

COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

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CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

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MONDAY, APRIL 25, 2022

Start: 1:04 P. M.

Recess: 3:27 P. M.

HELD AT: REMOTE HEARING (VIRTUAL ROOM 1)

B E F O R E: HON. ALTHEA STEVENS, CHAIR

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

ALEXA AVILÉS

CHI A. OSSÉ

KRISTIN RICHARDSON JORDAN

KEVIN C. RILEY

NANTASHA M. WILLIAMS

OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS ATTENDING:

KAMILLAH HANKS

GALE BREWER

COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

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

Darryl Rattray,
Associate Commissioner for Youth Services and
Strategic Partnerships

Wanda Ascherl,
Assistant Commissioner for Community Centers

Joyce Duverce,
Senior Director of Strategic Partnerships

Dante Bravo,
Youth Policy Analyst at United Neighborhood
Houses (UNH)

Kristen Wilson,
Policy and Learning Associate at JobsFirstNYC

Sandra Escamilla,
Executive Vice President at Children's Aid

Kennett Jones,
Executive Director at Salvadori Center

Ana Stanek,
Political Strategist, Activist, Community Organizer,
Project Manager

Lucy Sexton,
Executive Director of New Yorkers for Culture and
Arts

COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

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

Adrienne Umali,
Senior Program Manager at The New York Academy of
Sciences

Kiesha Roberts,
Program Manager at BronxWorks

SERGEANT BIONDO: Recording to the pc underway.

SERGEANT LEONARDO: Cloud is rolling.

SERGEANT LUGO: Thank you.

Good afternoon, everyone, and welcome to today's remote New York City Council Hearing of the Committee on Youth Services. At this time, would all panelists, please turn on your videos for verification purposes? To minimize disruptions, please place all electronic devices to vibrate or silent mode.

If you wish submit testimony you may send it to testimony@council.nyc.gov again, that's testimony@council.nyc.gov

Thank you for your cooperation, Chair Stevens, we are ready to begin.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Okay, thank you. Good afternoon, I am Council Member Althea Stevens, Chair of the New York City Council's Committee on Youth Services. Welcome to today's virtual Oversight Hearing on DYCD Community Center Programming-Beacon, Cornerstone, and Saturday Night Lights.

Today's hearing is focused on Beacon, Cornerstone, and Saturday Night Lights, three programs that were developed to provide a public

space to address the communities basic social, economic, and cultural needs. Saturday Night Lights is a violence prevention and youth development program operated by community based organizations in partnership with NYPD.

SNL used underutilized gyms and recreation centers to provide sports programs for kids ages 11 through 18 each Saturday from 5:00 p. m. to 9:00 p. m., a time when youth are at most at risk of being effected by crime.

Beacons and Cornerstones are two DYCD community center programs. Though both programs are served as community hubs that offer year-round services to all ages, they serve slightly different populations. Beacon programs are located within 91 public schools throughout the City and serve their surrounding communities. Cornerstones are community centers located within 99 NYCHA buildings. Those Cornerstone programs are unique positions to engage the population of disconnected youth and young adults; it so important to invest in right now.

Despite their differences, SNL, Beacons, and Cornerstones were all designed to provide safe and enriching environments for youth to spend time when

they are not in school. School age children spend 80% of their time... waking hours outside of their homes. This time is critical to youth development. As SNL reminds us, it's a time where youth can be most at risk or have opportunities for them to be enriched and uplifted and aided by their community.

Studies have shown that quality enrichment programs can improve school performances, promote emotional, cognitive, and academic development, as well as reduce risky behaviors, crime, and juvenile delinquency.

I do not have to rely just on research to appreciate the value of these programs. I have spent the last 12 years of my life operating DYCD programs, and during much of that time, I worked in local community centers. In preparation for this hearing, I also spent a lot of the last few weeks touring various Beacons, Cornerstones, and Saturday Night Lights programs, and community centers. As a result of all of these experiences, I have learned a lot about the programs and the full potential of Beacons, Cornerstones, and SNL programming.

Community centers are more than just the services they provide. They are spaces where neighborhoods

can bond, learn together, and support each other.

They show us the undeniable value of personal connections. As a community leader, I was able to expose young people to new opportunities and help them build connections with their larger communities. I have also seen how the programs are undermined by the lack of funding, poor conditions between agencies and CBOs, and disconnects between providers and the communities they are meant to serve. It is essential to quality programs that CBOs see the communities as partners and a resource.

Today's hearing is about holding all parties accountable. We will examine not just DYCD's role, but how providers, other city agencies, and we the public can better support Beacons, Cornerstones, and Saturday Night Lights programs.

I want to thank the staff behind the scenes making sure the online hearing is running smoothly. I would like to thank Youth Committee staff for their work on this issue, Committee Counsel, Emi Briggs; Policy, Analyst Anastassia Zimina; Financial Unit Head, Aliya Ali, and I would like to thank my Chief of Staff and Budget Director, Kate Connolly, and Communications Manager, Jahtah Brown, thank you.

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

8

2 And, at this time I would like to acknowledge all
3 of my colleagues who are here with us today: Council
4 Member Hanks, Council Member Ossé, Council Member
5 Gale Brewer, and that is all I see for now, and thank
6 you.

7 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you, Chair Stevens. I
8 am Emi Briggs, counsel to the New York City Council's
9 Committee on Youth Services. I will be moderating
10 today's hearing and calling panelists to testify.

11 Before we begin, please remember that everyone
12 will be on mute until I call on you to testify.
13 After you are called on, you will be unmuted by a
14 member of our staff. Note that there will be a few
15 second delay before you are unmuted and we can hear
16 you.

17 For public testimony, we will call up individuals
18 in panels -- please listen for your name, and I will
19 periodically announce the next few panelists.

20 All public testimony will be limited to two
21 minutes. After I call your name, please wait for the
22 Sergeant At Arms to announce that you may begin
23 before starting your testimony.

24 Council Member questions will be limited to five
25 minutes, and Council Members, please note that this

includes both the questions and your witness's answers.

Please also note that we will allow for a second round of questions at today's hearing, and these will be limited to two minutes, again, including both your question and the witness's answers.

For today's hearing, the first panel will include representatives from DYCD followed by council member questions, and then public testimony.

From the administration, we will hear from Darryl Rattray, Associate Commissioner for Youth Services and Strategic Partnerships; Wanda Ascherl, Assistant Commissioner for Community Centers; and Joyce Duverce, Senior Director of Strategic Partnerships.

I will now administer the oath to the administration, when you hear your name, please respond once a member of our staff unmutes you.

Do you affirm to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, before this committee, and to respond honestly to council member questions?

Associate Commissioner Rattray?

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: I do.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you. Assistant Commissioner, Wanda Ascherl?

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES 10

2 ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER ASCHERL: I do.

3 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you, and, Senior

4 Director, Joyce Duverce?

5 SENIOR DIRECTOR DUVERCE: I do.

6 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you.

7 Associate Commissioner Darryl Rattray, you may

8 begin your testimony when ready.

9 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: Thank you.

10 Good afternoon, Chair Stevens, and members of the

11 Committee on Youth Services. I am Darryl Rattray,

12 Associate Commissioner for Youth Services and

13 Strategic Partnerships. I am joined by Wanda Ascherl,

14 Assistant Commissioner for Community Centers, and

15 Joyce Duverce, Senior Director of Strategic

16 Partnerships.

17 Thank you for this opportunity to discuss our

18 community center-programming: Beacons, Cornerstones

19 and Saturday Night Lights. These programs are

20 critical in DYCD's mission to invest in a network of

21 community based organizations and programs to

22 alleviate the effects of poverty and to provide

23 opportunities for New Yorkers and communities to

24 flourish.

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In the early 1990's Mayor David Dinkins launched "Safe Streets, Safe City" initiative to tackle New York City's high crime rate. He recognized that a larger police force couldn't be the only strategy to combat crime. It had to be combined with community policing and providing young people and community members with safe places and enrichment and recreational opportunities. The Mayor also recognized that many school buildings sat empty afterschool, during weekends and the summer, which could be used to offer activities for young people and families across the city, and the Beacon program was born.

The Beacons provide activities and services for school-age youth, families, and adults ages 22 years and older, including seniors. In keeping with the original concept, programs make special efforts to engage hard-to-recruit youth and young adults for whom participation in activities that foster positive youth development, social emotional learning (SEL) and leadership skills that are especially beneficial. Programs operate for a minimum of 42 hours over 6 days in the afternoons and evenings, on weekends, school holidays, and during school recess.

COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

12

Beacons have become a national and international model. Since their inception, Beacons have served millions of youth and adults. Currently, there are 92 Beacons. This year the program is on track to serve over 109,800 youth and families.

Following years of federal disinvestment in public housing, in 2009 the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) announced the closure of community centers it operated. Thanks in large part to the strong advocacy of the Council, the City announced a plan to ensure continuity of services at 25 NYCHA community centers. Using city tax levy funding, we began what is now known as the Cornerstone Program. In the time since then, the program has grown and now offers services at 99 developments across the city. These programs, administered by local non-profits, help young people acquire the academic foundation and skills they need to graduate from high school, succeed in the workplace, and give back to the community.

Programming was shaped by input from young people, NYCHA residents, Resident Association leaders and principals at schools that serve youth who live in the participating developments. Activities include

academics, homework help, STEM activities, and high school and college prep. Cornerstone programs also serve adults through General Education Diploma and English for Speakers of Other Languages instruction, job preparation, parenting skills, tenant education and advocacy and intergenerational programming. To date, these centers have served over 19,500 participants.

In 2021, the NYPD partnered with the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD), the City's District Attorneys, and community-based organizations to open 100 gyms and expand its "Saturday Night Lights" (SNL) program. SNL is a summer program that provides access to free youth sports programming on Saturday nights -- actually a correction was in an updated copy, but SNL is a year-round program that provides access to free youth sport programming on Saturday Nights.

Last month, Mayor Adams kicked off the spring season of Saturday Night Lights (SNL) at P.S. 244 in Mott Haven. Last year, DYCD partnered with the New York Police Department, the City's District Attorneys' Offices, the Parks Department, and our Cornerstone and Beacon providers to expand the

program. Each Saturday, from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., children from 11 to 18-years-of-age participate in sports, including basketball, soccer, volleyball, dance, martial arts, and others. Programs take place in gyms and local parks, weather permitting.

These initiatives, along with the Summer Youth Employment Program, are critical in the Mayor's efforts to protect our communities and create a safe prosperous city for all New Yorkers.

Last month Mayor Adams announced Summer Rising 2.0 which will serve 110,000 elementary and middle school students this summer. We appreciate the support of Chair Stevens, who was with Mayor and Chancellor Banks at this special announcement at the P&J Beacon Program in The Bronx.

Summer 2022 will offer a new opportunity to engage youth and families in joyful and skill-building activities bringing together the strengths of DYCD-funded summer enrichment initiatives and DOE's academic programs into a coordinated experience for young people.

We are pleased to announce that registration begins today through an enrollment portal hosted by the Department of Education.

It's important to note that Beacon and Cornerstone Programs are complimented by our other large afterschool initiative, the COMPASS program, which is at approximately 900 locations. COMPASS NYC began as Out-of-School Time (OST) in 2005. New York City's trailblazing efforts at ensuring access to quality afterschool for all its young people have been recognized nationally in publications like "Hours of Opportunity" by the Wallace Foundation, among others.

In total, these programs are on track to serve over 200,000 participants at 1,091 locations. Since 2009, youth have participated in Step It Up NYC: a youth engagement program to create change. Each year, nearly 100 teams and more than 1,000 young people audition to create positive change across all five boroughs. Through the competition, dance and step teams plan community service projects and develop citywide social campaigns to speak up about issues that impact their communities including education, health, equality and opportunity, peace and tolerance, and safe communities.

Since 2017, youth have also participated in the DYCD Young Sharks competition. This project-based

activity for youth aged 14 to 24, incorporates business basics and product design, financial literacy, work readiness, and leadership development. This May and June, we will engage youth in collaboration with Hip-Hop Youth Summit Youth Council using the digital "Daymond on Demand" business curriculum.

Youth will create a product design, develop a business plan, and construct a prototype to raise their voice against gun-violence. Teams will have the opportunity to win up \$2,500 to the first-place team, \$2,000 to the second-place team, and \$1,500 for an "Audience Choice" Award for the business team with the most social media pledges against gun violence.

Top three finalist will meet and receive mentorship from The Sharks Tanks' own co-star Daymond John. The finalist will also showcase their business ideas at the DYCD Anti-Gun Violence Awareness Day projected to take place on June 3rd.

Thank you once again for this opportunity to testify today. We would be happy to answer your questions.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you for your testimony. Before I turn to Chair Stevens for questions, I'd

COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

17

like to remind council members to use the Zoom Raise Hand Function to indicate that they have a question for the panel.

I will now turn to Chair Stevens for questions.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Yes, thank you for your opening. Uh, so, just, so we all know, obviously with Cornerstones and Beacons and things like that, uh, it's an RFP. But, just a little bit of engaging us on, like, how are Cornerstones and Beacon sights chosen, other than the RFP?

Is there consideration taken for neighborhoods with less youth programming?

And, what are the different factors that are taken in to consideration when we are thinking about these programs?

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: [NO AUDIO]

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Can we unmute Mr. Rattray, please?

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: Perfect. So, Chair Stevens, we are currently at 99 NYCHA community centers across the City. I think the need is taken to in account physical space to whether or not they have a community center that can house a Cornerstone program. There are quite a few slated for

renovations, uh, one example for that is Gowanus. We toured the center and created a punch list, if you will, of what needs to happen in order for us to place the Cornerstone program there.

Gowanus renovations should take through 2024 or 2025, and then once it opens up, we will have funding to place a Cornerstone program at that location. But we do take in to account young people within the development as well as community.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: So, how... What are the considerations? Like, how are you considering, like, programming? Are we looking at other programs that are in a certain radius? Like, can a little bit more detail to that? I hear your one sight in Gowanus, that's great, but we are talking about citywide. How are we looking at where we are placing these programs, and what is the need? Are we looking at a proximity? The weekends and Cornerstones? I would love a little bit more detail around that.

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: So, in upping the 99... So, we started with 25, then, I want to say January 2014, we added on an additional 45, and then another 25 in 2015.

Because of the location of Cornerstones, we didn't necessarily take in to account the other services throughout that neighborhood.

We were looking a development where there may have been historical programming located at, and knowing that there may be a need with that...

