

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

----- X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

----- X

January 15, 2019
Start: 1:12 p.m.
Recess: 2:30 p.m.

HELD AT: 250 Broadway - Committee Rm.
14th Fl.

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Justin L. Brannan
Margaret S. Chin
Mathieu Eugene
Andy L. King

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

Andrew Miller, Senior Director
External and Intergovernmental Affairs
Department of Youth and Community Development, DYCD.

Eduardo Laboy, Special Advisor, Interagency
Coordinating Council, ICC

Jarrell Danes, Research Assistant, Center for Justice,
Columbia University

Theresa Moser, Legal Aid Society

Jamie Powlovich, Executive Director, New York State
Coalition for Homeless Youth

Gisele Castro, Executive Director, Exalt Youth

2 [sound check] [pause] [gavel]

3 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Good morning. The
4 youth, I woke you up, right? [laughter] It's
5 actually afternoon. It's after lunch, and we're
6 looking a little sleepy. The meeting—this hearing of
7 the Youth Services Committee is now called to order.
8 Good afternoon and thank you all for coming. My name
9 is Council Member Debi Rose, and I'm the Chair of the
10 Committee on Youth Services. Today, we're conducting
11 an oversight hearing on the Interagency Coordinating
12 Council, which will be referred to a lot today by
13 ICC. City government has a tendency to use a lot of
14 acronyms. So, it's the Interagency Coordinating
15 Council. I first would like to thank Speaker Corey
16 Johnson for his commitment to youth of New York City,
17 and I would also like to thank all of the young
18 people, the advocates, program providers and all
19 those who came to testify today for showing up to
20 this important hearing, and finally, I would like to
21 acknowledge my colleagues who have joined us Council
22 Member Margaret Chin from Manhattan. I'm sure we'll
23 be joined by others, and as I always state, being a
24 young person today is tough. In addition to the
25 common stresses attributed to growing up, the

2 increased reliance on social media and technology
3 combined with the current national political climate
4 has most definitely exacerbated problems that youth
5 have. With these problems come the need for
6 comprehensive services, and although New York City is
7 truly a wonderful place to grow up and live in, it
8 can be difficult for youth to traverse the complex
9 systems and services within the city. With many
10 youth not knowing where to get help, notably
11 vulnerable youth such as Runaway and Homeless Youth
12 or RHY, of whom this committee and the Speaker have
13 focused extensively on. They have expressed that
14 there is a blatant lack of information on where to
15 get services that they truly need. Problems can be
16 exponentially worse when a youth is an LGBTQ or a
17 court-involved young person like a Runaway and
18 Homeless Youth might be. In an effort to more
19 efficiently address the problems that all youth
20 encounter, the ICC was created. The ICC is a New
21 York City Charter mandate that looks to promote
22 interagency collaboration on issues relevant to young
23 people and to support youth and families by utilizing
24 New York City's wide range of government resources.
25 The work of the ICC is informed through a broad range

1 COMMITTEE ON YOUTH SERVICES

5

2 of collaborations with New York City agencies,
3 community based organizations and not-for-profit
4 providers that all directly or indirection support
5 Youth Services. Approximately 20 city youth serving
6 agencies are members of the ICC, of which include the
7 Administration for Children's Services, the
8 Department of Education, the Department of Aging.
9 Did you know that Margaret?

10 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: No I did not.

11 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: And Health and
12 Hospitals, and more recently, last week I was
13 appointed by the City Council Speaker to serve as the
14 Council's representative to the ICC. Did you know
15 that?

16 MALE SPEAKER: [off mic] Yes, I did.

17 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Oh, okay. [laughs]
18 I'm very much looking forward to participating and
19 seeing first hand the ICC in action, but in the
20 meantime this committee would like to hear from DYCD
21 as the Commissioner of DYCD is the Director of the
22 ICC. How? We would like to know how the ICC is
23 functioning and what support the Council can provide
24 to help make it better. It is still disturbing to
25 hear that a large number of youth even those who I

2 have personally spoken to, and Council Member Chin
3 and I visited a youth serving agency, and we found
4 out that a large number of youth do not know the
5 services that they can access or have expressed that
6 the services that—that do exist are not adequate at
7 serving their specific needs. This was the impetus
8 for this hearing. We want to examine the ICC and
9 what functions and roles it takes on, as well as what
10 could be done to improve upon what the ICC is doing,
11 and ensure that future goals are met. I want to
12 understand the value of the ICCs to what—to work
13 groups and how work groups are determined to be
14 established. I would also like an update on the
15 status of the 2018 ICC Report, and its anticipated
16 findings as well as upcoming activities and plans of
17 the ICC for the coming year. I'd like to understand
18 how the ICC ensures that all youth know where to find
19 the services and resources that they truly need. I
20 look forward to hearing from those invited to
21 testify, and would like to thank my staff: Esma El
22 Amari (sp?). I always say her name wrong. I'm sorry
23 in advance, and the Committee staff Paul Senegal,
24 Kevin Kotowski and Michelle Paragrín (sp?) along with

2 our community engagement representatives Elizabeth
3 Arndt and now we will swear you in.

4 LEGAL COUNSEL: Good afternoon. Please
5 raise your right hand. Do you affirm to tell the
6 truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth in
7 your testimony today, and respond honestly to Council
8 Members' questions?

9 ANDREW MILLER: I do.

10 LEGAL COUNSEL: Please state your names
11 for the record.

12 ANDREW MILLER: Andrew Miller.

13 EDUARDO LABOY: I'm Eduardo Laboy. I'm
14 Eduardo Laboy

15 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Is it on? Is the red
16 light?

17 ANDREW MILLER: We got it.

18 EDUARDO LABOY: I'm Eduardo Laboy.

19 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay. Hold the mic
20 closer to you so you can be comfortable.

21 ANDREW MILLER: Thank you.

22 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: [off mic] Alright, you
23 may begin your testimony.

24 ANDREW MILLER: Good afternoon Chair Rose
25 and members of the City Council's Youth Services

2 Committee. I am Andrew Miller, Senior Director for
3 External and Intergovernmental Affairs at DYCD. I am
4 joined by Eduardo Laboy, Special Advisor for the ICC.
5 On behalf of Commissioner Chong, thank you for this
6 opportunity to discuss the ICC. We also appreciate
7 the Youth Services Committee's support of the ICC
8 over the years. Now entering its 30th year, the ICC
9 was established in 1989 to promote interagency
10 collaboration on issues relevant to young people and
11 to support families and youth by utilizing the city's
12 multitude of government resources. This is
13 accomplished in partnerships among city based
14 agencies that also serve youth as well as community
15 based organization and non-profit providers. As per
16 the New York City Charter, the ICC is comprised of
17 representatives of each of the city's youth service
18 agencies. These include ADS, DFTA, DCAS, Corrections
19 and Cultural Affairs. [background comments] Sorry.
20 Sure. Sorry. So the Department for Children's
21 Services, the Department for the Aging, the
22 Department of Citywide Administrative Services, the
23 Department of Corrections, Department of Cultural
24 Affairs, the Department of Education, the Department
25 of Environmental Protection, the New York City Fire

2 Department, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene,
3 Health and Hospitals, Department of Homeless Service,
4 the New York City Housing Authority, the Human
5 Resources Administration, the Mayor's Office to end
6 Domestic and Gender Based Violence, the Department of
7 Parks and Recreation, the New York City Police
8 Department, the Department of Probation, the Brooklyn
9 Public Library, the New York Public Library, the
10 Queens Public Library and finally the Department of
11 Youth and Community Development and we really want to
12 welcome you on board, Council Member, and we look
13 forward to working with you in the years to come. So
14 Deputy Mayor Thompson is the Chair and Commission
15 Chong is the Director the ICC and Eduardo Laboy
16 oversees its day-to-day operations. So the ICC meets
17 quarterly and conducts an annual public hearing as
18 specified by the Charter. The ICC goes beyond this
19 requirement as we invite community-based
20 organizations to participate on the ICC through our
21 two current work groups: Supporting Lesbian, Gay,
22 Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning Youth and
23 Court-Involved Youth. The ICC also holds special
24 events to highlight emerging youth issues. To
25 examine the prevailing attitudes towards Mental

