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January 2, 2020

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ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES ANNOUNCES NEW & STRONGER PREVENTION SERVICES SYSTEM IN NYC; WILL BETTER SUPPORT & STABILIZE FAMILIES IN ALL FIVE BOROUGHES

Already, NYC's Prevention Services Have Driven a Dramatic Decline in the Foster Care Census & Helped Reduce the Likelihood of Future Child Welfare Involvement

For the First Time in a Decade, ACS Will Put in Place an Entirely New Set of Prevention Services, Further Improving the Lives of NYC's Highest-Need Families

New York, NY: NYC Administration for Children's Services (ACS) Commissioner David A. Hansell announced the agency's new prevention services portfolio, which will provide a full range of supportive services for families in all five boroughs and all communities across New York City. The new programs build upon ACS' existing prevention services system and represents the first complete restructuring of that system in a decade.

Prevention services are designed to help support families in their communities, promote family stability, and keep children safely at home. On any given day, ACS prevention programs serve over 24,000 children in more than 10,000 families across New York City, through a network of community-based, non-profit organizations.

ACS' new prevention services reflect extensive research of national models, as well as input from providers and families across NYC. It builds upon the current system in three major respects: First, the new system will improve access by making all ten service models available to all families in every borough and every neighborhood. Second, the new system will expand New York City's investment in therapeutic and treatment models to better serve families with more extensive and complex needs. Finally, the new system will require non-profit providers to incorporate families' voices into their service delivery, to ensure services reflect what families want and need. The list of awardees is attached.

"Prevention services are our best strategy for keeping children safe and ensuring that they grow up in healthy, nurturing families and communities," said **ACS Commissioner David A. Hansell**. "For the first time in a decade, we're putting in place an entirely new set of prevention services and, as a result, we'll be able to serve more families than ever before. Our restructured prevention services portfolio will increase the availability and accessibility of research-informed and evidence-based services for families in every borough and every neighborhood across the City. We are confident that, with the new prevention services system, we'll be able to further improve the lives of New York City's families, and serve families involved in the child welfare system while safely keeping those families together."

There is strong evidence that ACS prevention services reduce repeated involvement of families in the child welfare system. Families that successfully complete prevention services (and more

than 80% do) are five times less likely to have another “substantiated” investigation in the following six months than families that do not complete services.

Additionally, ACS prevention services have safely reduced the City’s utilization of foster care. There were nearly 50,000 New York City children in foster care 25 years ago, and 17,000 just a decade ago. Today there are approximately 8,000 children in foster care.

The new prevention services portfolio, which will be implemented by July 2020, will be able to serve more high-need families than ever before with specialized prevention services and the expansion of family support frameworks will be able to stabilize families and further reduce the number of children who require court supervision or who must enter foster care.

The new system will further improve services by providing:

- Universal service access: For the first time, all prevention models will serve every borough and every neighborhood, so that services are more accessible to families that need them, and we can better match families to appropriate services regardless of where they live.
- Family choice: The new program models will require providers to incorporate family voice and choice, in order to ensure that prevention services reflect what families want and need, and to improve parental engagement.
- More therapeutic and treatment services: The new system will expand New York City’s investment in evidence-based models. And for the first time, therapeutic and treatment models will make up the majority of prevention slots.

Just this week, ACS released the results of its first-ever [“Prevention Services: Family Experience Survey,”](#) which asked families receiving prevention services about their experiences in the services. The overwhelming majority of survey participants responded that they are satisfied with the prevention services they received. Specifically, 74 percent of survey participants said they strongly agree that they are happy with the prevention services their families received; and 71 percent of participants that they would recommend these services to a friend and/or family member. One participant said, “it is good to have this service because it promotes health(y) [sic] relationship with your family and there is someone who can help you to meet your short-term and long-term goals.”

While ACS has made significant gains in addressing the needs of children, young people and families, important opportunities remain to improve the lived experience for families participating in prevention services. When survey participants were asked for suggestions on how to improve, the top three responses were: give families more information on what prevention services are (44 percent), explain how long services will last (35 percent) and let families pick what services they want (33 percent).

While ACS currently prioritizes regular feedback from families, the new prevention services portfolio will better address the suggestions raised by family members, by incorporating more parent voice and choice. In addition to strengthening parent voice in the development of service plans, the new system will promote family voice in the organization’s decision-making and program improvement activities.

A list of prevention programs selected for awards begins on the next page.