`within that community, and creating a program that focused on that neighborhood, that community, and for the most part, that development.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Okay. So, what happens when a community center wants to be a Cornerstone? Because it is my understanding that not all community centers are Cornerstones. So, what happens if you want to be a Cornerstone? Because you have very limited capacity around the programs that you're providing if you're not Cornerstone.

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: So, in some cases we got... we received requests. So, Gowanus was literally an example where we received the request from the council member at that time, uh, to create a Cornerstone program at Gowanus. We went out there with NYCHA, again, assessed the facility and figured out what was needed for... For instance, I think the fire alarm system needed to be repaired. Then NYCHA

1 goes back, uh, specs up a plan to make those
2 renovations, and then, again, once that Gowanus opens
3 up and the center is ready, we can activate a
4 Cornerstone program there... (CROSS-TALK)

5 CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: So... (CROSS-TALK)

6 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: So, I think each
7 individual case is unique. So, if [INAUDIBLE
8 00:08:17]... (CROSS-TALK)

9 CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: So, because you're
10 supposed... (CROSS-TALK)

11 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: Go ahead? (CROSS-
12 TALK)

13 CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: I know that you keep talking
14 about Gowanus, but I... But, there are other
15 programs that are running currently as, like, let's
16 say they are a COMPASS program or something like
17 that, and they are saying that they would love to be
18 a Cornerstone, because it comes with additional
19 funding and the model is more holistic, how do they
20 then request to be a Cornerstone if it is just, like,
21 a request? Or is there a request? How is this taken
22 in to consideration?

23 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: So, there is...
24 There is not a request process. But, if they reach
25

out to us, again, we can bring this up with folks and see if it is viable, and if funding is available, to create a Cornerstone program out of that site.

The latest example of that was Eastside House, where we did receive a request from the council member, uhm, to create a more holistic style programing within The South Bronx at those sights of Mitchell, Patterson, and Mill Brook. And, then what we do was add on the differences in program and funding to create a Cornerstone-like model.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Yeah, I know, and I was a part of that process, because I worked... We fought really hard for that. And, that came through The Close Rikers Island and the funding that we are able to secure through there. And, so, that was through her. So, what happens if a council member doesn't have additional funding, for some reason, how do they then... Because, I, for example, in my district specifically, I have a number of community centers who are not Cornerstones, and they said that they do not know why they were not chosen to be one when a lot of these community centers converted over.

So, that is why I am asking these questions. And I am also hearing that that is something that a

1
2 few... Because, there are not that many left, there
3 are only a few that are not Cornerstones, and I am
4 just not understanding why those have not been
5 converted over yet.

6 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: Chair Stevens, I
7 would say if you have [INAUDIBLE 00:19:56] your
8 office can reach out to us with the listing of those
9 sights. In the very beginning, we would RFP every
10 center out. So, it could have been that the provider
11 at the center, uh, had a lease with NYCHA where they
12 could not be turned over at that center because of an
13 RFP. I know that is different with Eastside House,
14 uh, recently. And, again, I think that opens the
15 door for other opportunities. But, if you can send a
16 list of those sites, then we can take a look at them
17 and then get back to you... (CROSS-TALK)

18 CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: I will definitely send you a
19 list of sites that are in my district and throughout
20 the City, uh, to make sure that we can start that
21 conversation. Because, there are not that many sites
22 that have not been converted, and I am just confused
23 on why, when we transitioned over, uh, in taking over
24 the program from NYCHA, we did not just transition
25

over all of the sites instead of having these inequalities.

So, moving on to SNL sites, how are the SNL sites chosen? Are crime statistics used to make that determination?

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: So, yes, and I will start and, Joyce, if you... If I miss anything, please jump in.

So, first we reached out to our providers inquiring on who wanted to operate an SNL site. We put the criteria up for them, and then we took those proposed sites, and we met with NYPD and the DA's offices. And they looked at crime stats across the City and locations where it would be a good fit to place an SNL site for that neighborhood.

SENIOR DIRECTOR DUVERCE: Yes, and I can also add on, uhm, excellent relationship with NYPD and local DA offices. Because, historically, we had 20 SNL sites already operating around the City, so we are able to use that model to then inform how we expand to the 100 locations. That with also [INAUDIBLE 00:21:42] to see the needs and the ability to kind of lift an SNL site. We also use that in consideration. And, of course, seeing how we could also partner with

our local precincts to make sure that we have the appropriate partners coming in to make sure the SNL sites are living from week to week.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: So, crime statistics were looked at after you chose the providers? So, we chose the providers, and then we chose locations?

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: No, we...

(CROSS-TALK)

SENIOR DIRECTOR DUVERCE: No... Mm-hmm?

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: We asked which providers were interested, so we can have at least an idea of where we can activate an SNL site if that particular location was feasible -- if that neighborhood was feasible. And, then we filtered that through NYPD and the DA's office, and we came down to 100 sites across the City that we will provide SNL services.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Uhm, I see the Public Safety Chair, and so I know she has a couple of questions around the SNL sites. So, I will let her ask those questions when we open it up.

So, I will move on. I have a number of questions still.

How does the programming offered through Beacons and Cornerstone community centers compare to COMPASS and SONYC?

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: So, the way I... When folks ask me that, the way I put it is, COMPASS and SONYC have very focused audiences that they work with, so there are many COMPASS elementary programs - they work with elementary youth - there are SONYC programs that work with middle school youth, then we have COMPASS High and pilot programs. And, Beacon and Cornerstone, there is a whole list of community centers working with all ages within that neighborhood and tailoring programming activities to meet the need of that neighborhood as well.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Are there consequences for underperforming providers?

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: So, if a provider continues to underperform, of course, we... Before we get to the point of penalizing them, we are working with them, we are providing technical assistance [INAUDIBLE 00:23:41]... (CROSS-TALK)

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Can you... Can you give me details about what working with them looks like?

COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

26

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: Yes. So, we are providing coaching and support. So, we are out there with them, our staff is out there. I have even been out at sites having conversations about middle school retention in a neighborhood where the middle schools were far away from the community center. So, we are out there coaching. We are providing technical assistance, uh, and professional development if needed for that team -- that staff. But, it could get to the point where we are penalizing, we are writing them up. And, in the worst case scenarios, when it happens, there may be provider turnover.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: How many times has that happened? How many times has a provider... has there been turnover?

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: Quite... I mean, quite a few. I can give you... (CROSS-TALK)

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Can I get a number?

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: In the past couple of years, because of the pandemic, not many, but before that, there were at least, I would say a handful -- four or five.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Four or five? So, there's only been four or five underperforming providers?

Okay, I... (CROSS-TALK)

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: Not... Not consistently underperforming I would say. So, there's... (CROSS-TALK)

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: You know... (CROSS-TALK)

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: Sometimes a provider may underperform, and we give them the opportunity whether it's to a strategic action plan that they develop and then implement or a corrective action plan to get back on track.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Okay. I just think that's important that we are also holding our providers to very high standards as well, because it's crucial for our young people. And, sometimes, I... There are a lot of providers who have been in place for a long time and there is a disconnect between the communities and the programming. And, if we don't ever have a conversation about it, it's never going to change. So, those things are really important to me of, like, what is holding the providers just as accountable as we are holding DYCD and anyone else accountable? Right? This is going to be a group

effort, and sometimes we need to look at what needs to be changed, and sometimes that might be a provider -- which is not a terrible thing. So, I just want to make sure that we highlight that as well.

How may New York City NYCHA community centers that have not been converted into... Well, you.... I don't know if you have the number... How many... What is the number of NYCHA community centers that have not been converted to Cornerstones?

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: I don't have that number. We would have to get that from NYCHA.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Well, can I get that number? I would really like that number. And, also, I would love to get the number of how many, uh, community centers we have throughout NYCHA.

To what extent does DYCD collect data about participants through its programming? Is the collected data used to inform or support other related youth services?

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: So, we collect enrollment, retention, and attendance data for young people. We know which activities they are in and which programs they are enrolling in and participating in, of course.

We are looking for that information to inform concept papers, inform RFPs in the type of programming we are conducting and releasing.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: How... Are collecting any data on services young people might need to have? Because I think that that is really important. I think I said this in another hearing before. You know, a lot of times we are collecting data does not seem as useful as if, you know, do you need shelter? Do you need food? Like, how are those things being collected? And I think that it is important that that is something we are tracking and collecting?

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: Yes. So, we have started citywide surveys. And, coincidentally, the last came right before the pandemic. And there was a subset of data collected in Staten Island, and the one thing that we found is that there was a food desert, a food shortage, in parts of Staten Island. And, this was right before the pandemic started. So, we are looking to continue that sort of community surveying that we have been doing. And, again, that will help inform RFPs, concept papers, and future programming.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: I think that it is nice that we collect information for surveys, but I think that it is important that we are also collecting data that could be useful for our participants. Right? If we have opportunities to meet with families and participants, we should be collecting information on, "Do you need a home?" "Do you need food services?" "Do you need to be reconnected with schools?" Do we need all of these things, like, a missed opportunity over and over again? So, I think we should be looking at that and considering how we are going to move forward to be collecting data that is useful for our young people.

What is the role of NYCHA TA leaders in your Cornerstones?

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: So, every advisory board, every NYCHA community program center should have an advisory board. And, on that advisory board there should be... (CROSS-TALK)

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: What happens if they do not have an advisory board?

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: Then we would need to work with them to get their advisory board up and running. And, we have a couple of cases like

that where, yes, the advisory board has not been functioning the way it should have been, uh, even before the pandemic in some cases. But, we are working [INAUDIBLE 00:28:41]... (CROSS-TALK)

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Can you tell me what a functioning advisory board looks like?

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: So a functioning advisory board should consist of both... at least two dually elected residents, who are on the resident's association or resident council, parents, young adults, business stakeholders in that community, representatives from the local schools where... that maybe feeder sites for that community as well. And, they should come together monthly to quarterly to discuss that program, discuss the neighborhood, and discuss what the needs are to ensure that that program is tailoring what they do to meet some of those needs.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Okay, and, so, uh, you... I guess we were saying how the NYCHA leaders are supposed to be involved in the programming.

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: Yes, so, one... One way is that they sit on an advisory board and they help support that program and support that

board. Other ways, we have, uh, programs who meet with their resident leaders weekly, monthly, uh, in the best practice, in other cases, ,you know, these are relationships that we are working on to mediate.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Okay. What extent does DYCD collect community and parent input for your Cornerstones and Beacons and SNL programs?

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: So, the advisory board is one way for them to collect that input. The other way is what I mentioned earlier around the community surveys that we have been doing and, uh, we are going to continue to do.

Uh, ideally when we do release a Cornerstone concept paper and an RFP, we will have, I want to say sort of a... I can't think of the word for it, but an overview of each development and the feedback that we are getting back from parents, from young people, from young adults for that particular development. Uh, so anyone proposing for that development can read the snapshot, that's how I want to say, to read the snapshot and see what young adults are saying about the previous programming, also what they want, and same for young people as well.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: How does your program support the integration of formally incarcerated individuals or those with previous criminal history?

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: So, we have a few providers that have an expertise in working with young people who... or young adults who have formally been incarcerated. They use them as credible messengers. They use them in programing at times to talk to other young people who may be at high risk out there. Uh...

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Are there barriers for participating in any programming?

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: No, as long as young people -- young adults -- are respectful and follow the rules there shouldn't be any barriers, as long as you're following the rules.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Are there barriers from volunteering, or teaching, or staffing in any of these programs?

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: Based on their... Of course they need to pass the background check, so based on... Based off of their record, uh, it depends. Each case is going to be unique.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Because I am hearing that there is a significant issue with young people who may have had, like, minor issues with the law, haven't been able to be employed at these programs, which I think is terrible when we are trying to get them reincorporated back in to the community.

So, how do we address this? Because I think that that, you know, it causes a disconnect.

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: Chair Stevens, each case is unique, so I would say if any provider is having an issue with a young person, I would love to sort of have them reach out to me so we can drill down in to that case and speak with DOHMH and see if there is anything that we can do to support.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: This is -- literally -- this is an issue I have spoken to a couple of providers around this. So, I will definitely have them reach out to you. But, there is a... When we were going out, and even in my time when I was working in community centers, there were a number of young people who were not able to be employed in the program, because they had an issue when they were 16 or whatever, and they could not work in the program, because the background would not clear. So, I think

that is something that we definitely need to look at. Obviously we want to keep kids safe, and we want to make sure that everyone is okay, but some of the backgrounds are, the restrictions are a little concerning to me. Because it's like, how do we then integrate them back in to the City? Because, like you said, they are incredible messengers. They have been in a place that these young people... And, have turned their lives around, so should be able to work with them. And, even when we are talking with some of the Cure Violence sights, they were saying, like, they can't go in to schools because they have a background. And, so, it's like, at what point do we, you know, keep having these people have these same issues and facing these barriers when they are trying to do good and promote good things in their communities. So, definitely need to talk more about that.

Taking in to consideration the program model and staffing requirements, when are the community center staff supposed to take vacation and have time off? Because, that is another issue that has been coming up. A lot of the center staff is burnt out and they're exhausted. And when are they supposed to

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES 36
2 take time off? Because, if folks don't know, these
3 programs, they are typically open for vacation camp,
4 they are open during the holidays, and on the
5 weekends. And, I remember working in these programs,
6 especially in the summer, I was literally working
7 from eight to 11:00 p. m. every day -- seven days a
8 week. That was the expectation.

9 So, with this model, and especially with such a
10 low price per participant rate, and we are not
11 allowed or able to get more staff, when is vacation
12 supposed to be taken? We would love to hear what the
13 planning is around that, because staff is burnt out -
14 - especially after this pandemic. And they have been
15 out in the communities for the last two years feeding
16 and taking care of the communities, they are burnt
17 out.

18 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: So, the normal
19 window of time for vacation is usually the end of
20 August through early September. There should be a
21 window where no programming is operating, uh, and
22 planning is happening... (CROSS-TALK)

23 CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: You know that's not right.

24 You know... When? What's the date?

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES 37
2 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: Let... I can...
3 May get back to you on the dates?
4 CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Yes, you send me those
5 dates, because I am going to put it up [NO AUDIO]
6 [INAUDIBLE 00:34:46] we are all out -- we are off.
7 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: And, then also,
8 end of June in to July. But, I know a lot of the
9 community... (CROSS-TALK)
10 CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: When? [INAUDIBLE
11 00:34:52]Do you mean end of June when they're doing
12 orientation?
13 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: In to early July.
14 CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Yes, so that... That window
15 is when they are doing vacation for summer
16 programming?
17 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: And, some...
18 And, some providers, you know, they have been through
19 this for some time. They have the history and the
20 experience, so they may stagger staff, and some staff
21 are going on vacation while other staff are coming on
22 and continue programming... (CROSS-TALK)
23 CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Yes, but then when they do
24 that, they are not meeting their numbers for...
25 their staff regulations for the participants.

