

Advancing Collaboration Among
New York City Youth-Serving Agencies

Interagency Coordinating Council on Youth (ICC)
2020 Annual Report



Bill de Blasio
Mayor

J. Phillip Thompson
Deputy Mayor
City of New York

Bill Chong
Commissioner
Department of Youth
and Community Development

October, 2020



**Department of
Youth & Community
Development**

Bill Chong
Commissioner

To: **The Honorable Bill de Blasio**
Mayor of the City of New York

The Honorable J. Phillip Thompson
Chair, Interagency Coordinating Council
Deputy Mayor of the City of New York

The Honorable Debi Rose
Chair, Youth Services Committee
Council of the City of New York

Members of the Interagency Coordinating Council on Youth (ICC)

From: **Bill Chong**
Commissioner, Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD)
Director, Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) on Youth

We are pleased to share with you the Interagency Coordinating Council on Youth (ICC) Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2020. I first want to thank all of our valued partners in City government, community-based organizations and the City's devoted providers for going above and beyond in keeping New Yorkers safe. Your commitment has also helped the City meet its many priorities and challenges such as the struggle for racial equity, the economic downturn, increase in gun violence, the census count, the national election and the COVID-19 pandemic.

We are experiencing an unprecedented health crisis that has forced us to be adaptive, agile, and fast in responding to an ever-changing environment. During these troubled times, it is important to remember our common humanity. Each of us is responding in our own way to shared trauma that feels like it will not let up anytime soon. As I have often said, crisis often opens doors to opportunities, and we are determined to adjust our efforts in this new norm.

While ICC members transition to in-person and remote delivery of services, we will continue to work closely with one another to create opportunities from the City's major investment in youth, families, and communities. We will look to build on our proven approaches and modify them where necessary in order that we translate our past successes into concrete solutions for the future.

Once again, I would like to thank each and every one of our partners for reimagining their work during this crisis. Given the uncertainty over how the pandemic will continue to unfold, we will be committed to answering the call during these challenging and unpredictable times, wherever we are needed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Chong". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Bill Chong, *Commissioner*
Department of Youth & Community Development
Director, Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) on Youth



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I. INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL ANNUAL PUBLIC HEARING

The ICC held its annual public hearing on December 3, 2019 at the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD). The ICC's full membership, comprised of the City of New York's 20 youth-serving agencies, received testimony from 20 individuals, many of whom were young people. They offered testimony on areas such as mental health, DYCD's Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP), the Department of Education's (DOE) need to increase the number of guidance counselors, their reliance on metal detectors and the lack of medical support via nurses in schools. Other topics included the need to enhance mass transit access for students, immigration concerns, LGBTQ competency, gender equity and water safety. The full transcripts have been shared with all ICC member agencies for their appreciation and planning.



DYCD members hear testimony and respond to feedback offered by the public at annual hearing on December 3, 2019.



Young people participate in public hearing, and a civic-minded resident offers testimony to ICC members.

II. ICC INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS

On June 17, 2020, the ICC held their annual LGBTQ+ Cultural Competency Training. As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, this year's training was offered remotely to members. The theme was supporting LGBTQ+ youth during the time of social distancing with an emphasis placed on appreciating what is working and not working and identifying supports/challenges during the crisis.



This is the tenth year for the training and ninth administered by the historic LGBT Center. **Daniel Reyes**, The Center's Chief Programs Officer, welcomed attendees and highlighted the importance of the training, especially in the pandemic. The ICC looks forward to continuing our work with City agencies and community providers to enhance services for NYC youth and families.



