

EXECUTIVE ORDER No. 116

COORDINATOR OF FAMILY SERVICES

June 13, 2008

WHEREAS, the City's system of providing vital health and human services to children and families is divided among many agencies; and

WHEREAS, the City is committed to enhancing these services by investing significant resources, including for the recruitment of additional caseworkers, as well as strengthening training and supervision of staff overseeing children's and family services; and

WHEREAS, agencies tasked with identifying vulnerable children and families have adopted comprehensive policies and procedures to investigate potential abuse and neglect; and

WHEREAS, the collection of statistics and the dissemination of information to the appropriate agencies is necessary for the successful delivery of services to vulnerable children and families; and

WHEREAS, economic opportunities must be available to reduce the number of people living in poverty, and the City has established a coordinated multi-agency policy to create communities of economic opportunity and financial independence for vulnerable children and families; and

WHEREAS, there is an ongoing need for improvement in technology, communication, coordination and cooperation among the various agencies involved in serving the needs of vulnerable children and families; and

WHEREAS, the position of Coordinator of Family Services was first established in 2006 to facilitate the necessary inter-agency communication and cooperation to ensure that New York City's most vulnerable children and families are well-served and protected;

NOW, THEREFORE, by the power vested in me as Mayor of the City of New York, it is hereby ordered that:

§ 1. The position of Coordinator of Family Services is hereby continued in the Office of the Mayor. With regard to children's and family services, the Coordinator shall, in consultation with affected agencies:

- (a) coordinate, implement and monitor improvements in the dissemination of information about children and family services;
- (b) request and receive reports concerning agency performance, including appropriate use of technology, and recommend and facilitate implementation of policies to improve agency efficiency with respect to children and family services. The content of such reports and any such policies for reform shall be established by the Coordinator;
- (c) expand agency partnerships with Community Based Organizations that advocate for child safety;
- (d) aid in the development of medical standards utilized by New York City hospitals to diagnose child abuse and neglect;
- (e) develop, coordinate and implement programs and services for youth in the foster care system, youth aging out of the foster care system and youth in the juvenile detention system;
- (f) foster the increase, utilization and expansion of Child Advocacy Centers throughout the City;
- (g) design and implement a Citywide public awareness campaign and website to prevent and stop child abuse and child neglect;
- (h) coordinate agency efforts to improve access to early intervention public health insurance for children in City-funded programs, subsidized child care and head start;
- (i) develop, coordinate and implement plans to increase access to quality mental health services for children in foster care and the juvenile justice system;
- (j) develop, with the Department of Juvenile Justice, prevention, aftercare, and alternatives to detention programs;
- (k) develop an overall accountability model for social services agencies providing services to children, families and individuals;
- (l) implement a family services website to provide information to agency clients and personnel on programs, policies and procedures, as

well as to conduct eligibility screening;

(m) implement an enhanced 311 system for City residents seeking health and human services;

(n) develop partnerships with other branches and levels of government, including with the Office of the Speaker of the City Council to increase food stamp utilization, better school meal participation and access to healthy foods in high needs communities;

(o) implement a “one-stop” service center for benefits and case assistance;

(p) facilitate a case coordination partnership with the Criminal Justice Coordinator and the Family Court case coordinator; and

(q) establish a network of agency liaisons, to be designated individually by each human services agency, to facilitate service coordination.

§ 2. Affected agencies shall provide such assistance and cooperation as deemed appropriate by the Mayor and the Coordinator.

§ 3. For purposes of Sections 1 and 2 of this Order, the term “affected agencies” shall include, but not be limited to, the following agencies: Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Human Resources Administration, Administration for Children’s Services, Department of Youth and Community Development, Department of Homeless Services, Department for the Aging, Health and Hospitals Corporation, Department of Correction, Department of Probation, Department of Juvenile Justice, Department of Education, New York City Housing Authority, Mayor’s Office to Combat Domestic Violence, Mayor’s Office of Adult Education, Office of Citywide Health Insurance Access and the HIV Health and Human Services Planning Council.

§ 4. This Order shall take effect immediately.

Michael R. Bloomberg
Mayor