So, I just think that we have to... These are things that we have to have conversations about. It needs some talking about... (CROSS-TALK)

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: This... (CROSS-TALK)

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: because it's real. Our staffs are burnt out. And, because the rate of pay is so low, you cannot hire more staff. So, you just literally have people working until they cannot work any more.

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: And, Chair Stevens, the reason why, you know, I smile when you ask that question, because, yeah, there's been an ongoing conversation. It is a tough one that we should all talk about at one point again. Uhm, on one hand, we know these services are vital, and like, late summer is the time when programming needs to be up and running. At the same time, staff are burnt out. Staff needs vacation time, and that juggle is something that we have been trying to figure out and make modifications to allow overtime... (CROSS-TALK)

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: I really...

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: but, we should definitely continue that conversation.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: I literally visited a provider on my tour, and her biggest concern is that she will not have staff for the summer, because they said, I just cannot do it any more.

So, the problem is, we are burning out good staff and good people, where they are just saying, I can just go... At this point, I can go work at, you know, fast food or somewhere else, and get paid the same amount, because the pay rate is so low, and do less work, and get paid the same amount of money, because we are literally burning staff out.

So, we really have to be thinking about what this looks like and how we are really supporting staff. Because, it's not fair and it's unacceptable at this point.

And, like I said, I remember doing it, and we do it because it's a labor of love. And, I remember, I used to say all of time, I run programs on love. And, so, at some point, love just is not enough.

So, it is important that we are thinking about this and having real conversations about this -- and looking to change it, right?

So, ,you know, my suggestion is, let's fund it adequately so that we can have adequate staff, so

that we could have staggered schedules, so that people can take time off. But, the way it is going now, it's just not fair, and it doesn't seem right. And, it seems like we are... It is abusive at this point.

Uh, so my next question is, how many Cornerstone sits had WIFI upgrades, and when did it take place?

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: [BACKGROUND

NOISE] [INAUDIBLE 00:37:37] great question. I want

to say we had upwards of 25 to 50 that went through

WIFI upgrades. And, there are multiple layers of

this, but the latest one took place during the

pandemic. So, this is some time between the start of

the pandemic into 2021.

And, we... I can get you details on that as well.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Yes, please, uh, send me

back the details. Because, I know there were a

couple of sites who had upgrades, but then I was at

some who said that they didn't. So, I would love to

see what site got the upgrades and why some of the

other sites didn't get them yet -- didn't get them

and when they will get their upgrades?

What is being done to support Cornerstones with their summer enrollment? That is another huge issue that I am hearing especially with the expansion of Summer Rising. Providers are very nervous about what summer looks like for them. Because, you know, when things are shiny and new, everyone wants to throw all of the services at other programs. But, Cornerstones and Beacons have been here for a number of years, and I think it is just as important that we put effort into supporting Cornerstones and Beacons as well around enrollment.

So, what are we doing to support them with their enrollment numbers?

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: Well, one is, them knowing, you know, one, all of the Cornerstone programs have registered contracts so that they know they can move forward with the enrollment period. We are working with them on their work scopes. We are working with them on their enrollment period. They are also aware of what is happening with Summer Rising as well. Uh, and we are supporting them either, through social media, through creation of, uh, flyers and signage that can help spread the word as well, and we are also being flexible around

enrollment. Again, we are not penalizing them because, you know, it took a little bit longer to get to your full enrollment or you didn't meet your full enrollment. We are helping to support them in those rare cases.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Yes, I mean, because, it's... Like I said, a number of the Cornerstones and Beacons I have visited these last two weeks had some concerns, because, you know, students are mandated through summer school to go to Summer Rising, and a lot of their numbers are already going to be built in. So they are going to be pretty much taking the kids from the Beacons and Cornerstones. And, so for me, I am just thinking about how we are making sure that we are supporting them, uh, to make sure that that is not happening. And, what does this sort of look like, and how are we making sure that all of these folks are communicating? Because, you know, my big thing is, who is talking and how they're talking. How are these things being communicated amongst each other?

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: Chair Stevens, that's... Again, the point that was made about providers is a really good point. And, then, we will

re-share with community center providers and Cornerstones in particular, that we are here to support them, and that we are not going to penalize them for late enrollment or enrollment issues that they are having.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Okay,

Uh, so, SNL sighted that 45 of the 100 recently opened gyms were not open, why is that?

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: [INAUDIBLE 00:40:31]... (CROSS-TALK)

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: So, I heard that 45 or the gyms or SNL sights have not been open, or had trouble opening -- there are about 45 sites out of the 100.

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: No, we... So, there are currently 106 SNL programs across the City. And, I think we are trending 99% open. There may be one of two that reach out to us and say, hey, we cannot open this week this particular Saturday, but we can do the Saturday... the next Saturday.

So, if there is... if there are any sights... (CROSS-TALK)

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: [INAUDIBLE 00:41:01] I am hearing... I am hearing... I have gotten word from a few credible sources that said that there are about

45 sites that have not been open. Or, like you said, that have struggled with opening, and still have been struggling. And, does that impact funding?

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: We... And, Joyce, go ahead, shoot.

SENIOR DIRECTOR DUVERCE: [NO AUDIO]

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: Okay, can someone... (CROSS-TALK)

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: You have to unmute her.

SENIOR DIRECTOR DUVERCE: Uh, yes, can you hear me now?

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Yes...

SENIOR DIRECTOR DUVERCE: Perfect, so we sent out weekly touchpoints with our providers. And from week to week they are able to communicate their open and closure rates. And, Darryl is correct, we are up to about 99% open. They will have some issues that come up maybe week to week, either, you know, center closures for either... whatever updates they are having, but week to week they are able to tell us. And, we have, of course, uh, the rates of our young people coming in and out of the centers.

As far as your question, I think you... (CROSS-TALK)

COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

45

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Well, how... How often could they close week to week before we see it as an issue and think about moving on from providers?

SENIOR DIRECTOR DUVERCE: Right... (CROSS-TALK)

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Because, that's a...

SENIOR DIRECTOR DUVERCE: Right, good question. So, the understanding is that providers are going to be able to be open 46 weeks out of the year.

Now, I will say that this is our pilot year. And, it did take some of the support a lot of site visits to be able to go out to make sure that all providers were able to open up. We did provide a lot of support around their issues around staffing, and gave a little bit of leniency from week to week as they were able to staff up.

But, we also had partnership meetings with our CBOs. Any partners... and we actually wrapped some up this week. Any partners that we saw had a little bit of an issue as far as opening or with attendance, we were able to actually triage with them and were able to create an action plan. But, the understanding is that we are proud to say that we are around 99% open, and our doors are open for young people to come out... (CROSS-TALK)

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: And, when you say 99% open, are they open the entire time? Because that is also what I am hearing, that sites are not staying open the fulltime that they are allotted. They are closing early, or they are opening late, and it's a free for all.

SENIOR DIRECTOR DUVERCE: Oh, no, not a free for all. I mean, any information like that, please share. You know, we have not only our eyes in, but we have visits coming in from our partners from the DAs' offices and NYPD. It is a full citywide effort to make sure our CBOs are supported and adhering to the program plan of, you know, the full hours. But, the understanding and expectation is that, yes, they will be open for full hours. Any program that has any type of issues are supposed to report it, and then we then inform partners and, of course, our young people to make sure that they know which centers, uh, are open for them to be able to be able to go visit.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: So, I... I think, again, like, what... So, what if... What happens when they aren't consistent? How many times do you get to

close your center regularly? What are those procedures?

SENIOR DIRECTOR DUVERCE: Some coming out of, again, what I said that, you know, coming out of COVID and being able to staff up, and of course there is the pilot year, to be able to get everything streamlined, we are now getting in the space that we are creating action plans with centers and looking to see any programs that are having any type of true to true week to week issue with opening. And then we would then be able to take the steps that are needed to either address some of the issues, and/or see what other actions that we could have to make sure that the community is being served.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Well, I definitely would love to hear more about that... (CROSS-TALK)

SENIOR DIRECTOR DUVERCE: Okay... (CROSS-TALK)

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: And, because consistency is important for young people. If we are not being consistent, then it is a disservice to our young people. So, if they are open one Saturday and then closed the next, that's not helping, because now the kids are, like, "Oh, I'm not coming back".

SENIOR DIRECTOR DUVERCE: Right.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: So, I think that it is important that we are having consistency, young people know the hours, and people are opening.

And, like, a lot of times when there are going to be site visits, it's expected. Are we doing pop up site visits?

SENIOR DIRECTOR DUVERCE: Oh, yes, we are...

(CROSS-TALK)

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: [INAUDIBLE 00:44:35] expectations around that, because I am going to say this, I did some pop up visits, and people were not open. And, that is not okay with me.

SENIOR DIRECTOR DUVERCE: For sure. And, please share. But, yes, there are pop up visits. Not only do we have, uhm, staff dedicated here, but again, as I said, that we also have the partnerships with NYPD where CBOs are going out week to week to actually be able participate in the activities with centers. So, any information that you have that you can share, we can make sure that we are following with the CBOs to make sure that everything is in adherence.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Listen, I will, and like...

(CROSS-TALK)

COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

49

SENIOR DIRECTOR DUVERCE: [INAUDIBLE 00:45:04]...

(CROSS-TALK)

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: These programs mean a lot to me, which is why I am asking the questions that I am asking. Because, it is crucial. Right?

So, as much as we want to say, you know, like I said, I am here to hold DYCD accountable, but we have to hold the providers accountable, too. If they are not going to be consistent, then we need to think about how to move on and get people who are going to get in there and do the work that is going to connect with the community. Those things are important.

Our kids need consistency, and they should be getting quality programming. So, that is my number one concern.

I have quite a few more questions, but I am going to ask a couple more questions, and then I will kick it off to my colleagues, who have been waiting, and then I will come back to... I'll have some more questions.

How is funding determined for each program? Are Cornerstone centers still funded and varying levels depending on space ability in each NYCHA development?

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: That is correct.

For Cornerstone, it's a matter of the space and the licensing they can receive to serve a certain number of young people.

For elementary, the PPP is about \$27.46, then for middle school and high school, uh, \$13.40, and for adults, \$6.19.

And, then they also get additional funding as you know, uh, to remain open during the summer -- extended hours. So, every Cornerstone program is open in the summer seven days a week until 11:00 p. m. And, also there is funding to support cleaning. And, that cleaning funding comes in anywhere between \$32,000 a year to \$75,000 a year based on the size of that particular space.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: I'm sorry, you said that for cleaning they are given \$32,000 a year?

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: From \$32,000 to \$75,000 to support cleaning staff and supplies. It is based on the size of the space. So, we have some locations that are 3,000 square feet, other locations that are over 22,000 square feet.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: What is the formula used to determine Cornerstones and Beacon contractor

reimbursement? When was the last time that formula was updated?

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: So, the budgets were updated as per the RFPs of each. So, Beacon... and Wanda correct me if I am wrong, Beacon was 2016 and Cornerstone was 2015.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: 2016 and 2015?

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: And... And yes, yes.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: So, when do you think we should update the new one? Because that is quite some time ago.

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: So, it also ties in the question you asked me earlier around the RFPs. So, the RFP timeline is also another opportunity for us to get feedback from stakeholders, from providers, about the cost of operating programing and whether that cost has changed or not.

So, I would say that the Cornerstone concept paper is going to release, uh, at the end of this year, December. And that could shore up that process to have those conversations around the type of programming, program quality, and also funding as well.

COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

52

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Okay, I am going to pause here to have my colleagues ask some questions. I see two hands raised.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you, Chair.

I would like to remind council members to use the Zoom Raise Hand Function to indicate that they have a question for this panel.

I will now call on council members with questions in the order that they have raised their hands. Beginning with... So, we will hear from Council Member Hanks, followed by Council Member Brewer.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: Thank you so much for, uh, Mr. Rattray, for being here. My name is Kamillah Hanks, I am the Chair of Public Safety. I just want to applaud Chair Stevens and the thorough questioning that she has done thus far. It really was very informative. And, I cannot now preface the four questions I have, but say, you know, as the Chair of Public Safety, our connection to youth and community service is vital. And, it is vital in order for us to understand ,you know, the pathway of not being incarcerated to not having young people caught up in bad actors, is directly connected to the programs and

the services that they have on the ground -- like the Cornerstones -- like the Beacons.

I toured the Staten Island Beacon programs and the Cornerstone programs with Chair Stevens, and I learned a great deal. And, many of the questions that she is asking, we saw firsthand. And, so that is supremely important that I kind of preface that and make sure that everyone understands the importance of the funding that DYCD gets and Youth and Community Services, and the important role they play in all of this in making it a safer city.

So, that said, you know, as the Chair of Public Safety, how does DYCD see their role in the intervention and prevention component of The Mayor's Blueprint?

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: Council Member Hanks, thank you for that. You know, you are speaking and it brought me back. I grew up in The Bronx in Lambert Houses. I was a teen in the Beacon program. If it wasn't for that program giving me opportunities to for leadership skills and empowerment, yeah, I may have been somewhere else; I wouldn't be here.

COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: Right.

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: So, that is the meaning of and sort of the crux of what our programs do. I think we are at the forefront of The Mayor's Blueprint for public safety and stopping gun violence. We are actually going to, I don't want to ruin it, but we are at the edge of launching a campaign across the City that all of our young people can get involved in. Because that is what worked before. It was about everybody stepping up, speaking out about gun violence and violence within their communities and also showcasing positive things that they were doing.

COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: Mm-hmm

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: Uh, for me, back then, it meant... A great example for a council hearing, but it meant that folks who were not necessarily doing the right thing thought twice about it. And, they knew it was happening, and they thought about the way they showed up in our neighborhoods, and violence actually went down.

So, I believe we are at the forefront of The Mayor's Blueprint.

COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: And, I am really happy to hear that. Again, you know, what we find important,

has to be reflected in the budget. So, if we care deeply about young people and their futures, then... And , I know that Chair Stevens would agree with me, ,you know, she is probably the best person to be, uh, in this role as Chair of Youth and Community Services, because she has been there, she has done it, she does the work. I started Staten Island's first Youth Build program, so I also understand the extreme importance... funded by DYCD by the way. And, so, I understand the challenges, and I understand, you know, the challenges that the providers have.

And, so, I think you answered it a little bit. But, what is the baseline required to fund, really fund these programs? And, does the administration plan to include this amount in its Executive Budget? You may not know the answer to that, but...

