met in

January with all the Summer Youth Employment Program providers, we were able to tell them 80% of their budget, which is the city portion of it, and then by April when the state adopted its budget, we kind of knew that allowed people to do outreach to employers much earlier than ever. They were able to do better matching. They actually had the application out earlier. So, the more time to plan to do a match so that a young person is matched with a job that interests them, the better the quality of experience not only for the young person, but also for the employer. With the new models I think—I'm hopeful that once we do better alignment, and this is something I've always wanted to do, but you can't do it, if you don't know how much money you have so that when a young person goes to school for example a career in technical education school, and goes for a specific field, they can get a paid internship in that field. That's how I think we're able to make—take SYEP to the next level of improvement.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: You mentioned, you know, you're talking a lot about the budget issue, right, but I remember in the past public hearing, I always asked in addition to the budget issue, the

budget challenges, what are the--all the impact--all the challenges or obstacles faced by DYCD in providing services to the young people? I always ask that, but it seems that the budget has been always this--the key factor.

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Well, the other--I mean one of the other challenges has been trying to convince employers that are not non-profits to be work sites for these young people. I think in the many--for many years until this administration, there was a deliberate resistance to work with private employers. Part of it I think is because the way the funding worked. You didn't know how many young people you--you had to place until two weeks before the start of summer, but we set a goal in 2014 to--to increase our--the number of young people by 5% a year that--at the number of worksites that were private sectors by 5% a year, and we've fulfilled that. We went from 28% of the--of the worksites being private sector to now 45% of the worksites being private sector, and that takes time. That's takes a lot of help from other city agencies like the Center for Youth Employment, which has really helped to engage employers. They developed the manual for

employers on how-how to work with young people. I mean just as we had to expand the capacity of the non-profit community on how to work with private employers, we have to also be mindful of the fact that employers need to know how to work with young people. Most employers want a college intern. I mean that's the bias. So, when you're asking them to place a young person who is as young as 14 or 15 or 16, it's more of a challenge. So, that's something I think we're making steady progress with, and I think with the ne models, I think we'll be able again to move that that process even further along.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: You mentioned, you know, a time frame of two weeks before the beginning of SYEP for the fund to be affordable or to make the decision. I think that-that has been always a concern for all of us in the City Council. If you remember vividly when we were advocating to raise the number from 35,000 to where we are at right now, and the providers also mentioned, you know, expressed concern about the time frame. Even we increased the funding at that time, one of the concerns of the providers is the timeframe.

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Right.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: They won't have enough time--

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Right.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: --to strategize, to-- to--to strategize and to build up the program because this is not enough. Because even if the money is available and they got to know, I mean the young people that we--that youth that will be able to serve? How many employ--employees they need? How many, you know, are--are fit the need? So, but my--my--my thought is and I said that in the previous, you know, public hearing, and even in press conferences, why don't we start planning from the beginning instead of waiting from the last time.

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Well, so, there was--

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: [interposing] If we start planning earlier, and we'll be able to get better jobs and it will be better for the providers also. Every year is the same thing. So why don't we start, you know, at the very beginning, finish the budget right now? Let's get ready. Let's come together, you know, as the provider of a service that young people I mean City Council Members, DYCD, the

Mayor's Office Service providers. Let's come together and set priming for the next budget.

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: So I agree with you. In fact for the last four years, we've started earlier than ever in history. In fact that joke going on in DYCD is there years ago our first meeting was a week before the snow storm in January because we know to do a quality program even though it's six weeks. You need six months of preparation. The missing piece, which finally came into place when the money was baselined was we knew how much money because we would start meeting in January, but we wouldn't be able to tell a program how much money they had to work with. That's crazy. I agree with you, but this year in January when we convened the hundred programs, we told them that this 80% of your budget. When the state adopt this, it's money in April. So by April, everyone knew how much money they had to work with. We started the application for our programs earlier than ever. Ladders for Leaders this year because we know that's a high drop-off rate, and young people applied, but they offered multiple jobs. We—I think it was release in October of last year. This year we released the Summer Youth

Employment Application a month early. So, there's a good three months of time from the time young people were selected to place young people. So, that's important. I agree with you because if you don't—if you rush the process it's not going to benefit the young person, and it's not going to benefit the employer. What's happened in the past when—when we had a situation of the—of the budget dance, when you get the funding two weeks before the start of summer many of the young people who got selected for summer jobs ended up working in summer camp. Now, the summer camp experience is a great experience, but we want to give young people a diverse range of options and the more we can align it with what they're interested in, the better.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: So, you know, I commend again--(coughs) excuse me—DYCD and all the wonderful people who are part of the effort to share you know, disconnected youth, and also disadvantaged youth, and vulnerable young people, but also, you know, the effort of DYCD to include more service providers also. This is very important because we know that there are many companies and many institutions with great people, people with skills

and a good heart. They want to be part of what we are doing for the young people.

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Right.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: This is remarkable, but could you tell us how you select them? What is the process to select the--the, you know, the service providers in the private sectors?

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Well, let me say a few words, and then Andre can talk a little bit more of how it's worked in the past. So, I agree with you that, you know, again it's always good to have perspective on these things, and so when the last time the city did an RFP for SYEP, the baseline number of jobs was 23,000. So, the hundred programs we selected to run the program today they were originally being asked to serve 23,000 young people. This upcoming RFP the baseline number is 70,000. So, we've asked an awful lot of the network of community groups to triple, almost more than triple the number of young people they serve, and so part of our strategy is to bring on new providers so that we can share the load, and the responsibility because we know there's--there's a limit to how many young people can get quality experiences if--if you have so many

in one provider. So, part of what we want to do, and we've been actively engaging a host of agencies that don't run Summer Youth Employment Program to encourage them to consider applying. For example, we want to grow the program that serves homeless foster care and court involved youth, and so there are many groups out there working with homeless youth. We-we run, as you know, the Runaway and Homeless Youth programs in the city, and so we-we're reaching out to them to say hey, you may want to apply for this because this is a great wraparound service of the services we're already providing. Or, as, you know, we have 94 Cornerstone Community Centers in public housing, and since we have money dedicated to provide summer jobs in certain high crime public housing developments, we're encouraging them to consider. So, then you're absolutely right. We need to like grow the universe of people who provide the service. A hundred and one is not enough. Do you want to add?

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: So, I think what's really important for us, as the Commissioner mentioned.

LEGAL COUNSEL: State your name for the record, please.

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: Oh, Andre White, Associate Commissioner Youth Workforce Development Programs. As you know, we—we're going to be releasing a new RFP for programs beginning next year, and I think we're being very, very intentional around I would say that we get new providers into the fold. So, to give you some examples, for the past two or three months, myself, my team and the Commissioner has been meeting with various non-profit groups across the city to ensure that folks are aware that this RFP is going to be coming up beyond the group of providers we have, you now, right, because we do understand that based on the capacity that we have now, we need more folks to come on aboard to run the program.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: One of the questions that I asked, you know, previously is the quality of services that we are providing to the SYEP. We know that there are a lot of providers, a lot of participants, you know, businesses and not-for-profit organizations. What can you tell us about the coordination? Are you coordinated to do, you know, the—the—the job, the participation of those service providers, but especially communication working

together to ensure that, you know, everything is done properly and to make sure that you can get an idea of what do they need to do a better-better job to-to reach the goal that we are all, you know, looking for to better serve the young people and make sure that the young people benefit from that? Is there any participation from them, you know, when you take the decision and the decision making is there any follow-up that DYCD do to reach out to those providers and see how the program is going? Is there any need, you know, do you have everything that you need to serve the young people? What are your challenges?

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: You know, I can start and then Andre can talk about it. The-I think there's a strong partnership between the DYCD staff and the community based organizations running the program. Besides the monthly meetings, there are often daily communications either by phone or by email. There are regular site visits because this program won't work unless it works for them, and so it's-the credit of the DYCD staff and the staff of the non-profits they've done a Herculean job of really growing this program with last minute funding. So, you want to talk a little bit more?

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: So, again, we—we have what's called an open door policy for our providers, right, all of our workforce programs. Actually, across all our programs at DYCD, and within the SYEP Division each CBO is assigned what we call a program manager, and that program manager is responsible for ensuring that the CBO has all the resources necessary that they need to run the programs successfully, but beyond that, we also provide capacity building services. So, if you recognize that a CBO might be experiencing issues of a job development, for example, right. We have a contractor that we have on board, which is the Workforce Professional Training Institute that comes on to really assist that provider with kind of developing jobs, right, teaching them, giving them the tools necessary to be able to do that. Whatever issues those providers are experiencing, folks at DYCE are able to address them, whether or not it's internal or external. The second thing that we really, really try to do is to ensure that providers have a very open and honest conversation with us when they're having any sort of issue, right? Some conversations sometimes might be difficult, but we

want to hear the difficult conversation because collectively we have to work together to resolve whatever issues a provider might be facing because ultimately they're the ones on the ground running the program. So, I think it's important to understand that there's an open door policy, and there's also additional resources that we provide in terms of capacity to build the link for the groups that might need it.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Talking about the youth with disability with special needs, that's a vulnerable—the vulnerable young people or disconnected, homeless young people. We know that those young people, they are young people with very special needs, very special needs, especially some of the time there are also challenge in their families, and if you don't have a safe haven, a safe place in your family, and you don't have the family where their needs are fulfilled regardless of what you do in life, it's going to be a big challenge. I'm talking about those young people who have trouble or challenges in their families because they don't have a place to live, because mommy and daddy cannot, you know, provide them with the education that they need.

Could you tell us what are the--the specificity of the special services or the effort that DYCD is doing to fulfill the needs of those very special target population?

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: So, that's one of the exciting parts of the Concept Paper and we hope to be in the RFP is the Special Initiatives section, which understands that one size does not fit all. That the needs of a young person who may be homeless, court involved, who might be caught up with gang violence, or might have a disability that you need specialized services and providers who know how to work with these young people. So, I'll give you one example of how in the current model we're--we're getting better at serving homeless youth. A couple of years ago, I had a chance to go to a meeting at the Broome Street Academy, which is a charter school operated by the Door, and half the young people who attend this high school are homeless. That's part of their mission, and I didn't know they existed, and I thought what a great potential partnership. So the last two summers they've been a great partner with our SYEP program. They screen young people. They identify those that are ready to work, and I think 2

or 300 young people each summer from their student populations--it's a very small high school--have gotten guaranteed summer jobs because we recognize that they more e can provide specialized services the more we can connect with people who know how to work with young people with unique challenges, the better. But do you want to talk about the--our Concept Paper?

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: Yeah, absolutely. So, within--within the Concept Paper, as the Commissioner mentioned, there's a special initiative section, right, and we're very intentional around carving out these different groups because we recognize each young person along the development continuum is very different. For example, a young person with disability, the services that you provide would be very different from a young person who might be runaway or homeless or out of the foster care system. So, the--the intent there is to really get groups who are very, very good at working with these young people in whatever area they're specializing in right? I'd like to say our current providers are generalists, right? They're good at job development, placing young people in jobs, providing supports and wraparound services, but they might not necessarily

have the skillsets necessary to work with a specialized group. So, it's very important to us to recognize that there's that gap, and we want to make sure that the groups that need to work with these young people are aware of our RFP or would apply to the RFP and bring the skills necessary to work these young people so they—they could have a meaningful summer job experience.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: (coughs) When I mentioned that—when I asked you to talk about the, you know, the—the different effort that has been made to fulfill the need of the, the vulnerable or disconnected young people, I was thinking the training of the staff, the staff who are engaged in a role in SYEP saving those young people. What type of training that they receive? What type of, you know, qualification that they have? Like say for example trouble youth, they will always be in trouble. They need people who understand, you know, their situation, people with skill that can address, you know, their—their issues? Let's say, for example, young people in gangs, this is a big issue, a big issue. I'm talking about that because as somebody who has been serving young people for about 15 years,

those young people they are really in trouble. I know that there has been a lot of money, a lot of funding available for that, a lot of wonderful people, great people they have been doing any effort that they can do to see if they can resolve that, but this is a big issue. Let's say for example the language barrier. We know that many young people they come from families, immigrant families from all over the world, and unfortunately some of the time, they are facing also the--the cultural barrier. We know that, the language barrier. So, what exactly DYCD is doing to make sure that DYCD has not only good people, people with heart, dedicated people that those people have the tools they need, the training they need to address those issues? Let say, for example, I was watching the TV. I think it was yesterday or this morning very quick, and I saw a young girl talking about, you know, how upset, offender and related that she is because the teacher said that she has to speak English. Something like that. She speaks Spanish, and she was as I stated. This is the type of, you know, the things that I'm talking about.

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: [interposing]

So--

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: So, they send a dozen people, they are special people, they have different needs. How we can come together in these two service--not service providers, but the people who are serving the young people, the skill and the tools they need to make sure that their services they are rendering to the young people is excellent?

