



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES UNVEILS STATE-OF-THE-ART NURSERY & MEDICAL INTAKE CENTER AT QUEENS CHILD PROTECTION OFFICE; ON-SITE NURSERY WILL SERVE HUNDREDS OF CHILDREN INVOLVED IN THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM

Kid-Friendly Nursery Will Provide Extra Support for Families Walking Through the Doors of the Queens Child Protection Office; Nursery Also Provides High-Quality Medical Care to Children Being Placed into Foster Care

New York, NY – Today, the New York City Administration for Children's Services (ACS) Commissioner David A. Hansell celebrated the grand opening of a newly renovated nursery at the Queens Child Protection Office on Archer Avenue. The state-of-the-art nursery is kid-friendly and offers a more comfortable environment for children who may have experienced trauma.

The nursery serves two main functions. First, parents may drop their children off at the nursery when meeting with caseworkers on-site at the Queens Child Protection Office. Children may use the space to play games, read a book or do their homework. Second, the nursery is used by children who have been removed from their families because of safety concerns and in need of medical clearances before being placed with a foster family.

"Child protective specialists at ACS are often working with children at some of the most vulnerable times in their lives, and we always want to make sure their experience with us is as comfortable as possible," **said ACS Commissioner David A. Hansell.** "This state-of-the-art nursery offers additional comfort and support to parents with young children who may be visiting the Archer Avenue site. The newly renovated nursery also offers high-quality medical services in a comfortable environment for children who have experienced trauma, so that they can begin on their path toward healing."

Each year, child protective specialists investigate over 60,000 cases of child abuse and neglect each year. More than 600 children are served by the Archer Avenue nursery each year. Families in Queens who are involved in the child welfare system may use the Archer Avenue site to meet with caseworkers, attend child safety conferences and receive key information about the range of preventive services that the agency provides. The nursery offers child care services to children visiting the Queens site with their parents, enhancing the way in which the agency interacts with New York City families.

"The new nursery and medical intake center at the Queens Child Protection Office will create a safe space for children to play while their parents meet with caseworkers and a

comfortable environment for youth to receive medical evaluations,” **said Assemblyman Andrew Hevesi**. “This new facility will offer additional supports for those who have experience trauma and allow ACS to provide the best possible care to their clients.”

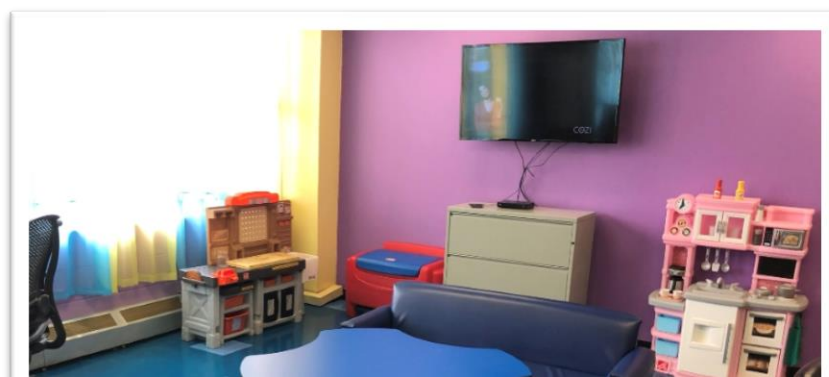
“When a child is removed from their home it is a time of tumult and fear, but this nursery and in-take center, created to comfort children while providing quality healthcare is a necessity. Children deserve dignity despite the situation at home and I appreciate the Administration for Children’s Services for recognizing and meeting this need,” **said Assemblywoman Alicia L. Hyndman**.

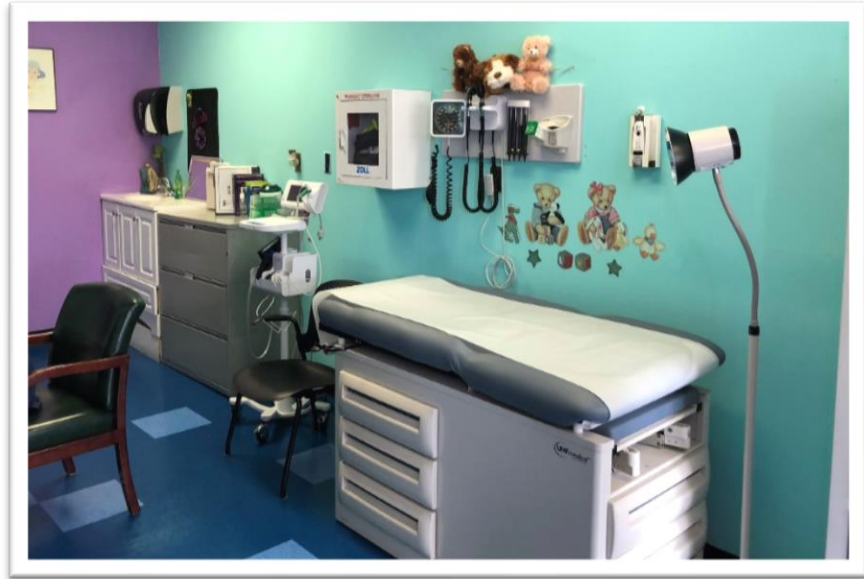
“Southeast Queens welcomes ACS in providing such critical and complex yet necessary services, and we look forward to being a partner in efforts to create a better quality of life for our most vulnerable,” said **Council Member I. Daneek Miller**. “We are appreciative of the thoughtfulness of the de Blasio Administration and the Administration for Children’s Services in providing social services that meet real human needs and purpose.”

ACS is committed to keeping families together whenever safely possible. When children must be removed from their families due to imminent safety concerns, it is important to make sure they receive immediate medical attention, if and when appropriate to do so. The Archer Avenue nursery serves as a place where children are brought to receive medical services and clearances prior to foster care placement. For instance, it is important to look for physical injuries such as: bruising, welts, and fractures, to ensure that the children receive proper medical care. It is also important determine whether the child is healthy enough to be placed in a home with other children (in the event that the child is sick with a virus or other ailment) and whether a child requires other specific clinical evaluations, including a mental health assessment if appropriate. If deemed necessary for their health, children are typically taken offsite for treatment.

With this nursery, children in Queens who must be removed from their families will be able to receive higher quality medical assessments in a more kid-friendly, trauma-informed environment. The nursery medical intake center is also newly equipped with a vital sign monitor, an Automated External Defalculator (AED), an examination table, blood pressure monitors, and a mobile weighing cart.

The Archer Avenue nursery is part of the agency’s ongoing efforts to ensure that high-quality pre-placement medical services are available to children in each borough. The Archer Avenue nursery is one of three ACS nurseries across the city; others are located in the Bronx and Brooklyn. Children in Manhattan are seen by medical professionals located at the Children’s Center.





Additional photos available upon request

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