2 health especially immigrant communities, the ICC
3 featured an Asian-American Federation Report
4 entitled: Overcoming Challenges to Mental Health
5 Services for Asian New Yorkers. Attendees learned
6 about overcoming the stigma associated with mental
7 illness and how providers and agencies can empower
8 individuals to seek mental health care. We held a
9 panel discussion on how providing a young person with
10 a roll model through mentoring can help them develop
11 into successful adults. Panelists include a
12 mentoring program with the Mayor's Fund to advance
13 New York City, Big Brothers, Big Sisters in New York
14 City, Department of Youth and Community Development,
15 and the New York War Department's Youth Leadership
16 Council. Recognizing the impact of getting young
17 people involved early in their community, the ICC
18 highlighted civic engagement opportunities.
19 Panelists include representatives from the New York
20 City Campaign Finance Board, the New York City Anti-
21 Violence Project, DYCD's Cornerstone Youth Advisory
22 Boards, and DYCD's Neighborhood Advisory Boards. In
23 this regard, the ICC gives voice to young people and
24 allow them to directly engage city agencies on their
25 concerns. Last month, for example, at our annual

2 hearing we heard from dozens of young people. Their
3 concerns included topics such as access to public
4 transportation and to travel to and from after school
5 and weekend activities, transgender rights in public
6 schools, police concerns and even street lights,
7 which weren't operating near young person's school.
8 We actually asked the ICC members present to follow
9 directly up with the young people on those specific
10 topics. Understanding the need for agencies,
11 providers and organizations to effectively deliver
12 services that that meet the distinct needs of clients
13 has led the ICC to administer culturally competent
14 trainings annually. For example, with the support of
15 the LGBTQ Center, we offered LGBT cultural competence
16 training entitled Trauma Among Lesbian, Gay,
17 Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning Youth during
18 Pride Month. All ICC members and DYCD funded Runaway
19 and Homeless Youth providers were invited.
20 Additionally, the New York City Anti-Violence Project
21 also developed-provided trainings on developing LGBT
22 inclusive policies. We also heard from the Gay Men's
23 Health Crisis about struggles faced by trans
24 individuals in areas such as housing and employment.
25 The First Lady's Office on the Media (sic) Project,

2 which is the city' first multi-agency strategy to
3 deliver unique service to LGBTQ youth. Marsha's
4 House spoke on the services provided to LGBTQ
5 Homeless men and women and Destination Tomorrow,
6 which provides LGBTQ services in the South Bronx.
7 With the encouragement of City Council Speaker Corey
8 Johnson, DYCD and the ICC Collaborative with the
9 Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment and Newfest
10 New York's LGBT Film and Media Arts Organization to
11 host a special free screening of Saturday Church.
12 This film raises awareness of LGBTQ homeless youth in
13 New York City. Following the screening there was a Q
14 & A with the director and lead actor. Our court
15 involved work group invited several city agencies and
16 community based organizations to highlight their
17 approaches to meet the needs—needs of young people.
18 For example the Mayor Office to End Domestic Violence
19 and Gender Based Violence promoted awareness about
20 services available to victims. Souls Sisters, which
21 works to empower young black women spoke about their
22 efforts to create a space—a safe space for women to
23 examine their lives. Concerns included racism,
24 bullying, harassment and career opportunities.
25 Exalt, which works with Court-Involved Youth in

2 Downtown Brooklyn, promoted education—promotes
3 education over Criminal Justice engagement, and
4 Community Connections for Youth on the Credible
5 Messenger Justice Center Liaison to bring together
6 at-risk youth and formerly incarcerated mentors. Day
7 One, spoke on their relationship with Youth
8 Intervention Program, which works in high schools
9 across the city on teen dating, violence prevention
10 and intervention, and the NYPD's Youth Strategies
11 Division on their programs to reduce youth violence,
12 prevent drug use, promote child safety and improve
13 relationships between police and youth. The ICC also
14 continues to promote its resource directory *Coming*
15 *Home: Transitioning Back into the Community*. I
16 think you all received a copy of it in your packets.
17 It was designed that the input of young people
18 includes information about resources for youth
19 leaving detention including housing, practical
20 assistance, legal rights, drug and alcohol treatment
21 and job searches. The guide is available for
22 download on DYCD's website and has been circulated to
23 youth in custody and their parents. Copies were also
24 provided to the library systems for distribution at
25 their branches, to the—to the Law Department,

2 Cultural Affairs and the Human Resources
3 Administration just to name a few. Based on the
4 great feedback we received, plans were underway to
5 publish a third edition. The ICC also helps organize
6 community events such as Spring Into Health. This
7 was a joint effort by DYCD, Department for the Aging,
8 New York City Housing Authority, Health and
9 Hospitals, Department of Parks and Recreation,
10 Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and Human
11 Resources Administration. It brought these ICC
12 members and agencies together at 34 locations
13 throughout the city from April 10th to April 14th
14 2018. The fairs engaged, encouraged, empowered and
15 exposed community residents to an array of holistic
16 services, local community based organizations, and
17 city agencies in each neighborhood and once again,
18 thank you for the opportunity to testify today, and
19 we're happy to answer your questions.

20 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you, thank you.
21 It's quite a compilation of-of agencies, mayoral
22 agencies and-and intergovernmental agencies. Do you
23 mean that this a mandated charter-chartered by the-
24 mandated by charter? In the Charter the ICC is
25 supposed to plan and develop a comprehensive

2 informational service benefitting all stakeholders,
3 conduct an annual comprehensive youth service Needs
4 Assessment on citywide, borough wide and community
5 district wide basis, and formulate an integrated
6 comprehensive plan for the delivery of community
7 based youth services. What—what is a comprehensive
8 informational service?

9 ANDREW MILLER: Well, I think the—the best
10 example would be the transition guide. This would be
11 the comprehensive services, but the ICC decided that
12 its top priority is to coordinate services from
13 different member agencies was to help really the most
14 at-risk youth, which is why we created the court-
15 involved and the LGBT Youth Work Groups, and I think
16 like you said the resource guide for Court-Involved
17 Youth is one of those best examples.

18 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Do you believe that
19 the ICC is effective?

20 ANDREW MILLER: Wholeheartedly I do.
21 Worked with—for DYCD, and actually in Youth Services
22 for over 20 years. I can say that it—it is extremely
23 effective and I'm very proud of the work that we've
24 done.

2 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, being that—it must
3 be difficult to work with all of the city agencies,
4 right?

5 ANDREW MILLER: [interposing] Eduardo
6 helps us greatly.

7 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Eduardo and so what
8 would you say could be done to improve this body?

9 ANDREW MILLER: In terms of the current
10 structure of the ICC, we are committed. I believe
11 the work group set-up allows different agencies to
12 come forward. I believe more dialogue along those
13 lines or a workgroup would bring agencies together
14 further.

15 ANDREW MILLER: But we particularly like
16 that each agency brings their own unique set of
17 challenges, issues and concerns and expertise in
18 those matters.

19 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Are—are all of the
20 members attending the—are they all participating in
21 the meetings quarterly? It's supposed to be I think
22 once per quarter.

23 ANDREW MILLER: So, yes so we have
24 quarterly meetings and we also have the work group
25 meetings and then we have the annual public hearing.

2 So, we have a very robust attendance at all of those,
3 particularly if they're involved in certain
4 workgroups, but I was very pleased for example last
5 month when we had the public hearing, we had 20 some
6 odd city agencies lined up and then young people
7 could directly speak to them and it was a very
8 powerful, powerful picture.

9 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So you're actually
10 meeting once per quarter?

11 ANDREW MILLER: Yes.

12 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: As mandated. Okay,
13 and are there limits in an agenda available? Could I
14 get copies of those?

15 ANDREW MILLER: Absolutely. In fact we
16 even take—we have a stenographer that actually takes
17 notes during our public hearings as well. So, we
18 could prove that to you.

19 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, they—you feel that
20 there's robust attendance by all of the agencies that
21 are a part of this--

22 ANDREW MILLER: [interposing] Yes.

23 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: --this group? Okay,
24 and is there anything that you would do differently
25 to amend the mandate of the Charter?

2 EDUARDO LABOY: Well you have to--Yeah, I
3 mean--

4 ANDREW MILLER: [interposing] When you
5 take a look at it, the ICC was created 30 years ago,
6 and so much has changed in the field of these
7 services for the good particularly because of the
8 commitment of our Mayor about providing these
9 services but in 1989, we never had--we didn't have
10 Beacon Programs and then when Mayor Dinkins created
11 the Beacon model in the early '90s, it was really
12 when we started utilizing public space more
13 efficiently. So, now we have 91 Beacon Programs that
14 are directly located in DOE locations. We have I
15 think about 81% of our COMPASS Programs are located
16 directly in public schools and each of those--it
17 builds a relationship in terms of we have to have the
18 School Partnership Agreement. So that the principal
19 works directly with our providers in providing the
20 best services possible and the service model is
21 integrated. We also now have 94 teen centers based
22 in NYCHAs. So we have a very strong partnership with
23 NYCHA as well in that regard.

