



**TESTIMONY**

**BEFORE THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL**

**COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES**  
**OVERSIGHT HEARING ON**

**RUNAWAY AND HOMELESS YOUTH**

**PRESENTED BY**

**ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER RANDY SCOTT**

**JUNE 21, 2022**

Good afternoon, Chair Stevens and members of the Youth Services Committee. I am Randy A. Scott, Assistant Commissioner for Vulnerable and Special Needs Youth at the Department of Youth and Community Development. I am joined by Tracey Thorne, Director of Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs. On behalf of Commissioner Keith Howard, I thank you for this opportunity to share information about DYCD's programs for Runaway and Homeless Youth.

DYCD's Runaway and Homeless Youth programs are designed to serve youth holistically, enabling them to obtain the services needed to place them on a path to independent living and stability. We are committed to helping young New Yorkers build new skills and flourish.

DYCD funds an integrated portfolio of runaway and homeless youth services that are delivered by community-based providers through contracts. The three types of services include residential services, drop-in centers, and street outreach.

**Residential services** include crisis services programs and transitional independent living support programs. The New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) regulates all residential services provided by Youth Bureaus across New York State. DYCD is the designated Youth Bureau for New York City.

In recent years, we have tripled the number of beds in residential programs for young people ages 16-20, for a total of 753 beds. We implemented two key program policies: increasing the time young people may stay in residential programs up to 120 days in Crisis Services programs and 24 months in Transitional Independent Living programs. Following these state and city legislative changes, we also created residential services for youth up to age 24, and we now have four programs with a total of 60 beds for homeless young adults.

**Crisis Services Programs** provide emergency shelter and crisis intervention services. Youth have their basic needs met while developing a service plan with short-term and long-term goals. In cases where family reunification is not possible, provider staff work with youth to identify appropriate transitional and long-term housing placements.

**Transitional Independent Living (TIL) Support Programs** are a longer-term housing option that provide support as youth establish an independent life through educational and career development services, health services and mental health care, counseling, and basic life skills training.

**Drop-in centers** in each borough serve youth ages 14 through 24. At our eight centers, youth are provided with basic needs such as food and clothing, and supportive services such as recreational activities, health and educational workshops, counseling, and referrals to additional services, including shelter as needed. At least one center in each borough is open 24 hours a day, every day of the week.

**Street outreach** focuses on locations in the city where runaway and homeless youth tend to congregate, offering on-the-spot information and referrals. The goal is to develop a rapport with the youth and connect them to services, including shelter.

Counselors in RHY programs work with youth to develop Individualized Service Plans to outline short-term and long-term goals. They can receive a range of supportive services both directly and through referrals, which include medical and mental health care services, intensive counseling, family mediation, education, substance abuse prevention, violence intervention and prevention counseling, and housing assistance. When appropriate, staff members assist young people in reuniting with their families or with moving to transitional and longer-term programs. Through a partnership with the Mayor's Office of Community Mental Health, young people can access high quality mental health services in drop in centers and in residences.

Earlier this month, we released the final report of the 2021 Youth Count. The Youth Count is New York City's point in time count of homeless and unstably housed youth and those accessing services at DYCD funded programs citywide. For almost ten years, the Youth Count has supplemented the federally mandated HOPE Count conducted by the New York City Department of Homeless Services, and offered additional demographic and housing information to help inform policy for runaway and homeless youth.

The 2021 Youth Count reported responses from a total of 459 young people. The survey asked questions about where youth had spent the night on Tuesday, January 26, 2021.

- 237 youth reported being in stable housing, including their parents' or relatives' home or their own place.
- 214 reported unstable housing such as a shelter or couch surfing.
- 7 reported being unsheltered, and representatives offered them shelter at the time of the survey.
- 1 was from outside of the city.

The total number of unsheltered youth reported in the City's Point-in-Time Count for 2021 was 132. As I stated, seven were identified through the Youth Count and the remaining 125 were identified through the HOPE Count. More details are available in the report, which is posted on the DYCD website.

DYCD, along with partners across sectors, including Youth Action Board members, providers, advocates, and other City agencies, has completed the planning process for a \$15 million grant award by the Department of Housing and Urban Development as part of the [Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program \(YHDP\)](#). The final plan that was approved by HUD will be released publicly this summer. This funding will support a wide range of new housing and service interventions to prevent and end youth homelessness. Implementation of the plan will start in late summer.

Last week, Mayor Adams released *Housing Our Neighbors: A Blueprint for Housing and Homelessness*. This new plan includes increased services at the eight RHY drop-in centers. New services at the drop-in centers will include peer navigation programs that will provide employment to youth and young adults with lived experience of homelessness, and a new financial literacy program operated in partnership with the Department of Consumer and Worker Protection. Both of these were elevated as priorities by the community during the YHDP planning process.

We would like to thank the RHY providers whose work welcomes thousands of young people into safe and healthy environments, and who have met the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic with strength and energy. We also thank the City Council for a longstanding commitment to funding RHY services. We look forward to continuing to work with you, advocates, providers, and youth in the time ahead to continue to improve services. We are pleased to answer any questions you may have. Thank you.

## Ali Forney Center Testimony on Youth Committee Services

Good afternoon. Thank you, Chair Stevens and members of the Youth Services Committee, for this opportunity to testify. My name is Bill Torres, he/him pronouns, Director of Drop-In Support Services and a founder of the Ali Forney Center (AFC). Today, I am sharing testimony on behalf of AFC. I would like to begin by acknowledging and thanking Mayor Adams for announcing nearly \$6.7 million investment in new and expanded services for LGBTQ+ New Yorkers including LGBTQ+ homeless youth.

The Ali Forney Center was founded in 2002 in memory of Ali Forney, a homeless gender-nonconforming youth who was forced to live on the streets, where they were tragically murdered. AFC is the nation's first around-the-clock drop-in center for homeless LGBTQ youth, and the largest provider of housing and wraparound services for homeless LGBTQ youth in New York City. Committed to saving the lives of LGBTQ young people, our mission is to provide them with housing and a continuum of support services to help them thrive, prepare them for independent living, and enable them to become successful, productive adults. Our facilities encompass 16 emergency and transitional housing sites in Manhattan, Brooklyn, and Queens, and a multi-purpose intake Drop-In Center located in Harlem.

Studies have found that LGBTQ youth comprise up to 40% of the homeless youth population in New York City. AFC provides services to 2,000 homeless LGBTQ youth in NYC each year, and nine out of 10 of those we serve are youth of color. With just 750 beds available for approximately 4,000 homeless young people in New York City, 40% of whom identify as LGBTQ, homeless youth are gravely underserved. Few sites are LGBTQ-competent, and even fewer offer more than a bed.

Tragically, homeless LGBTQ youth are especially vulnerable. Homeless LGBTQ youth are more likely to experience higher levels of sexual and physical assault, domestic violence, stalking, and trauma than their counterparts in the homeless youth population. LGBTQ youth are more likely to be bullied, assaulted, or crime victims. More than 80% use or have used sex work to survive. As a result, these young people struggle with a vast array of psychological and mental health issues, including low self-esteem, depression, suicidal ideation, and past attempts at suicide. According to a study by the Trevor Project, LGBTQ youth are eight times more likely to experience mental health issues, and last year alone, nearly 50% of LGBTQ youth seriously considered suicide.

AFC's Drop-In Center is working to meet this critical need, offering homeless LGBTQ youth a safe, warm environment, support, free meals, showers, clothing, and hygiene supplies – any time, day or night. The Drop-In Center also provides an entry point to emergency and transitional housing. In addition to our two-tier housing program, emergency housing, and transitional housing, we provide comprehensive services, including individual and group counseling, case management, mental health services, medical referrals, legal assistance, mentoring opportunities, educational opportunities, transportation, and connections to permanent housing.

As the city continues to recover from the pandemic, the connection between homelessness and mental health is important to address, especially as housing is becoming more unaffordable. Unfortunately, the affordable housing crisis has exacerbated conditions for people with mental health needs who experience homelessness. Furthermore, the rise in hate crimes across the city this year has brought on increased anxiety and stress for all New Yorkers, and these traumatic events can worsen existing mental health challenges.

To address the dire situation among our city's homeless LGBTQ youth, we must ensure that funds are allocated to prioritize resources that support this population. We urge our partners in City government to preserve and expand the resources for LGBTQ+ youth. Specifically, we are asking for funding to be

## Ali Forney Center Testimony on Youth Committee Services

allocated to increase the number of available beds for LGBTQ+ youth especially for youth ages 21 to 24; funding to support on-site mental health services; and funding to fight against food insecurity among our LGBTQ+ youth.



**Testimony of  
Mariangela Gina Michu  
Fellow Advocate  
Coalition for Homeless Youth**

**Before the**

**The New York City Council  
Youth Services Committee**

**On**

**Runaway and Homeless Youth**

**Verbal Testimony  
June 21, 2022**

**Written Testimony  
June 24, 2022**

### Introduction

Mariangela Gina Michu (she ,her, they, them), Advocacy Fellow, of Coalition for Homeless Youth (CHY), member of Youth Action Board (YAB), in favor of meeting the needs for older youth. Thank you to the council for the opportunity to give testimony verbally for the Youth Services Committee Oversight Hearing for Runaway and Homeless Youth.