On August 13, 2020, the ICC held a virtual quarterly membership meeting specifically designed to provide member support during these uncertain times and provide relevant and timely information. Participants learned about mental health resources available for young people and themselves from **ThriveNYC**. ThriveNYC is an unprecedented, citywide commitment to close critical gaps in mental healthcare. In partnership with 12 City agencies and nearly 200 non-profits, ThriveNYC reach people with the highest need and those living in historically underserved neighborhoods. Participants also had an opportunity to take part in a trauma-informed yoga workshop from Exhale to Inhale designed to assist in stress release. Trauma-informed yoga is an approach to creating a safe, supportive space in which one can learn emotional regulation skills through connection with the breath and increased body awareness. The workshops concluded with a discussion of ways to use mindfulness techniques in the workweek to combat burnout.

III. ICC MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

On September 25, 2019, the ICC held its quarterly membership meeting at DYCD. Attendees heard from the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Investigation and the Administration for Children's Services (ACS) Community Based Alternatives/Division for Youth and Family Justice. The theme of the meeting was **Keeping Families Together**, and as such, an ICC publication, *Transitioning Back into the Community*, was released. The resource guide was developed by youth for youth and assists in highlighting community-based resources for young people.



(L-R) Inspector General's Office presents, followed by the ACS's Division for Youth and Family Justice.

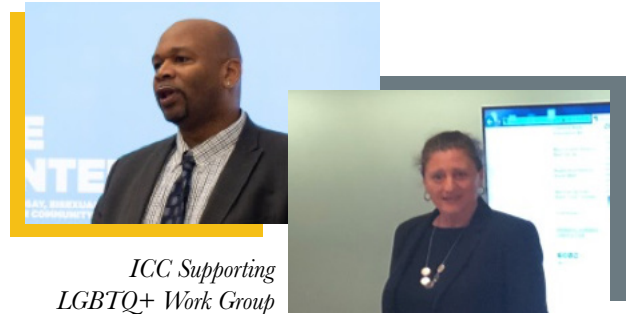
On November 19, 2019, the ICC hosted a merged Work Group Meeting in honor of National Runaway Prevention Month. The meeting featured a gender pronoun video produced by DYCD staff, a presentation by the The Ackerman Institute, and an update on DYCD's Vulnerable and Special Needs Youth Division. The video was developed by staff for staff and provided a breakdown of concepts relating to gender and sexual equity in the workplace. The Ackerman Institute presented on their services that offer gender affirming, training, and research. Randolph Scott of DYCD presented on the expansion of the Runaway and Homeless Youth portfolio.



(L-R) Nadia Swanson of the Ackerman Institute presents to ICC members, DYCD Gender Pronoun video, and DYCD Assistant Commissioner Randy Scott highlights expansion of Runaway and Homeless Youth services.

IV. ICC WORK GROUPS

The ICC’s working groups on Supporting LGBTQ and Court-Involved Youth met regularly and featured presentations on areas of common interest and best practices. In addition to identifying possible partnerships, members supported one another to further enhance services for youth and families.



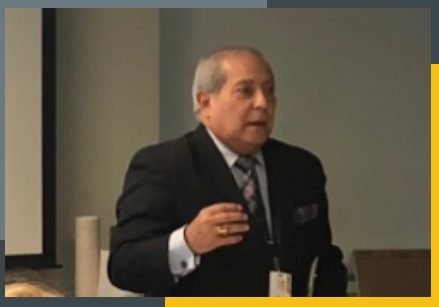
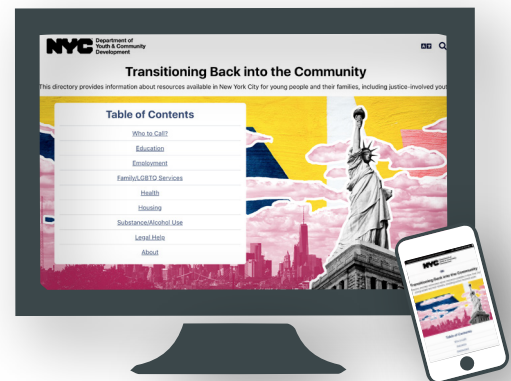
ICC Supporting LGBTQ+ Work Group Co-Chairs Randy Scott and Tracey Thorne

Led by Supporting LGBTQ+ Work Group **Co-Chairs Randy Scott** and **Tracey Thorne**, and with the support of the LGBT Center and service providers such as the Anti-Violence Project and Lambda Legal, the ICC offers LGBTQ competency training to ICC members and City employees with the goal of creating awareness and further developing LGBTQ-inclusive policies.