24 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: When you were--when was
25 the last time you developed a Needs Assessment?

2 ANDREW MILLER: We in terms of Needs
3 Assessments we rely very heavily upon a couple of
4 things. One is the Department of City Planning has
5 very robust information, and that helps guide
6 whenever we issue RFPs in different areas. We also
7 communicate a lot with the community boards who
8 create those District Needs Statements and we read
9 those carefully, and we actually respond to each and
10 every one of those concerns. In fact, Sarah Marx of
11 my staff is here and we—we go through painful steps
12 to make sure we read everything that's in there and
13 respond to it appropriately, and we meet with the
14 community boards throughout the year.

15 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So the Needs
16 Assessment is a compilation of other agencies, the--

17 ANDREW MILLER: [interposing] Many
18 different agencies. I mean we've spoken with ACS at
19 these meetings and it's sort of more of a global
20 approach.

21 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay. So, DYCD doesn't
22 conduct its own Needs Assessment?

23 ANDREW MILLER: We use—yeah. Well, we—we
24 also—part of the agency we also do surveys and in all
25 42 in a--neighborhood development areas, and that

2 actually helps inform the kinds of programs that go
3 into each of those districts--

4 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: And this is--

5 ANDREW MILLER: [interposing] In those
6 districts there are thousands of people.

7 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: And this is done
8 annually?

9 ANDREW MILLER: I think it's done semi-
10 annually.

11 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Semi-annually?

12 ANDREW MILLER: Yeah. I could get more
13 information as to the particulars of that.

14 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So then does the Needs
15 Assessment drive the Needs Assessment drive what the
16 ICC the work it does every day?

17 ANDREW MILLER: [interposing] It does. I
18 think it's more for DYCD's perspective and I could-
19 not to speak on behalf of other agencies, but in
20 terms of how they would actually shape and locate
21 their programs. Like for example, most of the DYCD
22 programs are in, I would say 70% are in high need
23 areas, which is a good use of the resources.

24 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, the--the Needs
25 Assessment that's done---

2 ANDREW MILLER: [interposing] That's--

3 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: [interposing] -which
4 is a compilation of all of the agencies pretty much,
5 right--

6 ANDREW MILLER: Uh-hm.

7 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: --is used primarily for
8 DYCD or--

9 ANDREW MILLER: [interposing] So, each
10 agency chooses how to use that data for the best--to
11 the best of their program planning purposes, yes. So
12 DYCD looks at it in-in our-in terms of the programs
13 that we're providing and they-like ACS and another
14 agency would look at it differently what they're
15 looking for whether it's for provide Pre-K services,
16 childcare, that's-that kind of good stuff.

17 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Just to go back to
18 the-the structure of the ICC, would you recommend
19 because you said that times have changed--

20 ANDREW MILLER: Uh-hm.

21 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: --would you-do you
22 think there's a need to amend to mandate some of the
23 charges that the-the Charter, you know, has assigned
24 to the ICC and if there should-should there be any
25 new agencies added to this body?

2 ANDREW MILLER: I'm sure we could have
3 like discussions as to how to modernize what the
4 current charter mandates are because again,
5 technology has changed. We—we're very grateful for
6 that. In terms of like you were talking about data
7 sharing, we have Growing Up NYC, which the Mayor's
8 Office developed, which is a digital platform where a
9 young person could go online and find any type of
10 services that they want. So, maybe we could have
11 further discussions as to how we could align the City
12 Charter mandates of the ICC to sort of recognize
13 where we are now in terms of the city.

14 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: You have—the ICC has
15 two working groups.

16 ANDREW MILLER: Uh-hm.

17 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Can you tell me why
18 only two and if there are others?

19 ANDREW MILLER: We—sure. Currently, we
20 have two because we think they are the most at-risk
21 youth, but we've also had in the past an after school
22 work group, which was very robust, and that actually,
23 and we also had Behavioral Challenges Work Group. So,
24 I'll give you an example of their work. They
25 actually produced a report to help young people with

2 special needs be served in after school services, and
3 as a result of that, that actually helped inform an
4 RFP we issued and actually helped build some of our
5 capacity building services that are provided through
6 Ramapo Services. So, workgroups could be created and
7 disbanded as needed. So, we certainly welcome your
8 input as to these other areas that you would like the
9 ICC to explore as well.

10 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: And since there's
11 only--there's two working groups--

12 ANDREW MILLER: Yes.

13 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: --are they the only--is
14 that the only population that the ICC is addressing?
15 Is--is

16 ANDREW MILLER: [interposing] Well, it--

17 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: --it formulating
18 policy?

19 ANDREW MILLER: Well, we sort of kind of
20 mentioned like any young person in New York City
21 could benefit from a mentor, and that's why we had
22 those kind of meetings. In terms of civic
23 engagement, every young person could certainly engage
24 in civic engagement. We, like for example, we--we
25 particularly enjoy when we did our partnership with

2 the City Council with the participatory budgeting and
3 how a lot of our SYEP participants were utilizing
4 that, and we got great experience in being engaged
5 and understanding the needs of their community and
6 having people vote on what they want to see—what they
7 want to see in the neighborhood.

8 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: And the ICC has the
9 ability to—to engage in policy. Are there any policy
10 suggestions, recommendations that have come out of
11 the ICC?

12 ANDREW MILLER: In terms of how we
13 approach things, in terms of how we will provide
14 information to young people absolutely. That's again
15 why you see guides like this.

16 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, I'm really happy
17 that you referred to this. It's called *Coming Home:
18 Transitioning Back Into the Community* and this was
19 specifically made for young people who are court
20 involved, right?

21 ANDREW MILLER: Correct.

22 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: And—and it's right--

23 ANDREW MILLER: [interposing] Hold—hold
24 on for one second. All young people can provide
25 benefits and information in this guide.

2 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: And that's my point
3 exactly. So, where is—where is this guide
4 distributed?

5 ANDREW MILLER: Sure. So, again, mostly
6 those were given to young people in detention. You
7 notice like it's an accordion. CHAIRPERSON ROSE:
8 Uh-hm.

9 ANDREW MILLER: So this was designed for
10 safety. It also has nice colors, and so most—the
11 bulk that we printed went to ACS to young people in
12 detention. We brought some to—I mentioned in the
13 testimony the public libraries all three of them, the
14 Law Department, the Probation Department. Any place
15 where you would see a young person who has contact
16 with the law or their parents. This is—it can also
17 benefit parents.

18 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uh-hm.

19 ANDREW MILLER: So, you'll be pleased to
20 know that we're actually having a work group this
21 Thursday where we're going to actually do a focus
22 group in our Intern Bradley from NYU, thank you
23 Bradley, we're going to actually begin revising this.
24 So, we welcome the Council's input as to how we can
25 make this a better guide moving forward.

2 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Is there a resource
3 guide just a general Youth Services Resource Guide?

4 ANDREW MILLER: Sure. So, I mentioned
5 earlier about--in terms of like obviously we have
6 Growing Up NYC, which any young person or parent
7 could access that website and find out not only DYCD
8 services, but a multitude of services available to
9 them. So, I would highly recommend using that as
10 well--

11 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Because--

12 ANDREW MILLER: [interposing] --and
13 Outback (sic)

14 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: --this is-is very
15 comprehensive. I-I want to commend all the folks who
16 have a part--

17 ANDREW MILLER: [interposing] I think-I
18 think--

19 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: --in-in doing this and
20 this is the kind of guide that I feel should be
21 available everywhere, and it's-it's great that you
22 targeted it for Court-Involved Youth, but when
23 Council Member Chin and I visited and other Council
24 Members, we visited an agency and we talked to young

2 people, and—and one of the common threads were that
3 they did not know where to go for services.

4 ANDREW MILLER: Uh-hm.

5 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: These were Runaway and
6 Homeless Youth, and they wound up in adult shelters
7 where it was inappropriate and they were turned away,
8 and it took quite a while for them to figure out and
9 find out where, you know, where they could go and
10 what services were available. So, I think this guide
11 should become, you know, an overall resource guide,
12 and it should be everywhere. It—it should be in our
13 schools. It should be—it should be available to 311
14 operators. It should be, you know, more widely
15 placed, and—and not just with that particular
16 targeted group. I—I don't—I did not see your
17 resource guide. I don't know if it—if it's
18 comparable to this because this seems pretty
19 comprehensive.

