



Councilmember Sara M. Gonzalez in an earlier visit to Crossroads Juvenile Center talking with Department of Education teacher.

7 Citywide Community-Based Organizations Awarded Program Service Contracts for Youth

The Department of Juvenile Justice awarded program service contracts to 7 community-based organizations (CBOs) to provide a range of services for youth in the Department's care until the end of the fiscal year totaling \$325,500.

The CBOs include Voices Unbroken, Community Counseling & Mediation, Urban Youth Alliance International, EI HAB Children's Services Inc., Council for Unity, The Afrikan Poetry Theatre Inc. and Crown Heights Service Center Inc.

The 7 CBOs will provide targeted services to youth in the Department's care in both secure detention and non-secure detention group homes. These services include:

- **Visual Arts Programs:** All youth will receive an introduction to the arts including its appreciation to promote alternative avenues of expression.
- **Gender-Specific Service Programs:** Girls will receive an expressive arts and group services especially for them.
- **Life Transition Programs:** Youth entering and leaving the detention system will be provided services to assist them in adjusting to detention or their departure.
- **Violence Reduction Programs:** Youth will be introduced to alternative dispute principles to reduce anger and conflict.

The services are funded by the New York City Council's Juvenile Justice Committee. The Chair is Sara M. Gonzalez.

DJJ Commissioner Neil Hernandez said, "In partnership with Chairperson Gonzalez and the Juvenile Justice Committee, the Department is providing a range of critical services that youth in custody will benefit from, including beyond their stay in detention."