The ICC Court Involved Youth Work Group re-issued ***Transitioning Back into the Community - Third Edition***. This publication, designed with the input of young people, includes geographic information on housing, legal rights, drug and alcohol treatment, and employment. It is available for download on DYCD’s website at:

https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dycd/icc-directory/ICC_TB/ICC_TB.html.

Transitioning Back into the Community is also online!



ICC Court-Involved Youth Work Group Chair Dr. Luis W. Osorio

During 2020, **Dr. Luis W. Osorio** stepped down as Chair of the ICC Court-Involved Youth Work Group. “Dr. O” as he is affectionately known, has led the group for more than 10 years and brought a passion to his work that not only elevated the discourse but also inspired many. Dr. O has been a mentor and his legacy will live on with the work group and its members as he is universally appreciated by all.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

V. ICC WORK GROUP MEETINGS

The ICC's work groups invited City agencies, community-based organizations, advocates and academic institutions to highlight their approach to meeting the needs of young people throughout the past year. They include:



- Administration for Children's Services
- The Ackerman Institute
- Center for Justice at Columbia University
- Citizens Crime Commission of NYC
- Covenant House
- Department of Education's District 79
- Department of Youth and Community Development
- DOE Fund
- Exhale to Inhale
- Inspector General's Office
- Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence
- New York City Health + Hospitals
- New York University
- NYC Unity Project
- The Anti-Violence Project
- The LGBT Center
- ThriveNYC



VI. ICC COLLABORATIONS

The Interagency Foster Care Task Force is comprised of the Administration for Children’s Services (ACS), DYCD, Department of Social Services (DSS), the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH), and the Department of Education (DOE). They work to implement task force recommendations, which have helped strengthen all aspects of the foster care system and improve outcomes for children and families. The final progress report from March 2020 is available at: <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/acs/pdf/testimony/2020/taskforce-march2020.pdf>

ACS partners with NYC Health + Hospitals (H&H) to distribute the Safe Sleep Toolkit to maternity patients at the City’s 11 H+H facilities. The kits contain educational materials that are designed to be taken home by parents to share with family members and caregivers to reinforce the Safe Sleep information hospital staff are required by law to provide to maternity patients at the time of discharge.

ACS has continued recruiting and enrolling older youth in foster care in Advance & Earn, a paid internship program that is a partnership with DYCD and The Door. This initiative was launched in March 2020. Additionally, youth in foster care and the juvenile justice system have priority access to the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP).

The Department for the Aging’s (DFTA) Grandparents Resource Center collaborated with DYCD’s SYEP initiative to provide youth work experience at various senior centers.

Department of Correction (DOC) partners with DOE to provide educational content to youth and collaborates with H&H to promote adolescent health. In addition, DOC works with the Horticultural Society of New York to provide horticultural therapy and Career and Technical Education (CTE) instructions to young adults under their care.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, DOC partnered with several community-based providers to furnish young people in Correction self-guided materials and computer tablets loaded with educational content and materials, with access to the National Corrections Library.

The Department of Environmental Protection’s (DEP) Education Office collaborates with DOE’s Office of Sustainability and Office of Curriculum, Instruction, and Professional Learning to provide training and resources to help staff learn and teach about the NYC’s water supply system. DEP has conducted education programs and staff trainings for Parks and Recreation, the Department of Sanitation, DYCD, Design and Construction, and Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS) at the Newtown Creek Wastewater Resource Recovery Facility.

In collaboration with the Mayor’s Office of Climate Policy and Programs and the Office of Resiliency, DEP developed and launched a new online Climate Change Education Module to help educators introduce students to climate science and its impact on NYC. DEP also partnered with the Department of City Planning to support their community outreach efforts.