20 ANDREW MILLER: So, this is a very good
21 guide particularly when you think a young person is
22 in detention when their parents are visiting them,
23 they had time to read this and start planning, and
24 also working with their case managers writing with
25 the potential about how—what kind of aftercare

2 services are we going to have when we leave here?

3 But again, we—we do have we based applications. I

4 mentioned a—I mentioned already Growing Up NYC.

5 DYCD—discovered DYCD is very robust when a young

6 person goes but I also think in terms of if you want

7 to look at it from a case management perspective, we

8 strongly young people who are having issues and

9 concerns to visit all our Drop-In Centers, which are

10 now—it's—we have 24-hour Drop-In Centers in all five

11 boroughs.

12 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: But—but, Andrew, my—

13 my—my concern is—is that how do they know where these

14 are? Unless they—the are at a point--

15 ANDREW MILLER: [interposing] So 311

16 knows.

17 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: --with, you know, in

18 the courts or I couldn't even say the Runaway and

19 Homeless, you know. It's—it's not that easily

20 available. Even when I looked for this on the

21 website, I had to, you know—it wasn't user-friendly.

22 It—it took a little to get to this. So, my—my point

23 is, is that you seem to have, you know, someone

24 developed a part of this that's very good, but it's

25 not generally out there for—for all young people, and

2 I-I think that's something that the ICC should look
3 at. I-I-I think all of the member agencies should
4 have this available, you know, to the-the clients
5 that come through, you know, through their agencies.

6 ANDREW MILLER: Well, Council Member, I
7 certainly appreciate that. Again, recognizing that,
8 we are again looking starting on Thursday on how we
9 can improve this, and certainly that's going to be
10 part of our discussions then.

11 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: That is very
12 important. Council Member has some questions.

13 ANDREW MILLER: Sure.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Thank you. Just to
15 follow up on-on this guide, are there in different
16 languages or the required languages by the city?

17 ANDREW MILLER: We're actually starting
18 to work on that. This currently is not, but we're
19 going to-in terms of when it's going to be on-on the
20 Internet, we're going to make sure that it can be
21 translated into the 11 required languages, and we'll
22 see in terms of when we print this up, how we can do
23 that as well.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Yeah, because I
25 think it's-it's not just enough to have it on the

2 Internet or website so that when you have a copy I
3 mean you could—maybe one of the panel you have in the
4 different languages saying that translations are
5 available online. So at least people know to look
6 for that. The other question I have is that what is
7 the coordination with all the non-profits that work
8 DYCD? I mean they're the ones that's running all
9 these youth programs. How do they, you know,
10 interact with ICC?

11 ANDREW MILLER: They are our hands on.
12 They've been providing so much assistance. As we
13 kind of mentioned in our testimony, they're the ones
14 that bring the expertise. They're the ones that do
15 presentations to all of our staff and—and agency
16 staff about how can we better serve LGBTQ youth?
17 How can we build a more cultural—culturally
18 sensitive type of environment for young people so no
19 matter who you are or what you are, you will feel
20 comfortable in any type of programs we provide.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Is this—is this
22 brochure available in all the non-profits that work
23 with DYCD?

24 ANDREW MILLER: Unfortunately, no. That
25 was our—this is our second edition of it, but

2 certainly that would be a goal of ours. Certainly if
3 we do it electronically, it will be easier for us to
4 distribute it to them, but if it's--again, money is
5 always a concern, but certainly we could look at how
6 we can better deliver this app to all of our
7 providers.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Yeah because
9 they're the ones that's dealing with young people
10 every single day--

11 ANDREW MILLER: [interposing] Yes.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: --with their
13 families, and the most important thing is knowing
14 where the resources are--

15 ANDREW MILLER: Uh-hm.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: --what's available
17 so that they can refer the kids and--I mean there
18 simply with our Council office, you know, if we have
19 information, we can help do that.

20 ANDREW MILLER: Uh-hm.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: It's not, you know,
22 it's not enough to put together something that's
23 really good and then it doesn't get around. I was
24 looking at the agency list, and I was really
25 surprised to see the Department for the Aging.

2 ANDREW MILLER: Uh-hm.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Right. So, can you
4 just explain to me a little bit like what their role
5 is in this ICC?

6 EDUARDO LABOY: Yeah, they actually do
7 have some intergenerational programming, and they do—
8 actually they—they—they attended our last the ICC
9 hearing as well. So there are—some of them do
10 surprise you but they do have some form of youth
11 services available to them. Yes, they do
12 intergenerational programming.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Well, I—I—that's
14 what came across. I mean they do have a
15 grandparenting program.

16 ANDREW MILLER: Yes, yes.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: So, I assume that
18 they work with youth, and that's why they were there,
19 but I mean unfortunately, I don't think the ICC is
20 well known because I think this the first hearing,
21 oversight hearing.

22 EDUARDO LABOY: I saw one in 2003.

23 [laughter]

24 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Well, I wasn't here
25 [laughter] we weren't here in 2003 because I've been

2 on this committee since the day I started at the City
3 Council in 2010, and I don't remember.

4 ANDREW MILLER: So, that's why we plan to
5 share.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: [interposing] I
7 have a very good memory, but I don't remember ever
8 having and oversight hearing on ICC. [laughs] I
9 felt the same because we've had some legislation and
10 we're mandating this and I said, no, no, it's part of
11 the Charter 30 years. So I think that's really--
12 you've got to get out there.

13 ANDREW MILLER: So now that we're
14 actually hitting our 30th year, we're going to start
15 beginning the--the planning process about how to
16 promote the ICC more and give it, you know for the
17 next 30 years what's gong to be our charge.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Definitely.

19 ANDREW MILLER: We look forward to
20 working with the Council on that.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Well we look
22 forward to that, too, because I think it's just so
23 critical. I mean a lot of the issues that we've been
24 working on in the Council, you know, on, you know,
25 Runaway and Homeless Youth and we're making progress--

2 ANDREW MILLER: [interposing] Yes, Uh-hm.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: --in terms of after
4 school programs. We've got middle school. We're
5 still fighting for our summer youth program—I mean
6 summer program for every single kid, and after school
7 programs for every single child in our public school.
8 So those are the things that even we can, you know,
9 coordinate and work with the ICC because those are
10 still critical needs that are still out there that we
11 have not met. So we look forward to really having a
12 more robust relationship, and then to really get the
13 word out there that this—this interagency was ICC out
14 there.

15 ANDREW MILLER: We hear you. Thank you,
16 thank you.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Interagency
18 Coordination Council.

19 ANDREW MILLER: Coordinating Council.
20 It's a mouthful.

21 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: There is going to be a
22 test at the end of this hearing. [laughter]
23 Everyone is going to have to tell us what ICC is
24 before you leave the room.

25 ANDREW MILLER: Okay.

2 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: But along the—the same
3 lines with Council Member Chin, I—I think it's really
4 important that maybe we hear, you know, from you what
5 the specific functions of the ICC are. So that there
6 is, you know, everyone is clear about what they are.

7 ANDREW MILLER: So, it's really a meeting
8 place where all the youth service agencies—I—I don't
9 even think there would be another one like that, but
10 where every single Youth Service agency for New York
11 City comes together and exchange ideas and build
12 relationships and—and build ideas about how each
13 agency can better work with each other whether it be—
14 whether it be ACS and DYCD. Like for example now we
15 have after school services in summer extension
16 facilities, or whether it be how can we help homeless
17 youth and why we have after school programs in
18 homeless shelters? Those type of relationships I
19 think are key. The ICC can play a key role in
20 building and maintain relationships because look the
21 20 some odd agencies we all have different charges
22 and we're always busy, but this is the type for them
23 to be able to get together and—and chat on a regular
24 basis about what's concerning them.

2 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, what-what kind of
3 power do you have in terms of jurisdiction? Is there
4 any ability to enforce any of the ideas or
5 recommendations or --

6 ANDREW MILLER: So, all the ideas that we
7 come up with are grown from the members of the ICC.
8 So, it wouldn't be something that would let's say go
9 on-like hinder and agency's ability to make their own
10 programmatic decisions. So usually it's-if it's
11 something involved in ACS, they will come up with an
12 idea or the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
13 they will sort of help us and guide us in terms of
14 creating recommendations that fit within obviously
15 what they want, but certainly I know DYCD, for
16 example, we wouldn't necessarily have the authority
17 to tell any other agency exactly how to do their
18 business.