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: So, central to all the programs that we designed at DYCD is--is the expectation that there's cultural competency that people who seek funding from us have to demonstrate the ability to work with diverse communities, and we have I think pretty good coverage in communities across the city of New York serving different ethnicities. So, that's an important value of DYCD but, you know, we also recognize the city is constantly changing and so we're constantly looking for ways to reach underserved communities. To give you an example, the last two summers, I've gone on Bengal-Bengali Television to--to talk about the Summer Youth Employment Program because that's a growing community that has not been served by the Summer

Youth Employment Program. I did a visit in Queens earlier this year of the Tibetan Youth Center, and we fund and after school program with the Tibetan Youth Center, and there's a growing Tibetan community in Queens and I believe it's Astoria, and I told them about the Summer Youth Employment Program, and they said oh, we know about it because we work with HANAC a Greek organization, and they place young people who are Tibetan through the HANAC Assemblies and Playing (sic) Program So, I think there's a strong commitment by DYCD and all the non-profits that we fund to serve a diverse segment of New York City. On the issue of disconnected youth, we fund separately a lot of programs that throughout the schoolyear for young people are not in the workforce and not in school, and so what we're trying to do now is young people, and the Summer Youth Employment Program is open to anyone regardless of whether they're in school or not. So, we're getting better at doing referrals. So, when a young person comes into the Summer Youth Employment Program, they may not be in school, but they've gotten their first work experience in the Summer Youth Employment Program. There's a connection that I referred to the other

programs that we fund so that we can build on the SYEP experience.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Yeah, there are certain issues, you know, facing young people that are very, very complicated and serious issues that require, you know, collaboration, working together. Let me mention bullying for example. Bullying in school and the street, as well as other places in New York City, is a big issue. You are going to remember that two young people were stabbed by other young people because of a bullying situation, and I think that as a city, as a society we may have an opportunity to come together to address these type of issues. So, for example, DYCD—does DYCD offer some type of, you know, peaceful conflict resolution, you know, in the treatment that, you know, in the services? Because if the young people don't know how to address those issues, you know, a conflict even if you provide them with jobs and with everything, but we will fail to have them become successful and also to understand that to succeed, they are certain, you know, behavior that they should have. Is there any conflict resolution, peaceful conflict resolution treatment or course--

2 COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: So, I'll-I'll--

3 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: --[interposing] and
4 other, and other, you know, appropriate treatment
5 that will help the young people, you know, be able to
6 address the issues of conflict?

7 COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: So, I'll start
8 because I know a big part of the Summer Youth
9 Employment Program is an orientation for every young
10 person who's given a job, and Andre will go into a
11 lot of what's provided in that orientation session.
12 But I know the big thing that we emphasize with many
13 young people is self-advocacy that they have to speak
14 up for themselves. It's an important skill, and I
15 know this personally because we've gotten complaints
16 from young people about particular worksites, and
17 many times we investigate and the complaints are
18 legitimate and we remove the worksite because they
19 are either asking the people to do inappropriate
20 work, or there's other issues of safety and health.
21 So, self-advocacy is something we-it's engrained in
22 the design of the program because we want young
23 people to have self-respect for themselves and for
24 where they work but Andre will talk a little bit
25 about what's covered in the orientation.

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: Within the program we have standardized curriculum that covers six core areas that we focus on from career readiness training, college exploration, financial literacy, and health education. Under the health education umbrella, there's a section with the curriculum that really focuses on how do you with conflict in the workplace, right. As you know, all these young people sometimes it's their first time working or they might not necessarily know how to deal with conflict. So, there's a very comprehensive section where providers are responsible for delivering these—this particular topic to young people. What we have seen over the years, and I think I—I would say for the most part a lot of young people when they show up to their worksites for their most part perform well, right? They show up on time. They—they listen to their supervisors. They execute what they—what they have to execute, and I think a lot of this has to do with training that the providers provide before they're actually placed at the job. Is that going to resolve every issue at the work site? No, it's not, but for the most part, we've—we've recognized that

the training has been useful based on what the providers are I think with any young people.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: And then I—I must say that the—the SYEP is a wonderful program, a wonderful program helping so many young people, and I—I used to speak to even elected officials, successful professionals right now. They are still talking about the opportunities that they had to go through the—in SYEP. It's a wonderful program, but you just mentioned that part of the program is college, college exploration, but what about—we know that there are many young people who won't be in college, many of them for many reasons. Not because they don't want to, not because they are not qualified, but there are many reasons why a young person, you know, won't have the opportunity to go to college. So, is there anything available for them also to prepare them to succeed in life because we prepare them to go to college? What about those who have the opportunity to go to college, and what part of the SYEP? What is available, you know, for them in case. In terms of the SYEP program, do you have any type of approach to identify or to try to figure out those who won't be able to do—go to college even

I know that is difficult, or to offer all of them the option, you know, the opportunities to be prepared for college and also to be prepared to succeed in life even they don't go to college?

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: So, let me start with something that—a new approach that we have adopted, and we're moving ahead full steam on which is how to integrate services at DYCD. In the past what would happen is, you know, the Summer Youth Employment Program would be here, the After School Program would there, the Literacy Program would there, and they didn't talk to each other, and so we've made it a goal of DYCD over the next—over the last three years just to make it easier for people to access multiple services. Because you're right. When a young person—when a family comes to DYCD from the program, they usually have more than one issue, and the easier we make it to connect them to other services in the same neighborhood we're doing that. We have a new app for example called Discover DYCD. It just won an award by New York State as the best app for use by the public. It allows a person to just type in their address, and they can find out what services DYCD funds in that neighborhood. So, a

young person who may want a literacy program can connect to that service. A young person who may want, you know, other services that when they exit SYEP, can access services, and as I said earlier, we're making a much more rigorous effort to when a young person exits a program another door opens. Because you're right, not every young person is ready to go to college. Sometimes they have to do other things before they can afford college. So, with this new strategy of integrating services, it's how we want to make sure we're using every dollar well.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Well, let me ask—let me say that we have been joined by Council Member David Greenfield. He left, but he will return very soon, and we have been joined also by Council Member Margaret Chin. Thank you, Council Member. In terms of disconnected youth or youth with troubled issues, we know that most of the challenges upon them facing those young people come from their families most of them because they are a broken family, there are issues in the family. Do you have any type of, you know, program or approach working together with the parents to try to address the issues that they face in the family in order to ensure that—that SYEP

services are more successful? Again, the communication or working together with the parents?

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: I think many of the programs particularly ones that serve younger youth, those that are 14 or 15 have much more active engagement with the parents. As young people get older, as you know, they become more detached from their parents and stuff. So, I think parental involvement is always in part of the recruitment process. Parents are very—parents of younger youth are very involved in the selection. I know just one personal example. A person who works for me she took the day off because her 14-year-old son got his first summer job, and she wanted to make sure everything went off well. And so, that's part of how we encourage the non-profit agencies to involve the parents. I think it's become a little easier now that the funding is more certain. So, you're not rushing at the last minute to place a young person. You have some sense. If you select a young person in the spring to involve the parents in—in the same experience especially if it's their first summer job.

2 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: (coughs) On the
3 disconnected youth who are served, what happened to
4 the disconnected youth after SYEP ended?

5 COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: So, Andre can
6 talk about some of the programs that serve
7 disconnected youth. Yeah.

8 ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER HILL: So during
9 the SYEP process, we do what we call a deep
10 assessment, right, in terms of figuring out if a
11 young person is going back to school or what the
12 transitions will be post SYEP. For those young
13 people who have no connection to any form of-form or
14 education or training or a job opportunity we then
15 provide a listing of opportunities that they could
16 actually think about. Internally at DYCD we have a
17 number of programs targeted towards young people who
18 are not in school, not working. Our OSY program,
19 which is Out of School Youth Program, it's geared
20 towards young people ages 16 to 24 who is not in
21 school and not working, and we provide vocational
22 training for those young people along with some HSC
23 prep, right. There's also a component that we
24 included last year where young people actually get an
25 internship opportunity, and we could work up to 150

hours a week. There's also the Young Adult Internship program, which is an internship program for 12 weeks. Again, geared towards young people who are not in school, not working. Typically, I would say 50% of those young people have already attained their high school diploma, and they're engaging internship for 14 weeks and the providers are responsible to connect them to a job or connect them to some sort of advanced training or and educational program, but there's also nine months of follow up that happens after they exit that program to ensure that they're getting the support that they need to be successful. There's also the Young Adult Literacy Program, which is geared towards the young people again that are disconnected, not in school, not working, but obviously want to work on their literacy. They want to work on literacy, abilities to make sure that they're able to pass a tape test and go onto do the HSC, and eventually get placed in some sort of formal training, and we also have the YAP Plus Program, which is in partnership with ACS where we provide internship opportunities for young people who are in the foster care system or in the larger system as well. So, there's an array of

programs that we provide. There's a menu that young people could select from based on their needs or where they are in their life.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Yeah, you're talking about the programs. How many of those are disconnected youth? How many are there?

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: You're-- you're--I'm sorry, you're asking me how many--?

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: How many in the SYEP program? How many are disconnected youth?

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: Oh, so right now most of our--between 21 to 24.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: 20?

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: No, no. I'm trying to explain to you SYEP goes up to age 24, right. Between that age bracket 21 to 24 there's roughly 3,000 young people in that age bracket?

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: It's 2,000?

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: 3,000.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: 3,000?

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: Right, of which a percentage of that number of those young people are disconnected. I could get back to you guys with that specific number, but it's not a large

number of young people. Eighty percent of the young people that participate in SYEP are actually in school, right, or high school I should say, or the large majority go back to some sort of training or there's college or some sort of educational program.

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: We recognize that a young person who is not in school, not in work needs more than a six-week job. That's the four to five programs that Andre talked about are year-round programs because if you're not in school and you're not in work, you need a lot more help, and a job sometimes is just the final piece of the puzzle. You need—you need help getting a GED. You need case management services, and that's why the Young Adult Internship Program, the Out of School Youth Program, the—all these other programs that we have to—that are geared to the special needs of disconnected youth are—are better fit, and then if they're ready for Summer Youth Employment Program, they can apply, but sometimes the SYEP is the end of the process, not the beginning of them.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: But those 3,000 disconnected youth, were they this way to all the

other organizations or programs at the end of the program?

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Yeah, every other person who exits who's disconnected is connected to other services because we want to build on this one experience, and that's been the--the challenge in the past is that SYEP was a separate program. It didn't connect to other programs, and so with the new data system, with the easy referral system, a young person who exits the program will at least be able to know what other services they can access.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Could you mention some of the programs that were referred to?

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: They are the ones that Andre just went over. Do you want us to repeat?

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Yeah, could--could you repeat them for me?

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: So, it's the Out of School Youth Program. Our of School Youth Program, OSY Program; the YAIP, the Young Adult Internship Program; the YAIP, which is the Young Adult Literacy Program, YAIP Plus, which is in

partnership with ACS. So, those are several of the big buckets. Internally, at DYCD, we also refer folks to Workforce 1 Centers. This one that's operated by SBS.

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: We can send you a list, okay? Would that be helpful with the description?

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: So, what about all the private organizations and other situations?

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: The what? I'm sorry.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Do you refer them to other institutions or private institution, business--

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: [interposing]
Oh, so you want the--

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: [interposing] --or all the non-profit organizations.

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: So, as I said in my testimony, there's been a three-year campaign to expand the involvement of the private sector in Summer Youth Employment Program and, you know, at one point the city deliberately didn't reach out to employers. So, with the help of the Center--of the Center for Youth Employment, we've really increased

the number so that 45% of 12,000 plus worksites last year, were in the private sector, and they run the gamut. They run from O'Dell, which for three consecutive summers has made every store in New York city a worksite to small mom and pop businesses in the community. So, I think, you know, there's a strong commitment by-by this administration to engage the private sector in employing young people whether they're in school, whether they're disconnected youth.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: So, providers also indicated that 14 and 15 years old may be disconnected from applying to the younger youth program if it's only paying 700 stipend. Was this concern highlighted by youth who participated in the SYEP this summer?

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: [off mic] You can answer that.

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: Okay. So, let's take a step back. The—the goal of the younger youth model youth model that we're proposing in the new Concept Paper is really to ensure that young people become work ready, right? What we've seen over the years is those young people ages 14 and 15

they are not work ready. So when we them at a -with an employer, for the most part the employer feels as if their bid is sitting, right? They don't feel as if they're getting the necessary skills that they would expect from an intern throughout this summer. So, with that said, it was important to develop certain competencies that young people need to be successful in the workplace and the best approach that we have seen not only locally, but across the country is have them engage in project-based learning opportunities, and the focus there is really work within this training, right. So covering topics from how do you write a resume? Right. How do you interview? What are your expectations? What expectations when you get into a job, right? What are your responsibilities in terms of requesting they are on time, right, and making sure that young people understand these different elements because it's important for them to be successful at any job. And over the years, that has not been really successful with-with the younger youth, right. So, I think it's important just to get them in a classroom, making sure that they have quality skills and hopefully after two years they would be read to be place with

an employer. In terms of the stipend issue, we did a pilot this summer as you know of the Career Program. Young people really engaged. They really enjoyed being a part of the pilot. They appreciated getting a stipend. That was definitely not an issue for the young people that we work with. There are really more excited about the experience and the ability to work on the projects that they worked on.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Council Member Greenfield is back. I want to give him the opportunity to ask some questions, and I will get back to you later on. Yes. Council Member Greenfield.