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: Yes, so all of our programs are baseline, even Saturday Night Lights, which is our newest program, we are at 100 sites, that is \$5 million baseline going forward.

COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: Okay, thank you. And, so when we talk about Saturday Night Lights, uh, Chair Stevens, oh, you know, began to ask the question

about its being open and being available, without even discussing this with her when I was really doing my due diligence and unpacking the Blueprint and speaking to a lot of folks at NYPD, uh, one of their major concerns was that there is no consistency with Saturday Night Lights being opened on a regular basis. And, so our ability to have these partnerships is really -- and that goes to my last question, which is really capacity with these providers, is that, you know, we have to make sure that... one of the biggest complaints was that they could not rely on the regularly scheduled Saturday Night Lights to be opened. And, so, a lot of that... whether... what you're understanding is and what Chair Stevens and I separately found out, is that they are not. And, so we really need to drill down on that and make sure that... (CROSS-TALK)

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time expired.

COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: if it's a misunderstanding that it's not, and we do something to deal with that.

And, my last and final question is, how are we building capacity so the folks and the credible messengers that are actually on the ground doing this violence interruption, who are doing a lot of this

work, that they have the ability to be good stewards of ,you know, government funding, they understand what it means, they can open. And, you know, what is, uh, what are we doing about -- and, Chair Stevens also spoke about this -- making sure that the funding is available so that the people who are working at this are... you know, they understand, they don't have... they are not being overworked? Because when these programs fail, we see it directly on the other side in the public safety component. And, so I feel like this is the most important piece in making sure that the public is safe, and really under... making sure that these programs are working to their full capacity, they're funded, if there are issues that we are aware of it and we correct it as soon as possible.

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: So, we are constant communication with providers. All of the community center programing is... baseline funding has been registered, so the providers have access to that. In some cases there may be amendments that have not been registered yet. But, if any of the providers are entering any type of cash flow problem,

they can reach to us, our fiscal team works with them to ensure that they have access to funding.

COUNCIL MEMBER HANKS: Thank you so much. Thank you, Chair Stevens.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you, Council Member Hanks.

Before we turn to Council Member Brewer for her questions, I would also like to thank and acknowledge Council Member Avilés, Council Member Riley, and Council Member Williams for joining us.

Council Member Brewer, you may now begin with your questions.

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thanks... (CROSS-TALK)

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time... (CROSS-TALK)

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you very much. Thank you very much, and congratulations, Chair for... Stevens for pulling this off with such good questions.

So, as somebody who, uh, was there when Richard Murphy started the Beacons and ,you know, Cops 'n' Kids, was Dinkins' mantra, uh, I think we are trying to get to something that is current in that similar vein. Along with The Chair's, uh, issues, my understanding from Cornerstones, and IBO has been

1 helping me with this -- Independent Budget Office--
2 is that they are not... You said there were 99
3 NYCHAs, so they are not in all NYCHAs. So, my hope,
4 to sort of follow up on the Richard Murphy model, may
5 he rest in peace, is that we have much more open
6 opportunities at NYCHAs. And, we just don't. I
7 mean, the ones in my district, and certainly I know
8 in Manhattan, they are closed on the weekends, they
9 are closed most evenings. They don't have the
10 funding.
11

12 So, if we make... And, I don't know the answer
13 to this, if we make everything in some way, shape, or
14 form a Cornerstone, is that mandated to be open,
15 number one?

16 And, secondly, you know, I think Arne Duncan in
17 Chicago was paying young people in some cases to
18 participate. I would like to see more of that. I
19 think there is one program in Brooklyn that is doing
20 that. If it's true... and we all love the residents
21 of NYCHA, I love the residents of NYCHA, but they
22 have an undue burden in terms of challenges for some
23 of their families.

24 So, if we focus on NYCHA, support, support,
25 support, working with MAP, working with some of the

other programs that exist, it seems to me that would help our city, but we're not. We are kind of piecemeal here, piecemeal there. And, I also feel very strongly, not only saying that LIVE (sic) should be open all of the time, it was closed for instance on holiday weekend, a couple of weekends ago -- closed. Uhm, I mean the kids don't know it's a holiday. They still need activities. So, how do we have consistency for Saturday Night Lights, but also consistency for all Cornerstone, community centers, everything at NYCHA. So, whether you are at Johnson Houses or you're at Amsterdam Houses, you know that that center is open at ten o'clock. You don't have to say, "[Gasp], I don't know if it's open." We just have to change our complete mentality, in my opinion, on providing new services for NYCHA. And, we're not. We are at piecemeal. So... and it takes money, but I just think that is where we should be screaming and yelling, and saying... you know, obviously you have to have good nonprofits, that's another story... But, I didn't know if... Do you guys, think like that at DYCD? Like, think big? I'm just asking.

COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

61

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: We... Council

Member Brewer, what is... great, seeing you,
hearing from you, uh, we do think big.

I think it starts with The Chair's request
around... from NYCHA, what's that inventory of
community centers -- Both centers that may not
receive Cornerstone-style funding, that are operating
some type of program, and then, two, centers that are
not operating anything? I think it is going to start
with that.

And, then, to your point, the next question
becomes, well, two things, one, viability of centers,
whether or not that center needs some type of
renovations, repairs, upgrades, to be able to house a
program, and then funding to support that program
within the centers.

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Okay, but this should be
on fastback, not mañana. Because, we don't have time
for that. So, I mean, we can do... I can do the
Manhattan inventory. We can all do the inventory. I
know Yuka (sp?) at NYCHA is on top of this, she's on
top of this. And, I think this happen to be, like, I
don't know what you are doing internally, we can
certainly focus as The Council, but this has to be

the... It... right up there with some of the other priorities of The Mayor. This has to be the priority. Centers open all of the time, young people paid if needed, and consistently. So, it's not, "I don't know if this is open or not", and then coordination with the other programs that exist that are working. But, I have to say, I don't see that happening at all. And, it's not just DYCD, you can't be out there by yourself.

So, I don't know who's... Is anybody leading this effort at City Hall, or should be put some pressure to get that to happen?

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: I can, again, for the centers that are not open, we can reach out to NYCHA to get inventory list... (CROSS-TALK)

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Mm-hmm?

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: Uh, and we can start those discussions, I mean, around whether or not centers are viable and whether or not they can be funded... (CROSS-TALK)

COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Right.

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: We can start those conversations.

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES 63

2 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Okay, alright. So, we...

3 We are going to put pressure on also. I appreciate
4 it. But, there is not enough influence from this
5 [INAUDIBLE 01:00:19]... (CROSS-TALK)

6 CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Alright, Council Member
7 Brewer, let's put pressure on it, because I... It
8 doesn't seem like it is a priority... (CROSS-TALK)

9 COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHE It's not. .. (CROSS-
10 TALK)

11 CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: so, let's work together to
12 get that done, because... (CROSS-TALK)

13 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Alright, thank you very
14 much... (CROSS-TALK)

15 CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: [INAUDIBLE 01:00:24]

16 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Madam Chair...

17 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Council Member Brewer, if you
18 are done with... Are you done with your questions?

19 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Alright.

20 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you.

21 We will now hear from Council Member Avilés,
22 followed by Council Member Riley, and then Council
23 Member Williams.

24 Council Member Avilés, you may begin your
25 questions now.

COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

64

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time... (CROSS-TALK)

COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Hello, good... Good afternoon everyone. Thank you, Chair Stevens, uh, and thank you to all of the DYCD staff in the house today.

I'd like to... For... And, thank you, Councilwoman Brewer, for raising up the critical nature and importance, and how we must center NYCHA residents in all of our city services. This is certainly no, uh... This is a particular area where we need to do much better. Uh, so, thank you, Council Member Brewer.

I also wanted to focus on NYCHA. And, so, uh, forgive me, since I am joining a little late, if any of these questions have been asked.

Uh, but, I would like to I guess start with, uh, does each Cornerstone center have a NYCHA contact that they engage with?

Also, I would like to know, is there... Do NYCHA residents play any role in programming what happens in Cornerstones, and if so, what does that look like?

I would also like to know, if DYCD provides any particular support and particularly related to facility support to the Cornerstone programs?

I will leave it there, and I think there are a bunch of other questions that I also want to add on. So, let's start there.

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: So, Cornerstone community centers' providers, they do have NYCHA contacts, but their first point contact is DYCD. And, then based on whatever the need is, we can help either triage, support, whatever they are trying to do. But they do have contacts within that particular development from property management. And there are also some centralized contacts as well around repairs and things of that nature.

To your second question around resident... about... (CROSS-TALK)

COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Well, can I, uhm... Darryl, if you don't mind, uh, you know, what... what I have certainly heard from many a provider and certainly, uh, particularly in NYCHA campuses -- Right? -- is a kind of a nightmare bureaucracy of ,like, repairs, getting violations from other City agencies for repairs that were NYCHA's responsibility. So, like, what does that... I guess, I don't want you to explain the circle of bureaucracy there, but how could we improve this so

that providers are not held... should be held harmless for repairs both at NYCHA, are responsible for and that we get timely repairs for things that need to get done for the facilities?

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: So, great question. I am definitely familiar with the issue.

So, providers... Historically, they would have had violations happen either from FDNY or from DOHMH. We have actually worked over time to stop those violations going to providers. So, those violations... FDNY violations now go directly to NYCHA. So, NYCHA is the named party on that violation. If there are providers who are saying they are getting recent violations, they should let us know immediately so we can fix it. But, all FDNY violations should be going directly to NYCHA for that particular center or development.

DOHMH has halted giving providers any fine violations. So, they may notate the repair that is needed, uh, and then they come back for followup. With that being said, the next step for either one, is for us to work with NYCHA to get the repairs actually done.

So, NYCHA has a process where there are some repairs that they may do directly; there are other repairs where they may have to bring in a vendor to complete the repair.

COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Okay, so, it's probably... It remains at the behest of the 18-year process that seems like everything takes. Uh...

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: The timeline varies.

COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Sure. In terms of Cornerstone programming and resident engagement and that, what is the... what does that look like?

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: So, providers should be getting input from both residents, young people who participating, adults who are participating, uh, monthly from their advisory board meetings, uh, from the discussions. Many of the Cornerstone programs have youth councils and youth groups who are providing that feedback as well. And, again, you know, they... They are flexible in the type of activities they can provide, and that should all be informed by the feedback they are getting from the residents.

COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

68

COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Got it. So, if we... If I reach out to the Cornerstone let's say in Red Hook at the [INAUDIBLE 01:05:42] Center, they should be able to offer what the youth council and residents have providers in terms of feedback? (CROSS-TALK)

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time expired.

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: They do...

COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Got it.

I guess, in terms of the last question was, in terms of DYCD providing any support around program facilities, like startup costs or funding to cover costs of, like, uh, repairing spaces or painting, does DYCD provide any additional supports to the programs?

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: So, no repair... Programs are not tasked with doing any repairs. All repairs have to go through NYCHA. And, we work to both follow up with NYCHA and ensure that things are happening within a timely manner.

COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Okay, so no... They're... You haven't experienced any need for additional supports for Cornerstone programs? I guess generally... I... So, like, there are facilities, there are also services that organizations might need

1 to depending on the state of the situation in the
2 facility? Right? They're real different. It could
3 be waste management... additional needs for waste
4 management. Are those things that the programs just
5 have to subsume as their operation costs? Or are
6 there options for programs to seek additional support
7 from DYCD?
8

9 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: Great question.
10 And even something like that, like we may have a
11 sewage backup happen at a site. So, two things
12 happen at that moment, one, we reach out to NYCHA to
13 see how quickly they can get that site cleaned up and
14 sanitized, two we also look... talk to the program
15 and see, well maybe we can move them in to a school
16 building until that cleanup happens, so that also
17 happens in tandem when the cleanup is being
18 expedited.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Got it. Chair, if you
20 permit, can I... I just have two more questions.

21 CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Yes, you go ahead. I...
22 (CROSS-TALK)

23 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Thank you...

24 CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Because I have a followup
25 question, too. So... (CROSS-TALK)

COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

70

COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Thank you, I... Yeah,
I... Many, many, many followups.

In terms of... in terms of the Pathways to
Wellbeing program, is this a train the trainer
program, or are they direct services provided to
NYCHA residents around it?

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: [BACKGROUND
NOISE] I'm sorry, that... The Pathway to a Wellbeing
is escaping me. I need to... (CROSS-TALK)

COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Yeah, uh, I guess in
our... In our briefing was a mental health
initiative that was... (CROSS-TALK)

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: Got it...

COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: run through DYCD and
Thrive?

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: So, it's...
it's... It's... (CROSS-TALK)

COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: It's ringing a bell now.

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: Yes, got it... I
got it now, okay.

So, it is a train the trainer program, and
services are provided directly to Cornerstone staff
and staff who implement.

COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: And, have... Is that an ongoing program? And how many staff have been supported through this effort?

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: I would have to get back to you on the stats. But, yes, we... We have had an ongoing relationship with Thrive and then subsequently the folks who are operating it. We can get back to you with the stats of how many people have been trained in the past and some of those highlights.

At Cornerstone sites we have trained young people to provide peer support and healing circles for what is happening in their neighborhoods. And that was pretty successful as well. But, we can get back to you with some of those highlights... (CROSS-TALK)

COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Great, I'd... I'd love a reporting of that. And also what the plans for expansion are particularly if it is producing positive outcomes. Because we hear a lot about other programs, and this is a particular need. So, thank you, I look forward to getting that information.

Uh, in terms of Saturday Night Lights, I am sure there has been a ton of discussion on it, but I was just curious, like is there data kept on the

participants of Saturday Night Lights? And, kind of, like engagement outcomes?

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: So, yes, we do keep... Uh, every participant of SNL must enroll in to our centralized DYCD Connect system or they are enrolled by their provider. We track the attendance of each program.

COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Mm-hmm, is there... Are there other outcomes that are being looked at in terms of that engagement? Or, is it purely attendance?

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: Not that we are tracking in our data system.

COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Uh-huh?

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: But, providers may be keeping, uh, as a best practice, other types of outcomes in case management.

One thing that we are going to do soon as part of the campaign that we are going to launch, we are looking at SNL programs that are happening in a particularly neighborhood, but we are looking at what it means for those young people who are part of that program to go to other neighborhoods and speak to other young people about what they're dealing with

and vice versa. And, what does it look like when they collaborate on service projects and things of that nature. So, we are starting with this sort of community safety... neighborhood safety approach providing safe spaces for young people. But, now how do we get those young people to travel citywide and conduct service and other discussions together with other young people -- young adults?

COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Interesting.