19 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, it's just strictly
20 advisory, is it? And what would you say was your
21 biggest impact that you had during those last couple
22 of years?

23 ANDREW MILLER: Again, the-the idea about
24 how we can better serve Court-Involved Youth, I'm
25 very pleased that the Council likes this and that

2 that's impactful. It's like little ideas that could
3 become big ideas, and really could help young people.
4 It's about how we treat LGBT youth across our program
5 spectrums that they feel respected, and that they
6 want to visit services that are-that-that-that
7 accommodate their needs.

8 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, Council Member
9 Chin and I are very concerned about Universal After
10 School and Summer Sonic and --

11 ANDREW MILLER: [interposing] Uh-hm.

12 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: --the need for-for
13 programming for middle school young people and
14 elementary especially in the summertime. Is this a
15 place where that particular agenda would be
16 forwarded, discussed and recommendations come out of?

17 ANDREW MILLER: Well, as you know--

18 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: [interposing]
19 Especially a needs assessment?

20 ANDREW MILLER: Well, usually we-you
21 know, as you know we do go through the budget
22 process. So, I would kind of say, we-that it would
23 require further discussions with OMB and the Council.

24 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: [interposing] But OMB
25 is a member of this group, is it not?

2 ANDREW MILLER: It is.

3 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Yes, and so you make
4 recommendations. Would this be something that we
5 could look for the ICC to--

6 ANDREW MILLER: [interposing] We could
7 certainly

8 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: -- further discuss
9 and--

10 ANDREW MILLER: We certainly would be
11 delighted to look into various areas of budgetary
12 needs across our spectrum of interests (sic) yes.

13 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay and why-why-why
14 have we not gotten our Annual Report for 2018?

15 ANDREW MILLER: So, we acknowledge that
16 it's late. It's usually-it's usually due in October.

17 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: In October. Uh-hm.

18 ANDREW MILLER: So, we're actually-it's
19 99.9% done. We expect it to be released shortly. So
20 we do apologize and acknowledge that, but moving
21 forward it's going to be released on a timely basis.
22 In fact, we're already starting to assemble next
23 year's report. So, come October you'll-you'll
24 receive a copy as well.

25

2 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay, but I'm going to
3 receive 2018 shortly right?

4 ANDREW MILLER: 2018 shortly. Yes.

5 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay, and the Annual
6 Report seemed to—in the past seemed to have been a
7 compilation of what the individual agencies did. Are
8 we going to see more of the ICC driven, you know--

9 ANDREW MILLER: [interposing] Yes.

10 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: --activity events
11 because--

12 ANDREW MILLER: So, it's—it's a
13 combination.

14 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: [interposing] It was--

15 ANDREW MILLER: [interposing] We like—we
16 like the agencies to themselves be able to highlight
17 how they work with different agencies across the
18 board in terms of interagency coordination, but you
19 also see a lot about the services and the programs
20 that DYCD—I mean the ICC did over the past year. A
21 lot of it was actually highlighted in my testimony.

22 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uh-hm, and how are—how
23 was the public notified that there's a public meeting
24 for—or the annual meeting of ICC?

2 ANDREW MILLER: So, yes, so we-we-we
3 translate that widely-widely. The first thing, of
4 course, is the New York City record so we need the-
5 the Public Meetings Law requirements, but we also
6 publicize it. We email it out to all of our
7 providers. We get such robust attendance. We send
8 it to our after school providers. So, it's not
9 uncommon for us to see young people attending Beacon
10 programs in Flatbush to come and testify. Young
11 people being served by you while you on Staten to
12 come and testify about what their specific needs are,
13 and not-they're not necessarily DYCD related. They
14 could be other things, and I think I mentioned in my
15 testimony sometimes it could be school related. It
16 could be something like the street light is out in my
17 neighborhood. It makes me feel unsafe to go home.

18 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uh-hm, and at that-
19 that time all of the agencies are present?

20 ANDREW MILLER: Yes. I-I-99.9%. We have
21 very good attendance and it's Eduardo's job. He's
22 kind of like the enforcer laughter] in a friendly
23 way, but again, we had an entire deas full of city
24 officials listening directly to young people, and
25 this is something that we've been doing for a number

2 of years because we value youth input. We want to
3 hear directly from them, and the fact they-I can't
4 other than like the City Council hearings, of course,
5 where they can-young people can directly like
6 interface with city officials or any--

7 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: [interposing] And-and-
8 and what level-I'm trying not to make this sound-

9 ANDREW MILLER: Staffing this. (sic)

10 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Yes. Who actually
11 attends to represent the agency?

12 ANDREW MILLER: That is a decision
13 generally that's up to the agency head.

14 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Are they policy makers
15 or-are they decision makers?

16 ANDREW MILLER: It runs the gamut
17 depending on each agency. So for example we will
18 have sometimes folks from like the NYPD Community
19 Affairs Division, but also when it involves LGBT
20 youth we also have folks that work on those issues as
21 well. So, it really depends upon the focus of the
22 meeting and that kind of thing, but it's generally up
23 to the agency head to designate his or her
24 representative.

2 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Tell me about the
3 representation and the function of the agencies
4 that's on ICC that provide indirect—that are indirect
5 service agencies? [background comments/pause]

6 ANDREW MILLER: So, OMB again, they
7 attend meetings, they give input. If it's—if it's a—
8 we'll get to receive information concerning the
9 presentations we're having, and they could bring that
10 back to their respective agencies. They can—when
11 we're on the work groups themselves, they help—help
12 to shape exactly the work group is working is working
13 on, which could be like things like this.

14 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uh-hm. On the web page
15 member agencies are listed and the Deputy Mayor's
16 Office of Policy and the Mayor's Office of AIDS
17 Policy Coordination are listed. Are they still in
18 existence?

19 ANDREW MILLER: We—they are not—we
20 actually took a first look at—for the—recently anyway
21 at the website and we will be making some updates to
22 that to reflect what where we currently are.

23 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay, okay. So, we're
24 updating the website--

25 ANDREW MILLER: The website.

2 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: --because we were then
3 sort of redirected to the HIV Health and Human
4 Services Planning Intensive.

5 ANDREW MILLER: Well, at one point they
6 did. So at one point they played roles.

7 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So--

8 ANDREW MILLER: So, we will--Eduardo and I
9 will be looking at the website to make sure that it's
10 up to date in each--the member agencies are listed
11 there. I think they had our primary members and then
12 we have secondary members, which were underneath that
13 on the list.

14 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, this HIV Health
15 and Human Services Planning Council of New York are
16 they still involved with the ICC?

17 ANDREW MILLER: They are not.

18 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay, okay, alright.
19 I am excited about being on this committee.

20 ANDREW MILLER: Than you, we are, too.

21 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: If you couldn't tell.
22 Yeah, I'm excited, but--I'm sorry. [pause] Oh, okay.
23 That's why we have good counsel. The Youth Services,
24 the ICC is also responsible for a Youth Services
25 duplication and fragmentation.

2 ANDREW MILLER: Uh-hm.

3 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Right and so can you
4 address whether any of the recommendations that have
5 been acknowledged or--

6 ANDREW MILLER: Well, if you--again, it's--
7 it's--if you look at everything we've done in terms of
8 like we're looking at how we can share information
9 where it's through this, whether it be through
10 Growing Up NYC, about where a young person can access
11 services wherever they are and whatever types of
12 things they want whether it be signing up for SYEP,
13 looking for information about SNAP benefits, all
14 those can be found there, and that could kind of
15 reduce the fragmentation of services and I think
16 having all the agencies together so it's a robust big
17 group, and talking about everything that they do, and
18 it's through those meetings that we have discussions
19 about well how can we partner together to make your
20 specific services better and bring it to the
21 forefront?

22 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Did the closing for
23 Rikers Island and the moving of the young people to
24 the neighborhood confinement areas, did--did the ICC

2 have any role in that? Was there any coordination
3 because that did not go very well.

