



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**AS PART OF 'RAISE THE AGE' IMPLEMENTATION, ACS WILL PARTNER WITH NYC HEALTH + HOSPITALS TO PROVIDE CARE TO YOUTH IN NYC'S JUVENILE DETENTIONS**

*Partnership Will Pave the Way for Youth in the Juvenile Justice System to Get High-Quality Health Care*

Today, the New York City Administration for Children's Services (ACS) announced its partnership with NYC Health + Hospitals regarding the provision of health care to youth in the City's juvenile detention facilities. The partnership is part of New York City's work to implement "Raise the Age," legislation which takes effect October 1 to stop treating minors as adults in the criminal justice system.

Under the partnership announced today, NYC Health + Hospitals will help manage the contracted health care providers currently working within the two detention centers. Commissioner Hansell explained that, as "Raise the Age" is implemented, ACS is working to ensure continuity of services for young people throughout the juvenile justice system and this partnership is one part of that effort.

"This partnership will help ensure that young people in our juvenile detention system continue to receive quality healthcare services," said **Commissioner David A. Hansell**. "I am confident that, with this partnership, we can move forward on a plan to improve the quality of health care and ensure greater continuity of services throughout all aspects of the juvenile justice system."

"We are privileged to apply our expertise to manage the health needs of this population," said **Mitchell Katz, MD, president and chief executive officer of NYC Health + Hospitals**. "On average, these young people have more complex physical and behavioral health needs than their age-group peers. Setting them on a healthier path early will provide them with long-lasting health care relationships and lifelong benefits."

"As a national leader in the provision of high-quality health care to persons in detention, Correctional Health Services is honored to partner with the Administration for Children's Services to implement new approaches to care that will help make the most positive impact on

the lives of children in the City's custody," said **Patsy Yang, DrPH, Senior Vice President of NYC Health + Hospitals/Correctional Health Services.**

"We must do all we can to provide our youth with quality healthcare services and teaming up with Health + Hospitals as we 'Raise the Age' will help us accomplish that," said **Deputy Commissioner Felipe Franco.** "This important collaboration will help pave the way to extend Health + Hospitals' care throughout the entirety of our juvenile justice system."

ACS operates two secure detention facilities for youth awaiting adjudication in the justice system and 30 Close to Home sites, secure group homes that help rehabilitate youth. ACS also operates an after-care program for youth once they're released from placement, to help them transition to productive adulthood. Currently, there are 637 young people in this juvenile justice system, a number that will increase significantly as Raise the Age is implemented.

All youth receive a comprehensive health screening and physical within the first 72 hours of admission to detention centers. This partnership will help ensure implementation of all aspects of health care as required under Raise the Age beginning October 2018. This includes providing physical and mental health care to young people in detention, consulting on medical records, and collaborating on staffing and facilities.