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate it. So, I-I appreciate all that you folks are doing. I know it's sort of the issue of Summer Youth Employment Program is sort of a moving target and it's challenge to sort try to make sure it's working as efficiently. I-I guess I just want to under just for starters-right now my understanding is that for-well, why don't I ask you. How many applicants right now versus how many folks you're able to put into the Summer Youth

2 Employment Program? [background comment] As it
3 stands right now, the last summer.

4 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: So, this
5 summer we received over 147,000 applications. We
6 were able to place 69,718 young people in jobs.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: You say it's
8 how many applications?

9 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: 147,000.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Okay. So,
11 around 40% roughly?

12 COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: NO, that's a
13 little bit more.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Yeah, a
15 little bit more. Yeah, give or take.

16 COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Right.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Okay.

18 COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Well, the other
19 factor is that there's a huge drop off. To fill the
20 69,000 jobs we have to make many more job offers
21 because young people decline.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Okay, that's
23 fair.

24 COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: And so, it's a--
25 so, it's not--it's not a simple math that--

2 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: [interposing]
3 There isn't necessarily a correlation. Some people
4 applied. They're not necessarily gong to show up to
5 work, but there definitely is--there are additional
6 people that would like to attend versus the slots
7 that exist.

8 COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: But a much
9 smaller number than half.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Okay, that's
11 fair. The point I guess--I guess is that right now
12 that for every one person--for every one slot there is
13 one pint something people that would like to fill
14 that slot. Yes?

15 COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Right.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Okay. So,
17 the system right now is pretty popular and one would
18 argue pretty successful to your system. I'm arguing
19 it's pretty successful, Commissioner.

20 COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Yes, yes.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Commissioner,
22 it's a good thing you agree with.

23 COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Yeah, it's--and
24 I think that most of the--
25

2 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: [interposing]
3 If I was a commissioner and a council member say we
4 have a successful program--

5 COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: [interposing] I
6 mean I think the challenge is--

7 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: --I would
8 chalk it up, and say yes, thank you, Councilman.

9 COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Yeah, so it's--
10 it's success attracts interest and so I think the
11 important thing about the Summer Youth Employment
12 Program that again historically it is respected, it's
13 important, when it operated within the Department of
14 Employment, there was an artificial cap on the number
15 of applications. They would print 60,000
16 applications, and that was it.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Yeah.

18 COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: When the
19 program moved to DYCD, we were one of the first city
20 services that moved to an online application. So,
21 when you make it easier for apply. More people apply,
22 and then more people will say I'm interested and then
23 will drop out. So, that's why I think the drop-off
24 is important because it doesn't necessarily mean that
25 every person who applied wanted a job. It was like

their Plan B if their summer job didn't come through. So, it's been successful, and I think we've made a lot of progress in not only serving more young people, but increasing the engagement of the private sector.

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: They're kids. It's the first time that they're applying for a job in many cases. Sometimes they don't show up. I get it. It happens to my officer here. We get interns and they come through the process and they apply, and they're really excited, and then a week before they find out that their buddy is going on vacation, and there went their excitement for the job working in Council Member Greenfield's Office. I happen to think working in my office, right is a better gig than traveling Europe, [laughter] but some people would disagree with me.

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Really?

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: But I certainly—I certainly hear that. So, that's good. I mean it's not a criticism. I certainly understand it, and I think that the point that I'm making is that right now it's a relatively successful program. You have a lot of people who want to participate.

We're getting generally good feedback. Now, the proposal, as I understand it, seems to have some very significant changes. I'm just trying to understand why it is, you know, sort of the old adage if it ain't broke, don't fix it, and normally in this body we're turning around and yelling and screaming and saying this is isn't working. This is horrible, and now you guys are coming and saying we have a successful program. We're making some tweaks at the edges, which is both for the 14 and 15-year-olds and also the older kids. So, can we break it down and sort of get a better understanding of why are we making the changes to 14 and 15-year-olds? It seems to me just based on the data that I have that that's always been a challenging population, right? Similar to the issues that we discussed, which is when you're 14 and 15 unfortunately, you don't have the same interests as a 17, 18, 19 and 20-year-old, and then on the flip side, what are we doing in terms of—in terms of the age cap on the other end? So, can you just give me a little more clarity on—on how that's going to work, and what you're trying to achieve and what your experience has been specifically with the 14 and

15-year-olds as it relates to the Community Service Class Education Model?

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: So, a lot of the--the proposed changes came through as a result of the City Council and Mayor Task Force that met last year began to take a fresh look at these programs. So the 14 and 15-year-old and Andre can talk a little bit about it, but it's a lot of base on meeting the needs of young people where they're at. As you know, it's--it's a challenge to find a job for a 14-year-old. In fact, even to working in a summer camp you have to be at least 15. So, it's--so we don't want babysitting. We want it to be a meaningful pre-employment experience so that young people can really enter the workforce with a certain basic knowledge skill. As far as the older--

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: [interposing]
Well, Commissioner, I'm sorry. Before you get to that, I just want to clarify because maybe I'm just not understanding this correctly. My understanding is that we're moving away from the model of 14 and 15-year-olds who are going to have more hands-on experience to less hands on. We're moving away from that model to closer to I guess what we would call

group activities. Is that--am I misunderstanding that, is that not my understanding?

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: [interposing] I would say that we went from babysitting, which is what we've heard from the employers is that what do I have a 14-year-old do that will add value to my experience as an employer? I mean that's a real challenge that--

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: [interposing] It's always frustrating for me. When I was a lawyer, and 14-year-olds weren't drafting my legal papers. I hear that.

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Yeah, so-so--

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: [interposing] Yes.

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: --so we wanted-- so I think one of the unintended consequences--

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: [interposing] That was a joke, Commissioner, by the way. Just so you know. For the record, I never asked my 14-year-olds to draft legal papers. Part of it, you know, they show up. They sit, they experience, they see, they come to meetings, you know, they make coffee.

Like it's kind of like part of the--part of the job, right I mean, yeah.

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Yeah, well, I believe it might be helpful if Andre talked a little bit about the pilot experience with LAMP this--this summer and what we got out of that experience because that really has informed a lot of the thinking. Yeah.

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Alright, let's break up. Well, I just want to focus on both of the extremes for us. So, the 14 and 15-year-old, why are we moving more from what we would--what I am calling a hands-on working experience and you're calling the babysitting model. Why are we--why are we changing that? [background comment]

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: So, I think it's important to understand that--and I'll--I was SYEP Director for five years, right? I have been at DYCD for a very long time, and one of the--the things we recognize providers would always have severe difficulty developing meaningful jobs for young people ages 14 to--and 15 years old. In fact, when we would get funding two weeks before the program would start, right, we have to allocate

additional slots, one of the pushbacks I would get from providers year after year I would take additional slots for the older youth, but I would not take additional slots for the younger youth because I can't develop jobs for them, and if I do develop jobs for them, they're not going to be good meaningful jobs, right. So, that's something I have experienced myself and, you know, as we think about SYEP and the direction that we're moving, we want to ensure that we are—we are creating a program that young people could benefit from in the long term, right. We want to ensure that they're developing and acquiring skills that they use in their lives after they leave the program. So, the project based learning—the Project Opportunity Program—that's like—it sounds like a mouthful, is really ensuring that young people work together right, team building right? Understanding the—the different things that you need to learn to be successful in the workplace. A lot of them are green. At 14 they don't understand what a resume is, what a cover letter is, right. So, we want to make sure that they understand those different pieces before we place them into a job, and just to talk a little bit about our experience this

summer with the pilot, the Career Pilot in conjunction with-DOE, which was fairly successful and young people were engaged in projects around energy consumption, right. They have the ability to work on different projects to propose different ideas, work in groups. They did presentations with the folks at the Mayor's Office. We were very engaged. We got a stipend, but more importantly, it built their confidence where they're able to do presentations, right. They're also able to develop resumes and write cover letters and-and be able to be prepared for more like intense set of job opportunity when that-when that presents itself

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: I don't know. Call me skeptical. I'll tell you why. I think what you're describing essentially is some sort of watered down version of school for kids. I'm just being blunt. I'm giving you my perspective, right. When I was 14 I was junior counselor, and when I was 15 I was a counselor, and guess what, I had no idea and didn't know how to write a resume until I was 21, and I turned out okay. Nobody said I turned out great. It sort of depends on what side of the political spectrum you're at, but most people will say I turned

out okay. I think the point is that I'm making is that-that, you know, it's very easy to do what you're doing in a pilot program, which is to get a particular corporation or an organization to focus and to say wow let's make something really cool and exciting, but mostly that doesn't happen. And there were traditional opportunities such as, for example, being a camp counselor or a junior counselor or a waiter where it maybe more fun and less, you know, academic, and I'm a little bit concerned honestly that you're rigging the system towards the 14 and 15-year-olds really just to those who let's call it our more academic or higher IQ or more experience interested rather than folks who are just looking for a job. My other concern is that it seems to me once again if I'm making a mistake on either one of these because it's a complicated Concept Paper. I'm not an expert, and you guys are. So please let me know. It seems to me they are also reducing the stipend as well, right. Whereas, this year the stipend for some for the work or that program would have been higher, and the stipend is getting lower, right? So, it's sort of like a double whammy in the sense that so now a 14-year-old has to be (a) more academically

interested, and more wonky to go in to meet with some like really cool-- I don't know. I mean God bless these 14-year-olds, but I don't know a lot of 14-year-olds who are like I really want to learn about alternative energy and hang out and do like solar panels all summer. And then that's (a) and then (b) I' getting paid less o do that. So, I'm a little bit concerned honestly that, you know, I think in our quest to perfection we might be harming the good, which is that if I have a kid--this is my view, and once again, I'm--I'm not the expert that you are and I'm not an academic. I just looked at it from a real world perspective as somebody who's the father of three boys. If I have a 14-year-old kid who wants to work in the summer, I'm pretty happy, right. If my 14-year-old wants to work and do a job, quite frankly, if that job involves making coffee, I'm very pleased to have it. Honestly, as a father, I do not need my child to have like mega experience, and if my child is making twice as much money, which I can tell you for a 14-year-old it's a very big deal, then and making half, essentially what I'm saying is hey my dear 14-year-old next summer good news, you're going to get to hang out with a bunch of folks, and you're

going to wear a sweater vest and tie, and you're going to come in and you're going write Concept Papers and at the end of the summer you're going to writ a resume. I don't know, I think a very high percentage of kids would be like no thanks. I'm going to skateboarding instead versus and you're going to get paid have then as opposed to just hang out and be like junior counselor or waiter or assistant lifeguard or even the kid, quite frankly who makes coffee. I-I-once again. I know what you're say this isn't as high minded as it should be, and I get. It's just like when we say every single-ever single person should go to college and get a graduate degree and professional. It's just not the reality of the world that we work in, and if you're asking the youth, the value of the youth, taking a kid off the street to me has a value that's more than simply saying well let's make sure we're getting every bang for our buck. So, I'm just being blunt. I'm very concerned about that. I think that we're sort of throwing out the baby with the bath water to borrow a term from my Christian friends. I think you have a generally good concept. In the effort to improve it, I think you're throwing the--the broader concept which

is that the main purpose of Summer Youth Employment in my view is to get kids a job. It doesn't have to be a perfect job, but it's a job. Let me tell you something. My first year that I was a waiter, I screwed up a lot, and I got yelled at a lot, and I didn't make a lot of money, but it was a good experience and I learned from that. Then when I became a junior counselor, it was the same thing. When I became the counselor, all those experiences helped me, and I'm telling you this is not an exaggeration, I did not know how to write a cover letter until I was 20 or 21 years old, and that's okay because those aren't the experiences that every single 14-year-old needs. Some kids are going to be the Mensa kids, which is in my view what you're shoot for over here. The 14-year-olds who can write the cover letters, and they can have the great brilliant ideas, and we can feature on 60 Minutes who really came up with this really clever idea on how to save the world. Other kids are going to kind of be like me, right, you know, which is, I don't know. I'm trying to figure out what I'm doing this summer. Am I going to hang out with my friends and just, you know, go out and, you know, back in the day it was

little bit less risqué. So, you know, maybe you went out and played arcades. I don't know what the young kids are doing today versus am I going to go and actually get a job and have some people yell at me, and I am probably going to screw up, but you know what, I'll make a few bucks and I'll get some experience. So, I'm weighing in on the side of the young kids who are not as super talented or charismatic who don't own the sweater vests and the ties and button down shirts, and who could use that experience. I'm asking you to reconsider that to think about those 14 or 15-year-olds who really could just use a job, and if that job just means that there in an office, and there's air conditioning and even if they're surfing the web most of the day, and they're making some coffee and they end up in court if they're working for law firm, and they're getting some experience even if it's not perfect. I think there's a value in that, too. So, I'm just making that argument on the first piece. So, can you explain to me on the second piece in terms of the upper age what is it you guys are looking to do?