Okay, and I... I guess, lastly, this is a very hyper-local question, in terms of Beacon programs, I am sure you don't have this number offhand, but I would love to know how many Beacon programs operate in my district. I think I have the number, but I would like to make sure that that is correct. And [INAUDIBLE 01:11:32]... (CROSS-TALK)

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: We can get that... We can... (CROSS-TALK)

COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Beacon... (CROSS-TALK)

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: We can get back to you.

COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Okay. So, I wanted to talk to you more about that. Please, Chair Stevens, I know you have a good followup question.

COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

74

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: I just... My... I just had a really quick followup question, because, Mr. Rattray, you said that the first point of contact within NYCHA, they should contact DYCD? That has never been my experience, because most of the time you guys ask for a ticket number.

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: Yeah... (CROSS-TALK)

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: So, has the process changed where they should be contacting DYCD before repair... to help with repairs? Because that has never been my experience. It has always been put on the provider to work with NYCHA to get the work done.

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: So, my response was in them triaging an issue or an outstanding repair. So, you're absolutely right, Chair Stevens, if there is a repair or something happens right now, they should put the ticket in. So, that's immediately, they should go in to the system or make the phone call, put the ticket in. If they are not getting a response or followup, or if it's an emergency issue, they should also contact us well to let us know what's happening, if we're following up with NYCHA to help support.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: And, so DYCD follows up with NYCHA? Because, that's also has never been my experience for the time I [INAUDIBLE 01:12:39]... (CROSS-TALK)

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: I [INAUDIBLE 01:1:40] absolutely... (CROSS-TALK)

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: [NO AUDIO] that I did not get that support.

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: We absolutely follow up with NYCHA daily on issues across the City.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Maybe this is new, because when I was there [INAUDIBLE 01:12:54... (CROSS-TALK)

COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: One last question. In terms of for NYCHA developments that have converted through RAD/PACT and are under private management, are there Cornerstone... Who do Cornerstone programs... I guess I would love to know a little bit more about the experience of programs in those developments in terms of the level of service and attention that they're getting since they don't really fall under NYCHA anymore.

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: So, we... They work with those private management companies to conduct any repairs that are needed. It's a very

1 similar process, but they're not... Of course,
2 they're not going through the NYCHA system for
3 tickets. If there is a delay, they can followup with
4 us, and we have contacts with those providers...
5 PACT providers as well to followup on any repairs or
6 anything that is needed with the [INAUDIBLE 01:13:41]
7 (CROSS-TALK)
8

9 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Great, I would love to...
10 I would love to followup more on that experience
11 across the City since it varies between development
12 companies. And there is a lot of confusion around
13 what the providers are and who the providers work for
14 and what those contracts actually look like. So, we
15 should... (CROSS-TALK)

16 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: Yes... (CROSS-
17 TALK)

18 COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: We should, uh, talk more
19 about that.

20 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: And, Council
21 Member Avilés... (CROSS-TALK)

22 CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Yeah, because I'd love to...
23 (CROSS-TALK)

24 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: I learned...
25 Yeah, we learned that early on that in those

proposals initially, there was a main social services provider that may or may not have been the provider providing the services within the centers. So, early on, years ago, that was the first point of mediation -- trying to get all parties together to figure out how they work in the same space.

COUNCIL MEMBER AVILÉS: Got it. Thank you, more to come on that. Thank you, Chair Stevens.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Thank you so much, Council Member Avilés.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you Council Member Avilés.

We will now turn to Council Member Williams for her questions.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Hi, I am actually going to ask the question, uh, Council Member Riley's question first, uh, because he had to hop off. But, his question was in regards to, uh, I suppose any methodology you all use to determine which communities are getting Beacons or Saturday Night Lights, or, uh, Cornerstones? I know Cornerstone are typically for NYCHA, but not all NYCHAs have Cornerstones. So, I just wanted to understand what

1 type of methodology you all are using to locate these
2 sites?

3
4 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: So, I'll use...
5 The latest Beacon, actually the newest Beacon that
6 launched this past January was actually in Council
7 Member Riley's district, so I will use that as an
8 example. That request came from the Council Member's
9 office who had been reaching out to communities and
10 convening folks, and one of their requests was, look,
11 we need an additional youth program, uh, a holistic
12 community center in his neighborhood. They got
13 approved, and we were able to reach out to DOE and
14 work with our partner at DOE to identify which
15 school. And, it happened to be Truman High School
16 that we located that Beacon at. So, there is a
17 combination of identifying the need, location, and
18 then funding to support that program.

19 Uh, for Cornerstones, we spoke about a little
20 earlier, we are going... There are questions around
21 how many NYCHA centers don't have Cornerstone
22 funding. So, we are going to take a look at that
23 with NYCHA. But, again, that next part of that piece
24 would be viability of centers. Are there repairs
25 that are needed? How do we get that center up to par

to support programing and then the funding for it as well?

The SNL question, Saturday Night Lights comes up weekly for us. How can we can additional SNL sites? So, initially, we reached out to providers to find out who wanted to be a part of the program, and then we filtered that list through NYPD and DA's offices across the City to identify those areas of need -- of the highest need -- to support programming.

We are in talks now around additional SNL sites, uh, and where they may be located. But, we will definitely keep everyone informed of those discussions.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Okay, so in short, you guys don't really have a methodology for determining which sites are where, uh, which is, I mean, neither here nor there. I would be interested, and I think Alexa before me mentioned, like, if you could just send me also where these sites are, if any at all. I don't think I have any in my district. I might have a Beacon. But, I know for sure that I do not have a Saturday Night Lights, and I definitely don't have a Cornerstone, because I don't have any NYCHAs. I have two senior NYCHAs, but that's all that I have in my

1 district. So, I would love to get a list, uh, if any
2 of these sites exists in my district.

3 I am trying to think of, like, my followup was,
4 because I know Council Member Riley's question was
5 very similar to mine.

6 I guess just more of a statement, really
7 interested in creating and/or finding ways to make
8 sure that we are equitably spreading these programs
9 out in the City. As I mentioned, I really don't have
10 any community centers or programs within my district.
11 And, I was thinking maybe you would say something
12 around socioeconomic status is one of the indicators
13 for programs, and then I was going to push back.
14 Because, I know parts of my district don't meet
15 certain thresholds to get certain programs, because
16 some parts of my district are middle to high income
17 home owners. But, I think that it's still a
18 disparity, because you have a lot of young folks who
19 are going home alone getting in to all types of
20 trouble. Even though their parents may own a home,
21 does not meant that they also don't need certain
22 services. So, I would just love more followup
23 information. One, specifically 27 Council District,
24
25

uh, and further conversations around increasing programing in my district as well. Thank you.

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: And, Council Member Williams, just a followup, so I was responding to like, and additional Beacon or an additional Cornerstone SNL program. Globally, we do look at poverty rates throughout the City. We look at youth population. We look at other metrics to determine where the vast amount of funding goes. And we have done that over time, and I would say over the past 20 - 25 years, there has been a drastic shift in funding and where it goes. And one of the things that you just mentioned made me remember, uhm, you know, we have these pockets of need in zip codes that were not necessary high need, and we were looking at that. So, to determine that became youth population as one measurement of where to place programming. But, we can get you...

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time expired.

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: sort of the history of the way we look at where funding should go and what our thinking is.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: So, okay, so you do have some type of methodology; although... (CROSS-TALK)

COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

82

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: [INAUDIBLE

01:19:51] yeah... (CROSS-TALK)

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Not all the way absolutely clear around looking at poverty rates and youth population numbers where there's... (CROSS-TALK)

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: No, I... I said that we do look at poverty rates. We do look at youth population... (CROSS-TALK)

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Yeah...

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: In addition to other metrics.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Okay, well, I would love to know what those metrics are, uh, and... (CROSS-TALK)

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: Okay, let me get that to you... (CROSS-TALK)

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: and, how you guys determine, you know, which sites are located where.

And, just one thing that I also just thought of, it's not in my district, but it's sort of across the street-ish from my district, Baisley Houses, which is technically in Speaker Adams's district, there was a community center there that has not been open for

countless years now. A few years back, a teenager, 13 years old, was shot and killed, like, right there. They re-did the basketball courts, but the community center still remains closed. And, I know, PO (sp?) had at some point ran programming there. But, I do think that is a critical location, because within that area of Speaker Adams's district and kind of mine, there really is not any types of programs at all for the young folks there. And there was actually just another murder a few blocks down about a week and a half ago. So, that is a need, and I would love to see some support for... And, I know it might not just be DYCD, because there might be some infrastructure issues there. And, so, I understand that it might be an inter-agency concern. But, I just wanted to flag the community center in Baisley Houses. I think it is a perfect location for a Cornerstone or a Beacon or an SNL all of the above. So, that's it. Thank you so much.

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: Thank you. Council Member Williams, and the followup on Baisley, so we do have funding to support a program and Baisley. We are currently waiting for the

renovations to happen before we start programming there.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: Thank you, yeah, I figured. Alright, thank you.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you, Council Member Williams.

Seeing no other council members waiting to ask questions, I will now turn it back to Chair Stevens for additional questions.

Chair Stevens?

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Thank you.

I just have a couple of followup questions, because I did hear you mention about possibly doing expansions of SNL programs. But, that does alarm me and concern me especially, one, when Miss Joyce had said that this is our pilot year, what evaluations will be done before we start expanding a program that we clearly have some issues that need to be addressed before, and also, two, I also heard you mention that, you know, you guys spoke to providers around starting up the SNL sites and then it went to NYPD and to the DAs to help with, like, assessing where it should go. Who else was brought in as a part of that assessment other than NYPD and the DAs? What community members

and what outreach was done? So, those were just a couple of followup questions to some of the questioning my colleagues had proposed.

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: So, let me just write this last one down... So, Chair Stevens, two things, one... So, for the expansion, and to be fair, so, there are probably eight centers... I mean, eight SNL programs that we are looking at that may not be moving forward with us, because of just capacity issues, and it might not be the right fit for that providers. So, we are taking a look at who is doing well right now; who is going to move forward, uh... (CROSS-TALK)

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: When you say it's not the right fit for the provider, could you say what you mean by that?

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: Their provider... It just may not be a high quality program that we are expecting, and we may have tried the action plans; we have tried the support, and things are not just getting up and running the way we expected similar to the other sites across the City. So, there are less than 10 that we are following on whether or not they continue to their SNL program. With that being said,

any expansion on top of that would be on top of the existing sites that are doing high quality programming, that are consistently opening, week to week. And, then there are... (CROSS-TALK)

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: But what will... But, what will the evaluation process be before you even think about expanding. Right? What are the indications of success that you are looking for before we are thinking about expanding? Because how do we know that, like... Obviously, we know that programming is helpful and useful and all of these things, but what indications of success are we looking to examine to make sure that they are meeting those, and then... before we even move forward?

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: So, we are evaluating programs we go out. We are looking at youth engagement, community engagement, uh, the quality of the programs that are being implemented; the staff that are there implementing the programs, and we're looking at... and, the holistic approach to see, one, again, for the programs that are currently in place, should they remain in place? And then, two, the discussion around the other

neighborhoods that may benefit from that SNL program, is going to happen with our providers, NYPD, SNL.

And, to your second point, which was, we had this list of sites that are potential SNL spaces, we filtered those through NYPD and the DAs' offices and they were also reaching out to council members' offices as well and getting some feedback. One good example of that, we had an SNL program when weather is permitting at Nostrand Park, and that was Council Member Louis's office that reached out and said, here's a park where there is a need, how do we activate an SNL program at this location?

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: But, like, did we reach out to, like, community boards, like other community stakeholders? It's just very alarming that it was, like, "Oh, we put it out to the providers, then NYPD and the DAs," like, that... there are other community stakeholders, right? The DAs and NYPD typically don't live in these communities. So, how are we getting to the community... (CROSS-TALK)

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: Sure... (CROSS-TALK)

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: folks? As well, how are they... (CROSS-TALK)

COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

88

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: Yeah, but they...
The NYPD... (CROSS-TALK)

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: How are they part of that
process?

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: I got it. NYPD
and DAs offices where able to identify, well, where
is the need in terms of youth crime, in terms of,
"What's happening in communities?" uh, the precincts
with the highest crime, things of that nature on
where this program may be beneficial.

But, we can look at... I can go back to our team
and, see, like, okay, how we do community assessments
around SNL programs in neighborhoods that they're in
and get additional feedback... (CROSS-TALK)

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: I'm sorry... (CROSS-TALK)

SENIOR DIRECTOR DUVERCE: I can also offer up that
we are... we have activated community needs
assessments. We on-boarded a technical assistance
providers that is not only assessing the, uh,
open/closure, but also the needs that are needed to
happen so that activities can live week to week.

We are also starting to see our second year and
how we on-board other methodologies around SBYD,
Sport Based Youth Development, and SEL to kind of

1 lift the programming just beyond sport. Sport is a
2 carrot to get the young people in, uh, and we use
3 that to attach any type of learning modules or
4 learning points with them. And, we could also look
5 at, as far as our technical assistance, how we do
6 that. Uh, we do lean on our providers to have that
7 stakeholder engagement, that community's advisory,
8 not only with the community members, but for our
9 young people. We lean on them for them to be able to
10 tell us what activities the young people are excited
11 to see, and, we then support them and get that done.

12 But, can also bring this feedback as we are
13 looking in our year two on how we make sure that the
14 programming is not only fit for participation but
15 also for high quality programming.

16
17 CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Yeah, no, I am just a big
18 proponent of, like, if we are going to talk about
19 expansion...

20 SENIOR DIRECTOR DUVERCE: Yeah.

21 CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: we need to make sure we are
22 evaluating and making sure it's working and doing the
23 things that we needed to do before we are expanding.
24 And, even when you ask some of the providers, as you
25 guys can hear, some of my colleagues have had similar

experiences where... the inconsistency of sites being opened or not opening at all, and even how they were chosen, there are a lot inconsistencies.

So, before we are expanding, I think it is going to be very crucial and significant that we do some evaluations, yeah, and really have real indicatives of success of what we really are looking to do and trying to achieve with these programs. Because, I believe Council Member Avilés asked, what are indicators around performances and it just... (CROSS-TALK)

SENIOR DIRECTOR DUVERCE: Right... (CROSS-TALK)

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: And it just said [NO AUDIO] [INAUDIBLE 01:28:29] around attendance.

So, I am really concerned that attendance is the only thing we are looking at... (CROSS-TALK)

SENIOR DIRECTOR DUVERCE: It's not... (CROSS-TALK)

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: for these SNL programs just so that it's successful.

