



Tim Lisante, Nina Aledort, Sarah Bass and Russel Steinberg testify before the NYC Juvenile Justice Committee.

DJJ Testifies at City Council Hearing

On Thursday, January 29, 2009, the New York City Council’s Juvenile Justice Committee held a hearing, seeking testimony and insight into the Department of Juvenile Justice’s Core Services for Remanded Youth.

Committee Chairperson Sara M. Gonzalez presided over the hearing at which the Department’s Nina Aledort, Assistant Commissioner for Program Services, Sarah Bass, Director of Health and Mental Health Services, and Russell Steinberg, Deputy General Counsel testified. Tim Lisante, Deputy Superintendent of the Department of Education, Passages Academy, joined DJJ in testifying at the hearing.

During the hearing, the senior staff members from the Department testified that DJJ is in compliance with all mandates, but goes beyond these mandates in meeting the needs of youth in its care. One of the programs discussed was the Collaborative Family Initiative (CFI). CFI is a reentry initiative that provides immediate mental health and psychiatric services with family support to youth with mental health needs who are released from detention.

“The Department is committed to providing services beyond its mandates, because the needs of today’s court-involved youth are so great,” Assistant Commissioner for Program Services Nina Aledort said. “Not only is this the right thing to do, but DJJ firmly believes that helping youth with reentry and reintegration into their communities is a fundamental part of delinquency prevention. This work is done with limited funding, but the results are too great to scale back, even in the face of precarious economic times.”