4 ANDREW MILLER: Yeah, the only—we did
5 not. The only thing I can tell you is that the ICC
6 really was at the forefront of talking about raising
7 the age of criminal responsibility, and we had
8 multiple panels held by Judge Michel Cordero about
9 why we should and become like other states, and raise
10 that age. So, that's—that is the role that the ICC
11 played for the past several years, but particularly
12 with that and that whole--

13 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay, is that
14 something that will be talked about? I mean because
15 that process hasn't--

16 ANDREW MILLER: We—we can explore that
17 Council Member. [laughter]

18 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay. Oh, I did ask
19 that, but about expanding if you think that the ICC
20 should be expanded are there any—are there other
21 agencies that should be included? Which ones would
22 be included?

23 ANDREW MILLER: I mean we have so many I
24 haven't really given it thought, but if you give m an
25 opportunity maybe I could revisit the topic with you

2 either like that--there is our next meeting or at
3 another hearing, but I hadn't even thought of that.

4 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, is there somewhere
5 written where sort of like why each of these agencies
6 are--are a part of the ICC? Like, you know, for like
7 it's for--

8 ANDREW MILLER: [interposing] I think
9 it's just the Charter mandate about the Charter
10 mandate about it.

11 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, each of these
12 agencies also are mandated to be a part of this
13 Council? Is that--?

14 ANDREW MILLER: It's designate by the
15 Commission, I believe. Correct?

16 EDUARDO LABOY: Yes.

17 ANDREW MILLER: Yeah. So I don't see if
18 you can see the specific names listed in the Charter,
19 but it's usually any city agency that has some type
20 of Youth Service, and those are what they are.

21 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay. So, MOCJ and--

22 ANDREW MILLER: We have worked with them
23 particularly in terms of like the--the math programs
24 and expanding SYEP and having evening programming
25 yes, and we have the MOUs and those--

2 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: [interposing] But
3 they're—but they're not a members of—of it?

4 ANDREW MILLER: No but so if—if so if
5 there are particular agencies you would like to see
6 on the ICC, we welcome that, and maybe we could get
7 in contact with them and see if they kind of want to
8 get involved.

9 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay. I—I just want to
10 acknowledge that Council Member Eugene was here for
11 attendance purposes.

12 ANDREW MILLER: And if I can just
13 acknowledge, we had—we are blessed to have a
14 wonderful team of interns that help us do all this
15 work from NYU. So we have Lou Bate, we have Bradley
16 and we have Angela.

17 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Very good. I thought
18 you were city officials sitting there.

19 ANDREW MILLER: Yeah.

20 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: You looked like it.

21 ANDREW MILLER: They make this work so
22 much easier for us.

23 EDUARDO LABOY: Yeah, they do.

24 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Well, that's great,
25 and that's through DYCD?

2 ANDREW MILLER: Yes. We have a very
3 strong relationship with NYU School of Social Work.

4 EDUARDO LABOY: That's right.

5 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So, I just want to
6 once again ask about the--the--the report will be--

7 ANDREW MILLER: Very shortly.

8 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: --soon. Okay, and have
9 you looked at any way that maybe your assessments
10 might be improved, the--the Annual Assessment?

11 ANDREW MILLER: Sure, that's something
12 we--I--I would certainly welcome that opportunity to
13 see how we could look at it from a largescale way
14 that helps city agencies to assess their--the needs of
15 the young people absolutely.

16 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay, alright. Well,
17 hearing no other questions, thank you for--for being
18 here.

19 ANDREW MILLER: Thank you, Madam Chair.

20 EDUARDO LABOY: Thank you, Council
21 Member.

22 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Our next panel will be
23 Gerald Daniels, DYCD Center for Justice at Columba
24 University; Theresa Messer, Legal Aid Society, Gisele
25 Castro, Exalt Youth and Jamie Powlovich, Powlovich.

2 Coalition for Homeless Youth. [background
3 comments/pause] Oh, Andrew, are you still here?

4 MALE SPEAKER: He stepped out.

5 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Are you sure? Yeah.
6 [background comments/pause] Alright, you may start.
7 Speak into the microphone. Give us your name and
8 your affiliation and you can begin your testimony,
9 and we have three minutes each.

10 JARRELL DANES: So Good afternoon,
11 Council Member. My name is Jarell Danes. I'm a
12 Research Assistant for the Cent for Justice at
13 Columbia University. I'm also here representing DYCD
14 and Inter-coordination Council Committee, and I'm
15 here to share my testimony on behalf of services that
16 are afforded through the ICC. I had the privilege
17 back in September to participate in the Civic
18 Engagement Forum. I went there to present on how to
19 expand DYCD services towards the larger community.
20 As a youth mentor and at-risk justice involved member
21 of the community, I offer insight and discipline for
22 youth returning home from Juvenile Detention
23 facilities, and also for Court-Involved Youth who
24 have cases that are still pending or probation youth
25 as well and in that position I do offer-allow young

2 people to come with me to travel to other sites so
3 that they can share their perspective of being
4 involved in the Justice System to other young people
5 to inspire them to be civically engaged. And also to
6 promote higher education as an ultimate source and
7 resource for them to remove themselves from the
8 communities and having that disenfranchised stigma
9 associated with them. I also had another opportunity
10 to be a part of the ICC's Inter-coordinating Council
11 meeting where I went there to present the new
12 initiatives that we're holding at the Center for
13 Justice called Justice Ambassadors Youth Council, and
14 that's a bridge program for people who are involved
15 in the justice system between the ages of 16 to 24,
16 and giving them the opportunity to work with
17 different city officials and agencies for periods to
18 develop policy proposals for them. So, I went down
19 to ICC to do a 30-minute slide presentation to extend
20 that opportunity for their court involved youth and
21 have them be a part of this initiative at the
22 Columbia University and I was just fortunate to be
23 here just to share those words with you. So thank
24 you.

2 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: [off mic] Thank you so
3 much. We'll--[on mic] we'll let everyone testify, and
4 then if we have any questions we'll ask. Thank you.

5 THERESA MOSER: Good afternoon. My name
6 is Theresa Moser. I am from the Legal Aid Society.
7 I will—I have submitted more extensive testimony, but
8 I will try and keep my comments brief. It—it—at the
9 outset, I would just say that it appears from the
10 description of the ICC and the City Charter and the
11 mission of the Children's Cabinet, that those two
12 entities have a lot in common in terms of what their
13 missions and goals are. So, I would like to just
14 raise the question whether there is any kind of
15 coordination between those two entities. It seems
16 that there should be. Mr. Miller mentioned multiple
17 times Growing Up NYC, which is a web based platform
18 that was created by the Children's Cabinet. It seems
19 like there is a lot of potential for that to overlap
20 with what the ICC is charged with doing, which is as
21 Madam Chair, you mentioned and creating comprehensive
22 citywide guides and resources for the public to be
23 able to access services, right. So, Growing Up NYC
24 and Generation NYC, which is for older youth, which
25 is—was also created by the Children's Cabinet, seemed

2 to be something that the ICC should be looking at.
3 They should be working with the Children's Cabinet.
4 I also note I don't think Mr. Miller mentioned DYCD
5 Youth Connect--

6 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: I don't know.

7 THERESA MOSER: --but that--that is on the
8 DYCD website and that lists various resources for
9 youth in the city, but there should be some attention
10 given to, you know, how comprehensive any of those
11 web platforms are, how accessible they are. Are they
12 succeeding at reaching the public, and should they be
13 integrated in some way because having two separate
14 places for people to go is not necessarily the most
15 efficient way to ensure that the public receive
16 services in New York, right?

17 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Yes

18 THERESA MOSER: So, in my reading of the
19 charter is that there are three main areas for the
20 ICC to be working on, right? One is identifying what
21 the service needs are throughout the city. One is
22 ensuring that services exist to meet those needs, and
23 that--and that encompasses looking at all of the city
24 agencies--agencies that are involved, and make sure
25 that there's not duplication of services, and that

2 they're coordinating our efforts, and then the last
3 is again ensuring accessibility that making sure that
4 the public gets the information and knows how to
5 access the services. All of those things I think
6 require taking a systemic look at the issues. The
7 testimony that was given today talked about the value
8 of getting the various agencies in the room together
9 and that is I think part of [bell] identifying what
10 the service needs are or sorry, identifying what
11 services are available and where there might be
12 overlap and gaps, but the charter really requires
13 taking a comprehensive look. I know I'm out of time
14 so I'm going to try and cut this short.