SENIOR DIRECTOR DUVERCE: It's... It's not, it's not. And, you know, I did refer to the pilot year. And, you know, our goal was for sure, was to make sure that we have a 100 centers open. Right? Uh,

now as we go in to year two, we are really looking to see... embed some of those learning modules as I spoke about. SBYD is the driving force behind this; learning and seeing how we are getting young people to come in to our centers and building upon their competencies and capacity so they can actually be civically engaged is a true driving force. And, I know Darryl also alluded to the fact that we are really excited to launch a youth forward facing initiative and Saturday Night Lights is going to be a driving component of that. More to come on that one.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Yes, I would definitely love to hear more about that, because there were some red flags that said, like this to me when you said you have gone from community to community, because I would love to hear, what does the infrastructure look like to have these young people going from each community safely?

SENIOR DIRECTOR DUVERCE: Right.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: What are the indications? I have a whole list. And, so, since it hasn't launched, I will wait for it to launch, and hopefully you guys will talk to me before... (CROSS-TALK)

SENIOR DIRECTOR DUVERCE: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: so that I can ask you all of the questions. Because, there will be lots of questions.

SENIOR DIRECTOR DUVERCE: I am excited for those conversations. I think that will help us think through before we launch.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Definitely. And, so I guess I do have some followup questions even around NYCHA. So, one of the issues that a lot of our providers have talked about, that they often are responsible for the repairs in their centers themselves, because NYCHA takes too long. Does DYCD compensate providers for that? Or do we work with NYCHA around getting some compensation? Because, that is a huge issue with a lot of our community centers, where providers are, like, "I have just got to get this hole fixed " or "I have got to get this sewage done," or whatever, and so they just end up paying for it themselves. So, how are we compensating providers for fixing these repairs?

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: So, Chair Stevens, providers should not be making repairs like that directly. And, I know... I know how that sounds coupled with them saying that ,you know, there

may be something of urgency, but NYCHA needs to make the repairs, and we need to stay on them to ensure that the repairs are happening in a timely manner.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Yes, but that doesn't happen. So, to say that children should... (CROSS-TALK)

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: And...

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: sit in conditions that are unsafe and hazardous, is more of an issue.

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: That also shouldn't happen as well. So, if there is an unsafe condition, then we can work to move that provider to a school, which we have done in several cases, uh, until the repair has been completed.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Okay, well, are going to revisit that, because that is not my experience in myself... that I have experienced myself in community centers, where, you know, there are leaks happening, and people are just working around it, because they don't have any other choices; there are infestations happening, mold; and at some point, they will be closed for years if we wait for NYCHA. And, so for me, it's like we need to get to a solution rather than saying, like, they should just wait.

1 Because we know that NYCHA has a huge backlog even
2 with its residents. So, even to think, like, how
3 will they then prioritize a community center when we
4 have residents living in these conditions? And, so I
5 think that model is antiquated, and we need to be
6 thinking about some new ways that we can actually
7 address these issues. Because that just not make
8 sense to me. Because, I know for a fact providers
9 are fronting up the costs for repairs, because at
10 what point you do... Like, you work there as well.
11 Who wants to sit there with a leak happening? I
12 remember my office had mold in it for weeks. And, so
13 we ended up just fixing it ourselves, because
14 otherwise I would be inhaling mold spores. So, it's
15 a real thing. So, I know for a fact, my lived
16 experience, I am telling you, providers are putting
17 up these repairs themselves, because they don't have
18 other choices.

19 What support if any does DYCD regard selecting
20 and maintaining program facilities? For example, does
21 DYCD... Oh, Alexa already asked that question, I
22 apologize.

23 So, I am going to move on to DYCD's and DOE and
24 Beacon partnerships. So, how does DOE coordinate
25

with Beacons compared to the role of DYCD programming with Summer Rising? So, how are you working with the programs with Summer Rising coming up, the Beacon programs and all of those things happening? What does that coordination look like?

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: So, we... Again, I am going to answer the way I am hearing it, and let me know if I am doing the hearing the right thing.

So, Beacon programs are a part of the Summer Rising programs that are happening in addition to our COMPASS programs. So, they have been a part of that conversation for months now. I can't remember if it was January that we started those weekly meetings or February. So, they have been a part of the planning. Every program right now, every provider knows where they are going to be located. They know their seat numbers that they are striving to conduct enrollment on and serve. They are working on staffing at this point. Again, we are probably in three or four meeting with DOE weekly at this point around Summer Rising and getting folks up and running properly.

As I mentioned earlier, the enrollment portal launched today.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Alright, I am sure my phone is going to be buzzing a little bit about how it rolls out. So... You know they are. You know they are going to be calling me, so I am going to know.

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: Absolutely. If, you know, if there are any... If someone calls with an issue, they should contact us. They should let us know. Like, we... (CROSS-TALK)

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: I'll hold you to that... (CROSS-TALK)

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: We do... (CROSS-TALK)

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: I'll hold you to that... but, continue, I'm sorry, I apologize.

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: Oh, no, no, no, we triage anything that comes in to help support providers.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: No, absolutely, I mean, when I call you guys, you guys are very responsive. So, but providers often just feel more comfortable coming through me at this point.

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: I got you... (CROSS-TALK)

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: I was one them literally a year ago.

And, so one of the other major concerns, even I had with some of the principals I spoke to about my tour this upcoming week, where they are still saying that communication still isn't being done collaboratively. There is still information going out to the DOE staff, and information going out to DYCD. What are we doing about making sure that this information is being dispersed together and that they have shared goals and deliverables? Because, once again, I believe that this is already creating some type of confusion where one set of staff is getting the information at one time, and then another set of staff is getting it at another time.

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: We have been aligning communication both with messaging and timeline on what we send out. I can again check with DOE staff on this, and we can bring... Wanda, we can bring this back up on our next call. But, we have been working to align communication.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: So, like, literally had a provider tell me the program director got an email at 9:00 in the morning, and then the school got it the

next morning. And, so even with that lapse, it just, you know, information is power. So, it is important that we are transmitting the information at the same time. And why at this point are we not sharing out shared emails? Like, why are there two separate emails going out? So, that's still very concerning. And, even the planning process, I know that there was a meeting with the principals where they were planning and talking about some things, and then there was a conversation with providers where they were talking and planning out some things. I want to say again, if we want to learn from the mistakes of last year, one of the biggest mistakes is that we were not working collaboratively and at the same time of having shared goals and deliverables. Because it is a partnership, and when we do that, we create a hierarchy. Sometimes, you know, principals don't see DYCD as a partner some times. And, I even had a principal who told me on Friday that they still do not know who their CBO partner is as of yet -- that they were getting a new provider, and they still did not know. So, I think it is even more alarming that we had applications going out today, and the principal did not know who the provider would be.

So, they haven't met with them. They don't know who is coming in the building. And they have no idea they are.

So, I can definitely shoot your email offline around the principals, so we can get that clarified. But that was very alarming to me when I got that information on Friday.

I just have a couple of more questions.

How does NYPD coordinate with DYCD and providers for SNL programming?

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: I just head nodded to Joyce... Can Joyce been unmuted, and she can... (CROSS-TALK)

SENIOR DIRECTOR DUVERCE: So, on the onset of this program, I want to say there were almost daily conversations, but we have monthly meetings with our NYPD and the local DA's offices where we have updates across the City on how SNL is operating. And, then we have our YCOs who go weekly to their designated SNL center to participate in the activity. So, NYPD is the one that actually assigns... (CROSS-TALK)

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: [INAUDIBLE 01:37:13] what does that look like?

1 SENIOR DIRECTOR DUVERCE: Oh, yes, so NYPD
2
3 actually provides the assignments for their YCO's to
4 go out on a weekly basis. We are all on one
5 communication thread, where we are communicating not
6 only with NYPD but also the local DAs' offices as far
7 as the opening and closures week to week so that they
8 can inform their YCOs on the strategy on how to go
9 out from week to week.

10 CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: And, so what does that
11 participation look like. Are they the ones running
12 the activity? Are they participating in the
13 activity? Are they working with the provider to do
14 that? What does that look like?

15 SENIOR DIRECTOR DUVERCE: Yes, first touch point
16 is they make the relationship with the community
17 based organization lead, and then from center to
18 center, you'll have an YCO facilitating the activity,
19 participating or developing a relationship, so it
20 looks a little different. We are working with the
21 YCOs in that needs assessment cross city training to
22 kind of develop the same standard across.

23 The goal in our year two is for all YCOs and our
24 coaches to work as partners in developing the
25 activities for the participants.

So, when a participant is coming in to a center, not only do they have the relationship with the coach, but they have thriving relationships with the YCOs.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Does NYPD collect data on SNL participants for law enforcement purposes?

SENIOR DIRECTOR DUVERCE: No.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: How can you guaranteed that?

SENIOR DIRECTOR DUVERCE: Well, right now, they don't have visibility in to the participant, the individual participant, outside of creating the relationships. So, all participant data is in house at DYCD.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Okay. Is there evidence that SNL have had a positive impact on violence prevention?

SENIOR DIRECTOR DUVERCE: So, this is what I will say... (CROSS-TALK)

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Positive impact I mean.

SENIOR DIRECTOR DUVERCE: Yes. This is what I will say, outside of developing the relationships, and that is kind of like the, uh, the great data that comes in, you see we will have those great elevated

1 stories where adults and young people are creating
2 positive relationships.

3 We have been able to create tactical measures if
4 there have been incidents in certain communities --
5 either an argument or a fight--- we are able to have
6 all partners come on board, and we will have YCOs and
7 NYPD and local DAs come in from that week to kind of
8 make sure that the community is safe and that the SNL
9 center can thrive.
10

11 So, in short, yes, and it's growing. Our goal is
12 to make sure that we could have tangible data moving
13 forward on what that looks like. But, right now it's
14 kind of like that aggregate story tell that we are
15 building this year.

16 CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Is there evidence that SNL
17 programs have improved local police community
18 relationships.

19 SENIOR DIRECTOR DUVERCE: Yes, yes, that is kind
20 of what I was alluding to. We have great video we
21 could share where you have officers either in an SNL
22 or in full... I was about to say costume... with
23 full gear, participating in great SNL activities.
24 So, yes, the goal is to make sure when a young person
25 sees that familiar face it's a relationship that is

1
2 already formed and not something that is, uhm,
3 something else.

4 CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: So, and just really quick,
5 since my experience is that you have like the YCOs,
6 and... (CROSS-TALK)

7 SENIOR DIRECTOR DUVERCE: Mm-hmm?

8 CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: the NCOs, they will do all
9 of that great work, but they are not usually the
10 issue, it's usually the other police officers who are
11 not in these programs. How do we then have this, you
12 know, really filter out in to the community when
13 there's a... the majority of the police officers are
14 not doing this community relations work? Or...

15 (CROSS-TALK)

16 SENIOR DIRECTOR DUVERCE: Right... (CROSS-TALK)

17 CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Or they don't really know
18 how to interact with the community.

19 SENIOR DIRECTOR DUVERCE: Right. And, I will say
20 that... (CROSS-TALK)

21 CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Because, like... (CROSS-
22 TALK)

23 SENIOR DIRECTOR DUVERCE: Yes, mm-hmm?

24 CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: No, I was just going to say,
25 because like the videos are cute and that's nice,

but, like, that's a very small portion of NYPD. So,
how could we really... (CROSS-TALK)

SENIOR DIRECTOR DUVERCE: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: have evidence of, like, this
is really helping with community relationships with
NYPD?

SENIOR DIRECTOR DUVERCE: You know, Chair Stevens,
I think that is the growing work. I have seen some
centers where it goes beyond the YCOs, and I see that
the local officers are starting to know where their
local SNL is, they are going in to the centers. And
I think that is the goal for us next year to continue
that work, uh, and make sure that those relationships
are formed, and that information from DYCD and NYPD
is being shared on how we are rolling this out.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Absolutely, because I just
do not want us to get lost in pictures of, like...
(CROSS-TALK)

SENIOR DIRECTOR DUVERCE: Yes... (CROSS-TALK)

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: kids playing with cops, and
"Oh, my God, everything is great," when that is like
very surface level, and not really getting to a
point... (CROSS-TALK)

SENIOR DIRECTOR DUVERCE: Right.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: what we really need to, which is the trauma that, you know, we have between police officer and Black and Brown communities. So, I would love us to really think more about how we dig deep and actually build actual relationships and not just have photo ops and a picture opportunity, which sometimes these programs end up being, because we haven't done the work to actually build the relationships.

SENIOR DIRECTOR DUVERCE: Right agreed.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: So, how does DYCD conduct outreach increasing awareness of its programming?

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: So, multiple ways. One, of course, social media, is a community thing, right? So, we have a huge social media presence. But, we also support programs by creating, in some cases, banners for them, fliers that they can get out. We spread the word through our agency partners whether it is DOE, NYCHA, and ACS. We help ensure that information about this programs is out there. We also created, uh, what we call discoverDYCD, which is an online portal that parents can go to or young adults can go to in order to find DYCD programs, find a service, enroll directly online

1 through our portal, uh, and become a part of that
2 program. A link to that portal is actually on all of
3 the YCOs'... Is it every officer or just all the
4 YCOs? I always confuse that part. But, at least, at
5 minimum it is all the YCOs' cell phones throughout
6 the NYPD as well.

8 CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Are DYCD and providers doing
9 outreach efforts effective at reaching participants
10 who need the programs most?

11 So, you know, often I think a lot of times you go
12 to these programs, there's young people who are going
13 to come to the program anyway, right? But, are we
14 out there really reaching the young people as far as
15 those who really need to be here, who are very
16 disengaged from community or don't feel like they're
17 accepted. How are we doing outreach and reaching
18 those young people?

19 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: And, I am going
20 to ask that Wanda Ascherl be unmuted. Wanda, I want
21 you to talk about the Beacons' Street Outreach
22 program that was added on? And, Chair Stevens, we
23 have... There are quite a few programs providers
24 that do outreach to what I will call the highest risk
25 young people. So, young people who may be [INAUDIBLE]

01:43:34] involved, may be on that borderline, on that fence, uh, to bring them in and talk to them about, like, what are their needs, what do they want to see in programming? Maybe become a part of that program or become of services that happen or need civic engagement that happens going forward.

But, Wanda, if you want to talk about the outreach coordinators?

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER ASCHERL: Yes, so, Chair Stevens, in 2017, when we released the RFP for Beacon, we included what is called an outreach coordinator. And the purpose of that outreach coordinator was so that person could be, one, part of the community, that idea of a credible messenger who knows residents, who knows young people, and can do that street outreach work and bring them back into the program. We have seen a variety of what that role looks like out on the field. In some cases providers have this person kind of like walk the... I don't want to say walk the street, but ,like, walk around the neighborhood, really get to know young people, feel comfortable enough to approach a group of young adults, and then bring them back in to the program... (CROSS-TALK)

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Question, are they required to be from the neighborhood? Because I am also finding a lot of providers are not hiring people from the neighborhood, which also causes a problem.