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Okay, so, we'll certainly share your feedback on the 14 and 15-year olds, but-but--

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: [interposing]
I appreciate it. That's why we have these hearings.

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: --this was not like--this was a very thoughtful process that a lot of different people weighed in including the people who actually provide the serve. On the older age, I--

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: [interposing]
I understand. I just think once again, I'm just pointing out I think that the people who are weighing in are perhaps a little too smart for their own good. I'm speaking--

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Well, some of this came out of the task force meetings so--

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: I understand.
I'm just speaking on behalf of--

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: [interposing]
Right.

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: --the-the-the youth.

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: [interposing]
Right.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: To-to quote
3 from one of my favorite films, the use who aren't
4 necessarily here. You know which one I'm referring
5 to.

6 COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: So, on the
7 upper age is--

8 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Yes, I guess
9 not.

10 COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: --in the--in the
11 task force meetings this also came up that there was
12 a consensus among many of the people who were at the
13 task for that the key age group was 16 to 21, and
14 that was a group that, and historically it's been the
15 largest percentage of young people, the number of
16 young people 21 to 24 was really only 3,000 and that
17 age limit was raised in 2009.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Yeah, 2009.

19 COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: It was actually
20 a decision made by the previous administration
21 because for many years for most of the 60 years, 50
22 some odd yeas of SYEP, the age range was 14 to 21.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Yeah.

24 COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: In 2009, the
25 federal government added--made available what was

called Federal Stimulus Money Era, and Summer Youth Employment was able to tap into it, but it said that you had to serve young people up to 24.

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Yeah.

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: So, that—that was the additional three years was added as a result of federal money that went away five or six years ago. So the consensus among many of the people in the task force was let's focus on the sweet spot, which is the 16 to 21 age group. Although we maintain it all the Special Initiatives. If you noted in my testimony, the older age group for disabled youth for young people in public housing. For—for vulnerable youth, the young people who are—because what we—in the research that we did of the 3,000 young people between 21 to 24, half of them were in college, and so they could probably find another job. The other half were probably disconnected youth.

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: Right.

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: So, I think we wanted to preserve options for older youth, over the 20—over 21 by making that option still available in the Special Initiatives Section of the RFP.

COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Alright. So here is what I would say: Out me down on records advocating on behalf of what you guys would view as the outliers and what I would view as the people who perhaps need the help the most. Incidentally, I was referring to my Cousin Vinny Joe Pesci [laughter] who when he was arguing his case he was saying "utes", and the judge got annoyed at him and almost threw him out of court. So, that was what I was referring to for those you pop culture experts out there. A fine film and I'd recommend it because you haven't seen it. The point that I'm making is this: I'm referring to the outliers on both ends. I believe that robust Summer Youth Employment Program should not simply be tweaked and fine tuned to the point where we're looking at it and saying, oh, are we hitting the absolute perfect targets and the right age demographics and the person who's really interested in their job. I think that there are folks on both ends of the spectrum I think that we're accidentally cutting out, and I say this as a compliment. I think that your program has been working generally well, and I, you should certainly accept the compliment. Remember they're few and far

between from the Council, as you know, and for Commissioners, and I think as you know, generally I believe that you do good work, and I appreciate the work of DYCD. It's some of the hardest working and committed people that I've met in the City of New York, and so, what I'm saying is this: Let's talk about those two extremes, and I'm just making a case for both of those extremes. There are 14 and 15-year-olds who have no interest in showing up at those fancy jobs that you discussed. I know this for a fact. Many of them are related to me to be blunt, and so I'm certain that, you know, I always say that there's 11 people who watch this stuff at home late at night because I get like texts and Tweets and people say yes, I'm one of those 11 people. Those 11 people who are watching this now at 1:00 in the morning the rerun because they can't fall, I'm sure they know 14 and 15-year-olds as well who are just looking for a job. And I'm sure they know parents who are just desperate to get their kids off the street and get them into a job, any job that they get some life experience, and quite frankly, it's more important to have something on the resume in my view than they know how to write a resume or a cover

letter. That in my view is actually the more important value, and so I'm making the case on their behalf. I'm asking you to not penalize them and to reconsider that on that one end of the spectrum. Then unfortunately, the unfortunate reality, and I hate to say this my friend, but I see this all the time for job applicants. A lot of the youth have no experience. They come out of college. They don't have a single job. It's not so easy to find jobs, and one of the things that you do to your credit is you give a financial incentive to hire those utes to—I'm sorry I haven't used that term in years. I'm really enjoying myself over here. To hire those utes and to give those 21 to 24-year-olds oh, yeah, okay, they should have gotten a job, and they were wrong, and they should have hustled a little bit harder, but they didn't, and here they are now and some of them, may, in fact, be in college, and they can't get a job. You know why they can't get the job? Because you're buddy, the 14-year-old in the sweater vest [laughter] he got the job at 14 and now, by now he's got the super duper internship, and this 22-year-old schlub can't compete with him. And so, he needs a job, and this is the job that he got, the Summer

Youth Employment job that he was getting because you offered it for some of these kids. I know they're not kids any more because they're 21 to 24, but it's given them a lot of fun as well. So, I perhaps am taking a slightly contrarian view, and I'm advocating on behalf of those two extremes. The 14 and 15-year-old who isn't necessarily interested in necessarily showing up with their little suitcase. You know what I'm talking about? Shows up with a suitcase at 14 and he's going to pop it open. He's so excited to be there versus the kid who is just like rolling his eyes, and says, Mom, I can't believe you're making me go to the office, and yes he's showing up, but he's making coffee, and he's doing clerical work, but we're giving him the skills, which is a job, which that is known as a skill. And then, on the other extreme, the kid who didn't have that chance to do that now he's 21 or 22, and he needs a job, and we're now giving him a an incentive and a way to get a job that he wouldn't have gotten so he could get some experience. So when he applies for a job for my office I'm going to look at his resume and say, Son, what have you done the 22 years of your life? So put me down on the record as the council member who

represents perhaps more youth than any other council member in New York City, but certainly among the top five in New York City, but I believe that you should tweak this concept to include more of those 14 or 15-year-olds and more of the 21 to 24-year olds, and I appreciate the opportunity for the feedback and I appreciate the great work that you do and I'm certainly a big fan of the Summer Youth Employment Program. I know that you work hard to try to do as much as you can with the resources that quite frankly we allocate you. So, thank you very much.

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much, Council Member Greenfield. Thank you. Before I can continue the change, I want to thank Council Member Greenfield for really—for speaking on behalf of young people but also for raising the concern of the service providers because those service providers they are day in and day out they're—they're serving the young people. They know the concern. They witness exactly what do the young people are facing, and we know that young people after spending a year in school they want a break. As David said, they want a job, and I think that the service providers

had proposed that's a long time. The Concept Paper as a certain, you know, part of that we affect quite negatively this made forum, you know, attendance, you know, dropout and others will create also other challenges for the service providers. And I do believe when we work together, it is only important that we take into consideration the concern of our partners. What I want to know what DYCD will do to address or to consider and to put in consideration the concern of the service providers regarding the new Concept Papers.

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: So, that's what the Concept Paper process is for. We're getting feedback. We're doing focus groups but, as I said, I can't speak to what the final decision we make because that will be in the RFP, but again, the task force, which I know you were a member of, one of the issues that was clearly discussed quite thoroughly was the importance of focusing on the 16 to 21-year-old age group, which was the overwhelming majority of young people who apply and get jobs in SYEP, how do we better serve them? How do we better serve 14 and 15-year-olds? How do we better serve 21 to 24-year-olds knowing that half of them are in colleges. So,

we wanted to maximize the resources to serve the largest number of young people. So, we'll take your feedback at this point, you know—you know, and we'll, you know, see where we go with that.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much, Commissioner. Now, we have been joined by Council Member Vanessa Gibson and also Council Member Darlene Mealy. Let us call on now Council Member Chin for some questions.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you, Chair. Good morning. Commissioner, I just—earlier when you answered Council Member Greenfield's question. So, I just want to confirm again. It was 69,000?

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: 69,000 and change.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Okay, so, you almost met the target of 70,000 right?

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Right, right.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: That's great.

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Right. Yeah, an--

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: I mean that's terrific. So, we're able to do that and DYCD is able to do that.

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: [interposing]
and it's--and it's--and it's baselined funding.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Yes, and we are
going to pushing for more.

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: We welcome it.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Yes. So, since
you're able to accomplish that this summer, I think
we're very confident that you will be able to kind of
develop more and be able to accept more--more of our
youth this coming summer. Now, what is DYCD's
procedure to inspect the worksites for the SYEP
participants?

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: So, it's a
two-level approach. The providers are responsible
for developing the worksite partnership with their
employers. The process is typically very simple.
They could either apply online where we have an
online application where the employer goes to apply,
and the provider is responsible for actually having
an in-person meeting with the employer to make sure
that they understand the goals of the program to make
sure that they could be a good mentor to the young
person that summer, and also to ensure the safety of
the young person. Once that process is done based on

2 the application to DYCD, and folks on our team will
3 then review the application for approval. From
4 DYCD's perspective, you also have staff that goes out
5 to visit all the worksites as well, right, to make
6 sure that it's in compliance with all the labor laws
7 and all the regulations that our oversights expect to
8 implement year after year, and we also do unannounced
9 visits to worksites as well.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: So, you do an
11 initial visit to all the worksites?

12 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: The
13 provider is responsible for visiting a pre-it's a
14 pre-assessment process. So before the kids are
15 placed at the worksites in the spring, they have to
16 visit every worksite and throughout the summer, they
17 have to visit the worksites every week. Yes.

18 COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: And we hire
19 additional staff in the summer what's called
20 seasonals and they supplement the existing workforce
21 of DYCD. So we can visit every worksite during the
22 summer.

23 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: Right.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: So, you have about
25 what, almost about 11,000 worksites?

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

80

2 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: 12,000.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: 12,000. Oh, so you
4 have enough staff--

5 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE:
6 [interposing] Yes, we do. Yes.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: --you can actually
8 do that. Okay. To go back to the question of the 14
9 and 15-year-old. I-I remember there was a lot of
10 discussion in the task force and then in the Advisory
11 Committee, and so there are some providers that are
12 successful in developing jobs for this age group,
13 right? Will they still have the flexibility or just--
14 or--or the idea is just going to be straight training
15 and orientation--

16 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE:
17 [interposing] Right.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: --for this age
19 group?

20 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: It will be
21 project based, right? So, the--the young people won't
22 be placed with an employer. The provider will be
23 responsible for developing projects, and we're going
24 to ensure DYCD that we provide adequate resources
25 that they might need to do that.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: So, in-in that-in that case, for this age group, they're not going to be assigned to an employer.

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: Correct.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: They're going to be assigned to a specific project.

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: Correct.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: So, and the amount of rein—I mean the amount of pay that they're getting is half, right, of what's the average Summer Youth Employment. So, how is DYCE going to publicize that so kids know going in that this is—if they're in that age group, this is what's being offered to them, and not a job where they're going to be able to get more?

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: So, we're working on a communication plan, right. We understand that young people currently expect to see a wage, right, when they work for SYEP, but we're going to make sure that our providers as well understand that we're shifting from a wage model to a second model for younger youth. We're going to make sure on our website we include that in FAQs. We're also when we send emails out to participants once they apply to the program, we're going to make sure

there's language in that email with explanations on the payment process before they accept the job within the program, and also DYCD obviously believes in social media as a way to get the word out about the change.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: So, are there going to be some flexibility let's say for a 15-year-old who was in the program this year, and--and they really want to have a job.

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: Yeah, so this is the--as the Commissioner said, you know, this is a Concept Paper, right, and I think it's important to solicit feedback. So, we're--we're listening to everyone who has been giving us their suggestions around how to move forward and we'll take everything back, and, you know, we'll see what happens when the RFP comes out.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: And also and the--the Concept Paper also talked about like the Ladder--

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE:
[interposing] Ladders for Leaders.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: --for Leader Program where you're asking them to do a 30 hours of orientation that--and they're only allowed to work 25

hours a week. Is that more than a week of orientation and training?

