



CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

Anne Marie Ambrose
Human Services Commissioner

May 5, 2014

The Honorable Darrell Clarke
City Council President
City Hall, Room 490
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Dear Council President Clarke:

This letter is in response to questions raised at the April 15th, 2014 hearing before the Committee of the Whole on the Fiscal Year 2015 budget for the Department of Human Services. The questions were recorded as follows:

From Councilwoman Bass:

1. How many children does New York City service?

As of January 2014, 11,695 children are in foster care. New York City provides prevention services to 22,000 families.

2. What has the employee turnover been for the two operational CUAs?

Below please find the turnover rates for all 5 operating CUAS.

NET CUA #1 (Since Jan 2013): 60 employees hired, 13 no longer with the agency. Turnover rate 22%.

APM CUA #2 (Since Jan 2013): 50 employees hired , 15 no longer with the agency. Turnover rate 30%.

Turning Points for Children CUA #3 (Since October 2013): 50 employees hired, 1 no longer with the agency. Turnover rate 2%.

Catholic Community Services CUA #4 (Since October 2013): 30 employees hired, 0 have the agency. Turnover rate

Wordsworth CUA #5 (Since April 2014): 34 employees hired, 3 have left the agency. Turnover rate 9%.

From Councilwoman Brown:

3. Can you provide us with an update on the older youth population?

The well being of the older youth population is a high priority for DHS and the providers that serve our youth. As of March 2014, we have 1939 youth in placement ages 13 through 21. This is approximately 42% of our placement population.

Our older youth continue to use our Achieving Independence Center which is now located in the heart of historic North Philadelphia in the Leon Sullivan Human Services building. AIC is a one stop shop location for older youth involved with DHS to receiving independent living services. Among the many offerings at AIC, youth can partake in life skills classes, culinary education, drug and alcohol counseling, creative arts classes, employment and technology training and mentoring. We now offer services to youth beginning at the age of 14.

DHS is currently working to reduce the number of youth in congregate care (group home living situations). The majority of youth in congregate care are teenagers. DHS is committed to the principle that all youth deserve to live in family settings and that congregate care should be reserved for treatment purposes. To this end, we are diligently working to recruit foster parents willing to care for teens. In 2013, we increased the per diem payment to foster parents who care for teens by ten dollars a day. This is because we recognize the teenagers have additional expenses for items such as clothes and social enrichment activities. We have also instituted a process by which the DHS Commissioner must approve all placements in congregate care. When the approval process started in November of 2012, 22.5% of youth in placement were in congregate care. As of March 2014, 18.6% of youth in placement were in congregate care.

We are also committed to improving educational outcomes for older youth involved with DHS. As part of our Education Support Center expansion we plan to deploy social work services staff to the community to assist older youth involved with DHS and former DHS involved youth with educational issues and post secondary transitions.

DHS recently received a two-year discretionary grant from ACYF-Children's Bureau for its proposed Pipeline Up to Stable Housing (PUSH), a strategic intervention to prevent homelessness for youth aging out of the foster care system. PUSH will be an opportunity to create a canopy under which current citywide homelessness initiatives can work together allowing service providers to access all resources in a systematic fashion. The project will also implement a Natural Mentoring program (CARE), a promising practice that may be effective in helping older youth prevent homelessness. The award amount is \$345,000 for the first year and \$395,000 for the second year.

Finally, older youth involved in DHS is also a high priority for the Community Oversight Board. The Board formed a sub-committee to examine issues related to Older Youth and their well being and we expect them to issue a report with recommendations within the next few months.

From Councilman Jones:

4. How many incidents of child abuse were reported to your agency in the last three years?

In 2011, DHS investigated 4067 Child Protective Services Reports (CPS) and 8204 General Protective Services Reports (GPS).

In 2012, DHS investigated 3879 Child Protective Services Reports (CPS) and 8538 General Protective Services Reports (GPS).

In 2013, DHS investigated 3904 Child Protective Services Reports(CPS) and 9690 General Protective Services Reports (GPS).

5. How many truancy cases do you see per year? How many cases for children between 4th and 8th grades?

The below table represents the number of reports made to DHS in calendar years 2011-2013 where educational neglect was alleged in a call to the DHS hotline. The breakdown is for youth ages 10 to 14. In addition, DHS provides truancy case management services to youth referred by the School District for allegations of truancy.

Truancy Reports		Number of Children Ages 10 - 14 with Truancy Reports					
Calendar Year	Number of Reports*	10 yrs.	11 yrs.	12 yrs.	13 yrs.	14 yrs.	Total Children
2011	235	45	50	42	55	76	268
2012	310	44	58	52	73	114	341
2013	295	56	58	67	65	104	350

*Unique count of reports for each year. Each truancy report may pertain to more than one child.

Ages are calculated as of the report dates.

Data Source: Monthly Descriptive Data Report Investigations query, 5/1/2014.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have about the information provided in this response.

Sincerely,

Anne Marie Ambrose

Anne Marie Ambrose
Commissioner

cc: Everett Gillison, Chief of Staff
Rob Dubow, Director of Finance
Rebecca Rhynhart, Budget Director
Fiona Greig, Deputy Budget Director