Prevention Programs Selected for Awards by Borough 2020 Brooklyn

	Programs/Sites
Brooklyn Total	35
Brief Strategic Family Therapy (BSFT)	1
• The New York Foundling Hospital	1
Child-Parent Psychotherapy (CPP)	1
• JCCA	1
Functional Family Therapy (FFT)	1
• The Arab-American Family Support Center, Inc.	1
Functional Family Therapy Adaptations	3
• Good Shepherd Services	1
• Jewish Board	1
• The New York Foundling Hospital	1
Family Treatment/Rehabilitation (FT/R)	6
• Coalition for Hispanic Family Services	1
• Forestdale, Inc.	1
• Good Shepherd Services	1
• Graham Windham	1
• JCCA	1
• HeartShare St. Vincent's Services, Inc.	1
Family Support	20
• Brooklyn Bureau of Community Service	1
• CAMBA, Inc.	2
• Chinese-American Planning Council, Inc.	1
• Coalition for Hispanic Family Services	2
• Rising Ground, Inc.	2
• Good Shepherd Services	1
• JCCA	1
• Ohel Children's Home and Family Services, Inc.	1
• Sauti Yetu Center for African Women, INC	1
• SCO Family of Services	4
• HeartShare St. Vincent's Services, Inc.	1
• The Arab-American Family Support Center, Inc.	1
• Children's Aid	1
• University Settlement Society of New York	1
Multisystemic Therapy- Prevention (MST-PREV)	2
• The Children's Village	1
• The New York Foundling Hospital	1
Trauma Systems Therapy (TST)	1
• SCO Family of Services	1

Bronx:

	Programs/Sites
Bronx Total	33
Brief Strategic Family Therapy (BSFT)	1
• Graham Windham	1
Child-Parent Psychotherapy (CPP)	1
• JCCA	1
Functional Family Therapy (FFT)	1
• The Children's Village	1
Functional Family Therapy Adaptations	5
• Jewish Board	1
• Rising Ground, Inc.	1
• Sauti Yetu Center for African Women, INC	1
• Children's Aid	1
• The Children's Village	1
Family Treatment/Rehabilitation (FT/R)	6
• Cardinal McCloskey School and Home for Children	1
• Good Shepherd Services	1
• Graham Windham	1
• SCAN-New York Volunteer Parent-Aides Association, Inc.	1
• The Mental Health Association of New York City, Inc.	1
• University Behavioral Associates, Inc.	1
Family Support	16
• Astor Services for Children & Families	1
• BronxWorks, Inc.	1
• Catholic Guardian Services	1
• Good Shepherd Services	2
• Graham Windham	1
• Lutheran Social Services of Metropolitan New York, Inc.	1
• Puerto Rican Family Institute, Inc.	1
• Rising Ground, Inc.	1
• Sauti Yetu Center for African Women, INC	2
• The Arab-American Family Support Center, Inc.	1
• Children's Aid	2
• The Mental Health Association of New York City, Inc.	1
• The New York Foundling Hospital	1
Multisystemic Therapy- Prevention (MST-PREV)	2
• The Children's Village	1
• University Behavioral Associates, Inc.	1
Trauma Systems Therapy (TST)	1
• Jewish Board	1

Manhattan

	Programs/Sites
Manhattan Total	15
Brief Strategic Family Therapy (BSFT)	1
• The New York Foundling Hospital	1
Child-Parent Psychotherapy (CPP)	1
• Association to Benefit Children	1
Functional Family Therapy (FFT)	1
• The New York Foundling Hospital	1
Functional Family Therapy Adaptations	2
• Catholic Guardian Services	1
• Jewish Board	1
Family Treatment/Rehabilitation (FT/R)	2
• Graham Windham	1
• Lower East Side Family Union, Inc.	1
Family Support	6
• Chinese-American Planning Council, Inc.	1
• Harlem Dowling - West Side Center for Children and Family Services	1
• Jewish Board	1
• Lower East Side Family Union, Inc.	1
• Northside Center for Child Development, Inc.	1
• Rising Ground, Inc.	1
Multisystemic Therapy- Prevention (MST-PREV)	1
• The New York Foundling Hospital	1
Trauma Systems Therapy (TST)	1
• Jewish Board	1

Queens

	Programs/Sites
Queens Total	22
Brief Strategic Family Therapy (BSFT)	1
• Jewish Board	1
Child-Parent Psychotherapy (CPP)	1
• Sheltering Arms Children and Family Services, Inc.	1
Functional Family Therapy (FFT)	1
• The New York Foundling Hospital	1
Functional Family Therapy Adaptations	1
• The New York Foundling Hospital	1
Family Treatment/Rehabilitation (FT/R)	3
• Coalition for Hispanic Family Services	1
• Forestdale, Inc.	1
• SCO Family of Services	1
Family Support	13
• Catholic Charities Neighborhood Services, Inc.	1
• Coalition for Hispanic Family Services	1
• Forestdale, Inc.	2
• HANAC, Inc.	1
• Harlem Dowling - West Side Center for Children and Family Services	1
• MercyFirst	1
• Sheltering Arms Children and Family Services, Inc.	1
• The Arab-American Family Support Center, Inc.	2
• The Child Center of NY, Inc.	3
Multisystemic Therapy- Prevention (MST-PREV)	1
• The New York Foundling Hospital	1
Trauma Systems Therapy (TST)	1
• Forestdale, Inc.	1