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: Right. So, I'm not sure if you're familiar with the Ladders for Leaders Program. It's—it's a very successful internship program where the young people are expected to interview with employers. So, we want to make sure that they're prepared to be interviewed right. So the 30—it's up to 30 hours. So, depending on—the provider is responsible for doing an assessment once that young person comes in to be a part of the program, and if you have prior work experience, if you have a resume, a cover letter that has been developed, if you have gone through interviewing before, you might not necessarily need 30 hours. But, if you're new to the—the interviewing world and to working, we want to make sure that we give you all the tools necessary. So, when you go on an interview with the employer whether it's at JP Morgan or Bank of America, you are successful. So, that's—that's the rationale beyond the 30 hours.

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Some context, the Ladders for Leaders program, you know, in decade. So this is not a new requirement.

2 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: Right.

3 COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: The 30 hours,
4 in fact, going back to when the Ladders for Leaders
5 Program was a pilot program that DYCD staff ran where
6 it was a couple hundred young people, I personally
7 would do a lot of the mock interviews and-and-and the
8 orientation, the 30 hours of orientation was done
9 back then. So, this is not a new requirement. This
10 is just restating what's already in place.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Uh-hm. So, what is
12 the-the cost of-for a participant? Let's go back to
13 the 14 and 15-year-olds. Are there-what's the
14 difference in terms of the cost for the participant?

15 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: Are you
16 referring to the wages?

17 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Yeah, and also I
18 guess what the agency, what you will be reimbursing
19 the agency?

20 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: So, we're
21 still in the process of having conversations with OMB
22 as we think about what the price purposes is going to
23 be across the entire SYEP programs that we're
24 offering. Currently, providers are paid \$325 per-per
25 participant, and, you know, again, as I said, we're

looking at the current model, the cost implications based on what we're asking providers to do. We're in conversations with OMB, but right now there's--there's no new cost that I could talk about because we are developing that as we speak.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Okay. I mean in your--

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: [interposing]
Council Member Chin if you'll allow me, let me drop in just one second with respect to the cost. I know that, you know, you are coming to the concept--the new Concept Paper, you are looking for expir--carrier exploration (sic) ways in project based learning opportunities. That will require also more skill, you know, of employees or staff. People with more qualifications. So, would that have an impact on the cost and if yes, how are you going to address the costs? I don't know if it's what?

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: [interposing]
Well, so, each model--

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: [interposing]
Because the more qualified staff that means more money. You got to spend more money.

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: So, each model has a different cost. We're getting feedback thorough the focus groups with the Concept Paper process, and we're sitting down with OMB and hopefully we'll settle all these before we can issue the RFP because you can't issue Request for Proposal unless the non-profit agency knows how much we're reimbursing people for each of the non-models? Non-models. So, it's a work in progress. You know the current rate is \$325. We know that, you know, that may change, but again, we can't give you any specifics until we get more clarity from the budget office.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Let me put it another way. Do you think that is going to cost DYCD more money?

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: We haven't reached that decision yet.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: No decision. This is very simple. If you hire more qualified staff, you will have to pay them more money. Yes or no?

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: We know that the costs will vary, and so we have—we're not ready to say how much it will cost because, we don't know--

2 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: [interposing] No,
3 I'm not talking about how much, but at this--if you
4 have more qualified staff it's, you know, it's very
5 clear, very simple that you want to spend more money
6 to hire them.

7 COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: At this point,
8 I can't give you any more detail than that because of
9 the discussions with OMB are ongoing. So, for me to
10 say anything at this point would--would, you know,
11 wouldn't be allowing us to answer. At this point the
12 current rate is \$325, and some programs pay up to
13 \$1,000. Some programs pay \$600. So, the current
14 rate is--is in the Concept Paper from \$325 to \$1,000.
15 What that new range will be is to be determined.

16 [background comment]

17 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: But I'm trying to
18 figure out do you have a plan to cover the new costs
19 or additional costs?

20 COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: That--that is
21 part--

22 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: [interposing] Why is
23 it not going?

24 COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: --of an ongoing
25 conversations with OMB. So, obviously, we're getting

2 feedback with the Concept Paper or what people think
3 it should cost. We're looking at that data. We're
4 sharing with OMB. So, the plan is to sit down with
5 OMB and come to a final decision before there the RFP
6 is released.

7 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Well, thank you very
8 much. Council Member Chin please.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Well, I guess
10 relating to the RFP when are you--because the Concept
11 Paper from your testimony stated that this week?

12 COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Right, so--

13 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: [interposing] Right,
14 so--so how soon?

15 COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: We don't have a
16 fixed date for release yet because we want to make
17 sure we get all the comments in, and obviously, we
18 want to settle the issue of--of cost reimbursement
19 because you can't do a request for proposal without
20 money. So, once we have clarity on that issue, we'll
21 be moving forward. I mean I said this earlier to
22 someone that--and this is an historic moment, and I
23 don't use the word historic, but I think because it
24 took for me a second to get the user word historic
25 that in the 16 years that the city has funded this

program, we have never had baselined funding. I mean when and I were in the Summer Youth Employment Program many, many years ago, it was federally funded and in 2000, the federal government walked away from this program, and funded--and the funding for it fell on the city primarily and to a lesser extent the state. So, we've been on this rollercoaster, the budget dance for the last 16 years where two week before the start of summer when we know our budget is, but we want to do it right. Not necessarily fast because this is probably the biggest change to SYEP since the inception of the program more than 60 years ago so--

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: But there's still got to be some consistency because you're not expecting--I mean I assume you expect a lot of the providers--

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Oh, yeah.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: --pretty much will be the same.

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: [interposing]
Well, as the earlier testimony that we want to grow the portfolio because when the last RFP was issued in 2011? Was it 2011?

2 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: 2013.

3 COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: 2013. Oh,
4 that's not it.

5 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: No, 2011.

6 COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: 2011, the
7 baseline funding in that RFP 23,000 jobs. So we're
8 at 70 and it's and we've asked an awful lot of not of
9 the staff at DYCD but also the same number of groups
10 to—to more than triple the number of jobs. So, we
11 expect to not only reach out to the current universal
12 providers, but bring in new providers. So, one of
13 the things we've been actively doing is that, we
14 know, for example there's going to be funding set
15 aside for programs in the 15 public housing
16 developments that are high crime. We want to ask the
17 Cornerstone programs to with young people in public
18 housing to consider maybe running an SYEP program if
19 they—if they work in that area. We work, as you
20 know, with the Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs,
21 and it makes no sense for them not to consider this
22 because if you're providing residential services to
23 young people you should be thinking about a
24 wraparound program for guaranteed summer jobs.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: So, are you
3 starting those conversations--

4 COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: [interposing]
5 Yes, we are.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: --with them now?

7 COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Well, we
8 started a month and a half ago--

9 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Okay.

10 COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: --when the
11 Concept Paper was released because that's the
12 opportunity to engage people who have not been in the
13 process to consider it. It only comes to what the
14 reimbursement rate will be because any program will
15 decide well this make sense programmatically, but it
16 doesn't make sense budgetarily. So--

17 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: [interposing] But
18 relating to that, too, is then this is the baselined
19 funding for 70,000 summer youth jobs--

20 COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Right.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: --and it might be
22 less than that because of the costs going up. So, in
23 some ways we still have to continue to advocate for
24 more resources because now you've got all these
25 special categories that we're expanding to. So, in

my mind, it's like okay, the-the-the funding that we got baselined is not sufficient, and we in the Council we're going to have to advocate-continue to advocate for more because we want to make sure that more youth will be able to take advantage of the Summer Youth Program

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: It's too soon to draw that conclusion, but, you know, if the Council wants to give us more money, we welcome it.

COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Well, it's not too soon. You know, we're asking for universal summer youth jobs. So on our side we're going to continue advocate. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: You're very welcome, Council Member Chin. Council Member Gibson, please.

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Good afternoon, Commissioner and your team. It's great to see you. I represent the Bronx, just in case you weren't aware--

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: [interposing]
No, good.

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: --and truly I appreciate, you know, DYCD and the entire efforts especially this City Council, our Speaker. I was

proud to join with Council Member Chin in being a part of the Youth Taskforce here in the Council. So, we have lots and lots of meetings to talk about Summer Youth Employment, and how we can continue to increase the capacity for DYCD, look at some of the challenges that we face with young adults between 14 and 24, and I appreciate looking through your testimony at some of the targeted populations that we aim to serve in this new RFP. Every category you describe, every targeted population I represent, students with disabilities, students that are facing the trauma around gun violence in their communities. I have it all, right. The Neighborhood MAP Program, I represent one of them, which is Butler Houses and we do have a Cornerstone program there. So, I appreciate the efforts to reach out to those Cornerstones because hey are today providing services and resources for many of the young people. So, what I wanted to just quickly ask about, and I think, you know, the last time we issued an RFP was 2011. So, this is for us a real opportunity to expand on our relationships and partnerships, and really look across the spectrum at many providers that are serving young people today. I think what I find

challenging sometimes in the Bronx is that many of my smaller minority based providers don't always get a lot of attention, and so they have to compete with the larger organizations that may or may not be serving my particular community. I am a little concerned, and the Chair spoke a little bit about it, and I guess I'll just answer what I think the question is. In the Concept Paper the suggestion of new programs requiring more experienced staff that have career specific knowledge and talents is really going to cause providers to after either looked at hiring more staff that's more experienced meaning they have to pay them more, or it's going to say a lot of our senior level older staff that, you know, your skills are great but we now need to look at 21st Century teaching so to speak. So, yes it's going to cost more because it's going to be a burden on a lot of the providers to have to pay more, and so while we have to have this conversation today, I think it's really important to look at the reality of what we face, and if we're talking about hiring more people that have targeted experience in an area serving youth, minority youth, youth that are facing gun violence and violence in general, then we definitely

need to look at paying them more. So, I'm—I'm—I think that's important to recognize. I wanted to ask a question because in the Concept Paper, I did not see a lot of discussion on the City Council's Work Learn and Grow. So, I'm used—not used to that name. I call it all year round Youth Employment Program. That's what it is to me, and you understand the importance of focusing on youth employment all year round, and for many of our constituents, this is the only opportunity they get to work to earn a salary, to build responsibility, to build job skills. So, I'm wondering the Concept Paper are you looking in the RFP at providers that can also serve our youth employment all year round as well?

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: So, the Work Learn and Grow Program, as you know, is a Council funded initiative--

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: [interposing]
Yes.

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: --which is separate from SYEP and the link is that because the money comes in, you know, on an annual basis, we have to figure out how to get young people recruited and employed. So, we've built it in as sort of like a

complement to SYEP. No decision has been made to add it into the program. Notice has been made to not include it either, but at this point, since it's a Council funded initiative, additional funding would probably be needed to make it happen. So, I will take it back, the concerns that you've raised. You know, our--the charge of the task force was really to-- I mean of the Concept Paper was really to focus on the Summer Youth Employment Program. Certainly it's been a great success. We appreciate the Council's support for this program, and--but again, there's no funding tied to it to make it part of the Concept Paper because it's sort of an appendage to SYEP, not a--not one of the baselined functions.

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Okay, so I ask that you consider that. As someone who talks lovingly about the all-year round Summer Youth Employment Program, my constituents love it because they understand that while we focus on young people during the summer when they're not in school, when they are in school we also have to continue to keep a priority. So, I know the funding stream is different, but that should not precludes us from looking at including it and making sure that it's a

part of a larger conversation. The other thing I wanted ask about is in our task force we had recommended aligning the program development, procurement and evaluation, which is a very key part of SYEP, to ensure that many of our young people are provided with a set of work skills that will prepare them for future employment. So, other than the summer pilots, which you already established with a number of key providers like La Guardia and others, have there been any other program changes that you've initiated to date that you could talk about yet that looks at program development, procurement and evaluation? [background comment]

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: So, on the evaluation side, we actually worked with MDRC to look at those pilots that we implemented this summer.

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Okay.

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: As you can imagine it would take some time for them to really look at the data. So, hopefully by the end of October to early November we should have a full report out from MDRC, and based on those findings, we will definitely take a look at them to see how that might impact the RFP as well. In terms of

procurements, I—I think what we've been doing is working for the most part in terms of ensuring that folks understand the procurement process right--

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: [interposing] Uh-hm.

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: --within our portfolio. We also encourage new groups that might be looking towards coming into SYEP to have connections with folks at HH is it? Yes, HH Accelerator so that we can prequalify in case they want to become an SYEP provider. So, we've been actively sharing that with groups that have interest in working with this program as well. So, those are the kind of two pieces that we have--we've been working on.

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: And if you know of groups interest in prequalifying, let us know and we'll have our staff do a workshop for them on how to prequalify in HH Accelerator because the way the system's procurement process works now is that you have to demonstrate experience in a specific service area, and that's how we grow the--the universe of people who get funding is we--we expand the--the number of people who prequalify.

