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ACS ANNOUNCES, AFTER JUST A FEW MONTHS, 100 YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE HAVE BEEN PROVIDED ON-SITE DENTAL CARE VIA NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH NYU COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY

ACS/NYU on-site dental clinic provides faster, easier access to dental care for foster children at The Nicholas Scoppetta Children's Center.

NEW YORK, NY – Today, Administration for Children's Services (ACS) Commissioner David A. Hansell announced that 100 children in foster care have been provided with dental care via a new partnership with NYU College of Dentistry. In May, ACS announced the partnership, which, for the first time ever, allows for dental screenings onsite at the Nicholas Scoppetta Children's Center.

"Today's ACS is committed to enhancing the lives of the children we serve and our partnership with NYU College of Dentistry is just one more way that we're providing the most comprehensive care possible to children in New York City. I'm thrilled that, in just a few months, we've been able to provide 100 children in foster care with high quality dental services and education. This is an exciting milestone and I look forward to serving hundreds more," **said ACS Commissioner David A. Hansell.**

As part of this partnership, twice per week, students from the NYU College of Dentistry provide on-site dental care and education to youth at the Nicholas Scoppetta Children's Center. NYU dental students perform a full dental examination of teeth, mouth and gums, looking for signs of disease or other problems, and finish with a fluoride treatment. Children who need cleanings, fillings, braces or other procedures are scheduled for expedited follow-up visits at the NYU College of Dentistry, just a few blocks from the Children's Center.

"On-site dental care and education is another example of the comprehensive services offered at the Children's Center, where we work to provide a safe and child-friendly environment. This includes mitigating the effects of acute trauma while caring for their medical, social, emotional and physical needs and concurrently providing children with a smooth transition to placement," **said Dr. Angel V. Mendoza, ACS Agency Medical Director.**

According to NYU College of Dentistry, the single most common chronic childhood disease is dental caries (cavities); it occurs five times more often than asthma and seven times more often than hay fever. Children in poverty experience twice the caries rate as those who are not poor. They are four times more likely to be untreated for these issues.

“NYU College of Dentistry is pleased to partner with ACS to provide New York City children with much needed oral health care services. Studies conducted at NYU Dentistry have shown that when children lose the family structure that is needed to help manage their diet, brushing, and routine dental care, it affects their oral health, including an increase in tooth decay. We have demonstrated through this program that we can significantly improve oral health for this vulnerable group of children,” **said Andrew Schenkel, DMD, MS, Director of Community-Based Dental Education and Assistant Chair of the Department of Cariology and Comprehensive Care at NYU College of Dentistry.**

The Nicholas Scoppetta Children’s Center is a child-friendly facility that operates 24 hours a day, temporarily housing children and youth who are awaiting foster care placement.

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