15 Comprehensive look at what the service needs are
16 throughout the city and that I think involves more
17 than just putting information in a report about data
18 that's collected by other entities, right? Even if
19 the ICC is using the data from the other entities,
20 they need to evaluate that data through the lens of
21 what our view service needs and make a comprehensive-
22 a comprehensive assessment for the whole city, right,
23 and then once that's done, the Charter also requires
24 that they come up with a plan. Every year they're
25 supposed to issue a report with a 2-year plan. It's

2 then a plan that includes a -year agenda right for
3 the meeting the service needs and ensuring
4 accessibility. So that has been absent in the reports
5 that I've looked at. I hope we'll see some of that
6 in the 2018 that—when it comes out, and I hope that
7 the ICC will take this hearing as an opportunity to
8 really appreciate the role that they have in looking
9 at things on a systemic level and taking advantage of
10 the really valuable technology that we have three
11 years after the creation of the ICC to make its
12 mission a reality. Thank you.

13 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you.

14 JAMIE POWLOVICH: And Good afternoon and
15 Happy New Year. My name is Jamie Powlovich, and I'm
16 the Executive Direct of the New York State Coalition
17 for Homeless Youth. We're membership based agency
18 representing 66 agencies that serve Runaway and
19 Homeless Youth in one capacity or another across the
20 state, and thank you Chair Rose for holding this
21 hearing today, and to the rest of the Youth Services
22 Committee for having me here. Obviously, the
23 Coalition for Homeless Youth focuses on a very
24 specific population that is Runaway and Homeless
25 Youth. So, I'm going to focus my testimony on the

1 impact that the ICC should be having on that
2 population. There's more background information,
3 more content in my written testimony, but I'm going
4 to try to finish before the buzzer dings. So, first
5 and foremost, I've been in this field for over 12
6 years and I've never heard of the ICC before, and as
7 one of the advocates for Runaway and Homeless Youth
8 in New York City, that's concerning to me and in
9 preparation for today's hearing I did reach out to a
10 lot of my membership agencies who had not ever heard
11 of it either. Some of those being the LGBTQ specific
12 agencies in New York City. The two areas that I want
13 to highlight is (1) the outcomes that are coming out
14 of the ICC specifically as they point to the outcomes
15 that they already report in the Mayor's Management
16 Report. The Coalition has testified in length at
17 previous hearings and we know that the Council is
18 well aware about our concerns regarding the outcomes,
19 regarding Runaway and Homeless Youth in the Mayor's
20 Management Report but we feel strongly that if an
21 annual report that's being issued by the ICC that are
22 identifying the outcomes in the MMR as the outcomes
23 they're standing by that those outcomes be realistic
24 and true and we don't believe that they regarding

2 Runaway and Homeless Youth. In my testimony you can
3 see all of the numbers that we have obtained via
4 FOILED data from DYCD that significantly contradict
5 the outcomes that are publicly released in the
6 Mayor's Management Report. And then the second area
7 that I want to highlight is regarding the supporting
8 LGBTQ workgroup that's under the ICC and what I
9 gathered from the—I guess the Web, right is that one
10 of the tasks of that work through—is to implement the
11 recommendations that were identified in the 2018
12 Report all our children's strategies to prevent
13 homelessness, strengthen services and build support
14 for LGBTQ youth. It's a great report. The little
15 data, but I don't think that anything that's being
16 asked in that report is necessarily not still
17 relevant. Unfortunately from what I can see from all
18 of the reports coming out of the ICC, they've only
19 actually focused their attention on one
20 recommendation and that is strengthening the training
21 and technical assistance of the needs of the LGBTQ
22 youth population with city agencies, which we feel is
23 really important. We don't want to downplay the
24 importance of training, but there's nine other [bell]
25 recommendations in that report, and those

2 recommendations are the ones that would have the
3 biggest real time impact on Runaway and Homeless
4 Youth especially those that are LGBTQ and we find it
5 concerning that as advocates we've had to work
6 tirelessly with allies in the City Council as well as
7 other advocacy groups to actually push back on DYCD
8 to implement things through legislation that are
9 identified in the recommendations of the that report.
10 So thank you.

11 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you.

12 GISELE CASTRO: Good afternoon, Chair
13 Rose. How are you?

14 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Good. How are you?

15 GISELE CASTRO: Happy New Year and good
16 afternoon--

17 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you.

18 GISELE CASTRO: --Council Member Margaret
19 Chin. I just want to highlight--my name is Gisele
20 Castro. I'm the Executive Director of Exalt Youth
21 and we are an organization that works with young
22 people who are in the Juvenile Justice System here in
23 New York. In the paperwork we are identified as
24 Brooklyn based, but we serve the five boroughs, and
25 hopefully by spring we will be moving to Margaret

2 Chin's area, 17 Battery Place, but we're an
3 organization that we have been designed to address
4 three particular categories, which is help young
5 people who are involved the Criminal Justice System
6 make academic progression, more away from the
7 Criminal Justice System, and gain meaningful
8 employment opportunities. What becomes really I
9 would say remarkable about our organizations that we
10 have been tested and evaluated, and we're one of the
11 few organizations that have been, you know, funded by
12 private dollars, you know through family foundations,
13 and we went through this entire rigor of evaluating
14 our work and where it was also encouraging. Less
15 than 8% of our youth in two years out are convicted
16 of a crime. 95% of our youth two years out are still
17 engaged in school and making significant progress
18 academically. They're going off to college and we
19 have a growing body of young people who are
20 graduating in four years to college. You know, and I
21 highlight this because our Deputy Director Brian
22 Lewis who is here has been invited to speak at the
23 ICC and one it would be I would say encouraging, you
24 know, opportunities that this brought was that we
25 have been able to increase our internship

2 opportunities. We have been able to attend monthly
3 meetings with the ICC, but also it's an opportunity
4 according to, you know, Brian, you know, for us to
5 further collaborate. A recommendation would be, you
6 know, to go deeper in the work, which, you know, we
7 agree with what everyone, you know, here is saying
8 making sure that the ICC is more visible, but more
9 importantly that it allows for an organizations like
10 Partners that work together to not just identify
11 opportunities, but to really strengthen the services
12 that we have for our youth. Overall, my testimony
13 begins to highlight the services that we provide for
14 our youth. The logic behind our model, the reason
15 why we create so much structure, you know, to ensure
16 that our partnership, our referral partners are
17 strong, and that is essentially it. I have actually
18 more time left over. [laughter]

19 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you. So, two of
20 the four panelists are—are familiar with the ICC.
21 You've actually participated and you have, too, Drew,
22 right?

23 THERESA MOSER: He's also familiar with
24 it. Oh, Madam Chair. He is also familiar with the
25 ICC>

2 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: [interposing] Oh, oh,
3 okay, oh okay.

4 THERESA MOSER: The Legal Aid Society has
5 actually testified at previous public hearings of the
6 ICC.

7 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay.

8 THERESA MOSER: Although, I don't think we
9 received notice of 2018's hearing. So we didn't
10 testify at that one.

11 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So how do you thin
12 that ICC could be more effective? [background
13 comments/pause]

14 ANDREW MILLER: Okay. So, one of the
15 things that we've been working on me and Mr. LaBoy we
16 were brainstorming ideas about how DYCD can mobile
17 more efforts inside of the community and one of the
18 ways we were thinking about doing that is having DYCD
19 and ICC representatives come out with myself and to
20 these youth centers and sites throughout New York
21 City to conduct presentations on the services
22 available at ICC, and the way we imagined doing it is
23 that would be a co-presentation together. I would
24 basically introduce myself, which the students are
25 already familiar with me, and then basically

2 introduce the DYCD representative and have them do a
3 presentation of all the services that are for them.
4 And the reason why I personally want to hold them
5 accountable for making sure that it comes to the
6 place is because I, too, have spoke to young people
7 who haven't sought a utility in having this resource
8 or service available to them. They've come across
9 packets that are very similar to this, and they just
10 don't see the utility of needs. It's the same thing
11 for education. I come from a background where I'm
12 formerly incarcerated so I do see the privileges that
13 are afforded to people, but I had to first learn how
14 to really utilize an opportunity that was afforded to
15 me, and I had this—it had to be—come through Credible
16 Messengers. So, that's why I took the time out to
17 say that I would co-present the information with DYCD
18 because I will first have to break that ice, and then
19 I see DYCD as—as a hub organization that is beginning
20 to build those bridges with the community, but they
21 do need somebody who's more hands on the ground or
22 boots on the ground I would say with the communities
23 that can be the intermediary for the agency to extend
24 those services because they can do all the
25 presentations. They can pass our a million of these.

