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Contact: mediainquiry@acs.nyc.gov

AHEAD OF VETERAN'S DAY, NYC ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES & NYC DEPT. OF VETERANS' SERVICES JOIN FORCES TO RECRUIT VETS AS 'YOUTH DEVELOPMENT SPECIALISTS,' TO SERVE AT-RISK KIDS

As Part of New Juvenile Justice Reforms, ACS is In the Process of Hiring Hundreds of Youth Development Specialists; ACS Expands Recruitment Campaign to Target Veterans for This Role

NEW YORK, NY – Today, NYC Administration for Children's Services (ACS) Commissioner David A. Hansell and NYC Department of Veterans' Services (DVS) Commissioner Brigadier General (Ret.) Loree Sutton, MD, announced a new partnership aimed at recruiting veterans as "Youth Development Specialists" (YDS) to staff the City's juvenile detention system.

As part of the new "Raise the Age" law, New York City is looking to hire hundreds of highly-qualified "Youth Development Specialists," who will serve as role models and leaders to at-risk youth. YDS require a unique skill set that many veterans have already acquired: leadership skills, discipline, crisis management and more.

"We are seeking hundreds of skilled individuals to supervise youth in our juvenile justice facilities, and so it makes sense to recruit our nation's heroes for this critical role. Veterans have the capabilities and experience needed to help inspire at-risk youth and provide them with the structure and direction they need to move forward. I look forward to working with the Department of Veteran's Services on this noble effort," **said ACS Commissioner David A. Hansell.**

"Our City's veterans have demonstrated time and again their resiliency and ability to lead in the face of adversity," said **Loree Sutton, MD, Brigadier General (ret.), Commissioner of the New York City Department of Veterans' Services.** "I couldn't think of a better way to ensure our City's at-risk youth have every opportunity to succeed than by providing them with the mentorship of New York City veterans. DVS is immensely proud to be a part of this righteous effort alongside Commissioner Hansell and the rest of Team ACS."

In addition to the current hiring campaign, which includes an array of radio, print and digital ads, ACS is expanding its recruitment efforts to include targeted outreach to local veterans. Specifically, the agency is teaming up with DVS to provide in-person informational resources at veteran-specific job fairs throughout New York City. In fact, ACS officials will be on-hand at the upcoming veterans job fair on November 17th.

Moreover, DVS will leverage its digital footprint to help ACS recruit veterans for the YDS position.

Specifically, YDS job responsibilities include:

- Providing safe and secure supervision and care to at-risk youth who are placed in secure juvenile detention by the court.
- Guiding youth through a broad array of activities including school, meals, chores, wake-up and bedtime routines, family visits, escort to appointments, recreation and other programmatic events.
- Serving as a role model, mentor and guide.
- Working as part of a team to support positive and healthy youth development .
- Managing conflict and youth behavior safely to maintain a calm and supportive environment.
- Providing structure and engage youth in pro-social activities and behaviors.
- Supporting youth in their efforts to develop new social, interpersonal, academic and vocational skills and interests.
- Receiving valuable training on building healthy relationships with youth, crisis prevention and management and other critical topics.

ACS operates two secure detention facilities for youth awaiting adjudication in the justice system: Crossroads (in Brooklyn) and Horizon (in the Bronx). Over the next two years, ACS aims to hire approximately 400 YDS.

Youth Development Specialists will receive a starting salary of \$46,013, increasing to \$60,854 after five years of service, with regular salary increments each year, opportunity for overtime, longevity increases in addition to salary and a night differential for working hours between 6:00pm and 7:00am. YDS are provided with the tools needed to successfully work with high needs adolescents. The James Satterwhite Training Academy provides pre-service training on important topics, such as: understanding youth development and relationships; safety, security, and supervision; behavior modification and management; and facilitating groups. Ongoing, in-service training is also provided throughout the year to support professional development and additional training opportunities are available through the ACS Workforce Institute.

Individuals interested in applying to become a YDS should visit this website:

www.nyc.gov/yds

“This partnership between DVS and ACS is really a perfect match,” **said Councilman Chaim Deutsch, Chairman of the NYC Council’s Veterans Committee.** “New York City veterans have a unique set of skills that can often be difficult to translate into a career. Functioning as leaders and role models for our City’s youth is an excellent way to put these to good use. I’m looking forward to collaborating to ensure that this mutually beneficial initiative flourishes.”

"I commend the joint efforts of ACS Commissioner Hansell and DVS Commissioner Brigadier to recruit and employ veterans to work as Youth Development Specialists (YDS) within the City's juvenile detention system. The implementation of raise the age has created hundreds of YDS positions, I believe our veterans are uniquely qualified to fill these spots and serve as mentors for at-risk youth," **said Assemblymember Hevesi A.D. 28.**

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