Staten Island

	Programs/Sites
Staten Island Total	10
Brief Strategic Family Therapy (BSFT)	1
• Jewish Board	1
Child-Parent Psychotherapy (CPP)	1
• Jewish Board	1
Functional Family Therapy (FFT)	1
• The New York Foundling Hospital	1
Functional Family Therapy Adaptations	1
• Jewish Board	1
Family Treatment/Rehabilitation (FT/R)	1
• Seamen's Society for Children and Families	1
Family Support	3
• Sauti Yetu Center for African Women, INC	1
• Seamen's Society for Children and Families	1
• Children's Aid	1
Multisystemic Therapy- Prevention (MST-PREV)	1
• The New York Foundling Hospital	1
Trauma Systems Therapy (TST)	1
• Jewish Board	1

Citywide, accessible to families in all boroughs

Citywide Total	4
Multisystem Therapy- Child Abuse and Neglect Adaptation (MST CAN)	1
• Children's Aid	1
Special Medical	3
• Cardinal McCloskey School and Home for Children	1
• New Alternatives for Children, Inc.	1
• HeartShare St. Vincent's Services, Inc.	1

**Administration for Children's Services
Prevention Service Program Types
(For Contracts Starting July 2020)**

Model	Description
Family Support	These programs would provide services tailored to the needs of families and children through case management, resource navigation, service referrals, parenting skills, and support with concrete needs, as well as regular in-home assessments of child safety and well-being. (Formerly Referred to as General Prevention or GP.)
Brief Strategic Family Therapy (BSFT)	The BSFT model is a brief family intervention for children and youth with serious behavior problems and/or drug use. The BSFT intervention works well for families with poor behavior management and problematic relationships. The intervention identifies patterns of family interaction and improves them to restore effective parental leadership and involvement with the youth.
Child-Parent Psychotherapy (CPP)	CPP is an intervention model for children aged birth-5 years old who have experienced at least one traumatic event and/or are experiencing mental health, attachment, and/or behavioral problems. CPP examines how the child's and/or caregivers' trauma histories affect the parent-child relationship and the child's development. CPP supports and strengthens the caregiver-child relationship to restore the child's sense of safety and attachment and improve the child's functioning.
Family Treatment/Rehabilitation (FT/R)	FT/R is appropriate for families where the primary issue is a caregiver or child's substance use or mental health challenge. The intervention is organized in treatment phases with the support of a Clinical Diagnostic Team.
Functional Family Therapy (FFT_	FFT is a family therapy intervention for the treatment of violent, criminal, behavioral, school, and conduct problems with youth and their families. Both intra-familial and extra-familial factors are addressed. An FFT belief is that the motivation of a family is also the responsibility of the therapist, not just the family.
Adaptations of FFT for a Child Welfare Population	Adaptations of FFT for a child welfare population target family functioning using a developmental focus. Adaptations focus on family relationships and risk factors to address mental health, substance use, and behavioral needs of parents and children.

<p>Multisystemic Therapy-Prevention (MST-Prev)</p>	<p>Multisystemic Therapy for Prevention (MST-PREV) is an adaptation of Multisystemic Therapy (MST) and was developed for families in child welfare. The model has the same clinical foundations of MST, focusing on improving parenting and family interactions. MST-PREV includes additional clinical features, such as enhanced use of motivational interviewing and skills-building with caregivers to increase impulse control and decrease dysregulation; high sense of urgency regarding child safety through weekly and long-term goal-setting and enhanced safety assessment protocols; focus on child welfare outcomes; and supplemental training for staff.</p>
<p>Trauma Systems Therapy (TST)</p>	<p>TST is a trauma-informed clinical and organizational model designed to help agencies understand and address the needs of families with youth who have been exposed to traumatic events and are experiencing emotional and behavioral problems as a result. TST focuses on the interaction between the child's difficulties regulating his/her emotions and the deficits within the child's social environment (home, school, and neighborhood).</p>
<p>Multisystem Therapy-Child Abuse and Neglect (MST-CAN)</p>	<p>MST-CAN is an adaptation of Multisystemic Therapy (MST) and was developed to treat families with children aged 6 to 18 that have come to the attention of ACS due to high risk and safety issues. MST-CAN is reserved only for very high-risk cases. MST-CAN therapists complete a functional assessment of the family and safety plans. Therapists provide treatment in the home, including parent training; safety planning; substance use treatment; Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) treatment for children, youth and adults; anger management; marital therapy; and family therapy.</p>
<p>Special Medical</p>	<p>Special Medical Prevention Services are intended to serve the following populations of families whose children are at imminent risk for foster care placement: families in which a parent or child has special medical needs; and families in which a parent is suffering from a progressively chronic or terminal illness and in need of early permanency planning for their child(ren). The program provides case management, counseling, and referrals to community-based services.</p>