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Okay. The other question I had, just two final questions, is expanding on our current relationships with the providers that we have today that have existing contracts with DYCD, but also looking at furthering opportunities. So, as an example, there are many young people that we need to get into the STEM field, right, science, technology, engineering, architecture and math. The tech industry that continues to evolve, the movie industry. Have you considered looking at some of the existing organizations that provide services in this industry as a way to bring them on? So, I think of in my district my Business Improvement Districts, right and merchants associations, for those young people that could have an interest in the small business sector--

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Right.

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: --and they could move towards that track. Has that been a discussion?

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: In fact, we've actually been doing this. So, a couple of years ago, I was the first commissioner to ever speak before the Business Improvement District Association, and made a pitch for them because I recognized that we want all

kinds of employers. We want big companies like Odells, but we want small businesses as well to be work sites. So, the Business Improvement Districts and the Chamber of Commerces are definitely people that we've worked with other the last several years to develop job and work sites. As far as the STEM types of jobs, we've been working with--closely with the Center for Youth Employment to begin to tap into employers who provide those types of jobs. A number of young people worked with film companies as well as with the media--media-companies. We've had young people work at AOL, a few years ago we had somebody work at the radio.

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: Yes, that's probably Pandora.

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Pandora. So, I think that's definitely on our radar. Obviously, we have to do more aggressive matching there. Not every young person is ready to work in Pandora or AOL. So, we--we try to do that, and the final piece of which I think will make a big leap forward for us is the school based proposal. We hope to engage the current technical education schools because they--they have relationships with employers, but they don't have the

way to pay young people on the Summer Apprenticeship. So, my hope is that once we release the RFP, we'll have proposals from non-profits who are working with the career and technical education schools. So, we can build on school year learning. So, what they learned during the school year can be amplified and built on in the summer apprenticeship program in that field.

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Okay, that's great. These ideas all sound great. I just can't wait until we put them on paper and implement them. Every year we've gotten better in terms of increasing the capacity for SYEP. We're at a record breaking 70,000. On average there are about 135,000 that apply and the city continues to grow, and so obviously we want to do more and more and more as best we can, and you have a Council that is committed to doing that. We just want to make sure that we are doing as much outreach as we can. In the specialized—the special initiatives under the RFP that will come out, is the topic of vulnerable youth right. So, we always talk about homeless runaway youth, justice involved youth, aging out of foster care, and those that are receiving some ACS services.

What I also ask that should be included because we have a homelessness crisis, we have a lot of children living in temporary housing. They may not be homeless or runaway youth, but they're simply living in a shelter. They are vulnerable, and DOE has been working extremely hard with ACS and other agencies. I represent a large concentration of them in my school district, District 9, and so those that are middle school age and moving out into high school I definitely want to make sure that that is on your radar as a population that truly needs to be serviced as well.

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: So, in fact, we've been working with them. So, you're absolutely right that you have work eligible young people living in family shelters--

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: [interposing]
Yes, a lot.

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: --and so, the last--this past summer we worked with Women In Need, one of the largest family shelter providers in the city, and they helped us recruit young people from all the family shelters that they work with to--to apply for Summer Youth Employment jobs, and it's

great success, and so I'm hoping to reach out to other family shelters directly because again my experience is that it's always better to work with people who know the young people directly. So just like when we worked with the Broome Street Academy a couple of years ago, and they referred a couple hundred of their young people because half the population of that school is homeless, they were able to identify the young person who is ready to work and then work with our SYEP program to place them in a summer job. The same holds true for the Women in Need and Project Renewal and all the other non-profits that run family shelters because it's a tragedy that young—that a family today spends on average 400 days in a family shelter. So, it's important that we provide them access to the same level services that people who don't live in family shelters have. So, we're—we're starting that process. We hope to engage more family shelters because we think they can be a great partner in either running the Summer Youth Employment Program—I'm trying to get more people to apply for the funding because we need more providers, and if you're

working with this population, it's even better that you get the funding to run the program.

COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Okay, I agree and I encourage you. DOE has a list of all the school district that have the highest concentration, District 9 in the Bronx, District 23 in Brooklyn are the top two. I love the work Project Renewal does and when, but there are a lot more out there that you definitely need to reach out to as soon as possible because they are serving our children today. So, thank you very much. I'm looking forward to our future conversations, and everything you can do to ensure that this RFP is reflective of our commitment, all of the priorities we focused on. I don't want to lose sight of the smaller based CBOs that serve our children today, but I also want to open up for a new opportunity as well. So, we can do both simultaneously. We don't want to forget about the minority based organizations that serve our children, but I also want to open up opportunities for more business sectors that I know many of our young people will take advantage of. So, thank you so much, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much Council Member Gibson. Commissioner, the Concept Paper indicates that DYCD hopes to serve as many as 2-20,000 students through the New School based Program. Could you give us some detail about the structure, how this is going to set up. [background comment]

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: So, in terms of up to 20,000 over the next few years, right. That's not a number that we're starting with. I think it's important. So, we're going to start with maybe through the 5,000 young people across some DOE schools that would be identified by DOE. The idea there obviously with our new model you want to learn from your experiences. You don't want to scale up too quickly, and you want to—you also want to make sure when you're in you're implementing, you're implementing at the pace where people would be successful. So, ideally the CBO will be working directly with a school. The CBO will be responsible for providing job development for that school as well as providing project based opportunities for the younger youth. Also, talking to the principal to figure out what are the needs that you need in this

school. Is your focus on financial literacy? Is your focus on work readiness? What is it that you want us to focus on, and collectively the principal and the CBO will come up with a 15-hour curriculum that the CBO will offer in the spring before the young people are placed in the summer jobs or in the project that they're going to be working on during that summer. So, typically, that's how it will work.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: So, what can you tell us about the cost of the--of this program?

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: As the Commissioner said before, we're still in talks with OMB as we kind of flush out this idea. There's still a lot of moving parts. So, there is no cost that has been decided on yet.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Uh-hm. Okay, so we were talking about the NYC, New York City Schools. How will this program affect applicants who are not enrolled a New York City school? That many of them are what's under Catholic and Power Course (sic) school?

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Do you mean non--no?

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: What about if they have—if they also some disconnected youth, how this would impact them? Because we are talking about New York City School, not Catholic school, now Power Course School or other schools, and they attend those schools also. We may and we surely have some disconnected youth.

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: Well, if they're in school, they're technically not disconnected, right because they're already in high schools right. So there—there will be no impact to those young people, but if you're disconnected and you're not in a school, then you are able to apply to the Cumulative (sic) Based option or the Special Initiative Option. So, you still have an opportunity to work in the program.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: So, the question is because they don't—they don't attend the public school the New York City school, will they be accepted also? Will you do the outreach to make sure that those disconnected youth they are served also by the program?

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Right now-right now there is no requirement to attend school. So the 70,000 jobs we-we-

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: I'm sorry.

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: But right now there is no requirement to attend school. You have to be between the ages of 14 and 24. Nowhere in the application does it say you must be in a school. So, any young person who is not in school can apply right now. When we move to a new model, a certain number of those jobs will be set aside for school based partnerships, but that's only 20,000 out of 70,000. So, a majority, a vast majority of the 70,000 jobs will be open to anyone who meets the age requirements and there is no requirement to attend school.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Alright, it's good. So that means it doesn't matter if the kid or the younger people they go to Catholic School, Power Course School--

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: [interposing]
No.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: --public school or don't go to school at all?

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: As long as they meet the age requirements.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: It's very good. You know, also I say that, too, all the time when you do something in life you got to evaluate what you are doing. You've got to sit down and figure out if--what you are doing is successful or not. You may think that is successful, but we've got to put it on paper. We've got to, you know, with science and technology or the associate that we have, we've got to be able to say, you know, what, this works or this doesn't work. Can you tell us about your evaluations mid-term about for the SYEP and also Work Learn and Grow?

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: So--

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: How do you evaluate the success of those programs?

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Well, let me start and then Andre can add in. so, each individual program receives an evaluation and a rating every year, and so there's a very micro level evaluation of every program. There is a--there have been numerous evaluations of the Summer Youth Employment Program, and some--and we'll share with you them as well. The most notable one is the one that was done by--

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

110

2 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: UPENN.

3 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Yeah, University of
4 Pennsylvania or the Wharton Business School, which
5 looked at data over seven years? Let me hear it?

6 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: Eleven
7 years.

8 COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Eleven years.

9 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: Uh-hm.

10 COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: And so it—and
11 they looked at young people who applied for SYEP and
12 didn't get it, and then young people who applied and
13 got the job, and that study is probably the most
14 comprehensive evaluation of the Summer Youth
15 Employment Program in the country because we're the
16 largest, and the—the key findings from that program
17 were (1) is that being in the Summer Youth Employment
18 Program reduced the death rate, reduced the death
19 rate of young people ten years later, just one job. It
20 also reduce the likelihood of being incarcerated,
21 just one job because, as you know, not every young
22 person who applies gets selected. So, they were able
23 to track using Social Security data outcomes of young
24 people over a decade. So that, we'll share the
25 Wharton Study. There have been some smaller studies

and evaluations of SYEP including by NYU and who else?

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: MDRC.

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: And MDRC, which we will gladly share with you. There is a lot of rich information. In fact, I did a recent visit with the—the Chair of the House Minority—the Minority Member of the House Labor Committee of the—our Summer Youth Employment Program up in Washington Heights, and he was looking for an evaluations because, you know, the federal government, you know, if there's changes in Washington, may want to come back and look at investing in the Summer Youth Employment Program. So, we have a lot of evaluations we would be happy to share with you.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much. You know, for the sake of time because I'm running out—out of time, let me ask you one last question.

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Sure.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: I believe this is the one last one. [laughter] The last one. So, we know that also who these providers are. You know that. I know that, and all of us we know that they are wonderful great people. I've been everything

that I can do to help the young people to collaborate with the City Council with DYCD, but what do you do to ensure that they have the skill, the resources and everything that they need to fulfill their job, and to do the best that they can do especially when we look at the Concept Paper there are some, you know, challenges that they will face because of the requirement of the new Concept Paper What do you in place to help them?

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: So, we're very committed to capacity building and professional development. It's been a big part of DYCD's services because we understand that the non-profits are also customers, and so, my very first job at DYCD back in 2003 was Assistant Commissioner for Capacity Building. So we have dedicated technical assistance providers who help all our workforce programs. In fact, early on a few years ago when we set the ambitious goal of increasing the number of public-of private sector worksites, we recognized that some people needed help, and how do you engage employers? And so we—

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: With WPTI.

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: With the WPTI,
Oh, you can explain.

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER WHITE: Yeah.

[laughs] So, we worked with WPTI, which is the
Workforce Professional Training Institute to come in
to really talk to providers around how do you manage
and develop relationships with private employers,
right? It was a very—it was a culture shift for our
providers. Most of them are used to developing jobs
within their local communities, which is small mom
and pop businesses, but there's actually a very
different sort of like technique, right in terms of
how you develop jobs with private employers. How you
engage them through all the process, and how do you
follow up with them, right? So, WPTI came in and
created this really comprehensive and robust training
for providers, and we think obviously the success of
the training with our numbers moving from 28% of
private sector jobs to 45% this year, and that's
something that we tend to do, we continue to do with
WPTI, whichever other groups we have here in the city
to provide whatever tier (sic) and other providers
might need.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: I commend you. I commend DYCD and the Commissioner and your staff for all the effort that you are doing to strengthen the relationship with the service providers, but what I'm talking about I had a meeting with certain service providers who expressed their concerns about the challenges that the new Concept Paper will create in terms of number one the ability to fulfill what—whatever the Concept Paper required and also their concern about discouragement, and—and the young people that are going to—to benefit from the program, they are very concerned about, you know, the outcome or the impact of the certain portion of the new Concept Paper. My recommendation, and my advice is to meet with them, and to sit down with them, and ask them, you know, what are their concerns? What are their suggestions and to work together to make sure that the new Concept Paper doesn't create a decrease in the number of participants. Because our young people we have to—we have to increase the number, not decrease the number and I commend you again. This historic when you get close to 70,000, but we got to make sure that we do everything possible to conserve,

to protect and preserve the number we reach, too, but also to increase it.

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Thank you. I mean we welcome feedback. Where we get it, we actively reach out to the service providers. We have focus groups, and that's part of the reason why we extended the deadline because we wanted to give every opportunity to people who provide the service to comment on it, but thank you again for your support. You know, this was one of the things on my wish list is to--to baseline the funding for the Summer Youth Employment Program when I started as Commissioner four years ago, and I'm happy to check it off my wish list.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much, Commissioner. Thank you very much to all your staff.

COMMISSIONER BILL CHONG: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Have a wonderful day. Thank you. [pause] Okay, let us call the first panel: Barney Catta, United Activities Unlimited; Sandino Sanchez from The Children's Aid; Elizabeth Clay Roy I believe from Phillips Neighborhoods [background comment] and also Grant Coles from Cities and Committee for Children. [background comment]

First of let me thank you very much. Let me first thank you for coming for being part of this very important public hearing, and I want to thank you also for everything that you are doing every single day for our young people. Thank you very much, but because of the time constraint, you know, we have to limit it, you know, each speaker—we have—you know we have to give you four minutes. Alright, you may start any time. Please first state your name for the recording.