### Meeting the needs of older youth

As a youth member who has gone through the challenges of homelessness and finding shelter, I am representing my LGBTQIA+ and non LGBTQIA+ youth and young adult peers. I want to bring the attention of the total beds RHY programs provide. At 813 beds in total, 753 beds go to youth ages 16-20, while 60 beds go to young adults 21-24. I would like to highlight that assuming that care stops at the age of 24 is putting young adults at risk of finding a permanent solution for housing, and as someone aging out of youth resources myself. I am urging the DYCD to extend the amount of beds that go out to young adults who are lacking some space to safely locate a bed in a program that a young adult would ideally feel comfortable temporarily occupy, because no one should be insecure about housing, especially when beds for youth ages 16-20 are vacant. A safe plan for youth and young adults would be including us as part of a decision making process on the board for a better future and understanding of the different needs youth and young adults need to end homelessness, including immigrant individuals who are more disadvantaged with resources and a permanent housing solution.

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**Testimony of**  
**Lauren Galloway**  
**Advocacy Coordinator**  
**Coalition for Homeless Youth**

**Before the**  
**The New York City Council**  
**Youth Services Committee**

**On**  
**Runaway and Homeless Youth**

**Verbal Testimony**  
**June 21, 2022**

**Written Testimony**  
**June 23, 2022**

The Coalition for Homeless Youth (CHY) appreciates this opportunity to submit written testimony to the New York City Council's Committee on Youth Services as a follow-up to the verbal testimony, Lauren Galloway, CHY Advocacy Coordinator, gave at the June 21, 2022, Runaway and Homeless Youth Oversight Hearing

The Coalition for Homeless Youth (CHY), also known as the Empire State Coalition of Youth and Family Services, has advocated for the needs of runaway and homeless youth (RHY) for over 40 years. CHY is comprised of 65 providers of services to homeless youth across New York State, including 29 members in New York City. Our members include providers that are directly contracted to provide services to RHY as well as agencies that intersect with the RHY population within the larger scope of their work.

Thank you to Youth Services Chair Althea Stevens and all the members of the Youth Services Committees for holding this hearing to uplift the needs of youth and young adults experiencing homelessness in New York City. In addition to the recommendations outlined below, CHY also supports all the additional issues and recommendations outlined in the testimonies of our membership agencies, as well as the youth advocates- who showed up in full force at the hearing to use their voices to push for change.

### **Who Are Runaway and Homeless Youth?**

Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) are generally defined as unaccompanied young people who have run away or been forced to leave home and now reside in temporary situations, places not otherwise intended for habitation, or emergency shelters. The federal Runaway and Homeless Youth Act defines the population as being between 12-24 years of age<sup>1</sup>, however, the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) only provides drop-in services to youth 14-24 years of age, and shelter to youth and young adults 16-24 years of age.

Although the true number of homeless youth in NYC is unknown, a 2019 study by Chapin Hall found that on a single night there were 4,584 youth under the age of 25 that were counted in NYC as sleeping on the streets or in a shelter: 2,142 of which were unaccompanied and 2,422 were parenting youth.<sup>2</sup> However, there are currently only 813 youth-specific beds to offer them<sup>3</sup>. Like all other segments of NYC's homeless population, RHY experience harm that disproportionately impacts their health and creates roadblocks to long-term wellness. The National Network for Youth's report on "Consequences of Youth Homelessness" details the myriad harms that confront all RHY, including increased mental health problems and trauma, substance use, exposure to victimization and criminal activity, and unsafe sex practices<sup>4</sup>.

As is the case with so many other marginalized and system-involved populations, youth of color and LGBTQ/TGNC youth are vastly overrepresented in the RHY population. Nationally, only 5-7% of all youth identify as LGBTQ, but the proportion of homeless youth who identify as

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<sup>1</sup> [https://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?path=/prelim@title34/subtitle1/chapter111/subchapter3&edition=prelim#11279\\_1](https://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?path=/prelim@title34/subtitle1/chapter111/subchapter3&edition=prelim#11279_1)

<sup>2</sup> Morton, M. H., Kull, M. A., Chávez, R., Chrisler, A. J., Carreon, E., & Bishop, J. (2019). *A Youth Homelessness System Assessment for New York City*. Chicago, IL: Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago.

<sup>3</sup> Email correspondence with Department of Community Development, dated 6/14/21

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.nn4youth.org/wp-content/uploads/IssueBrief\\_Youth\\_Homelessness.pdf](https://www.nn4youth.org/wp-content/uploads/IssueBrief_Youth_Homelessness.pdf)

LGBTQ is as high as 40%<sup>5</sup>. Compared to other homeless youth, LGBTQ youth are more likely to be sexually or physically assaulted, more likely to be harassed, robbed, or become victims of hate crimes, and more likely to be forced into survival sex or sexual exploitation, making the need for specialized services for LGBTQ/TGNC youth critical in meeting the needs of all RHY.

The COVID-19 pandemic has only exacerbated the inequities homeless youth face every day and have brought those challenges into sharper contrast. It is imperative that the City continue to support our most marginalized youth and young adults who continue to be disproportionately impacted by the fallout from the pandemic both in the short and long-term.

### **Youth-Specific Shelters and Services Make a Measurable, Positive Difference**

The Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) has been designated the county youth bureau for NYC and is responsible for serving RHY under the New York State Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHYA). While many RHY also seek services within the Department of Homeless Services (DHS) and Human Resources Administration (HRA) Domestic Violence (DV) shelter systems, homeless youth, advocates, and RHY providers agree that the outcomes for many homeless youth improve with increased access to youth-specific shelters and services. This was proved in a groundbreaking white paper was released by the Center for Drug Use and HIV Research at NYU Rory Meyers College of Nursing in with the Coalition for Homeless Youth. One of the most significant findings of the study is that high quality RHY programs not only meet basic requirements, but “address higher order relational, psychological, and motivational needs... fostering a sense of resilience among RHY” and providing long-term benefits to a youth’s functioning. ***In short, well-funded, high quality RHY programs make a positive impact on a youth’s ability to stabilize and successfully transition from crisis to independence.*** While more research is needed to evaluate the long-term benefits of RHY services, understanding that these programs make a proven difference to the youth they serve gives further support to why we have continued pushing for more shelter beds and services for youth experiencing homelessness.

### **Recommendations**

#### **The Needs of Homeless Young Adults**

In 2018, CHY worked with City Council to pass Local Law 88 of 2018<sup>6</sup>, which forced DYCD to increase the upper age limit of eligibility for youth to access DYCD-funded RHY programs from 20 to 24 years of age, aligning NYC with the changes in state law that were passes the previous year<sup>7</sup>. Since that time DYCD has maintained that all older youth beds must be funded and operated separately from the beds for 16-21yo, something that doesn’t align with, nor is enforced by either the state or city laws. This voluntary restriction has and continues to harm older youth. We know that overwhelmingly youth do not feel safe entering the adult shelter system. However, since there continue to be only 60 DYCD beds across the city for young adults 21-24 years of age, too many older youths are either forced to go to DHS shelters, utilize the DYCD-funded 24-hr drop-in centers as makeshift shelter or stay on the streets. None of these being acceptable scenarios. To address this, we recommend that:

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<sup>5</sup> Durso, L.E., & Gates, G.J. (2012). *Serving Our Youth: Findings from a National Survey of Service Providers Working with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Youth who are Homeless or At Risk of Becoming Homeless*. Los Angeles: The Williams Institute with True Colors Fund and The Palette Fund.

<sup>6</sup> <https://legistar.council.nyc.gov/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=3337813&GUID=59621C3D-2453-4B95-9C04-DC32525DD602>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/laws/EXC/A19-H>

- DYCD should include reporting on the number, demographics, and other metrics included in the Local Law 86 of 2018 report<sup>8</sup> specifically for youth 21-24 years of age.
- DYCD should include reporting the number of youth 21-24 years of age, that are turned away from the DYCD shelter system due to lack of bed capacity in the Local Law 79 of 2018 report<sup>9</sup>.
- DYCD should increase street-outreach to youth, who are often older, living on the streets. There is currently only one DYCD-funded youth-specific street outreach program for the entire city, which operates with a shoestring budget. With the increase of inhumane sweeps and criminalization of individuals experiencing street homelessness, DYCD has the responsibility to step-up to protect youth living on the streets, by increasing outreach to them and working with their partners at DHS to stop the criminalization of street homeless people all together.
- Most importantly, DYCD needs to start trusting that their contracted RHY providers are the experts at running their own programs and allow them the discretion to serve older youth in programs the currently contractually limit to serving youth 16-20 year of age. DYCD continues to state publicly that there are many vacant beds across their 16-20yo programs, so why are they forcing older youth into unsafe situations if they do not have to be?

### Local Law 81

Local Law 81 of 2018<sup>10</sup> solidified a streamline referral process for youth in DYCD crisis and Transitional Independent Living (TIL) programs to transition directly into DHS shelters, bypassing placement in the intake and assessment shelters. Unfortunately, this process was not being upheld as required by DHS, who recently limited eligibility to youth aging out of DYCD programs. This was out of compliance with LL81. However, since giving our verbal testimony of June 21 2022, CHY has confirmed that this issue has been resolved and that an updated policy is being drafted by DHS.