2 If a young person doesn't see the utility, they'd be
3 useless whether they are distributed all across the
4 world. So, that's the way that we would imagine and
5 how we can expand the services of DYCD and I do.

6 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: So you--you see the
7 value of--of DYCD--

8 ANDREW MILLER: Yes.

9 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: --and--and what
10 they're--what they're doing, but have you seen the
11 coordination with the other agencies to actually
12 carry out what the needs of young people are.

13 ANDREW MILLER: Right. So, I'm
14 relatively new to ICC.

15 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Uh-hm.

16 ANDREW MILLER: Again, I've only
17 presented twice there down at the Hub. I wasn't able
18 to go to the public hearings even though I was
19 invited to just because of my work schedule, but one
20 of the things going into this new year, which we've
21 made a promise at the conclusion of 2081 was that
22 moving into this New Year we would conduct frequent
23 ones, two or three sites a month, and I am a Peer
24 Youth Mentor for Friends at Island Academy. I am
25 familiar with it. They have two sides, one in the

2 Bronx and one in Upper Manhattan and out outreach
3 network out in Brooklyn is another site and Exalt
4 Youth is one. I was going to contact Yvonne to
5 conduct a presentation there as well. So there are
6 different youth centers and sites that that I've done
7 presentations there already, that I'm familiar with
8 that I would like--

9 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: [interposing] What
10 about Staten Island?

11 ANDREW MILLER: I have—I haven't
12 [laughter]

13 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Oh, rough day.

14 ANDREW MILLER: Yeah, I haven't met
15 anybody there. [laughter] I haven't made that
16 connection, but that's something that we're willing
17 to extend the services too, as well.

18 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Okay. Alright.

19 GISELE CASTRO: I just wanted to add that
20 now that we're moving and we serve the five boroughs,
21 we met with some of the judges over in Staten Island
22 in terms of, you know, how do we connect? You know,
23 it's very important I would say, you know, to also
24 have the voice of our youth embedded in this entire
25 process. I know that one of our young students was

2 able to give a toast—you know, testimony, but the
3 feedback that a lot of young people always have is
4 that you have an adult in the room, they're selling
5 the program or talking about services. There's
6 always a disconnect, very different when a young
7 person begins to explain why they, you know, really
8 enjoyed or were able to make significant gains in
9 terms of an experience. One thing that I want to
10 highlight in terms of our organization is because of
11 having our young people participate, we're seeing an
12 increase of referrals based by our young people
13 themselves as opposed to in partnering agencies.

14 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Yeah, we—we understand
15 that that's—it's definitely a model that works. We
16 see it with MOCJ and Cure Violence. Credible
17 Messengers have, I—I really believe sort of turned
18 the tide in terms of—of youth violence and—and—and
19 bringing young people into—to get the resources that,
20 you know, are available and needed. I was interested
21 in--

22 THERESA MOSER: So on the other end of
23 the spectrum--

24 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: [interposing]
25 Absolutely.

2 THERESA MOSER: -- my testimony really
3 emphasized the systemic nature of the mission of the
4 ICC and I think I would, you know, continue to
5 emphasize that and just highlight that, you know, we--
6 we live in a changing city, right, and so the way the
7 Charter is written gives the ICC the opportunity to
8 recognize the changes that happen, and develop the
9 plans and change them over time to meet the needs of
10 the youth of this city. Raising the Age is a good
11 example, right. So, one thing that the ICC could be
12 thinking about is what service needs or how service
13 needs might look different now that more 16 and then
14 17-year-olds would be going through the Family Court
15 system rather than need-it-all (sic) system. The
16 Charter also really has built into it a continuous
17 quality assurance, right? The--it calls for a report
18 every year, and the report has to have a two-year
19 plan in it. So that is great opportunity to be
20 constantly looking at where the gaps are, what needs
21 to be done, encouraging more communication among
22 agencies so to ensure that there's not overlap and
23 that there is coordination and--and communication.
24 All of those things are essential to quality
25 improvement, and I would just--connected to that say I

2 think it's great that this is being update. I-I
3 think that--your point is very well taken. I looked
4 at it and I would say well it's like, you know, it's
5 really colorful. It looks like something that
6 somebody might at least take a look at, but I felt
7 that some of the information in it is not really
8 organized very well--

9 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: [interposing] Oh, uh-
10 hm.

11 THERESA MOSER: --and it could be more
12 comprehensive, and having a web based platform or
13 expanding the existing web based platform could be
14 even better if young people will access it because
15 you can just have more information there. I also
16 just wanted to mention there's another guide that's
17 on the ICC's web page that is a guide for parents
18 about navigating the justice system--

19 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Yeah.

20 THERESA MOSER: --and it's--it's available
21 in five languages on the web page. However, it
22 hasn't been updated since the Department of Juvenile
23 Justice was abolished, and Juvenile Services were
24 taken over by ACS. So, it doesn't include that. It
25 doesn't include anything about raising the age. So,

2 I heard you to also make that a part of your upcoming
3 plans for updating.

4 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Thank you. I-I
5 appreciate your-your remarks because [coughs] we saw
6 the same sort of things in the Annual Report, and we
7 are-we're-we're really excited that we're going to be
8 working together to make sure that our mandated, you
9 know, our required efficiencies are-are going to be
10 met. Did you want to say something?

11 JAMIE POWLOVICH: I mean I-I'll just echo
12 what everyone else said. I think that definitely
13 what you reported that you and Councilwoman Chin
14 witnessed when you went out to a program and spoke
15 with homeless young people, them just not knowing
16 where the resources are is something that is very
17 much true. I mean I know if you Google like homeless
18 youth NYC, our website is one of the first things
19 that pops up, and we average about 5 to 7 calls or
20 Facebook messages a week from young people in New
21 York City just like I don't know where to go. Help
22 me and as a staff of one, I try to do the best I can,
23 but it would be really helpful if there was a place
24 to point them in. I know for Runaway and Homeless
25 Youth specifically there is also the Homeless Youth

2 Task Force out of the Mayor's Office that just issued
3 their plan to end youth homelessness in New York City
4 and the first recommendation in that plan is to make
5 sure that there is a centralized place for
6 information for young people to access in real time
7 because I think the other thing that sometimes
8 happens with printed materials: (1) Young people
9 that's not how they access information any more, and
10 (2) It's easier to get outdated whereas if it's
11 online, it's easier to just make a revision than to
12 reprint entire documents, and then I think what you
13 were saying about, you know, Credible Messengers I
14 think that that's really important. The Coalition
15 has the privilege of having ten youth advocates that
16 I work very closely with that are formerly homeless
17 young people, and they inform all of the work that we
18 do, and I think it's also about bringing it further
19 and not just hearing young people's experiences or
20 feedbacks or, you know, questions, but it's also then
21 inviting them into the room when decisions are being
22 made about how programs are created or evaluated or
23 if you're doing community assessments, actually
24 having a young-young people be a part of that process
25 because I don't think we're going to ever meet all

2 young people's needs unless they are a part of that
3 process. Because adults, right, we like to pretend
4 we know what's best, but it's also—it's often very
5 shocking to hear what the young people actually want.

6 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Well, I—I want to
7 thank you. I think I know you've given us some
8 really good feedback. I—I think the duplication of—
9 of some of the—the information that's online between,
10 you know, Youth Connect, Grown NYC, I think we need
11 to—to look at—at those sources, but we also will be
12 looking at—at the plan, and actually follow through
13 in implementation. I think the plan shows that there
14 was some—some good work put into developing the plan,
15 but we haven't gone far enough for implementation
16 and—and follow-through. So, I'm looking forward to
17 seeing you all at the Annual Meeting, and working
18 with you. I want to thank you for—for actually being
19 out there and being a voice, and showing young people
20 that there is a way to sort of navigate the system,
21 and so I think the job you're doing is as important
22 if not more than the job that we're doing, and so I
23 want to thank you for—for doing that. And—and so, I
24 think your testimony has really been, you know,
25 elucidating, and will be—we'll have something for the

2 agenda at the ICC meeting. So, I want to thank you
3 and the next panel please.

4 JAMIE POWLOVICH: Thank you.

5 THERESA MOSER: Thank you.

6 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Is that it?

7 MALE SPEAKER: Yes it is.

8 CHAIRPERSON ROSE: Oh, okay. So, that
9 concludes this hearing at 2:30. Thank you all for
10 being here. [gavel]

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

C E R T I F I C A T E

World Wide Dictation certifies that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. We further certify that there is no relation to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that there is interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date January 27, 2018