DEP’s Hydrant Education Action Team (HEAT) program is an annual fire hydrant abuse prevention campaign that deploys teams of young adults hired through DYCD’s SYEP initiative to inform New Yorkers about the dangers of illegally opening fire hydrants.

VI. ICC COLLABORATIONS *con't.*

The Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence (ENDGBV) continues to expand a collaborative effort with DOE and its various divisions to bring healthy relationship curricula to young people through the Healthy Relationship Training Academy, as well as the Early Relationship Abuse Prevention Program (Early RAPP). In that program, 128 middle schools have been assigned a Community Educator to provide youth, staff and parents with training, education, and support.

ENDGBV's Youth Leadership Council (YLC) collaborated with A Call to Men's Youth Act group to convene young people working on violence prevention across different agencies. Currently, the YLC has partnered with the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice's Office to Prevent Hate Crimes to conduct a review of their K-12 hate crimes prevention curricula.

NYC Parks and Recreation has collaborated with other City-based agencies to support youth via several programs such as Kids in Motion (KIM), a partnership with the Mayor's Action Plan for Neighborhood Safety (MAP) to reduce violence and make neighborhoods safer in and around 15 New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) sites. Swim for Life is a long-term strategic partnership with the DOE Office of School Wellness linking 2nd graders to NYC Parks Swim for Life program.

Parks collaborates with DYCD's Summer Youth Employment Program to provide 200 teens and young adults (ages 13–21) with on-the-job work experience in the field of digital media production. Parks also works with DOE's District 79 Pathways to Graduation initiative to offer students with hands-on professional grade training intended to provide an alternative route to completing their education and developing a portfolio of skills to successfully enter the workforce.

Brooklyn Public Library (BPL) partnered with DOE to host regular professional development workshops for administrators and teachers and offers an e-newsletter for educators that highlights workshops and resources for teachers.

BPL is an active partner with DYCD's SYEP initiative to offer youth valuable work experience. BPL administers Librarians of Tomorrow; BookMatch Teen; and Today's Teens, Tomorrow's Techies (T4) programs, youth internship programs that offer meaningful learning opportunities, practical work experience and a stipend.

The Queens Public Library (QPL) partners extensively with DOE in many areas such as the Department of Literacy, AIS and Library Services on the MY Library NYC program, the Department of School Food on the Summer Meals program and with the Office of Post-Secondary Readiness on our College Readiness program. QPL has collaborated with the DOE on the Universal Pre-K program and in Fiscal Year 2020 there were two Universal Pre-K classes.

The New York Public Library works with a variety of youth serving organizations including DOE through our MyLibraryNYC program, the office of Postsecondary Readiness, the Metropolitan Museum of Art for Teens Take the Met as well as museums like Wave Hill and the Intrepid.

New York City's three library systems, Brooklyn, New York (which includes Manhattan, the Bronx, and Staten Island) and Queens, work together with DOE to offer young people the MyLibraryNYC program. This program offers participating schools fine-free youth cards and educator cards so teachers can request special classroom sets from the public libraries. The three systems also collaborate annually to offer youth reading materials and content during the summer months as part of the summer reading program.

VII. CITYWIDE YOUTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The Department of City Planning conducts needs assessments by summarizing district demographic and land use characteristics, together with census tract maps and detailed data from the census. The information is presented in the Community District Needs which is published annually.

The City's Office of Management and Budget convenes borough meetings during which Community Boards invite City agencies/ICC members to discuss their programs and budget. After these consultations, Community Boards submit budget recommendations in which they outline their funding priorities, and the relevant agencies respond to each request. City agencies also submit annual District Resource Statements for each district that show the distribution of agency resources.