### Provider Evaluations

Despite DYCD testimony at the FY23 preliminary budget hearing to the contrary<sup>11</sup>, except for the annual evaluation, there continues to be no process for which DYCD-funded RHY providers can appeal or request amendments to their program evaluations. This of course continues to be of great concern to the providers, and we believe should also be of concern to DYCD and the administration, since it means that outcomes reported for the RHY continuum could be inaccurate. When programs are issued reports with inaccurate or missing information, there should be a streamlined process to have those reports corrected- which there is not. We ask that DYCD enable a “dispute” function in their contract management system, which allows for providers to dispute all of the evaluation and monitoring reports that they are issued. The current process of addressing these issues on a case-by-case basis with their individual program manager is not working, and the results have proven inconsistent and time consuming.

<sup>8</sup> [https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dycd/downloads/pdf/FY21\\_LL86\\_RHY\\_Demographics-and-Services\\_Report-Final.pdf](https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dycd/downloads/pdf/FY21_LL86_RHY_Demographics-and-Services_Report-Final.pdf)

<sup>9</sup> [https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dycd/downloads/pdf/Local-law-79-Runaway-and-Homeless-Youth-Shelter-Access-July-to-Dec-2021\\_012022\\_Final.pdf](https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dycd/downloads/pdf/Local-law-79-Runaway-and-Homeless-Youth-Shelter-Access-July-to-Dec-2021_012022_Final.pdf)

<sup>10</sup> <https://legistar.council.nyc.gov/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=3147852&GUID=B4D2FB4E-22EC-4812-8582-5AB54A606474&Options=ID%7CText%7C&Search=81>

<sup>11</sup> <https://legistar.council.nyc.gov/MeetingDetail.aspx?ID=935625&GUID=33F577E8-B1CC-45C7-89C5-DFF632AFF57A&Options=info|&Search=>

## **Conclusion**

CHY is grateful to the City Council for its ongoing commitment to all people experiencing homelessness, including runaway and homeless youth. We look forward to our continued work together to improve the city's runaway and homeless youth services.

*For questions please contact:*

**Lauren Galloway**

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## More Information about the Coalition for Homeless Youth

Founded in 1978 as the Empire State Coalition of Youth and Family Services, The Coalition for Homeless Youth (CHY) is a consortium of 60+ agencies working to improve the housing and mental healthcare continuum for the ~50,000 runaway, homeless and street-involved youth throughout New York State. The Coalition's mission is, as a membership organization, is to use its collective voice to promote the safety, health and future of runaway, homeless and street involved youth.

CHY is primarily an advocacy organization, leveraging the expertise and experience of its members to shape the policy landscape for runaway and homeless youth in New York State. This is achieved through increasing public awareness, coalition meetings and public advocacy campaigns for pertinent legislation and funding. Notably, in 2015, CHY was instrumental in the advocacy efforts that resulted in the doubling of the State budget for runaway and homeless youth services. CHY's advocacy also contributed to the development of NYS statutory and regulatory changes that became effective in 2018, permitting localities across the State, to extend length of stay and increase age of youth served by RHY programs in their communities.

An additional area of focus for CHY is the strengthening of service delivery for runaway and homeless youth, primarily through the provision of specialized training and technical support. Annually, CHY provides training and technical assistance for over 750 professionals working with homeless and runaway youth; the subject matter varies, but includes: mental health services, emergency housing, street outreach, crisis services, harm reduction, transitional independent living programming, immigration, and case management.

At present, the Coalition consists of 45 organizational members, and 20 affiliate members; its continuum is represented in almost every county of New York State. Program operations are concentrated downstate, but the program's reach extends throughout the State; CHY takes the broadest possible approach, engaging both traditional social service institutions and organizations that provide programming for niche populations that interact with homelessness (LGBTQI youth, trafficked youth, etc). In this, CHY brings together providers and clients to work together at every possible level to effect change, and this multi-tiered approach has fostered significant results: in the last two years, the advocacy efforts of CHY have fundamentally changed the socio-political landscape for runaway and homeless youth.

In 2017 and 2018, the New York City Council passed five pieces of legislation that will have a groundbreaking impact on the supports that the city provides youth experiencing homelessness. This includes: extending the age limit for runaway and homeless youth services from 21 to 25yo,

extending the length of stay at Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) shelter programs, mandating that DYCD track youth that are not able to obtain a shelter bed due to lack of capacity, extending the time limits at DYCD shelter programs, streamlining the process for youth in the DYCD system to access shelter in the adult shelter system, and mandating DYCD to create a plan to address the needs of all homeless young people in NYC. The Coalition for Homeless Youth was instrumental in the passing of this legislation. The efforts of CHY in recognizing and upholding the plight of homelessness among young people across ethnicities, genders and orientations is at the forefront of all its initiatives

**New York City Council, Committee on Youth Services**

**Runaway and Homeless Youth Oversight Hearing**

June 21, 2022

My name is John Sentigar, and I am the Director of Development and Communications at Covenant House New York (CHNY), where we serve runaway and homeless youth (RHY) ages 16 to 24. I would like to thank the New York City Council Committee on Youth Services, especially Chair Stevens for the opportunity to testify today.

CHNY is the nation's largest, non-profit adolescent care agency serving homeless, runaway and trafficked youth. During this past year, CHNY served over 1,600 young people in our programs. On a nightly basis, we provide shelter to approximately 200 young people, including, LGBTQ youth and pregnant women and mothers with their children as well as survivors of human trafficking/commercial sexual exploitation. Our youth are primarily people of color and over a third of our youth have spent time in the foster care system. Many of our youth have experienced abuse or neglect at the hands of parents or other caregivers, and a disproportionately high percentage of our youth struggle with the pervasive impacts of trauma, mental health issues, and substance abuse. We provide young people with food, shelter, clothing, medical care, mental health and substance abuse services, legal services, high school equivalency classes and other educational and job-training programs, as well as specialized services for survivors of human trafficking/commercial sexual exploitation. All of these services help young people overcome the trauma of abuse, homelessness and exploitation and move toward stability and success.

First and foremost, I would like to thank the Youth Services Committee and especially Chair Stevens, who has been a lifelong advocate for young people in need, for advocating for

more city funding for RHY across NYC. Young people experiencing homelessness and human trafficking are among the most vulnerable in our city and have been especially hard-hit during the Covid 19 pandemic. We are extremely grateful that in recent years there has been an increase in the number of beds for homeless youth under the age of 21. Long gone are the unacceptable and tragic days when youth under 21 were turned away from RHY programs due to lack of capacity.

However, the vast need for wraparound services for this population is still dire. With the unfortunate closing of the Peter Cicchino Youth Project, there is only one direct legal services lawyer specializing in legal services for homeless youth across the entire city. Yet the need for legal services is ever-growing, especially as there has been an increase in the number of young people migrating from Central and South America who are in need of immigration legal services. Additionally, at CHNY, we have noticed an increase in the number of attempts to lure homeless youth into situations involving commercial sexual exploitation. Research has demonstrated that as many as one in five of the young people we serve have had experiences that fit the New York State definition of human trafficking. The service needs for these young survivors are extensive, and funding is needed for programs that serve survivors across the city so that they can embark on new futures filled with safety, freedom and hope. Finally, mental health needs grew for most everyone during the global pandemic, but for homeless young people it added an additional layer of trauma on an already traumatized population. As we all know, LGBTQ youth are overrepresented in the homeless youth population and there is extra need for mental health care for LGBTQ young people experiencing homelessness.

### **21–24-year-olds experiencing homelessness**

Although most homeless youth under the age of 21 seeking shelter will be able to find a bed in an RHY program, the same cannot be said for young people between the ages of 21 to 24. There are only 60 beds dedicated for this age group in the entire New York City homeless youth continuum of care. This leaves a majority of homeless youth in this age range forced to choose between going to an adult homeless shelter or sleeping on the street. Scientific research on brain science has made clear that the passage of a 21<sup>st</sup> birthday does not negate the need



for developmentally appropriate services for this age group. 21-24 year old youth may be experiencing homelessness for the first time in their life, and many have stated that they do not feel comfortable in shelters filled with chronically homeless older adults who often have extreme mental health issues, including psychosis. Just like younger youth, 21 to 24-year-olds fare best in age-specific shelters that practice positive youth development principles and trauma informed care. These youth also need the educational and vocational training, medical and mental health care, life skills workshops and intensive case management that RHY programs provide. We eagerly await the day when New York City provides enough beds for this older population so that no young person will ever be turned away from youth specific shelter programming.

### **Transportation**

An essential need that is often forgotten is transportation. Young people experiencing homelessness need to travel to get to job interviews, school and work, as well as to off-site medical and legal appointments. \$2.75 per trip is simply not feasible for someone experiencing homelessness. RHY programs provide our young people with as many MetroCards as we can. Yet, RHY programs pay full cost as we do not have access to the Fair Fares program. We therefore have to limit the number of MetroCards we give out and can only cover essential travel. While our youth can access the Fair Fares Program as individuals, they often do not have enough money to even pay for the reduced cost Metro Cards. We are therefore seeking the New York City Council's assistance in developing a process where RHY programs can access Metro Cards at the Fair Fares rate.