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER ASCHERL: Yes, ideally; we have encouraged them to hire from the neighborhood. I completely agree and think that if you have an outreach coordinator, if you have program in Brooklyn, and your outreach programmer works in The Bronx, it doesn't... It doesn't work. You're absolutely right. And, I think, you know, as a best practice, an ideal is for them to be hired from the community. And we work with providers and encourage them to hire from within the community. Because we know the impact that it has. But, it is a reality, yes.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Yes, I mean, I... I am finding that more and more, even on my tours. I went to a number of sites and my first question was, who here lives in the community? And almost all of my providers were, like, I don't live here, I live... And, I'm, like, this is part of the problem. You're not able to engage the community in a way that is important.

Or, my next question is, well, what are you doing to support and have someone from then neighborhood build them up so that they can run these programs?

So, I think it is one of those pieces that is a huge disconnect that we are really not talking about, and we really need to start thinking about how we are finding community leaders and anchors if they are not some already, and then bring them in to the program and then develop them. Because, that is really going to be important and crucial for how these programs operate -- having community members. You know, I had a provider say something to the effect of, "Oh, my staff is nervous when they are walking to the train station," and, I said, well they should not be walking to the train station, because they should live in the community. And, if you're scared to be here, then you shouldn't be working here.

And so those are really real statements, and I think it is important. And I think some of the barrier might be coming from, you know, whether it is the education requirement or whatever, but we really need to be looking at how we are developing community leaders.

My next question is, how does DYCD's efforts and service provisions accommodate undocumented youth and English language learners?

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: So, our programs, especially our community centers, they work with undocumented... So, what we are being told, they work with undocumented youth, and folks who are English language learners. We have quite a few community centers that are running E L programs in addition to GED programs across the City as well. For some of those, we partner with DOE, where DOE will provide a teacher at that program site to help them with the actual program.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: And I just have a question, because someone sent it to me, around Summer Rising. What are we doing around families who are not computer literate or tech savvy around applying for Summer Rising? Because, the portal did open today, and apparently a number of parents are having issues, because they may not have access to technology or are not computer savvy and unable to do the application.

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: So, one of the things that we did, was we did ask all of our community center providers to open the doors to their

1 computer labs and support parents, support anyone
2 that may be having issues enrolling or working to
3 enroll. It is my understanding that DOE did
4 something similar with parent coordinators. So,
5 families can reach out to the parent coordinator or
6 walk in to one of our community centers for
7 assistance.
8

9 CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Okay, that's... Hmmm, uh,
10 has that been communicated out to folks? How was
11 that sent out to folks? Because, like I said, I just
12 had a number of people reach out saying that there
13 were a number of parents who were having issues,
14 because they didn't have technology or computer
15 savviness. So, they are having some issues. So, I
16 would love for us to make sure that if that
17 information is true, we need to be sure that we are
18 getting it out to the parents, because they are the
19 ones who really need it.

20 Does the current funding structure adequately
21 address the cost of managing a Beacon, Cornerstone,
22 or SNL program?

23 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: I believe so, but
24 again, I look forward to elusive paper... (CROSS-
25 TALK)

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Concept paper...

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: I look forward to the concept paper release for Cornerstone where we are going to have those fruitful discussions around programming, quality and funding.

A good example of that was the Beacon RFP where historically Beacons were funded at \$400,000...

Well, actually lower than \$400,000. Historically we're \$400,000; at one point they were down to \$330,000 - \$340,000 a Beacon. And, from those concept paper discussions, the stakeholder feedback, and focus groups, Beacons on average right now are funded at \$602,000 each.

So, I imagine that when we get to the point of another concept paper, another RFP, that that funding discussion is going to ramp back up.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Oh, absolutely, because it was already underfunded.

To what extent if any do organizations rely on private investments to support their programs?

Because, I will say that this is another issue that I have been hearing about, that a lot of providers are in the red running these programs. So, they are now out doing a lot of fundraising and looking for

private investors to come in and support the programs. Because at the funding mark that they are at, they just cannot run programs effectively.

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: So, I don't have a number providers that are reaching out and getting other funding -- private funding. Again, we, for all programming, we do encourage both what we call co-located relationships in community centers. So, you may get funding to run the base services of which you operate, but you may also connect with another local community organization to bring their services in. What they get out of it is space to operate programming free of charge, and that service now goes to support young people in that neighborhood. So, that happens a lot and we encourage that. I would have to speak with providers to see, you know, if they are providers reaching out or saying that they have to get other funding to support the program.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Well, I mean, if the funding price per participant is low, then obviously they would, you know, have to get additional funding so that they can hire and train people.

And, so that brings me to my next question. What is the optimal number of staff to run these programs effectively?

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: Oh, it varies, because the each... So, let's say Cornerstones, each program is a different size so it varies. We do follow all of the DOHMH ratios. So, SACC license ratios, which is either one to 15 or one to 10 for elementary and one to 15 for middle school. There are other expectations that there is someone doing the custodial services. You have a director on-sight, you have an assistant director, [INAUDIBLE 01:51:34] supervisors and so forth. But it is going to vary program to program.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Okay. What role should stakeholders and advocates play in the RFP process? We keep talking about that, it should be coming up soon.

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: So, I... The role that they should play? I think they should play a crucial role. They should play a role in any advisement around the RFP and the type of programming that is going to happen. Uh, they should be part of the focus groups and the surveying. They should also

1 support getting surveys out to constituents when we
2 do a survey and to residents of different
3 neighborhoods as well. And I am sure they are going
4 to play a role in the amount of funding that is
5 needed within programs.
6

7 CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Absolutely.

8 Uh, what can be done to assist providers with
9 staff recruitment and retention?

10 ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: So, one thing
11 that we have done, and I am trying to think of the
12 date just now, but we just participated in a virtual
13 job fair. So, providers were able to come on to this
14 virtual job fair. We had folks who are interested in
15 finding employment log on as well. And they were
16 able to do sort of different breakout rooms for each
17 providers; they were able to talk about the different
18 jobs that they have, make a pitch about the
19 organization, and folks were able to virtually
20 connect with them and sign up. That is one of the
21 ways that we are trying to assist. I have also heard
22 of different electors having job fairs in their
23 districts as well.

24 CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: How can DYCD better support
25 its providers in these programs?

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: Well, I am proud of the work done by every staff person here at DYCD. We are out there late at night trying to support and assist providers. In the afternoons, I know that they are on calls with them, doing text messages, and anything they need where are trying to fix or mediate or help develop and grow that program.

One of the other things that we have that we have been doing since, I want to say 2006 - 2007, with a robotics pilot believe it or not, is we create special [INAUDIBLE 01:53:52] that... (CROSS-TALK)

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: I know my program was part of the robotics project.

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: Nice. So, we create these special initiatives that they can tap in to. So, in addition to what they're doing, here's this elevated citywide program, whether it's Step it Up, whether it's Recipe Rescue, uh, robotics that they can tap into and the young people are part of it.

And, Joyce, you may want to speak a little bit about Young Sharks that is coming up, where we are going to have Daymond John support providers.

So, Joyce Duverce needs to be unmuted.

1 SENIOR DIRECTOR DUVERCE: Thank you, yes, as
2 Darryl is saying, year to year we, uh, develop these
3 special initiatives. These are opportunities not
4 only for our young people but for our CBOs to add
5 additional offerings. These serve as the
6 recruitment, retention, incentivizing, uh, programs
7 to have young people civically engaged. You name it,
8 we try to create robust programming. But, what
9 Darryl is specifically speaking to is the Young
10 Sharks. It is our social entrepreneurship program.
11 I want to say this is year five or six... six.
12 Where we have young people across the City develop
13 business plans and take things to either prototype an
14 actual product or service where they are creating
15 ideas and concepts, products and/or services to
16 better their communities.

17 This year we are partnering with the Hip-Hop
18 Youth Summit, and we are featuring the curriculum
19 from Daymond John. So, we are actually, through that
20 collaboration, we are actually going to have an
21 opportunity for our young people who are moving on to
22 receive mentorship and advice from Daymond John
23 himself.
24
25

COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

118

So, this is a great year, a great opportunity that we are looking forward to seeing. And, of course this year is focused on the hot topic, which is anti-gun violence. So young people have a great opportunity to create business concepts to support that initiative.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: So, with that do they get,
like, startup money? Do they get... (CROSS-TALK)

SENIOR DIRECTOR DUVERCE: They do! They do. Okay, let's see if I can do this right off the top... So, the first prize, I want to say is \$2,500, the second prize is \$2,000, and then the third is \$1,500 as seed money to start their businesses and support them through prototyping.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Mm-hmm. This is great, this is great. I mean, there are a number of council members, uh, myself, Council Member Williams, Council Member Riley, and Council Member Louis, where we have been talking and really pushing for entrepreneurship opportunities in our communities. You know, I think that there are a number of things we should be doing, and that is one them -- in addition to vocational trainings and things like that, which has not been done. And, I... When I ran programming, my programs

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were a part of the robotics team program, and it was a great experience. And, I think we need to be thinking about how we can do those things more...

(CROSS-TALK)

SENIOR DIRECTOR DUVERCE: Right.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: And connect in that way. Whether... And, I remember you guys used to do the talent shows with the dancing and the singing...

(CROSS-TALK)

SENIOR DIRECTOR DUVERCE: Step it Up... (CROSS-TALK)

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: Step it Up...

(CROSS-TALK)

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Uh, Step it Up, yes, and all of those things, I think those were vital and important ways to display the work that was going around throughout the City. And, so I would love to see more of those and make sure we are working in collaboration with these. But, I think that those are really important parts of the programs, and ,you know, everyone typically doesn't participate, but thinking about how we get and ensure that if you are a provider that you are at least participating in one of the citywide initiatives, which I think is

important. Because I know providers have the option to opt in or opt out, but we need to think about, no you need to opt in to one of these, because your program should be, you know, focused on one of these things, because they are really good opportunities and the kids absolutely love them.

So, at this time, Emi, I don't see any more council members who have any more questions, and I am done with my questions. And, thank you all for being here. I appreciate your time. Hopefully you can stay on to hear some of the providers' testimony.

I know I had a lot of intense questions, but everyone knows that this work means so much to me. And young people mean so much to me. And in the same way, you know, like I said, in the beginning, working with the providers, uh, being on the provider side and now being on this side, and making sure we are all just working for the same goal, which is to provide quality service for our children and young people throughout the City.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you so much, Chair Stevens.

We have concluded the administration's testimony, and we will now turn to public testimony.

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER RATTRAY: Thank you, Chair Stevens.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: First, I would like to remind everyone that I will call up individuals in panels. Once your name is called, a member of our staff will unmute you, and you may begin your testimony once the Sergeant At Arms sets the clock and gives you the cue.

All testimony will be limited to two minutes. Remember that this is a few second delay when you are unmuted before we can hear you. And please wait for the Sergeant At Arms to announce that you may begin before starting your testimony.

The first panel of public testimony, in the order of speaking, will be Dante Bravo from UNH, Kristen Wilson from JobsFirstNYC, Sandra Escamilla from Children's Aid, and Ana Stanek.

I will now call on Dante Bravo to begin testimony.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

DANTE BRAVO: Thank you, Chair Stevens and members of the New York City Council, for the opportunity to testify. My name is Dante Bravo, and I am the Youth Policy Analyst at United Neighborhood Houses (UNH).

UNH is a policy and social change organization representing 45 neighborhood settlement houses across New York City.

A healthy youth services ecosystem that meets the needs of all youth requires both school-based and community-based programming. Recent emphasis on academic programming, like Summer Rising, has left community based programming out of the conversation.

Our young people face a barrage of alarmist messaging that they are somehow academically behind despite the fact that they have survived more than two years of a pandemic that took caregivers, life experiences, and some much more from them.

Community center programming allows young people a space to be in supportive communities that recognize their skills, their knowledge, and multiple intelligences instead of stigmatizing them.

UNH makes the following recommendations for summer 2022 and beyond:

One includes setting realistic enrollment targets for all youth contracts especially Beacons.

Two, revisit the funding formula as for funding formula for Cornerstone's programming to ensure budgets are sufficient to cover full staffing --

especially in summer months where providers offer extended hours.

Dignified wages for staff for improving recruitment and retention of high quality candidates especially individuals who are from the developments themselves and can understand community dynamics and effectively navigate them as well as sufficient funding for infrastructure challenges that are a major obstacle on NYCHA sites.

While some large providers may be able to make income contributions to pay for the full costs of Cornerstone contracts, it's an unsustainable solution that locks smaller providers with less fundraising capabilities out of the program.

As a City, we have attempted to imagine more proactive approaches to public safety, and when fully funded, Cornerstones and other community based programming give a clear opening to model that vision. Over-reliance on reactive public safety measures and expecting these community centers to continue to operate in these defunded conditions simply continues painful racist histories into the present.

Thank you for your time and for the opportunity to testify today. For more information, or to answer any question, you can reach me at DBravo@UNH.org.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you so much for your testimony, Dante.

I will now call on Kristen Wilson.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

KRISTEN WILSON: Good afternoon, Chair Stevens and distinguished members of The City Council Committee on Youth Services. Thank you for providing an opportunities to speak about these important issues.

My name is Kristin Wilson and I am the Policy and Learning Associate at JobsFirstNYC a nonprofit intermediary that creates and advances solutions that breakdown barriers and transform the system to supporting young adults in their communities in the pursuit of economic opportunities.

JobsFirstNYC is particularly concerned about the young adults between the ages of 16 to 24 who are out of school and out of work. We join the call to direct resources to key community center programming such as Cornerstone and Beacon. We work with many partners who are providers of these services who are place based partnerships and testify here today to

advocate on their behalf and on behalf of young adults in New York City.

There are a reported 180,000 young adults who are out of school and out of work in New York. Many live in NYCHA communities that stand to gain from enhanced Beacon and Cornerstone programs, an evolved program model that is centered around personal and professional development, academic enrichment, and career exploration along with substantial increase in funding for Beacon and Cornerstone could create stronger educational pathways and skills training for these young people.

Last year JobsFirstNYC published a report entitled "Equitable Recovery for Young Adults and the Agenda for Workforce Development in New York City" which provides a set of citywide policies priorities rooted in the real needs of young people perspective of on the ground practitioners and the literature on successful policies and interventions. We believe we must act now to connect young adults to training, education, and work opportunities and to advance them along educational and career pathways.

