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**COMMISSIONER DAVID A. HANSELL RELEASES FY2017 FOSTER CARE DATA,
SHOWING MAJOR PROGRESS IN KEY AREAS**

Reports highlights a dramatic reduction in the number of children in foster care in New York City, and a substantial decline in the number of children returning to foster care

New York, NY – The New York City Administration for Children's Services (ACS) Commissioner David A. Hansell today announced the release of the **Foster Care Strategic Blueprint Status Report for Fiscal Year 2017**. The report highlights the significant progress that ACS has made to improve case practice and outcomes for children and families in the foster care system.

The Blueprint Status report shows a dramatic reduction in the number of children in foster care in New York City – currently, fewer than 9,000. The report also shows a decline in the number of children returning to foster care and an increase in children leaving foster care for kinship placements.

“Exactly 25 years ago, there were nearly 50,000 young people in foster care in New York City, which was a record high. Today, there are fewer than 9,000 children in foster care in New York City, a record low,” said **ACS Commissioner David A. Hansell**. “While much work remains, we are moving in the right direction in New York City, even as the number of young people in foster care nationally has been increasing due to the opioid epidemic and other factors.”

“The progress we’re seeing in improving outcomes for children and families is the result of a targeted strategy, investment from this city’s leadership, and a coordinated effort by foster care agencies throughout New York City,” said **Julie Farber, ACS Deputy Commissioner of Family Permanency Services**. “We’re implementing proven models, providing cutting-edge training, and using data to identify and fix processes that cause delays.”

The **Foster Care Strategic Blueprint** report identifies ACS’ key priorities and strategies for improving case practice and results for children and families in the foster care system – including family reunification, kinship placement, adoption, and supporting older youth. This focus – combined with an unprecedented investment by the de Blasio administration in new funding to strengthen child welfare – is yielding promising results, the report says.

Key progress highlighted in the Blueprint report for FY2017 includes:

- **Declining Foster Care Census:** ACS has dramatically reduced the number of children in foster care. Currently, there are fewer than 9,000 children in foster care in New York City.
- **Safe Reunification with Family:** The majority of children who enter foster care return home to their families. More than 2,000 children were reunified in FY2017.
- **Increases in Kinship Guardianship:** The movement of children to permanent family settings through kinship guardianship (KinGAP) increased by 10.2 percent from 343 children in FY2016 to 378 in FY2017.
- **Fewer Children Returning to Foster Care:** The rate of children re-entering foster care after reunification or kinship guardianship has declined substantially from 9.1 percent in FY2015 to 7.8 percent in FY2016 to 6.3 percent in FY2017.
- **Historically Low Foster Care Caseloads:** Consistent with best practice standards, family foster care caseloads carried by agency case planners average 10-12 children and the majority of case planners have caseloads under 12.
- **Evidence-Based Services:** ACS is bringing to scale the evidence-based initiatives that were launched in 2015. Foster care agencies are using a nationally recognized screening tool to assess trauma, and proven interventions are being delivered to help children, parents, and families cope with trauma.
- **Strengthening Foster Care Agency Case Practice:** ACS expanded its case consultation and technical assistance resources, while implementing an intensive monitoring and quality assurance system holding providers accountable.
- **Improving Foster Care Placements to Enhance the Well-Being of Children:** In FY2017, our Home Away from Home initiative increased the number of new foster homes, and developed and implemented new tracking and management tools to help increase placement with kin.
- **Improving Education & Employment Outcomes and Pathways to Adulthood for Youth in Care:** ACS expanded its Fostering College Success Initiative partnership with CUNY, which provides year-round housing, with financial, academic and social service supports for foster youth in college. As of FY2018, the program expanded from 50 to 93 students with dorm sites at Queens College, College of Staten Island and City College.

ACS intends to continue this progress through additional innovations. In June 2017, ACS convened the first meeting of the Foster Care Interagency Task Force, which was established through legislation introduced by City Council Member and Chair of the General Welfare Committee Steven Levin and signed by Mayor de Blasio. The task force includes foster youth, parents, advocates, foster care agencies and leadership from the City Council, the Office of the

Public Advocate, the Department of Social Services (DSS/HRA/DHS), the Department of Education (DOE), the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD), the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH), the City Housing Authority (NYCHA). The Task Force will produce a report with recommendations by March 2018.

To read the **Foster Care Strategic Blueprint and Status Report** for FY2016 and FY2017, please visit: <http://www1.nyc.gov/site/acs/about/fcstrategicblueprint.page> .

About the New York City Administration for Children’s Services:

The Administration for Children’s Services (ACS) protects and promotes safety and well-being of New York City’s children and families by providing child welfare, juvenile justice, and early care and education services. In child welfare, ACS contracts with private nonprofit organizations to support and stabilize families at risk of a crisis through preventive services, and provides foster care services for children not able to safely remain at home. ACS is aggressively implementing a [Foster Care Strategic Blueprint](#) to improve outcomes for children in foster care. In juvenile justice, ACS manages and funds services including detention and placement, intensive community-based alternatives for youth, and support services for families. In early care and education, ACS coordinates and funds programs and vouchers for close to 100,000 children eligible for subsidized care.

For more information about NYC ACS, please visit www.nyc.gov/acs

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