### **Mental Health Care**

One of the greatest needs for young people experiencing homelessness and human trafficking is mental health care. These experiences can lead to PTSD, anxiety, depression and many other mental health issues. CHNY is fortunate to have 12 social workers on staff and to have contracted with a part-time psychiatrist who is dedicated to serving young adults who

have experienced complex trauma. However, no program serving survivors in New York City can afford a full-time psychiatrist. The waitlist for psychiatric appointments for homeless youth across the city can be long, thereby leading to unnecessary delays in care. Additionally, there are currently no specifically dedicated youth mental health beds in New York City. Our mental health staff is adept at dealing with myriad mental health concerns including, anxiety, depression, PTSD, bipolar disorder, among many other disorders. However, in recent years we have seen an increase in young people experiencing homelessness and trafficking with schizophrenia, psychosis and active suicidality. Young people with these conditions often need more mental health support than we can provide. In these cases, we will advocate to hospitalize the young person in order to ensure their safety. However, frequently the hospital will only keep the youth for 24 hours before returning them to our care. The young person is then bounced back and forth between RHY service providers and hospitals and does not receive the intensive 24/7 mental health care that is essential to their recovery. We continue to request that the city dedicate funding for mental health beds for young people.

I again thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

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Testimony of  
**The Legal Aid Society**  
on  
**Oversight: Runaway and Homeless Youth**

submitted to  
  
The New York City Council Committee on Youth Services  
Hon. Althea Stevens, Chair

Submitted by  
  
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## **Introduction**

We submit this testimony on behalf of The Legal Aid Society and thank Chair Stevens and all of the committee members for inviting our input regarding runaway and homeless youth (RHY) services in New York City and for speaking to our clients and the larger provider community prior to this hearing. Since 2021, The Legal Aid Society has testified numerous times regarding the various components of the youth homelessness system, including a package of bills that were passed in 2018 expanding the rights of RHY. We are happy to provide prior testimony upon request.

## **C.W. v. The City of New York**

In December 2013, The Legal Aid Society (LAS) and Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler, LLC, filed *C.W. v. The City of New York*, a federal class action lawsuit on behalf of runaway and homeless youth in New York City.<sup>1</sup> The lawsuit sought, among other things, to create a right to youth shelter and increase the number of beds and services available to RHY; the question of the adequacy of shelter and services naturally implicated the Youth Count. After years of litigation and extensive fact and expert discovery, the parties settled *C.W.*<sup>2</sup> One of the settlement terms relevant to this hearing permits Plaintiffs' counsel the opportunity to attend meetings and participate in work groups related to the annual Youth Count during the settlement period. Defendant, through DYCD, also agreed to consider recommendations from Plaintiffs' counsel to improve the Youth Count's accuracy and comprehensiveness.<sup>3</sup> We also receive data on bed utilization and provide feedback we hear from clients regarding shelter services. Most importantly, working with *C.W.* class members continues to provide us with guidance on what services are working well and where changes are needed.

## **Causes of Youth Homelessness**

In 2013, a comprehensive survey by the New York City Coalition on the Continuum of Care shed important light on the causes of youth homelessness. The top reasons for homelessness at that time were reported "fighting frequently with [] parents" (34%), being "kicked out" of the home (31%), "physical, mental or sexual abuse" (34%), "neglect or [a] parent not meeting basic needs" (26%), unwillingness to "live by parents' rules" (20%), and parental use of drugs or alcohol (20%).<sup>4</sup> Anecdotally, these statistics are reflected in the stories we hear from clients with whom we work daily and are distinct from the reasons adults become homeless. Often the choice to leave home is a survival strategy in and of itself. Remarkably, youth experiencing homelessness demonstrate incredible fortitude and resilience in the face of traumatic events, routine discrimination, and incredible systemic barriers.

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<sup>1</sup> The amended complaint for *C.W. v. The City of New York* can be found at <https://legalaidnyc.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/C.W.-Amended-Complaint.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> The stipulation of settlement can be found at <https://legalaidnyc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/CW-filed-Proposed-Stipulation-and-Order-of-Settlement-2-14-20.pdf>. The final judgement was entered on December 11, 2020.

<sup>3</sup> See paragraph 43 of the stipulation of settlement in *C.W. v. The City of New York*.

<sup>4</sup> Lance Freeman and Darrick Hamilton for the New York City Coalition on the Continuum of Care, *A Count of Unaccompanied Homeless Youths* in New York City, November 19, 2013.

## **Youth Experiencing Homelessness**

By definition, RHY are disconnected from the very support systems that are intended to support adolescent development into adulthood, such as their families and schools. Even before a young person is considered runaway or homeless, they have likely experienced trauma. This trauma is exacerbated each day they are experiencing homelessness.

While it is difficult to explain all of the ways in which youth experience homelessness in New York City, there are common threads. Not surprisingly, homeless youth in New York face myriad dangers, obstacles, and simply frightening circumstances as they navigate the city trying to survive. Survival often involves entry into the street economy. Many homeless youth are pressured to trade sex for a place to sleep or shower and about one-third to half of these youth exchange sex for money, food, or a place to stay.<sup>5</sup> Many are victims of sex trafficking.<sup>6</sup> These dangers expose them to a significantly heightened risk of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV.<sup>7</sup> For runaway or homeless youth with serious substance abuse issues, which often stem from the very chaotic and traumatic family histories that drive them to homelessness, options are limited. Programs are often abstinence based, and many of these youth need treatment, support, and time before they are able or ready to quit.<sup>8</sup> RHY are at high risk of involvement with the juvenile or criminal legal system due to their homelessness.<sup>9</sup> The lack of stability can also impact their ability to continue with school, or find and maintain employment.<sup>10</sup> For these reasons, access to meaningful healthcare, including access to quality mental healthcare, and related services is particularly crucial for RHY. Despite the many challenges they face, RHY exhibit a common desire to be self-sufficient and yearn for the tools and ability to be successful in that pursuit. Because they do not share many of the characteristics of chronically homeless adults, it is critical to provide youth-specific shelter and services that increase their ability to achieve self-sufficiency.

Chapin Hall's policy research initiative Voices of Youth Count has released numerous studies over the past decade to better evaluate and understand youth homelessness. Its sobering "Missed Opportunities: Youth Homelessness in America" report confirmed what previous research and anecdotal experience has shown: the longer a young person is homeless, the more difficult it is for them to rise out of this experience and "contribute to stronger families, communities, and

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<sup>5</sup> Meredith Dank et al. The Urban Institute, *Surviving the Streets of New York: Experiences of LGBTQ Youth, YMSM, and YSWW Engaged in Survival Sex*, February 2015; Marya Viorst Gwadz et al., *The initiation of homeless youth into the street economy*, 32 *Journal of Adolescence* 357, 358 (2009).

<sup>6</sup> Ric Curtis et al., *The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in New York City* (September 2008), available at [http://www.courtinnovation.org/sites/default/files/CSEC\\_NYC\\_Executive\\_Summary.pdf](http://www.courtinnovation.org/sites/default/files/CSEC_NYC_Executive_Summary.pdf).

<sup>7</sup> Empire State Coalition of Youth and Family Services, *The New York City Association of Homeless and Street-Involved Youth Organizations' State of the City's Homeless Youth Report*, 2009.

<sup>8</sup> Id.

<sup>9</sup> See generally Id.; Dank, et al., *supra*; Youth Justice Board, Center for Court Innovation, *Homeless Not Hopeless: A Report on Homeless Youth and the Justice System in New York City*, June 2017.

<sup>10</sup> Empire State Coalition of Youth and Family Services, *supra*.

economies.”<sup>11</sup> The report goes on to support the idea that “to exit homelessness permanently, youth require housing and support services tailored to their unique developmental needs,” and youth-specific shelter and services for which we have long advocated provide this opportunity.<sup>12</sup>

### **Basic RHY Demographics and the Youth Count**

Runaway and homeless youth are generally defined as unaccompanied young people who have run away or been forced to leave home and now reside in temporary situations, places not otherwise intended for habitation, or in emergency shelters. The federal Runaway and Homeless Youth Act defines the population generally as being under 22 years of age for programs administered by Department of Health and Human Services.<sup>13</sup> The federal Department of Housing and Urban Development, on the other hand, includes unaccompanied youth under age 25 in its definitions of homelessness.<sup>14</sup> In April 2017, New York State redefined RHY to include all eligible youth under the age of 25 and changed other portions of New York’s Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, which laid the groundwork for the New York City Council to pass landmark legislation in March 2018 extending the eligible age range for RHY services in New York City.