SANDINO SANCHEZ: I got to press it?

Hello. Sandino Sanchez at Children's Aid Society. My name is Sandino Sanchez and I am the Teen Workforce Development Director for the Children's Aid Society. Thank you Chair Eugene and the members of Youth Service Committee for the opportunity to submit testimony about the importance of Summer Youth Employment Program in New York. At Children's Aid we have—we believe that all children have, you know, immense potential, but for those growing up surrounded by poverty, family instability, and physical and emotional stress, life is too often about survival, not possibility. It is unacceptable that in New York, a city of historic opportunities so

many of our children they serve as barriers to realize their own promise. Children's Aid helps kids build a solid foundation for their future by supporting their academic success at every level through college. We do it through a comprehensive counter attack on the obstacles that threaten achievement in school.

The Summer Youth Employment Program: Children's Aid Society-Children's Aid Youth Development Programs build upon a foundation that supports young people becoming independent. We offer programs that provide a graduated service of experiences that help young adults cultivate their unique interests and talents, obtain leadership skills, build resiliency and self-confidence, all skills required to succeed in adulthood. The Summer Youth Employment Program is a core part of the employment and work readiness program that the Children's Aid Society provides to young adults in New York City. For the past seven years, Children's Aid has had a contract with the Department of Youth and Community Development for SYEP slots. In 2017, Children's Aid receive 7,800 applications for 20-2,678 SYEP slots. Of the total cohort, 60% of the

young people were between the ages of 16 to 24, 40% were 14 and 15 years old; 55% were male, 45% female, 90% of the students enrolled resided in the Bronx and Manhattan. There is immense demand for this program, which for many of our youth provide supplemental income for their families or support a young person's ability to pay for higher education.

The School Based Option: While the new School Based Option provides promising partnerships for the school community, there are some concerns with the current guidelines for this model. For example, this model does not seem to take into account already existing partnerships, also community based organizations, school relationships, et cetera, has shown that the most successful partnerships are those that were in this organic relationship between the CBO and the school administration. According—accordingly, CBOs who already have successful partnerships with schools should be allowed to apply even if the school in question is—are not on the DYCD provider list of eligible schools. Some of the other recommendations we have for the school based model are as follows: It is not clear if this option will include older youth as well. Our recommendation is

that the age range for this option should be 14 to 21. The year-round services for this option is not clear. 20 hours of work readiness or instruction for January—from January to June is not enough. Our recommendation is that the requirements should include at least five to-five to ten hours per week for that same six-month period. Are there wages or stipends for those options? A question. Similar to Work Learn and Grow, the teens who are enrolled should receive some form of compensation. Older teens should also be place in a worksite—worksites to obtain needed experience. Classroom instruction is not enough. It's not clear how schools will qualify for it, or how they will be picked or matched up with a provider. A successful school community partnership have shared goals and objectives. The use of shared space and a fully functional staff presence are essential elements for the success and they are not outlined in the RFP. This option will require certified teachers, social workers, career coaches to be successful [bell] and the price per participant should be at close of \$2,000 each. The providers should know what schools are available.

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES 120

2 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Can you--can you
3 conclude, please? I'm sorry about it.

4 SANDINO SANCHEZ: Yes.

5 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Let's go to the next
6 one.

7 SANDINO SANCHEZ: That's--that's fine.

8 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: You can you finish--
9 finish the sentence.

10 SANDINO SANCHEZ: Sure the Concept Paper
11 has both the 14 and 15-year-olds in different
12 development stages, which is a great error. Instead
13 of all teens that are participating for the first
14 time and have no experience, should receive the
15 intentional training that all others would
16 experience---

17 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: [interposing]
18 Alright.

19 SANDINO SANCHEZ: --should be placed.

20 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much.

21 SANDINO SANCHEZ: The rest we've brought
22 it.

23 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Yes, I will. Yes.
24 The next speaker.

25

MALE SPEAKER: First I'd like to thank Chair Eugene and the City Council for the opportunity to testify here today. Chair Eugene, I'd like to begin by reiterating what you had said earlier. The Summer Youth Employment Program is the first summer job that many of the youth in New York City have, and it's our responsibility to assure that they have every opportunity so the future of New York City these children do not deserve any less. With that being said, looking at the new concept paper, there are many questions that still remain. In order to address some of these issues, we need more information. The PPP for all different models. I cannot suggest what PPP would be. One, I don't not want—I don't know what is required of me. In order to provide the services for these different models, the providers need to know in detail so that we can actually say yes we can do this or we can respond and say this is what we need in order to do this. We have a mutual goal here to serve all of New York City's youth. Over the last ten plus years, I have had the privilege of working with the Summer Youth Employment Program. I have seen the program grow through two different administrations. I have seen

the City Council invest money into this program. I agree with you, it's not about quantity. It's about quality. If we are looking to get quality out of this program, we need better buy-in from the providers. The people on the ground can always tell you what is being done and what needs to be done. Right now, one of the biggest questions that we have is unfortunately funding. Without the proper funding, we can't hire the correct staff to make sure that we're doing everything for the Children's abilities. Disconnected Youth is one of our biggest barriers. The funding that is coming in for the Summer Youth Employment Program is 30 times less in the SYEP program than it is in other sister programs. I'll say that again. It's 30 times less. \$325 is not enough money over the summer to fix any problem let alone a problem that a youth with a disability or any other vulnerable youth is facing. In order to hire counselors, provide wraparound services, the amount of money that we need is in the thousands for each of these children. Unfortunately, this is a fact. This is not just an opinion. The Summer Youth Employment Program does provide a lot of quality. What it doesn't provide in this Concept Paper is room

for us to know our children and provide the services that they need. Saying that all 14 and 15-year-olds cannot work because it's in the Concept Paper there are many 14 and 15-year-olds that are ready to work and should be allowed to work. There are some 14 and 15-year-olds that need a little bit more guidance, and for that matter, there are some 18-year-olds that need more guidance and shouldn't be working. It should be up to the provider's discretion to decide which of them are ready to work, and which of these need more experience. But in order for that to happen, we need more information on these different models. I'll say that again. In order for us to be able to provide you the feedback that you need, we need more information. What is being asked of us? How many hours? How many children are we asked to serve in each of these different modules? What are the outcomes that we are going to be judged on? Personally, I would like to know this in advance. I'd like to thank you for your time.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much.

Good afternoon. Thank you so much to the Committee Chair and members and--and staff. My name

is Elizabeth Clay Roy, Chief of Staff at Phipps Neighborhoods. Our organization helps children, youth and families in South Bronx neighborhoods rise above poverty. Through education, career programs and access to community resources we serve approximately 11,000 participants each year including over 550 Summer Youth Employment Program participants. Phipps Neighborhoods is very supportive of the city broadening the reach and deepening the effect of SYEP. As noted in our written response to DYCD's Concept Paper, we believe extending the program, making it more comprehensive, linking to growing sectors, integrating with high schools and supporting vulnerable populations are all valuable steps forward. In fact, as a leader in the South Bronx Rising Together, Collective Impact Partnership, we executed a successful pilot program for disconnected youth called Summer Youth Career Launch in collaboration with Bronx Works and Children's Aid in 2016. The increased training time allowed youth to select their own career pathways, increased stipends modestly and have post-placement career readiness support. All of the youth who participated were unemployed and out of school at the start of their

summer and three months after completion of the Summer Youth Career Launch, 73% of participants are known to have had a positive outcome of work, college or a supported job program. Looking at the programs citywide as laid out in the Concept Paper and as is being executed today, our priorities recommendations are as follows: The City has wholeheartedly embraced a sector based employment strategy. There are many positive aspects to this approach in terms of training and contextualized learning. However, many young people have not been exposed to enough career options to be positioned to make informed choices that impact their future. SYEP participants should be provided with career choices rather than being pigeon holed in specific pathways too soon. So, Phipps Neighborhoods recommends allowing CBO providers the opportunity to offer a variety of sectors as a part of the training and placement options so that we increase the participants' ability to be exposed to different career pathways. Next, eligible youth should have an access to supports that reduce parries-barriers to participation.

Childcare should be provided to all SYEP participants who have children as it presents a

significant barrier to many particular those in the vulnerable youth categories. Teens and youth with disabilities should be accommodated to find meaningful placement options, and post-placement connections to existing city resources.

Transportation: Young people have a three to four-week gap between employment and their first paycheck creating a challenge and additional stress on participants. The program should consider adopting the Department of Education's model of providing Metro Cards to summer school students. Alternatively, CBO providers could be provided with an additional budget line item paid in advance to fund transportation for participants prior to receiving their first stipend. The current allocation of eight hours for training prior to program, fall significantly short of best practices in both career readiness programs and in youth development. Participants should be engaged in on time ongoing learning and reflection throughout the course of the program to facilitate real time learning, and the focus on social-emotional learning is important, but also will require additional training hours for each group so that it can be

attained. Current SYEP funding requires that providers manage two separate budgets during the fiscal year, a three-month and a nine-month budgeted-budget that is cumbersome and limiting to CBOs and Phipps Neighborhoods would recommend awarding a single budget per year in line with a CBO partner to determine how to manage and allocate those funds. Traditional funding for SYEP has not provided the skill level of staffing needed for a more comprehensive model. Sector based training, social-emotional learning and projected based learning require a higher level of skills and expertise. Adequate increases in funding level would be required in order for CBOs to address the requirements as laid out within. Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much. Next speaker, please.

GRAND COLES: Good afternoon. My name is Grant Coles, and I'm the Senior Policy and Advocacy Associate for Citizens Committee for Children. CCC is a 74-year-old independent multi-issue child advocacy organization dedicated to ensuring every New York child is healthy, housed, educated and safe. I want to thank you Chair Eugene and the Youth Services

Committee for holding today's hearing. CCC appreciates the City Council's long-standing commitment to SYEP particularly ongoing work to ensure as many as possible can participate each summer. It is unnoticed that every summer thousands more youth are able to participate in SYEP because of the funding and advocacy from the City Council. We also appreciate the City Council working with the Administration to create the New York City Youth Employment Task Force on which CCC participated, and notably we thank the administration for its commitment to the work of the task force, for baselining 70,000 slots last year, and for their thoughtful new SYEP Concept Paper. CCC believes that the SYEP Concept Paper sets up New York City to have an even stronger Summer Youth Employment Program in the future. Some of the highlights we particularly support include the inclusion of the Year-Round Sector Focused Work Program for Youth, the designated SYEP programming slots for vulnerable youth and youth with disabilities, and the Concept Paper's emphasis on finding jobs for youth in promising career sectors. To further strengthen the RFP, CCC will be offering the administration recommendations in the

form of comments next week. We hope that the City Council can also weigh in with similar recommendations. Our recommendations will include some of the following:

First, the Administration should fund DYCD to increase SYEP's capacity. Though the--though the Concept Paper is open-ended, it only anticipates 70,000 slots. We urge the Administration at a minimum to build the SYEP contracts around an expectation of growing to serve 100,000 youth each summer on the way to a universal program.

Second, DYCD should provide free or reduced price Metro Cards to SYEP participants similar as my colleague just mentioned.

Third, DYCD should inform every person and lone (sic) providers the number of slots they are being awarded as early as possible. Providers have had a yearly challenge accorded in the SYEP job placements because they have not been informed of the actual number of youth they will serve until very late. Sometimes it's only a few weeks notice.

Fourth, DYCD should modify the new training and orientation process that is outline in the Concept Paper. CCC is concerned that an eight-

hour unpaid orientation session for older youth will be a deterrent to program participation. While an orientation is important to teaching the skills that are necessary to make SYEP successful, and eight-hour orientation seems too long for youth to sufficiently engage and retain information. Also, we believe that returning SYEP participants should be allowed to have a shorted orientation requirement as they have already gone through the orientation process and have experience with SYEP. We also hope that DYCD will encourage the use of a more interactive, relevant and skill based training during the orientation process.

Sixth recommendations increased funding for providers. As mentioned, \$325 for any service option is too low to effectively administer, support youth in SYEP placements. That's also we want to note the same price that's been in effect since 2004, and this is an opportune time to address this low rate.

Seventh. We have suggestions to modify the younger youth model I've described in the Concept Paper, and which is included in our testimony, and we also have a number of suggestions for the vulnerable youth model including we are very supportive, but there are slots reserved for these youth, but we are—

we believe that they should not necessarily be-the-
the task of managing the their caseload should not be
provided-should not be from providers, but should be
retained by their already in their systems.

