

Update on the Contract for Wrap-Around Services for Pregnant and Parenting Youth at Horizon Juvenile Center

The Administration for Children's Services has selected Children's Village as the vendor for the wrap-around services for pregnant and parenting young mothers and fathers in ACS's juvenile justice populations. The contract for these services is currently at the Comptroller's Office and we anticipate it being registered by the end of July. Children's Village has agreed to begin providing the services while waiting for the contract to be registered.

Children's Village acquired and merged with Inwood House in 2016. Inwood House has provided comprehensive services to pregnant and parenting youth since it was established in 1830. Children's Village and Inwood House have a long history of providing services to youth in the juvenile justice system, as well as youth who are expectant or parenting. This initiative aims to support young families in developing and maintaining cohesive bonds, accessing quality health and mental health services and designing the stable and self-sufficient future they deserve.

The portfolio of Portable Parenting Services, which is being provided by Children's Village, is designed to afford a wrap-around model of support to pregnant youth and all young mothers and fathers detained at the facility and then follow the youth back to the community or other settings when he/she is released from Horizon. These services include parent coaching, a fatherhood program, Teen Choice sexuality education, and consultation. Children's Village will be providing individual counseling for youth, family and staff, as well as group workshops and coaching to parenting youth (male and female) at Horizon. These services have been designed to be portable so that youth can continue to receive services when they return to the community. Any pregnant young woman at Horizon, who is in her second trimester, is also referred to Nurse-Family Partnership. In addition, ACS case management staff arrange for parent/child visits at Horizon for parenting youth.

Wraparound services for teen mothers and fathers who have become justice-involved can change the trajectories of our youth, their children and ultimately, our communities. These services can be linked to any setting in ACS's juvenile justice continuum.

ACS looks forward to providing more specific information regarding the provision of services for young mothers with their children, at the upcoming September Board meeting.