It is notoriously difficult to accurately count the number of runaway and homeless youth in New York City, and the inability of the City to reliably account for RHY has been a substantial and persistent barrier to the provision of adequate shelter and services. Currently, the only government-sponsored Youth Count is organized around the City’s Point in Time (PIT) Count, also known as the Homeless Outreach Population Estimate and commonly referred to as the HOPE count, which takes place on a mid-winter night.<sup>15</sup> Providers, advocates and young people have long argued that the PIT and Youth Counts miss substantial numbers of RHY. The reasons vary from arguments that the definition of RHY for the purposes of the count does not include significant parts of the population, such as those couch-surfing or engaging in survival sex, to arguments that youth experiencing homelessness have an ability to blend into the fabric of the City and the methodology of the count was not designed to identify RHY. As Alexander Ray Perez testified during a prior Youth Services hearing in 2021, while the PIT count was designed to count adults who are unsheltered and often chronically homeless, youth homelessness “doesn’t always look like chronic street homelessness” and “if we look at how we approach helping youth in that way we are missing the mark [because] to be frank a lot of us are trying not to be seen.” Alexander added that when we force people to show up in an appropriate or “cookie cutter” way rather than let them show up as they are, we are

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<sup>11</sup> Chapin Hall of the University of Chicago, *Missed Opportunities: Youth Homelessness in America, National Estimates*, November 2017, at <https://voicesofyouthcount.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/VoYC-National-Estimates-Brief-Chapin-Hall-2017.pdf>.

<sup>12</sup> Id.

<sup>13</sup> United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, *Key Federal Terms and Definitions of Homelessness Among Youth*, February 2018.

<sup>14</sup> Id.

<sup>15</sup> Additional information about NYC’s count, which is required by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development, is available here: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/dhs/outreach/hope.page>.

disempowering youth and will as a result not adequately be able to include them in an accounting. When this issue arose once again at the same hearing, panelists voiced recommendations that DYCD increase street outreach to youth, and that DYCD engage with and compensate youth and young adults with lived experience to assist with outreach to young people who are invisible, or “trying not to be seen.”

Both the PIT and related Youth Count serve as an inadequate snapshot of homeless youth on a particular day rather than a census of youth with unstable housing situations who need City services. By our most reliable estimates, roughly 3,800 youth in New York City are homeless,<sup>16</sup> and the City does not have nearly enough shelter beds—crisis or transitional independent living (TIL)<sup>17</sup> — to serve this population.

Nationally, there has been some significant progress in evaluating the number of homeless youth, led by Chapin Hall’s Voices of Youth Count initiative. Anyone who knows a youth who has experienced homelessness knows the information contained in Voices of Youth Count reports to be true; the details are nevertheless staggering. Results of a Voices of Youth Count national survey show that 1 in 10 young adults ages 18 to 25 have experienced homelessness in some form in a one-year period.<sup>18</sup> The Voices of Youth Count Missed Opportunities brief outlines how governments can more accurately count young people experiencing homelessness and the primary recommendation is to “engage youth who have lived experience with homelessness in all aspects of planning and execution of the Youth Count.”<sup>19</sup>

It is also important to note that, as is the case with so many other marginalized and system-involved populations we work with, youth of color and LGBTQ/TGNC youth are vastly overrepresented in the RHY population. In the Voices of Youth Count survey, Hispanic, non-white youth had a 33% higher risk and Black or African American youth had an 83% higher risk of experiencing homelessness than youth of other races.<sup>20</sup> The risk of homelessness for unmarried parenting youth was 200% higher than for non-parenting youth.<sup>21</sup> These results are consistent with the recent New York City Youth Count numbers. The 2021 Youth Count reported 71% of unsheltered youth and 36% of unstably housed youth as Latinx, while 14% of unsheltered youth and 59% of unstably housed youth identified as Black or African American.<sup>22</sup> Similarly, LGBTQ youth become homeless at a significantly higher rate than the adolescent population as a whole and are vastly

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<sup>16</sup> Empire State Coalition of Youth and Family Services, The New York City Association of Homeless and Street-Involved Youth Organizations, *State of the City’s Homeless Youth Report*, 2009.

<sup>17</sup> The Preliminary Mayor’s Management Report for FY22 showed a total of 813 available residential beds for RHY. <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/operations/downloads/pdf/pmmr2022/dycd.pdf>. This is certainly an improvement from 2013 when there were just 253 beds, prior the filing of Legal Aid’s lawsuit *C.W. v. City of New York*. However, it is still woefully insufficient to serve the number of RHY in New York City.

<sup>18</sup> Chapin Hall, *supra*.

<sup>19</sup> *Id.*

<sup>20</sup> *Id.*

<sup>21</sup> *Id.*

<sup>22</sup> [https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dycd/downloads/pdf/2021New\\_York\\_City\\_Youth\\_Count\\_Results.pdf](https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dycd/downloads/pdf/2021New_York_City_Youth_Count_Results.pdf).



overrepresented in the RHY population. Chapin Hall's report indicated that LGBT youth have a 120% higher risk for homelessness.<sup>23</sup> This is consistent with a 2011 report by the Empire State Coalition of Youth and Family Services that cited studies showing that lesbian, gay, bisexual, and questioning youth make up 25-40% of the homeless youth population in NYC and other large cities,<sup>24</sup> compared with 3-6% of the general population.<sup>25</sup> In addition, the Empire State Coalition of Youth and Family Services presented homeless youth census data showing that 5% of homeless youth identified as transgender and another 18% were unsure or chose not to answer the question about gender identity.<sup>26</sup> According to the City's 2021 Youth Count, 29% of unsheltered youth and 48% of unstably housed youth identified as a sexual orientation other than straight, and 12% of youth in unstable housing identified as transgender or gender nonbinary.<sup>27</sup> Many homeless youth are also immigrants, and like their older counterparts face additional challenges in accessing services and permanent housing, especially in the current political climate. Immigrant RHY cannot apply for financial aid and often cannot work legally, making it all the more difficult to stabilize.

### **Meeting the Needs of Homeless Young Adults (21 – 24 years)**

In 2018, the New York City Council passed Local Law 88, which required DYCD to expand shelter services to homeless young adults ages 21 through 24.<sup>28</sup> While the law did not mandate DYCD to serve all young adults, the number of shelter beds DYCD has made available to 21-24-year-old New Yorkers is patently inadequate. Currently, the department contracts with four service providers to provide a total of 60 shelter beds for this population, which does not address the pressing need. According to one DYCD provider's website "[f]or young people between the ages of 21-24, the wait can be as long as six months" for a bed in a RHY shelter.<sup>29</sup> As a result, many young adults seek shelter in the Department of Homeless Services (DHS). For example, in 2018 DHS temporarily housed 8,816 21-24-year-olds.<sup>30</sup> Additionally, the need for additional youth-specific beds for this population has increased since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, in keeping with increased demand for all shelters across the City.

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<sup>23</sup> Id.

<sup>24</sup> Empire State Coalition of Youth and Family Services, New York City Association of Homeless and Street-Involved Youth Organizations, *State of the City's Homeless Youth Report*, 2011 (citations omitted).

<sup>25</sup> [http://news.gallup.com/poll/182051/san-francisco-metro-area-ranks-highest-lgbt-percentage.aspx?utm\\_source=Social%20Issues&utm\\_medium=newsfeed&utm\\_campaign=tiles](http://news.gallup.com/poll/182051/san-francisco-metro-area-ranks-highest-lgbt-percentage.aspx?utm_source=Social%20Issues&utm_medium=newsfeed&utm_campaign=tiles).

<sup>26</sup> Empire State Coalition of Youth and Family Services, 2011, *supra*.

<sup>27</sup> [https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dycd/downloads/pdf/2021New\\_York\\_City\\_Youth\\_Count\\_Results.pdf](https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dycd/downloads/pdf/2021New_York_City_Youth_Count_Results.pdf).

<sup>28</sup> New York City Council, Local Law 88 of 2018 (enacted Apr. 7, 2018), available at <https://legistar.council.nyc.gov/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=3337813&GUID=59621C3D-2453-4B95-9C04-DC32525DD602&Options=ID%7CText%7C&Search=556>.

<sup>29</sup> Ali Forney Center, Programs & Services, Emergency Housing Program, available at <https://www.aliforneycenter.org/housing-services>.

<sup>30</sup> Report of the New York City Youth Homelessness Task Force, available at Report of the New York City Youth Homelessness Task Force, page 6, available at [http://youthtoday.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/13/2019/09/Report-of-NYC-Youth-Homelessness-Taskforce\\_January-20191.pdf](http://youthtoday.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/13/2019/09/Report-of-NYC-Youth-Homelessness-Taskforce_January-20191.pdf).



Local Law 88 expanded services to this age group because the Council understood that many 21-24-year-olds feel safer in youth shelters, as opposed to those operated by DHS. Additionally, and as we explained in our testimony in support of this bill in 2018, expanding DYCD services to include young adults is in line with brain development research and honors the nuanced needs of the different populations. Youth shelters were created specifically for young people and are better suited to meet their needs, especially for RHY who identify as LGBTQI or who need mental health services. Our work with our clients continues to support these conclusions. Simply put, more youth shelter space must be created to serve 21-24-year-olds in the DYCD continuum.

### **Planning for Adequate Shelter Capacity**

Another bill passed by the City Council in 2018 was Local Law 86, the final section of which mandated DYCD to develop a plan that would enable the City to provide youth specific shelter services to all runaway or homeless youth who request such shelter from the agency or its contracted youth shelter providers. Despite the Council's call for a plan that would provide youth specific shelter to all homeless young people seeking it, however, on October 1, 2018, DYCD produced a plan that relies upon diverting homeless youth ages 18 and older to the adult shelter system.

