



Close to Home

Commissioner
Ronald E. Richter

hosts

Close to Home Community Forum

How to better serve our youth
involved in juvenile justice

Jamaica, Queens

Wednesday, March 14, 2012

6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

at

Queens Educational Opportunity Center
158-29 Archer Avenue

Come Provide Your Input

Light Refreshments

(See Back for more details)

RSVP

Paula.Moore@dca.state.ny.us

347/860-4818

Directions: E, J, or Z trains to Parsons Blvd.-Jamaica Center. F train to Parsons Blvd.,
4 blocks south to Archer Avenue. 165th Street Bus Terminal:

One block south to Jamaica Avenue; turn right on Jamaica and go 4 blocks to 160th Street;
left on 160th and one block to Archer Avenue. Turn left for SUNY-Queens EOC.

NYC Transit Bus: Q4-Q5-Q28A/B-Q24-Q36-Q31-Q42-Q44-Q54-Q56-Q83-Q84-Q85 MTA Bus: Q6-Q8-Q9-Q25-Q34-Q41-Q65-Q111-Q112-Q113

NYC
Administration for
Children's Services



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Staten Island

Monday, March 26, 2012

6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

at

Gerard Carter Community Center
230 Broad Street

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Directions: Take the South Ferry to Staten Island.
Once you arrive to Staten Island take the 74 Bus at terminal B.
Ride the bus 9 lights to Gordon and Broad Street and the center is on the left hand side.





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East Harlem

Friday, March 16, 2012

6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

at

Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College
2180 Third Avenue (Corner of 119th Street)

Come Provide Your Input

Light Refreshments

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Directions: Take the number 4, 5 or 6 train to 125th street,
walk south to 119th street, then walk east to the corner of 119th Street and Third Avenue.



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Bronx Highbridge/Morrisania

Monday, April 2, 2012

6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

at

The Bronx Museum of the Arts
1040 Grand Concourse at 165th Street

Come Provide Your Input

Light Refreshments

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**Directions: Train D to 167th St., walk southwest on Grand Concourse to Museum at East 165th St.
Bus: Bx2 to East 165th Street.**

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East New York/Brownsville

Tuesday, March 13, 2012

6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

at

Van Dyke Community Center NYCHA
392 Blake Avenue

Come Provide Your Input

Light Refreshments

(See Back for more details)

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Directions: Take the Number 3 train to Rockaway Avenue.

Walk on Rockaway Avenue to Blake Avenue and make a right. Continue to walk on Blake and cross Mother Gaston Blvd and you are at the Van Dyke Houses. Look on your right side of Blake, and find the site.

Or take the Bus 14 to Mother Gaston Blvd and Blake and follow the instructions above.

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What is Close to Home?

As part of the 2012 State budget proposal, Governor Cuomo included an initiative called “*Close to Home*” to ensure that New York City youth involved in the juvenile justice system receive services in New York City.

Under this proposal, most of the young people placed by New York City Family Court will have the opportunity to be rehabilitated, supervised, and, when necessary, confined near their families and in their communities.

The City will develop a plan for Close to Home that will be submitted to the State for public comment. Before we submit the plan, we would like your input on how we can best serve these young people, some of whom come from this community.

In the last several years, the City has successfully redesigned the juvenile justice system, including the developing of risk assessment instruments and alternatives to detention and placement. Young people, whenever possible, may now safely remain at home with intensive services that promote youth development and public safety. The City will build on this success to develop the plan for Close to Home.

What benefits do we expect from Close to Home?

- ✓ **Safer Communities:** Moving youth closer to home will be the latest in a series of juvenile justice reform initiatives that have successfully reduced recidivism rates, resulting in stronger and safer communities.
- ✓ **Keeping Families Engaged:** Rather than having to travel to distant facilities to visit their children, New York City families will be able to maintain frequent contact with their youth in care, and participate in their rehabilitation.
- ✓ **Improved Educational Outcomes:** Youth will attend and receive credits from New York City public schools or schools in which they can earn credits toward graduation.

The City is conducting these forums throughout New York City, including the following sites:

Brooklyn: March 13 — Van Dyke Community Center, 392 Blake Ave.

Queens: March 14 — Queens Educational Opportunity Center, 158-29 Archer Avenue

Manhattan: March 16 — Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College,
2180 Third Avenue (corner of 119th St. & Third Avenue)

Staten Island: March 26 — Gerard Carter Community Center, 230 Broad Street

Bronx: April 2 — Bronx Museum, 1040 Grand Concourse (165th Street)

All forums are from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

Now we want to hear from you about what we need to include in the plan to better serve youth from our communities.



What is “Close to Home”?

In our current juvenile justice system, young people from New York City who need rehabilitation and other services are placed upstate, far from their families and their communities. This system has produced poor outcomes. Over 75% of youth are re-arrested within three years. In January 2012, Governor Cuomo proposed that we change the system so that these young people receive services in or near New York City. The legislation that he proposed is called “Close to Home” and it would affect the almost 400 young people from New York City who are held in facilities operated by the State. The goal of Close to Home is to allow most of these young people to be rehabilitated, supervised, and, when necessary, confined near their families and in their communities, which is known as placement.

