



Juvenile Justice Committee Members hear testimony from the Department of Juvenile Justice.

DJJ Testifies Before City Council Juvenile Justice Committee on the Fiscal Year 2010 Preliminary Budget

The Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) testified before the New York City Council’s Juvenile Justice Committee on Tuesday, March 25, 2009. The Department discussed the Fiscal Year 2010 Preliminary Budget and detailed budgetary measures it intends to take to reach reductions set by the Program to Eliminate the Gap (PEG). First Deputy Commissioner Judith Pincus, Deputy Commissioner for Administration and Policy Jacqueline James, and Assistant Commissioner for Program Services, Nina Aledort joined Commissioner Neil Hernandez at the hearing.

DJJ reported that in Fiscal Year 2010, the agency would continue The Learning Independence for Empowerment (LIFE) Transitions initiative, as developed by the Mayor’s Center for Economic Opportunity and the Department of Juvenile Justice. Early outcomes for LIFE Transitions are promising for its long-term impact. Already, 41 previously detained youth have successfully reached the 90-day community participation milestone. In addition, 91 youth were re-enrolled in school within 10-days of release.

To reach the PEG, the Department also outlined its budget reduction plan, that includes integrating discharge planning services into case management services, eliminating the Discharge Planning Unit. Youth in detention will continue to receive discharge planning through the Department’s Case Management Services. This approach will ensure that discharge planning services become more universal in detention.

At the hearing, Commissioner Hernandez stated, “We look forward to continuing our partnership with the Juvenile Justice Committee to bring much needed programs and services to youth in detention, and we appreciate the support of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services for our strategic initiatives.”