While Local Law 86 requires DYCD to provide “[a] description of the public resources available to serve runaway and homeless youth including any new services established,” this is separate from the requirement to create a Capacity Plan for the agency to serve RHY.<sup>31</sup> As Jeffrey Baker, the Legislative Director of this Council, noted in his letter to DYCD in April 2019, “Local Law 86 of 2018 requires that DYCD develop and submit a plan to provide shelter services to all RHY who request such shelter from DYCD.”<sup>32</sup> Importantly, Mr. Baker reiterated that “[t]he law does not provide for DYCD to use other city agencies’ resources.”<sup>33</sup>

DYCD's response to the Council's Legislative Director was troubling. It did not acknowledge the Department's failure to adhere to the law. Instead, DYCD responded that “for a young person who requests services from DYCD, our providers will seek the best available resource, including within DHS, ACS, HRA and DSS.”<sup>34</sup> Since this exchange, DYCD has yet to produce a Capacity Plan that meets the requirements of Local Law 86. We do not question DYCD's contention that “[t]he City is more coordinated than ever before to meet the needs of vulnerable youth.”<sup>35</sup> However, we question whether this coordination is adequate. We submit that in passing Local Law 86 and requiring that DYCD develop a Capacity Plan, the Council expressed a belief that more had to be done.

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<sup>31</sup> New York City Council, Local Law 86 of 2018, (enacted Apr. 7, 2018), available at <https://legistar.council.nyc.gov/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=3337815&GUID=20F8E716-81CF-4FAC-B8E6-CD5661A43FFE&Options=ID%7CText%7C&Search=1700>.

<sup>32</sup> Letter from Jeffrey Baker, Legis. Dir., New York City Council, to Bill Chong, Commissioner, Dept. of Youth and Cmty. Dev (Apr. 18, 2019) (on file with author).

<sup>33</sup> Id.

<sup>34</sup> Dept. of Youth and Cmty. Dev., to Jeffrey Baker, Legis. Dir., New York City Council (on file with author).

<sup>35</sup> Id.

The Council, through the passage of Local Law 86, wanted DYCD to create a blueprint to provide a range of services and become the best available resource for young New Yorkers experiencing homelessness. We supported the passage of Local Law 86 because it was an acknowledgment that DYCD is best suited to provide youth shelter and services for young people. Although DYCD contends other agencies may have services that might be currently available for young people aged 18 and older, our clients reiterate that they prefer to work with youth shelter service providers, and we know that outcomes are better for individuals who receive supports from youth shelter and service providers.<sup>36</sup> When this local law was passed, our hope was that DYCD would create a Capacity Plan that reflected the documented need for bed or service capacity based on our clients' demand, and set forth steps regarding how those demands could be met. The creation of a Capacity Plan contemplates a future where our client's needs and preferences align with DYCD's assessment of what is appropriate. This future has been delayed for long enough and we ask the Council to help encourage DYCD to fulfill the intended goals and express language of Local Law 86's Capacity Plan.

### **Transfer from DYCD to DHS Shelter**

Recently LAS learned that the City appears not to be honoring the streamlined referral process that is embodied in Local Law 81 of 2018, which allows for young people who have been engaged with DYCD RHY programs to bypass intake and assessment shelters when transitioning to DHS. While we and other advocates are awaiting more information from the City, it's disheartening to know that there continue to be issues with a process that has been required both as a result of our litigation and through legislation.

### **Reporting Requirements of Local Law 79**

Local Law 79 requires DYCD to track the number of young people who are turned away from DYCD shelter.<sup>37</sup> In DYCD's Local Law 79 RHY Service Access reports for the period July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021, the Department states that of the 2,704 young people who were placed in crisis services or transitional independent living support programs during this period: "no young person who sought a residential program was reported to have been declined a service referral; nor was any youth unable to be matched to a preferred provider."<sup>38</sup> DYCD's Local Law 79 RHY Service Access

<sup>36</sup> See e.g. Gwadz, M., Freeman, R., Cleland, C. M., Ritchie, A.S., Leonard, N.R., Hughes, C., Powlovich, J., & Schoenberg, J. (2017). Moving from crisis to independence: The characteristics, quality, and impact of specialized settings for runaway and homeless youth. New York: Center for Drug Use and HIV Research, NYU Rory Meyers College of Nursing.

<sup>37</sup> New York City Council, Local Law 79 of 2018, (enacted Apr. 7, 2018), available at <https://legistar.council.nyc.gov/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=3050426&GUID=6F2D904D-C629-4F16-BACD-F3056BA3F5E4&Options=ID|Text|&Search=079>.

<sup>38</sup> NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, LOCAL LAW 79 RUNAWAY AND HOMELESS YOUTH (RHY) SERVICE ACCESS REPORT JULY 1, 2020 TO DECEMBER 31, 2020 SUMMARY TO THE NYC COUNCIL (2020), available at [https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dycd/downloads/pdf/Local\\_Law79\\_Shelter\\_Access\\_Report\\_July1-December31-2020.pdf](https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dycd/downloads/pdf/Local_Law79_Shelter_Access_Report_July1-December31-2020.pdf); NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, LOCAL LAW 79

report for the period July 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021, states that one “young person, in need of significant behavioral health supports, was referred outside of RHY residential services,” while another youth “was not placed into a residential program.”<sup>39</sup> These statements are not true and are a reflection of how inadequate DYCD’s current tracking system for Local Law 79 is.

Currently, DYCD places the burden of tracking young people who have been turned away from shelter on the program or individual trying to assist the young person to find a placement. DYCD asks them to report when a youth has been turned away because there are no beds available. This is problematic for a number of reasons.

First, there is no way for an advocacy organization, such as The Legal Aid Society, or any other non-DYCD-funded entity to track when they are working with a young person who is being turned away. LAS has worked with clients who report being repeatedly turned away from various locations before they were able to locate a bed. These experiences cannot be recorded, however, because no mechanism exists for LAS to report the information to DYCD. We know of other legal service organizations and non-profits that have the same experience. We also believe that other shelter systems, such as DHS, may not have the ability to report difficulty referring a young person to a youth shelter bed.

Based on conversations we have had with youth shelter and service providers, we know that many providers do not report instances when youth are turned away. Much of that has to do with the kind of report that must be filled out and the timing of it; it is often required to be completed, and sometimes multiple times, at the same time that the staff member is trying to locate a bed for a young person. DYCD’s reliance on a small number of organizations to report these instances is a preventable mistake that we asked this Council to alleviate when we testified about this bill prior to its passage, and it must change.<sup>40</sup> DYCD must create a procedure where the agency, as opposed to third parties, is in the position to track when a youth or young adult is turned away from a shelter.

Accurate reporting about young New Yorkers and their access to services is essential to understanding how to best serve the RHY of New York City. At the outset, a reporting requirement

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RUNAWAY AND HOMELESS YOUTH (RHY) SERVICE ACCESS REPORT JANUARY 1, 2021 TO JUNE 30, 2021 SUMMARY TO THE NYC COUNCIL (2021), available at [https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dycd/downloads/pdf/Local\\_Law\\_79\\_Runaway\\_and\\_Homeless\\_Youth\\_ShelterAccess\\_Jan-to-June\\_2021\\_072021.pdf](https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dycd/downloads/pdf/Local_Law_79_Runaway_and_Homeless_Youth_ShelterAccess_Jan-to-June_2021_072021.pdf).

<sup>39</sup> NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, LOCAL LAW 79 RUNAWAY AND HOMELESS YOUTH (RHY) SERVICE ACCESS REPORT JULY 1, 2021 TO DECEMBER 31, 2021 SUMMARY TO THE NYC COUNCIL (2021), available at [https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dycd/downloads/pdf/Local-law-79-Runaway-and-Homeless-Youth-Shelter-Access-July-to-Dec-2021\\_012022\\_Final.pdf](https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dycd/downloads/pdf/Local-law-79-Runaway-and-Homeless-Youth-Shelter-Access-July-to-Dec-2021_012022_Final.pdf).

<sup>40</sup> *Preconsidered Introductions: In relation to runaway and homeless youth services for homeless young adults, In relation to time frames and homeless youth shelter services, and In relation to shelter for runaway and homeless youth: Before The New York City Council Committee on Youth Services*, 6 (2018) (statement of Beth Hofmeister, Staff Attorney, The Legal Aid Society, and Giselle Routhier, Policy Director, Coalition for the Homeless) (“[T]he bill language should be clear that DYCD is tasked with providing the required reports, rather than the providers.”), available at [https://www.coalitionforthehomeless.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/RHY\\_Testimony\\_02132018.pdf](https://www.coalitionforthehomeless.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/RHY_Testimony_02132018.pdf).

that promotes accountability and transparency amongst the City, its agencies, and local community stakeholders will allow for greater collaboration amongst partners. But even more importantly, an accurate report provides an understanding to all stakeholders as to what young homeless New Yorkers need. Knowledge of what services are at capacity and turning young people away will allow the City to dedicate resources to the groups of young New Yorkers who are not being readily served by the RHY system. As it stands, the City, and most notably DYCD, is unable to comprehend the scope of the unhoused crisis facing the youth and young adults of New York City, which has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, because the current runaway reporting system is designed to receive input from only a small number of the possible people and organizations that help connect young people with services. As such, the system is able to capture only a fraction of the young people who are unable to access services.