If the Legislature passes the proposal, the City will develop a plan for Close to Home. Once the City has developed the plan, members of the public will have an opportunity to review and comment on the plan. **Before we develop the plan, we would like your input on how we can be serve these young people, some of whom come from this community.**

What benefits do we expect from Close to Home?

- ✓ **Maintaining Safer Communities:** The City has been successfully working with juvenile delinquents to decrease the chances that they will commit another crime, which has resulted in stronger and safer communities. Close to Home aims to continue this work.
- ✓ **Keeping Families Engaged:** Rather than having to travel to far-away facilities to visit their children, New York City families will be able to see their children in care more easily and more often and will be able to work closely with their children to help them get better.
- ✓ **Focusing on Education:** In the present system, the school credits that young people receive do not always transfer from their upstate facility to the NYC system, frustrating a young person’s efforts to graduate. Under Close to Home, youth in placement will receive credit from New York City public schools that count toward graduation.
- ✓ **Successfully Returning Home:** Youth that remain near home and receive services in their communities are more likely to successfully return to their families from residential placement.

What are NYC’s juvenile justice successes?

In the last several years, the City has successfully reformed the juvenile justice system, which we will build on develop the plan for Close to Home. Among our accomplishments, we have:

- ✓ Developed a screening tool to determine what level of detention is required or whether a youth can safely be returned to the community with necessary supports;
- ✓ Reduced the number of young people in placement facilities by using alternatives, such as the Juvenile Justice Initiative, a program that provides intensive, effective services;
- ✓ Reduced the number of youth in state confinement by two-thirds from 1,467 in 2005 to 544 in 2011;
- ✓ Reduced the number of youth who need to be held in a facility before the judge hears their case by 28% between 2006 and 2010;

- ✓ Reduced the rate of youth re-arrested while their cases are pending in court by 23% between 2006 and 2010;
- ✓ Reduced the number of youth re-arrested for felonies while on probation by 10% between 2006 and 2010;
- ✓ Increased the ability for young people, whenever possible, to safely remain at home with intensive services in the community that promote youth development and public safety.

Who will provide services under Close to Home?

The City currently operates and has experience running residential facilities for youth in placement. Additional facilities will be run by non-profit agencies that have submitted proposals which the city is reviewing. In order to be considered, the agencies must have an established history of providing high-quality residential services. Close to Home will also expand New York City's use of community-based programs that have a track record of working with youth. The expansion will include more probation supervision at different levels as well as matching the needs of each youth to the right services.

Not-for-profit providers will be operating the facilities. However, both the Administration for Children's Services and the State Office of Children and Family Services will oversee and monitor the facilities to be sure that youth are safe and receiving the care they need.

Who will Close to Home serve?

- Youth living in any of the five boroughs of New York City;
- Who are between the ages of seven and 15;
- Who were arrested within the five boroughs of New York City;
- Who were tried in Family Court for a crime that is considered a felony or a misdemeanor.

What happens to these youth now?

Currently, a Family Court judge hearing a case like this can decide to send the youth home, place the youth on probation with services in the community, OR sentence the youth to confinement in a State run or privately run facility. Many of these facilities that are State run are located in counties upstate, far from New York City.

What will happen to youth under Close to Home?

The Family Court judge will continue to decide the appropriate intervention for a youth after hearing the case. However, if the judge determines that confinement is necessary, the youth would not have to go far from New York City unless the crime was very serious. Youth who commit less serious crimes will be placed in a facility in or very near to New York City.

What would you like to see in this new system?

- **What type of services will ensure that non-profit providers best support youth?**
- **How can the City and our many community partners help youth to succeed?**
- **What is your primary concern about how Close to Home will be carried out, and how can ACS best address that?**
- **What will this program model need to have in place to help prevent youth from committing additional crimes?**
- **How can we continue to get feedback from you once Close to Home is implemented?**



Close to Home Community Forum

Manhattan

March 16, 2012

6 – 8 P.M.

Agenda

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|---|---|
| I. Welcome | Jacqueline B. Mondros, Dean and Professor
Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College
City University of New York |
| II. Introduction | Commissioner Ronald E. Richter
NYC Administration for Children's Services |
| a. Meeting Format & Purpose | |
| b. Importance of Community Input | |
| c. Overview of Close to Home | |
| III. Juvenile Justice System &
Recent Improvements | Executive Deputy Commissioner Laurence Busching
Division of Youth and Family Justice |
| IV. Community Discussion/Input | Moderator: Charles Barrios |
| V. Wrap Up | Commissioner Richter |



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East New York/Brownsville

March 13, 2012

6 – 8 P.M.

Agenda

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| I. Welcome | Mr. James Ortiz
The NYCHA Borough Administrator
Brooklyn Community Operations |
| II. Introduction | Commissioner Ronald E. Richter
NYC Administration for Children's Services |
| a. Meeting Format & Purpose | |
| b. Importance of Community Input | |
| III. Juvenile Justice System & Recent Improvements | Executive Deputy Commissioner Laurence Busching
Division of Youth and Family Justice |
| IV. Overview of Close to Home | Executive Deputy Commissioner Busching |
| V. Timeframe for Implementation | Executive Deputy Commissioner Busching |
| VI. Community Discussion/Input | Moderator: Nigel Nathaniel |
| VII. Wrap Up | Commissioner Richter |