



*Staff from DJJ and John Jay College discuss the success of CFI with members of the City’s Juvenile Justice Committee.*

## **DJJ Discusses First-Year Successes of Collaborative Family Initiative at Juvenile Justice Committee Hearing**

On Monday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, members of DJJ’s executive staff and project partner John Jay College appeared before the New York City Council’s Juvenile Justice Committee to discuss the first-year achievements of the innovative Collaborative Family Initiative (CFI).

First Deputy Commissioner Judy Pincus, Deputy Commissioner & General Counsel Herman Dawson, Assistant Commissioner for Program Services Nina Aledort and Nancy Jacobs, Executive Director of John Jay’s Criminal Justice and Research Evaluation Center, provided a detailed overview of the program and an update on the early progress of the initiative.

Committee Chairperson Sara M. Gonzalez and Committee Members Carmen Maria Del Arroyo, Darlene Mealy, Helen Sears and James Sanders, Jr., heard testimony from DJJ, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, and two contracted CFI providers, and followed with questions for those testifying before the Committee.

The Collaborative Family Initiative, which was created in 2007 as part of the City’s juvenile justice reforms with \$667,000 in Council funding, has already returned 65 youth to their communities, engaging each youth’s family and continuing critical mental health services without interruption.

“CFI has successfully brought the wait for mental health services in the community for youth with mental health needs leaving detention to zero. Youth and families are directly enrolled in programs that provide mental health services and psychiatry services allowing them to forgo the six month wait,” First Deputy Commissioner Judith Pincus said. “In Fiscal Year 2009, the Department looks forward to fully institutionalize the program.”