### **The Positive Impact of Specialized Services for Runaway and Homeless Youth**

Much of why LAS spends time and energy pushing for additional services for RHY is because we know these programs are effective and essential. In 2017 a groundbreaking white paper was released by the Center for Drug Use and HIV Research at NYU Rory Meyers College of Nursing in collaboration with the Coalition for Homeless Youth. The purpose of the underlying study was to build upon a foundation of other research and over a three-year period to examine a diverse group of RHY service providers to assess the effectiveness of these programs.<sup>41</sup> One of the most significant findings of the study is that high quality RHY programs not only meet basic requirements, but “address higher order relational, psychological, and motivational needs... fostering a sense of resilience among RHY” and providing long-term benefits to a youth’s functioning.<sup>42</sup> In short, well-funded, high quality RHY programs make a positive impact on a youth’s ability to stabilize and successfully transition from crisis to independence. While more research is needed to evaluate the long-term benefits of RHY services, understanding that these programs make a proven difference to the youth they serve gives further support to why we will continue to push for more shelter services for RHY.

### **Access to Permanent Housing**

Just as important for youth and young adults to stabilize and transition from homelessness to independence as specialized services for this population is access to permanent housing opportunities. As youth and young adults are preparing to leave RHY programs in one of the most expensive cities in the country, it is imperative that they have access to permanent housing. Because of this, we laud the City Council for passing Local Law 170 of 2021,<sup>43</sup> which makes youth and

<sup>41</sup> Gwadz, M., Freeman, R., Cleland, C.M., Ritchie, A.S., Leonard, N.R., Hughes, C., Powlovich, J., & Schoenberg, J. (2017). *Moving from crisis to independence: The characteristic, quality, and impact of specialized settings for runaway and homeless youth*. New York: Center for Drug Use and HIV Research, NYU Rory Meyers College of Nursing.

<sup>42</sup> Id. at 16.

<sup>43</sup> Local Law 170 of 2021, available at <https://legistar.council.nyc.gov/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=5146237&GUID=1A2F9094-0130-46E0-9C4A-D9A5AC55F8A5&Options=ID|Text|&Search=int+2405>.

young adults who have received services from DYCD RHY programs eligible for CityFHEPS rental assistance vouchers. In addition, youth and young adults receiving services from DYCD RHY programs are eligible for Emergency Housing Vouchers that became available during the COVID-19 pandemic. Critically, individuals receiving these vouchers are also given the support of Housing Navigators to help them navigate New York City's challenging housing market and the systems necessary to ensure their rental assistance is in place. We understand that funding for housing navigators for youth and young adults experiencing homelessness has been included in the City budget, and we urge the City to baseline that funding in coming years.

### **Conclusion**

We again thank the Youth Services Committee for its continued oversight of DYCD and the youth shelter system in New York City. We look forward to working with the larger RHY community and the Council on this and related advocacy going forward.

### **About The Legal Aid Society**

The Legal Aid Society, the nation's oldest and largest not-for-profit legal services organization, is more than a law firm for clients who cannot afford to pay for counsel. It is an indispensable component of the legal, social, and economic fabric of New York City – passionately advocating for low-income individuals and families across a variety of civil, criminal, and juvenile rights matters, while also fighting for legal reform. This dedication to justice for all New Yorkers continues during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Legal Aid Society has performed this role in City, State and federal courts since 1876. It does so by capitalizing on the diverse expertise, experience, and capabilities of more than 2,000 attorneys, social workers, paralegals, and support and administrative staff. Through a network of borough, neighborhood, and courthouse offices in 26 locations in New York City, the Society provides comprehensive legal services in all five boroughs of New York City for clients who cannot afford to pay for private counsel.

The Society's legal program operates three major practices — Civil, Criminal, and Juvenile Rights — and receives volunteer help from law firms, corporate law departments and expert consultants that is coordinated by the Society's Pro Bono program. With its annual caseload of more than 300,000 legal matters, The Legal Aid Society takes on more cases for more clients than any other legal services organization in the United States. And it brings a depth and breadth of perspective that is unmatched in the legal profession. Annually, our Civil Practice works on more than 52,500 individual legal matters on a wide range of legal issues affecting all aspects of our clients' lives. Our Juvenile Rights Practice provides comprehensive representation as attorneys for children who appear before the New York City Family Court in abuse, neglect, juvenile delinquency, and other proceedings affecting children's rights and welfare. Last year, our Juvenile Rights staff represented more than 30,000 children. At the same time, our Criminal Practice handled nearly 220,000 cases for clients accused of criminal conduct.

**Justice in Every Borough.**

The Legal Aid Society is uniquely positioned to speak on issues of law and policy as they relate to homeless New Yorkers. The Legal Aid Society is counsel to the Coalition for the Homeless and for homeless women and men in the *Callahan* and *Eldredge* cases. The Legal Aid Society is also counsel in the *McCain/Boston* litigation in which a final judgment requires the provision of lawful shelter to homeless families. Legal Aid, in collaboration with Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler, LLC, filed and settled *C.W. v. The City of New York*, a federal class action lawsuit on behalf of runaway and homeless youth in New York City. LAS, along with institutional plaintiffs Coalition for the Homeless and Center for Independence of the Disabled – NY, settled *Butler v. City of New York* on behalf of all disabled New Yorkers experiencing homelessness. Legal Aid has continued to litigate on behalf of thousands of New Yorkers experiencing homelessness during the COVID-19 pandemic, including in *E.G.*, where we ensured WiFi access for students in DHS and HRA shelters, as well *Fisher* and *Butler*, where we continue to litigate to protect the rights of individuals living in de-densification hotels during the pandemic.

The Legal Aid Society's LGBTQ+ Law and Policy Unit seeks to create, support, and sustain affirming and safer spaces, practices and policies for LGBTQ+ clients and staff within the organization and throughout New York City and New York State. Unit staff provide trainings on sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression to Legal Aid Society staff and are active in City and State legislative and policy reform efforts, coalition building, and public education through Know Your Rights and other presentations. The Unit also litigates issues that impact the lives of many LGBTQ+ New Yorkers. Whether it was the hard-fought victories to secure the right of transgender individuals, including youth, to receive Medicaid coverage for needed health treatments, or the ongoing fight to end police profiling of transgender women of color and the criminalization of LGBTQ+ identities, the LGBTQ+ Unit is ready to assist our clients in advancing liberation against state oppression.

The Legal Aid Society's unique value is an ability to go beyond any one case to create more equitable outcomes for individuals and broader, more powerful systemic change for society as a whole. In addition to the annual caseload, the Society's law reform representation for clients benefits more than 1.7 million low-income families and individuals in New York, and the landmark rulings in many of these cases have a State-wide and national impact.



## Testimony

Dear council, my name is doobneek and I would like to testify about my experience as an older young person who went through the DYCD system. The quality of services is decreasing and resources become more scarce as youth are getting older. There's even more limited beds in housing where one can turn 21. Grievance system is not transparent and full of favoritism, staff members are always protected and clients live in constant fear of being thrown out. Once older youth are kicked out they have to restart the process of living in drop in centers where they have to bring their belongings every night and take them with them every day for several months until they get placed in emergency housing. Some drop-in centers are useless for youth and open for very limited services. They are often located in a different borough from the most residential programs, forcing youth to commute to pick up their mail or make unnecessary trips for mandatory check-ins that could be done virtually. They expose youth to risks of being a victim to a crime and getting covid. It's an unnecessary waste of time suggesting houseless youth's time is not respected and they have nothing else to do.

There's no regard for youth in their living space. They are deprived of privacy in their bathrooms, bedrooms or working area. The doors are not allowed to be locked, in some cases they shall be ajar, lights shall be on in some sleeping areas. Young people live under constant surveillance, like in a correctional facility. Staff have privileges clients don't have like staying in a room by oneself. Staff are not competent in handling gay youth and trauma-informed response. Staff don't respect the silence at night and don't enforce it. Staff are benefiting from homelessness crisis. I say, they have jobs because we don't have jobs. Case managers are not competent in helping immigrants experiencing homelessness. Case managers direct immigrant clients through a lengthy process of obtaining public benefits just to realize they are ineligible for a lot of housing and food security programs provided by the government. There's lack of accommodations for non-English speakers in shelters and lack of flexibility in programming inclusive of immigrants. People who get paid off the books, like sex workers and undocumented immigrants are cut off housing vouchers even though they have stable income to support their living. Educational programs and groups are dysfunctional and are not preparing youth for independent living. They are not helpful in developing skills or motivation.

Thank you.