In conclusion, CCC is grateful to the
City Council for its commitment to Youth Employment
and SYEP. We look forward to working with you to
support our youth through our continuing improving
SYEP program.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much
to all the members of the panel, and according to
what you just said it seemed that really you were not
provided the necessary information that you need, you
know, and I'm going to meet with the members of the
Committee and we will contact DYCD to ensure that
they communicated with you, they sit down with you
and take into consideration your concern. If you
have additional suggestions or recommendations again
Steven (sic) with my office will be more than happy
to forward to DYCD your recommendation and also ask
them to sit down with you, and do everything that's
possible in order to prevent the new Concept Paper to
hurt the wonderful job that you are doing for all
young people. Thank you very much. [pause] Rebecca

Gluskin, I believe and forgive me if I mispronounce your name. From—is that Measure of America? Great I did it. Thank you very much, and Deanna Mondell from CAPC Chinese-American Planning Council; Gregory Brendon. Oh, Gregory good. Good to see you. How are you doing? [background comment] Alright, United Neighborhood Houses. Dove Ostature (sp?) from SBHDS and Cordial Flatbush. Good to see you also, Dove, good to see you. Alright, thank you very much all of you, and you may start by stating your name, please for the record. [background comment, pause]

REBECCA GLUSKIN: Got it. Thank you. Hi, my name is Rebecca Gluskin. I am the Chief Statistician at Measure of America. I want to thank you for the opportunity to testify today, and applaud the [door bangs] Council's efforts to address this disconnection in our city.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Mrs. Gluskin, can you put the mic close to you.

REBECCA GLUSKIN: Sure.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Your mouth.

REBECCA GLUSKIN: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you. In New York City roughly 180,000 teenagers and young adults

between the ages of 16 and 24 are neither working or in school. This is far too many kids disconnected from institutions that give purpose [door bangs] to their days and meaning to their lives. What our research tells us is that there are startling disparities within cities by race and place. [door bangs] These disparities hold critical clues to solutions. While the New York City rate is about 15.8% in Manhattan's Seventh Community District, the Upper West Side, the rate of youth disconnection is 3%, which translate to about 391 kids. In South Bronx District 1 and 2, Hunts Point, Longwood, Mott Haven and Melrose, the rate is 33% representing over 8,000 children. What becomes clear from these enormous disparities is that in order to better target efforts to address disconnection, we need more granular data than we have had in the past. In my written testimony I have included more data, but with my limited time I want to focus on what our research tells us about the most important factors associated with youth disconnection. There are five factors we have found:

1. Disconnected youth are nearly twice as likely to live in poverty.

2 2. They are three times as likely to
3 have a disability.

4 3 While personal attributes like
5 persistence, willingness to work hard and builds
6 control, are critical for young adults to succeed.
7 Programs that focus only on these personal
8 characteristics are missing a vital point.
9 Disconnected youth overwhelmingly come from
10 disconnected families and disconnected communities.
11 These are places where parents and other adults also
12 struggle with education or connection to the
13 workforce.

14 4. A surprising and somewhat
15 disheartening factor is that when we calculate
16 disconnection across 2,000 U.S. cities 15 years ago,
17 we found the rates of youth connection in 2000 were
18 highly predictive of what they will be today. This
19 relationship holds true even when you control for
20 population growth—population growth and demographic
21 change, and so what does this tell us? It suggests
22 an absence of successful action for far too many
23 years, but it also tells us that neighborhoods and
24 many parts like Brownsville, Central Harlem, East
25 Flatbush and South Bronx where disconnection is the

norm sets a poor example for the younger children,
and finally...

5. As the data shows, place matters and
grace matters. Our analysis shows us that the
combination of the two really packs a wallop.
Residential segregation has dramatic, but very
different consequences for young youth depending on
our--on their race. In highly segregated metro areas
like NYC, Chicago and Washington, D.C. black youth
tend to have higher than average rates of
disconnection whereas the White youth in these cities
tend to have lower than average rates of
disconnection. In other words, residential
segregation by race disproportionately harms Black
teenagers and young adults. It also
disproportionately--disproportionately disadvantages--
-advantages the white youth who are more likely to
live in neighborhoods with good schools, strong adult
networks, mentoring, jobs and convenient
transportation, While the above factors show that
youth disconnection is not a spontaneously occurring
phenomenon, it's a problem of years in making.
Engaged youth from middle-class neighborhoods rarely
drift away from the worlds of youth--of school and

work. So, in order to reduce disconnection we need to support these kids in the context of their communities. There has been increased research on what works and why. Summer youth and job programs do offer young adults those valuable things: Self-confidence, money in their pockets, understanding and expectations about the workplace, but evaluations four or five years later consistently [bell] show these programs need to have a more lasting effect.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much. The next speaker, please.

RAY HERMANDO: Hello. Good afternoon. My name is Ray Harmando and I'm a Program Supervisor for the Education and Career Services at the Chinese-American Planning Council, CPC. So the Summer Youth Employment Program is actually a very big part of CPC for our programming. We've been working with them for some time, and we currently serve over 2,000 young people. So, I just wanted to thank everyone for, you know, giving us an opportunity, for letting us to speak, and to also collaborate with DYCD on this Concept Paper to work towards our young people. SO, although everything was— Once looking at the Concept Paper we noticed there were a few key issues

that we noticed in there, and I just wanted to highlight a few of them, not in any particular order. So, the first one that I wanted to mention was the exclusion of 22 to 24-year-olds. We have notice that SYEP for at least the past five or six years or so we have been having the model from 14 to 24, and we feel that it should be the same. With the new Concept Paper it mentions that there's not going to be any more SYEP placement in the community from—the community model is going to be cutting out the 22 to 24-year-olds, and based off of our experiences, we do feel there is a need for these young people. I believe it was mentioned earlier today there are a lot of young people I'll say who are either disconnected or opportunity youth or individuals that are currently graduating from college. They don't have any work experience, SYEP traditionally has been the first job for a lot of New Yorkers. So, I feel it would be a good idea to, you know, allow that again, allow the 22 and 24-years-olds to do SYEP as well. The second point I wanted to mention was the 14 and 15-year-olds, the proposed changes there. So, I feel that the Service Earning Project it sounds like a great idea, and we really do appreciate the project

based learning. However, I feel that should be an option not something that's fully set. So, I think there's a lot of young people that are 14, 15 that are developmentally ready to be able to take on in traditional internship placement, and I feel providers should have the opportunity to choose either to do the service earning project or to have these young people go work at a worksite because just like it was mentioned earlier today a lot of these young people not only are—they're going to be coming in, and they might not want to do this because it sounds like they're back in school. A lot of young people they're excited to be able to work in the summer and now we are going to be telling them hey you're going be saving yourself from doing a project and that's really not for everyone. I think we're only considering a certain aspect of young people but if you want to consider all the 14 and 15-year-olds we should definitely open it up and let them work because they have something that has worked. I'm pretty sure a lot of providers could say that it has worked for them, and I believe it has worked for us as well. And another point that I want to mention is the PPP, the Price Per Participant. We noticed

that in the Concept Paper it was not mentioned what it would be, but rather it was kind of vague. It was more of a range. It goes from \$325 to \$1,000 and based off of what we are assuming right now, it would probably be \$325, and if you consider all the different changes that are coming in. Because as of now you've been with all the ideas that we may have. I'm pretty sure there's going to be some pretty big changes coming up front. So base off of that, I think the price per participant definitely needs to increase. I would say at least double. I would say at least double for the amounts, but \$325 is definitely not going to work especially if you want to have qualified individuals who are going to be working with these young people. You want to make sure that they could actually work with them and provide the services that we're trying to give to them, to give—to make sure that the program is successful. And I think the price per participant should also be specified early on rather than later so we could kind of know what to expect and make any comments on that. So, overall, there's a lot more comments that we do have. However, they are included in the written testimony that we have submitted. At this point, I

would just like to thank everyone again for giving us an opportunity to testify, and being able to work towards SYEP and for our youth. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much.

GREGORY BRENDER: Thank you, Council Member Eugene for the hearing and for all you've done to fight for SYEP both here and--and the steps of City Hall and other places. I'm Gregory Brender and I'm here on behalf of both United Neighborhood Houses and the Campaign for Summer Jobs, a coalition of more than 100 community organizations working for summer jobs for every youth in New York City. There are a lot of interesting parts to this Concept Paper, and we certainly agree with the Commissioner when we say--when he says stability of funding leads to higher quality programs for youth, but nonetheless there's--there's a lot of concern, and I'm going to submit our response to the Concept Paper. You have that with you, which goes through sort of our concerns (coughing) on each of the nine different legalities, but I just kind of wanted to go through three general areas of concern. One, as everyone has mentioned, is the price per participant. This is particularly salient when you look at both the school based model

and the younger youth model which require much more intensive amount of service. So, you—you know, when you look at the school based model, it looks something similar in expectation to the In-School Youth Program. That has a price per participant of over \$3,000. When you look t the Younger Youth Program, it's looking more like to some extent the camp program, a school based program. So, maintaining—providing that kind of service requires a lot of resources both financial resources as well as space in classrooms. [background comment] Similarly, we would like to see the Concept Paper address some of the paperwork requirements so they become a big issue for the providers, standardizing and many of the things such as attendance sheets, time—time and attendance will do a lot to decrease the amount of time that staff have to spend really just doing paperwork with this program. It's an intensive amount of work that ends up costing a lot, and as we try to transition to having staff spend more time doing youth development activities we can have the also put onto these kind of paperwork requirements. And lastly, we want to maintain some of the traditional SYEP for the 14 and 15-year-olds for

those young people who—who haven't been succeeding in the classroom environment and who are really looking for that initial job. So, our paper goes through the kind of all nine different competitions there's going to be, and thank you for all your work on this.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much. Thanks a lot. Mr. Odell (sic), please.

MR. O'DELL: I want to recognize the intense work that was done by DYCD to (coughs) help meet the expectations of the Administration and the Council, and we want to recognize that they did that under pressure from the Council to do it and to see that all youth are served we thank you, Dr. Eugene together with the other Council Members for your part. I'm in agreement with almost everything I've heard today and with the goals that are stated in the Concept Paper. I was flying a few months ago, and there was a stewardess who was explaining where we were passing, and all of a sudden the Captain go on and said, Folks, fasten your safety belt. We have to land. So, we've heard a lot of good ideas, but we have to land, and we need more money if we're going to put some professional staff on and we need some more money because it's been many years since

there's—it hasn't even been a total percentage and it—there are a lot of details of what we need, but we—if we're serving youth we have to do it in a way that's going to work and that's what I mean by saying we have to land. The Concept Paper talks about dividing younger youth into groups a maximum of 25 youth. If that would work to an average of 17 or 20 youth each, that would mean in New York City we're going to need without expanding the 70,000 youth and without expanding the 16,000 younger youth served last year, 700 locations and not 700 educational professionals but 700 pied pipers that will get that group through the career exploration concept successfully. New York City tried it in WLG last year, and it failed. This year WLG is not doing this kind of career exploration with young youth. It didn't work. There was some exploration last with, 1,500 youth. It worked for some. It didn't for others. There are youth who have to be taught how to button their vests with a one-inch button and one button on the vest. Most youth don't need that. 14 and 15-year-olds on a whole are ready for it and will face their next year's education better with a job experience and if—if we will leave it at that with

the--the previous Administration. In its wisdom or in it's attempt to serve more youth for less money decide to break the program between 14 and 15-year-olds and older youth. What this did is it gave every CBO the job of explaining to work sites who would like older youth anyway that they needed to apply for two groups, and they said no. Let's--we'll take on the older ones. We said, we have the additional job in order to find work for youth to convince sites to apply for two contracts, to convince them to set up two schedules and to convince them to deal with two sets of papers. It's wrong. It doesn't help. My idea is radical and I would have been--rather been first so other people could comment on it. I--I think that we belong going back and having one program. We're not saving money if we have to somehow find the 700 pied pipers in classrooms and funding. We are better off with one consistent program across the board. We thank you for your time.

CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you very much. Thank you so very much. We are running out of time. We should leave here by 1:00, but I want to take the opportunity. I've been listening to all of you. Thank you very much, Council Member Palma for coming,

but thank you much. So I've been listening to all you service providers, and I may say that day in and day out you are serving those young people. You are in contact with them. You know first hand what they are facing, what you need to serve them and I think that, you know, I-I realize that you have not been provided with enough information, and also supplied with the resources that you need to continue doing-to continue doing the wonderful job that you are doing. What I'm going to do, I'm going to call the DYCD back and send them a letter to make sure that they take into consideration your concern and also your recommendation, and I would like to see DYCD with the service providers to go over the new Concept Paper, and to make sure that whatever the next step will be, and you will be in a good position to continue to fulfill your job and to serve the young people in New York City. If you have any additional information or recommendations that you didn't have time to talk about, you can forward them to my office, and again than you very much for all the wonderful job that you are doing on behalf our-our young people. Thank you. Have a wonderful day. Thank you very much. And with that--

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

146

2 MALE SPEAKER: [interposing] Thank you.

3 CHAIRPERSON EUGENE: Thank you and with
4 this, the meeting is adjourned. [gavel]

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

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 November 3, 2017