The Mayor's Management Report (MMR), which is mandated by the City Charter, serves as a public account of the performance of City agencies, measuring whether they are delivering services efficiently, effectively, and expeditiously. The Preliminary MMR provides an early update of how the City is performing four months into the fiscal year. The full-fiscal MMR, published each September, looks retrospectively at the City's performance during the prior fiscal year and is available on the City of New York's website www.nyc.gov.

The City of New York's social service agencies conduct specific needs assessments by gathering data and analyzing trends among their client populations. Many City agencies receive service provider input through surveys, advisory bodies, and direct neighborhood outreach. They determine youth needs through informal feedback, through discussion groups, and program evaluations. Agencies like ACS and DYCD receive direct feedback from youth councils.

ACS conducts an annual Foster Youth Experience Survey to better understand the experiences of youth while in foster care, pertaining to their safety, permanency, and well-being. <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/acs/about/FosterCareYouthExperienceSurvey.page>.

ACS' Office of Equity Strategies issued ACS's first-ever LGBTQ Youth in Foster Care Well-Being Study in 2020. Insights from this study will inform policies and practices for supporting LGBTQ youth in our system.

DYCD utilizes the Community Needs Assessment (CNA) to hear directly from New Yorkers and document their views on what is needed to improve the well-being of their communities and highly values feedback received from residents via Neighborhood Advisory Boards.

ENDGBV's Healthy Relationship Academy (Academy) supports the Sexual Health Education taskforce in creating an action plan to implement the recommendations aimed at creating comprehensive sexual health education for all students. ENDGBV's 2019-2020 YLC convened young people from all five boroughs to work together to end violence in their communities.

VIII. ALLOCATIONS FOR SERVICES TO YOUTH

Agency Name	Agency Budget for Youth FY 20	Number of Youth Served FY 20
Administration for Children's Services	\$2.66 billion	158,347
Department for the Aging	\$5,000	293
Department of Citywide Administrative Services	<i>Data not available at time of publication</i>	<i>Data not available at time of publication</i>
Department of Correction	\$5,494,000	9,490 ¹
Department of Cultural Affairs	<i>Not applicable²</i>	
Department of Education	\$34 billion	1,100,000
Department of Environmental Protection	\$360,000	35,000
New York City Fire Department	\$900,000	840,000
Department of Health and Mental Hygiene	\$236,327,639	886,360 ³
NYC Health + Hospitals	\$562,786,534	221,311
Department of Homeless Services	<i>DHS Data is reflected in HRA's submission</i>	
New York City Housing Authority	<i>NYCHA afterschool youth programs have been merged with DYCD</i>	
Human Resources Administration	\$23,782,826	33,878
Mayor's Office to End Domestic and Gender- Based Violence	\$320.09	515 ⁴
Parks & Recreation	Not applicable ²	81,598 youth at rec. centers 542,804 youth at non-rec. centers
New York City Police Department	\$424,463	37,333 ⁵
Department of Probation	\$41,391,324	12,477
Department of Youth and Community Development	\$958,736,476	339,963
Brooklyn Public Library	\$40,284,052	922,412
New York Public Library	\$1,000,000	180,000
Queens Library	\$30,762,113	663,047

¹ Accounts for the average daily population of youth under custody during FiscalYear 2020.

² Not Applicable –Does not distinguish program participants by population.

³ Numbers reflected were a result of diminished activity resulting from the pandemic.

⁴ The Academy facilitated 515 youth workshops in FY 2020.

⁵ Estimated based on annual projections concluding on June 30, 2020.



New York City
Law Department



Acknowledgements

Luis W. Osorio, Ph.D., Director for Resident and Community Engagement Cornerstone Unit, DYCD and Chair of ICC
Court-Involved Youth Work Group

Randy A. Scott, MSW, Assistant Commissioner, Vulnerable and Special Needs Youth Unit, DYCD and Co-Chair of ICC
Supporting LGBTQ Youth Work Group

Tracey Thorne, Director, RHY Programs, Vulnerable and Special Needs Youth Unit, DYCD and Co-Chair of ICC
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QUEENS
PUBLIC
LIBRARY