## **RHY City Council Oversight Hearing Testimonial 6/21/22**

1. Meeting the needs of Older Youth 21-24 Y/O
  - Barriers for Older RHY Youth, Access to Mental Health Services that support entry into PSH Housing, Obtaining a EHV Voucher and not enough time to get housed into a apartment before losing the voucher, Landlords lacking trust of 21-24 Y/O seen as a liability to rent to younger households. Lack access to NYCHA housing, Housing connect units require tenants to make double the rent in order to qualify for affordable housing making it non-affordable. Putting youth at risk due to lack of beds in DICs forcing 21-24 Y/Os to be referred out to DHS shelter putting youth at risk for their safety.
  - What can be done? Allow easier access to MH services for Youth in RHY systems, More training and awareness to landlords on Vouchers and RHY Youth to prevent youth being turned away from housing, Fine landlords 1K for turning away RHY Youth from housing if caught and notified. Allow extensions for Youth with HCV Vouchers and other forms of housing placement to allow time for proper housing search, Proper support to aftercare support for youth up to one year that promotes independence, skill building, career/goal setting to prepare a young person with transitioning into permanent placement (Before) Leaving a youth the full independence to transition on their own.
2. Street Homelessness and Youth Count
  - Street Homelessness Support. To properly support youth facing chronic street Homelessness we need to bring public awareness to resources designated for RHY Youth across the 5 boroughs, Support youth on the street by hiring outreach workers to engage and refer youth to safety off the streets, Look at street Homelessness and how it's being addressed in other states California has a documentary called The Way Home, a street homelessness model being done by having mobile case management, nurses and immediate care for the community. Another state to view on how they are addressing this issue is Texas where their coordinated plan to tackle this issue was recently publicized.
  - Improving the Youth Count. To improve the youth count and collect accurate data we need to prepare for the youth count earlier than previous years have done! Hire youth with lived expertise to help effectively develop the youth count and listen to their suggestions, bring more awareness by using multi-media and campaign planning strategies similar to Unity Project and The HOPE Count, Hire youth with lived expertise to help support with the youth count during development, implementation, and incentivize youth to provide feedback for how the count was conducted before and after the count. Provide youth with proper information on how the count can benefit the RHY Community and bring more resources to RHY Youth Directly impacted by Homelessness or at risk of homelessness.

*With Sincerity Lyndon Chris Hernandez, PG&P He/Him/His*  
*New York City Youth Action Board Co-Chair Coordinator.*



June -16 - 2022

To Whom this May concern

My name is Nyashia Humphrey, I am a member of YAB and today I will be bringing up 3 ways I feel that DYCD can improve.

- 1 . The cut off age being 24 for DYCD resources and being put out of the youth shelter on your 21 birthday
2. Straight Men having access to transitional and or independent living.
3. Making independent living more available to youth who are not medicated or documented as having mental issues.

These are I important to me because I have experienced what it is like to be apart of DYCD systems and being put out of the shelter right before the pandemic in 2020 without any consideration for extension or regard for the fact that I was working 2 jobs and saved over 10,000 dollars and was waiting for my apartment to get approved which I happened to get approved two months later.

Testimony ( james gulley ) ( june 20th )

Today I want to speak about responsibility. My Name is James and im a 26 year old male from Staten island , New york . Today you hear testimonies on why it is important for RHY services to be continued and how we can fix it. I had researched ( away from my own personal experiences ) the statistics of RHY services in New york city. I Can go on about the lack of beds for youth, the lack of resources, the lack of jobs but in all of that i want to speak on responsibility.

It is not MY or any of the Advocate Youths here today to fix these problems. We should not have to Year after year speak on the lack of beds, year after year speak of the lack of housing resources and awareness. It is the CITY responsibility that homeless youth are not only receiving resources but in servicing these youth are creating a sustainable future for these youth. It is one thing to have a system that is a revolving door of dependents. Youth can jump barriers when the system is created to keep RHY dependent on the government.

1} we have to Have better options than retail jobs , jobs in general and not careers. There is not one “ job” covered in nyc that can let alone cover rent then food bills and everyday necessities.

2} The system causes mental illness which is ignored highly within the system . Can a Mother, father, brother ,daughter etc here imagine giving your family a garbage bag or two and telling them they have 9 am to pack their belongings to the next sister every 30 days ? This is the sad truth that majority of us followed before everything getting on the list for traditional programs

3) sustainability means termination . We are trained and coached that we can not be TOO successful or other benefits cancel. Don't take this job because it may pay you for 6 months but then lose your health insurance, food stamps, metro cards etc.

YOU as city elective have to be responsible for the REGULATION of our programs and laws. YOU must be responsible in knowing how the system, how the environment and how the programs YOU Created works. Year after year we can advocate but we are not responsible for these programs so we can not make the change. HOWEVER YOU ARE. You are responsible you can make the change.

**Testimony of  
Jordan Bowen  
Youth Advocate**

**The New York City Council  
Youth Services Committee**

**On**

**Runaway and Homeless Youth**

**Verbal Testimony  
June 21, 2022**

**Written Testimony  
June 23, 2022**

## Introduction

Jordan Bowen (he/him/his) youth advocate. I'm a 19-year-old youth from Brooklyn, NY.

## Lived experience with homelessness

My experience living in the shelter was very hard because I wasn't getting the services I need due to people not having experience. When I was residing at Diaspora Community Services the organization is messy and disorganized. As a resident at the TIL (Transitional Independent Living) it was often hard for me to get my services because the organization would just hire anyone, but the staff don't have experience with providing the services. This overwhelmed as a 18 year old because not only was that my situation during a pandemic but I felt like I was going to be stuck in a program for more than I needed to. In the shelter the way we got treated was poor. The workers would treat and talk to us in a disrespectful way, getting treated like animals, and not being sensitive about what they are saying. There were even times were the organization had a lack of food and not everyone in the house got to eat. Furthermore, the organization don't have experience with the EHV process, and our past program manager didn't even know to how lead the care coordinator with that process. During my meetings we had to seek help from other organization for my housing process can move forward.

## Homeless Youth Needs

What I'm asking from the administration and the City Council is to require extra funding for homeless and runaway youth because 2.2 % isn't enough. I know that certain shelters go off budgets but if the budget went to at least 3-4% programs all over NYC would have more funding but would actually make the program fluctuate and to have the option to hire people with the skill set to get people out of the shelter swiftly. Thank you for your time and allowing me to submit my written testimony.

Written testimony ( will join via zoom ) Tues June 21

I struggled for days to figure out what accountability I wanted to take today . Will I introduce my self as a present NYC Youth Action Board Board member , A Youth Advocate ? A youth mentor ? Former Youth Specialist for previously 3 different Non profits . Will I Introduce myself as someone who is now designing what community facing work looks like for my current non profit ? And today I realized the most important accountability I could ever take is sharing my story as a homeless youth .

Today You Will hear From Many youth advocates and people of lived experience about the need and importance for More beds , More funding And more sustainability in RHY services especially in the older youth which is all true and in desperate need . However , I want to talk about “ Accountability “ we need more than another year of us “ advocating “ this isn’t new that RHY services is underfunded and stretched thin for the 100k homeless youth . What we need is accountability .

The word exploitation defines as stated “ The Action Of treating someone unfairly to benefit from their work “ And let me explain why the word exploitation and accountability go hand in hand .

Rhy services are filled with exploitation both mentally and systematically . We train youth from the funding we get ( and this me working for a provider speaking ) to be JUST enough . What do I mean ? We’ll JUST ENOUGH to pay rent . Just enough to stay in the system because a dollar more would mean yes I can pay rent THIS MONTH but my food stamps get cut off ... My rent goes up because now I’m not qualified for government assistance . My Medicaid get shut off because I work full time . So we exploit our clients and then when they get a taste of independency remove all safety support . Sign up for our programs , here a little chump change AND here a “ just enough “ job to keep you Dependent on the government assistant . It is a fact that nyc minimum wage can’t not cover rent alone but yet working full time with minimum wage will get you cut off from almost every assistance program including the help with metrocards .Every day as a homeless youth we are asked to sign . Sign in , sign out , sign if you want food , sign if you want a bed , sign sign sign . Every day for years for funding .

We need to take accountability ....that today we acknowledge that the system exploits homeless youth to continue funding year after year while homeless youth struggle to become independent Adults .

We need to stop talking about the Lack of beds and start talking about the lack of accountability

. We need to not only be accountable to make programs and rules but to ensure that the rules we put into place as Specialists , program managers , directors or government officials are not creating more barriers . That our programs and our rules are creating sustainability rather than meeting quota marks for the fiscal year .

Yes we need beds . Yes we need funding but what we need is for everyone today to make a pledge to be accountable for their actions . Visit a homeless youth shelter , visit a youth drop in , randomly visit a youth service and get real information on whether your program is positively a safe space for youth . We have to be accountable . How many homeless youth will have to advocate each year , testify and protest each year before we say okay . We need to acknowledge that something is missing . We need to acknowledge that without accountability

we are not breaking generational curses but creating new chains of dependency . This is what I wanted to say today . We can not make change without first admitting that we made a mistake .

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

*Appearance Card*

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☒ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Mariangela Michael

Address: 185th St

I represent: Coalition of Homeless Youth

Address: 495 Flatbush Ave Suite 10

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

*Appearance Card*

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 6.21.22

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Lyndon Chris Hernandez

Address: 1 Saunders St Apt 1 Rye Park

I represent: NYC Youth Action Board

Address: 495 Flatbush Ave  
Stc 10, Brooklyn, NY 11225

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

*Appearance Card*

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 6/21/22

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Lauren Galloway

Address: 495 Flatbush Ave Suite 10 Brooklyn, NY 11225

I represent: Coalition for homeless youth

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

*Appearance Card*

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**(PLEASE PRINT)**

Name: Tracey Thorne

Address: DYCD

I represent: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

▶ Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms ◀

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

*Appearance Card*

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**(PLEASE PRINT)**

Name: Randy Scott

Address: DYCD Ass. Stant. Commissioner

I represent: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

▶ Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms ◀