Two of our recommendations focus on equity and create a continuum of services: We urge the City to

prioritize economic mobility and pathways to prosperity for historically under resourced and disproportionately harmed communities -- as well as create a seamless continuum of integrated services across education and youth workforce development institutions, which includes these important community centered programs.

Thank you very much for your time and for this opportunity to testify.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you for your testimony.

I will now call on Sandra Escamilla to testify.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

SANDRA ESCAMILLA: [NO AUDIO]

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: We need to unmute her.

She's not... She's muted.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: I have requested unmuting, and Sandra are you receiving [INAUDIBLE 02:03:23]?

SANDRA ESCAMILLA: Sorry about that, yes, I just got it, I apologize.

Okay, thank you to Chair Stevens and The Youth Service Committee for the chance to testify today. My name is Sandra Escamilla, and I am the Executive Vice President at Children's Aid.

We are thrilled that The Council has lifting up the importance of centered based programs like Beacons and Cornerstones for many reasons including that they are the City's primary place-based community based resource.

Because of the way our schools are setup, after elementary school students often go to schools in different communities from where they live, and centers remain as the home base for them as well as for their families -- a place where their needs are met and where they can grow and thrive.

This was evident in a recent conversation I had with a fourth-grader who attends our Goodhue Community Center in Staten Island. She told me that her mother and grandmother attended Goodhue too, and like them, she goes to Goodhue to make friends, learn, and be exposed to new things, and get help with her school work. And, like her mom, she knows that she will get her first job through SYEP there.

Center based programs are the places in which we grow, develop, and learn from the next crop of youth workers, educators, and leaders. Look, Beacons gave us Associate Commissioner Rattray!

During the pandemic, centers became places where community members received food and medical assistance and stayed connected and informed in general during a time that felt isolating and terrifying.

Centers also stepped up to provide emergency childcare and academic support for students in learning labs during the height of the pandemic.

When schools were closed, they were the safe trusted spaces where families felt comfortable sending their children to be supported as they navigated remote learning. Yet, despite the important services and support that center based programs provide every day to families, who are part of multiple systems, they are often forgotten. One recent example is that the Summer Rising programs and schools will see an increase and rate this summer but center based programs will not. This inequity will make it difficult to hire and retain staff which will hinder center based programs' ability to provide the needed year-round programming to communities. One unintended impact of the limited resources is that agencies are competing with themselves in terms of staffing. I can't possibly convince a staff member

to be part of a program that doesn't [INAUDIBLE
02:05:32]... (CROSS-TALK)

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time expired.

SANDRA ESCAMILLA: and thus cannot provide better pay rather than going to be transferred to one that can. We cannot continue to draw on the good will of center based programs in the field rather than providing them with the resources to be effective and to your point, Chair Stevens, to not be burnt out. We thank The City Council for flagging this in their response to the preliminary budget, and we are happy to continue to support The Council in lifting up the importance of these neighborhood lifelines.

Thank you

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you for your testimony. Our next panel of public testimony will be as follows: Kennett Jones, followed by Lucy Sexton of New Yorkers for Culture and Arts, Adrienne Umali, Kiesha Roberts of BronxWorks, and Daniel Osorio.

I will now call on Kenneth Jones to testify.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

KENNETH JONES: Did they actually do it? Oh, wait, we're on?

UNKNOWN: Yes.

COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

130

KENNETH JONES: Hi, sorry about that. That was Roxanne Meija, and she is one of our Senior Educators, and she was going to testify for me if I wasn't able to make it.

But, I am Ken Jones of The Salvadori Center, and I want to thank you, Chair Stevens and The Commission. I really want to thank you for the opportunity to talk with you.

There were a lot of suggestions and a lot of excellent questions raised by the council members and The Chair. But, we just want to say that we are here for you. You're implementing some wonderful new programs coming up, and there are some really strong existing long-term programs that are still available.

Salvadori has been around for 50 years. We teach kids Kindergarten through the 12th grade. We push in to the public schools during the day, but afterschool, out of school time -- which is summer, during breaks -- we push in to afterschool centers across the five boroughs. This year alone, we served almost 11,000 students in over 4,000 sessions. All of our sessions are multi-days. They are always collaborative, project based, and hands on. But, the really cool thing about it is, is that we have

1 learned through a study with NYU that a student who
2 takes Salvadori is 18.5% more likely to think school
3 is relevant. And, when a child thinks school is
4 relevant, they not only pay attention more, their
5 grades improved, their absenteeism decreases,
6 graduation rates increase, and they are more likely
7 to succeed and to see themselves as successful.
8

9 So, besides teaching science, math, and the arts,
10 the collaborative project based approach to learning
11 gives kids confidence to communicate effectively, and
12 the ability to collaborate and learn from others, and
13 to know that they don't have to have all of the right
14 answers by themselves -- they can build strong
15 solutions with others.

16 So, thank you for allowing me to testify and
17 forgive me for being late, and thank you very much
18 for the opportunity, and we are here to support you.

19 COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you for your testimony.
20 My apologies, I skipped over Ana Stanek, which might
21 be explaining why you were unavailable when you were
22 called. So, I will now turn to Ana Stanek to
23 testify.

24 KENNETH JONES: Thank you.

25 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

ANA STANEK: Members of The Council, fellow panelists, and members of the public, I want to thank you so much for allowing me the opportunity to speak today. I am getting right into it, because I know I have a lot to cover.

Yes, in both the New York City public and private schools, of course there is a major issue in both areas of sustainability and also food insecurity. At the end of every school day, all school cafeteria meals that are left over from that day's breakfast and lunch service get thrown away. This results in an incredible amount of food waste from our schools, and it takes up space in landfills that we can't afford to be wasted.

The Department of Sanitation in New York City states that they already have a zero waste initiative for the City's schools. But this initiative does not eliminate food waste from meals as we cannot compost animal by-product, which is meat, eggs, and dairy or foods that come in wrapping such as chips or a number of common items in school cafeterias. Instead, the zero waste initiative focuses more on school recycling and compost collection. What's more, the

program is only available in 50% of New York City public schools.

On the New York City Department of Education website, they advertise that they offer free breakfast, lunch, and afterschool meals to all New York City public students during the year. However, there are a number of requirements and perimeters that schools need to be meet to participate in this program, which results in a number of students falling through the cracks. This program aids in providing for schools, but does not address the issue of food waste in our schools.

Last year, in a widely popular decision, Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer sponsored a legislation for the DOE to be required to pass a food waste prevention plan. As an individual who works in the New York City public schools, I can personally attest to that legislation not being as effective as we would have hoped, as there are still... (CROSS-TALK)

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time expired.

ANA STANEK: pounds upon pounds of food being thrown away every day.

To you so much for your time.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you for your testimony.

I will now call on Lucy Sexton, followed by
Adrienne Umali, Kiesha Roberts, and Daniel Osorio.

Lucy, you may now begin.

LUCY SEXTON: Thank you, Chair Stevens, and...

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

LUCY SEXTON: Thank you.

Thank you Chair Stevens and members of the City
Council for this important and urgent hearing. My
name is Lucy Sexton and I am with the citywide
cultural advocacy coalition New Yorkers for Culture &
Arts.

As you know, many cultural organizations contract
with the Department of Youth and Community to deliver
critical programming for our city's young people,
from dance classes to summer camps to professional
music training to science courses in our zoos and
gardens---and so much more. These programs are often
the only access to culture that young people in low
wealth neighborhoods have. And those organizations
can provide story after story of the impact their
work has on young people and the invaluable service
they provide to families and communities.

Unfortunately, DYCD, as you know, is a broken
system and the cultural organizations who contract

with them are at a breaking point. The structure of the system itself is problematic, requiring the work to be completed before 80% of the funding comes to reimburse the costs. Add to that the chronic and destabilizing delays in payment of months and years, and you have cultural organizations deeply in debt and struggling to meet payroll.

I got a call last week from a 30-year-old organization in East Flatbush that provides cultural programming to children year round. They are still waiting for tens and hundreds of thousands of dollars owed to them by DYCD for the summer camp they produced and paid for last year---and for various other programs completed before that.

To state the obvious, this is particularly a problem for lower budget organizations, often led by and serving communities of color, who do not have access to reserve funds to float them while they wait to be paid for jobs they have done and done well.

The Comptroller's recently released report, "A Better Contract for New York: A Joint Task Force to Get Nonprofits Paid on Time", clearly states, "As a result of the city's delays, nonprofits are forced to

take out loans and incur substantial costs to keep themselves afloat."

I strongly suggest that the Council consider moving... (CROSS-TALK)

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time expired.

LUCY SEXTON: DYCD funding from a contract to a grant structure, so the organizations would get the money to do the programming and supply detailed reporting afterward on how the funds were spent and what programs were delivered.

Realizing that necessary shift may take time, I ask that the Council immediately take steps to make the process more transparent so cultural organizations can see where their funds are in the process, and have a clear idea of when those funds will be delivered. This is the only way organizations can plan prudently.

I'm happy to put you directly in touch with the cultural organizations experiencing these problems so we can all work together to find solutions.

I would be remiss if I did not also include the current sector- wide ask for support in the City's FY23 Budget: CultureVIBE NYC (Fund Culture: a Visionary Investment in Building the Economy of NYC)

We need to work toward a city with services, culture, arts, education, and safety for every New Yorker in every neighborhood, and culture is key to that vision.

Thanks so much for allowing me to testify.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you for your testimony.

I will now turn to Adrienne Umali to testify.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

ADRIENNE UMALI: Hi, thanks so much. Good afternoon, and thank you for the chance to speak today.

My name is Adrienne Umali, I am here representing The New York Academy of Sciences. We are a nonprofit committed to advancing science for the benefit of society. One way we do this is through programs aimed at increasing the number and diversity of students to pursue careers in science, tech, engineering, and math. One such program, our afterschool STEM mentoring program, was created in 2010 in partnership with the DYCD. This program recruits talented scientists and equips them with the tools and supports needed to teach a 10-hour curriculum to elementary and middle school students at afterschool sites around the City.

Our curricula focuses on hands on learning where students are actively taking part in the science of exploration. Instead of just hearing or reading about it, they engage in activities related to coding, forensic science, AI, and even climate change.

We work very hard to make sure that the content of our lessons are relevant and accessible to these students, but truly one of the most important things we do is to simply put scientist in front of kids.

Prior to starting our programs, 64% of our students say they have never met a real scientist before, and this is significant because as the adage goes, you can't be what can't see. I found out when students think of scientist, they often have very stereotypical images of an old man with crazy white hair wearing a lab coat, blowing up chemicals in beakers.

Our program gives students opportunities to not only meet but to build connections with scientists over a 10-week period, see them as real people, to hear their stories, and to understand that a STEM career can be pursued in many different ways and result in many different things. Since 2010, we have

placed over 1,000 real scientists in DYCD funded afterschool classrooms around New York City, and these scientists have in turn helped more than 15,000 students develop an interest in STEM.

I would like to end by saying that the events of the few years, including the corona virus pandemic and the continued growth of online misinformation have made it clear that, now more than ever, we need... (CROSS-TALK)

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Time expired.

ADRIENNE UMALI: students who can think critically, who can problem solve, who can work well with others and be resilient when things don't go as planned -- all tenets of a good STEM education and all skills that can be fostered successfully and in a low risk way through afterschool programs.

Thanks so much.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you for your testimony. I will now be calling on Kiesha Roberts followed by Daniel Osorio.

Keisha Roberts, you may now begin.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

KEISHA ROBERTS: Thank you, Chair Stevens and Youth Service Committee for allowing me the

opportunities to testify on behalf of BronxWorks, the Cornerstones that we operate -- which are four, and the staff that have every day, taking their time out to provide engaging services to our participants unwavering.

For the past two years, our staff were essential workers. They came out, and they actually did not mind servicing our youth. A part of what we have learned in the eight years I have overseen the Cornerstones, is that the Cornerstones is a great model, they have great intentions on making sure that our young people have a safe place to be, and place where people understand them, and a place of belonging for themselves to have their voices heard. However, a lot of some of the programs that we receive from DYCD also require staffing and the time of staff who work so many egregious hours. With that said, we need to be able to have some kind of conversation around compensating the staff with livable wages -- maybe reducing some of the hours of the Cornerstones and sustaining the budget so we can afford the right staff who will put more heart into the programs which are so well crafted. To do this, we need to have sustainable wages and look at the

fact that we have a recession and that our staff cannot afford to live and work the programs at the same time -- it does not work for them, and it will not work for us, because we have to choose between either having great programming or paying our staff. We end up having no staffing, recruitment is low, and then the number of youth workers to children ratios suffer -- and here comes DOH with their violations.

Let us rethink this plan, because it is a viable program that I wholeheartedly adore.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you for your testimony.

I will now call on Daniel Osorio to testify.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Starting time.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Daniel, we have requested unmuting.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Alright, we might be having some issues reaching our final panelist. So, I will turn to Chair Stevens if you have any questions for our public witnesses.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: No, I don't have any questions as of now.

COMMITTEE COUNSEL: Thank you.

Well, we have heard from everyone who has signed up online to testify. And seeing no other council

members with their hands raised, Chair Stevens, we have concluded today's hearing. If we have inadvertently missed anyone that would like to testify, please use the Zoom Raise Hand Function now, and we will call on you in the order in which your hand is raised.

Alright, seeing now hands raised, Chair Stevens, we have concluded public testimony for this hearing; we appreciate everyone's time and presence. I will now turn you for any closing remarks.

CHAIRPERSON STEVENS: Thank you so much. Thank you to the committee members who came on today to ask their very intense and important questions, thank you for the administration for showing up and taking part in the many questions that we had, and to the public for their testimony. I just wanted to reiterate that one of the reasons why I believe myself and the committee were going so intensely with our questions, is because these are programs that we believe in and that we love, and know will make a real change in the communities who are suffering the most.

So, I am here to say that providers, we are here to support and uplift you in this work. We are also here to work with DYCD to make sure that these

programs are being rolled out adequately and efficiently. Cornerstones, Beacons, and community center programs are so near and dear to me heart. I say all the time that I love these programs, because I have seen firsthand how they have transformed lives, and when done correctly, how they have saved young people's lives. And, I repeat -- when it is done correctly.

I believe that it is important that providers are held to a much higher standard of working with the community and using them as a resource by hiring within the community, because it's so important. There are so many jewels who are walking through our streets, but we have to learn how to cultivate all of those leaders in the communities.

So, thank you guys for being here us today, and this concludes our hearing on DYCD Community Center Programming--Beacon, Cornerstone, and Saturday Night Lights.

Thank you all for being with us.

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 June 28, 2022