



Testimony of

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Before the  
New York City Council  
Health Committee

Regarding the New York City  
Executive Budget for FY10

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Good afternoon. My name is Joan Siegel and I am the Senior Policy Associate for Health and Mental Health at Citizens' Committee for Children of New York, Inc. (CCC). CCC is a 65- year old privately supported, independent, multi-issue child advocacy organization. CCC does not accept or receive public resources nor do we provide direct service or represent a sector or workforce; rather for 65 years we have undertaken public policy research, community education and advocacy activities to ensure New York City's children are healthy, housed, educated and safe. I would like to thank Chairman Rivera and Chairman Weprin and the members of the Council Health and Finance Committees for holding this hearing regarding the Mayor's Executive Budget for City Fiscal Year 2010.

While we appreciate the severity of the budget crisis and are grateful for the federal stimulus funding, we do not believe that the Executive Budget goes far enough to protect New York City's children from shouldering a disproportionate burden of the economic downturn. During economic downturns, like the unprecedented one we are in the midst of, it is more important than ever that the core services for children and families be protected and supported.

Youth services, child abuse prevention services, child protection, foster care, after school programs, child care, and children's health and mental health services are, and will continue to be, critical to promoting the well-being of children and their families.

To protect children in this budget, CCC urges the City Council and the Mayor to consider additional revenue options, particularly those that are the least regressive. Without much needed revenue, over \$108 million in troublesome reductions to essential services may stand, jeopardizing child safety and threatening child well-being.

While CCC is relieved that the Executive Budget proposes no new child welfare reductions and partially closes the child care budget gap, we remain concerned that budget reductions initially proposed in January, to ACS in particular, still stand. These reductions threaten the ability of community based preventive service agencies to maintain lower caseloads and meet the needs of at-risk families. They also hinder the capacity of foster care agencies to serve children in their care and expedite permanency for these children and their families. And they reduce ACS staff almost 1000.

CCC is also very concerned about proposed budget reductions to child health clinics and school based dental clinics. Notably the structural deficit faced by HHC and created by the State's reduction in Medicaid reimbursement, is not recognized in the Executive Budget but will also result in the elimination of community health clinics that serve children, school based mental health programs and adolescent day treatment programs. In short, basic primary health care services to for the city's children are threatened with elimination.

Finally, we remain concerned that reductions to youth service and after school programs, will result in thousands of children lacking access to needed constructive activities after school and during the summer months.

While NYC must show restraint in its expenditures, it is paramount that the proposed

reductions that would weaken an already fragile social infrastructure, cause unimaginable strain on the neediest children, and jeopardize the safety and well-being of children, be reconsidered. CCC has identified over **\$108 million** in city budget reductions to children and family services that we believe are of great concern. These are detailed in the chart attached to our testimony.

**Turning to Health and Mental Health for Children:** It is essential that the Mayor and the City Council restore funding for interventions that keep children healthy and provide them with a solid foundation for a life time of good health. Investing in child health clinics, school based dental clinics, mental health treatment, and services to combat infant mortality, obesity, and asthma is nothing other than sound public policy – good for children and good for government. With regard to specific health and mental health programs and services for the children, we urge the Mayor and the City Council to negotiate a budget that restores funding for the following critical services:

Primary Services:

- **\$6.1 million for 24 HHC Child Health Clinics and 4 community health clinics.** For over 100 years these clinics have provided primary and preventive care to low-income children. Some are situated in NYCHA developments and all of these clinics are small, welcoming and provide an important place in the community where families can have easy, reliable contact with the health care system.
- **\$2.5 million for school based dental clinics.** This program is a 100-year-old program that has been serving 17,000 children each year, proven effective in fighting dental disease. While DOHMH has apparently been trying to find other providers to take over the clinics, they have not secured commitments for the sites and the services would not longer be provided in schools. Poor dental care is a gateway to serious medical conditions.
- **\$1.6 million for Mental Health Treatment for Children Under Five:** this program funds eight agencies in all boroughs. In FY 2008, the most recent data available, more than 1400 children were served and over 700 staff were trained to do early childhood mental health in order to expand service capacity. Research shows that early treatment is not only beneficial for children but also cost effective for society as it forestalls more severe mental health problems, preventing higher costs.
- **\$3.0 million to HHC and Community-based MR/DD providers** that service mentally retarded/developmentally delayed youth. These culturally competent clinics, which serve vulnerable children without regard to their ability to pay, are located throughout the City. They understand and meet the unique needs of developmentally delayed children and their families. There are currently six HHC clinics throughout the City and *five* will close their doors without funding restoration.
- **\$473,000 for Diagnostic and Treatment Center Funding:** this is yet another funding cut for HHC. D&TC serve the indigent community. Each site provides a range of primary and specialty care in six communities throughout the City. The sites provide special programs to meet the differing needs of each community.

- **\$754,000 for Supplemental School Health Services:** This funding provides support and ancillary health services. 23 middle schools will lose public health advisors. This reduction will have a negative impact on young people.
- Preventive Services:
  - **\$3.5 million for Infant Mortality Initiatives** – though the rate is down overall, low-income communities continue to suffer from increased infant mortality rates. Preventing babies from being born premature means a healthier baby and lower overall costs to the public in terms of intensive care and ongoing support. It is critical to maintain funding to combat this problem.
  - **\$3.0 million for Obesity Prevention Programs and \$500,000 for the Podiatric Screening program,** – with childhood obesity a national epidemic, this is the precise wrong time to eliminate this funding. These programs fund general obesity prevention initiatives, screening for obesity and early onset of diabetes. Two specific programs are SPARK: Sport, Play & Active Recreation for Kids! and Health Corps.
  - **\$545,000 for the Asthma Control Initiative:** This program serves about 300,000 children and families in Central Brooklyn, Harlem and the South Bronx, three areas with disproportionately high rates of asthma through a pest management program to remediate apartment conditions as well as asthma screening and prevention programs at Head Start and Pre-K sites.
  - **\$1.6 million for the Autism Awareness Program:** this program allows providers to serve autistic children during summers, after school and during school closings. They also conduct necessary trainings and educational forums for parents and the communities on autism.
  - **\$4.7 million for the Primary Care Initiative:** A city funded survey showed that there were neighborhoods in the city where primary care access is a problem and that expense and capital funding for expansion and/or new construction could alleviate the access problems. Primary Care physicians provide not only treatment but also preventive care and thus avoid long-term, more costly health problems

As noted earlier, CCC is also concerned about HHC's structural imbalance that will hinder the agencies ability to maintain primary health care centers for children and families. HHC spends approximately \$16 million dollars a day and serves nearly to 8 million patients annually across primary care, emergency room, and inpatient settings, most of whom are in low-income, underserved areas of New York City. The State of New York has cut over \$180 million in funds to HHC. As a result of the drastic state cuts, HHC plans to close school based mental programs in Coney Island (4 of them); a day treatment program and four community clinics (2 in Queens, 2 in Brooklyn, notably the areas hardest hit by the H1N1 virus) which serve children as well as adults, among other service reductions.

Because the city's fiscal situation is so dire, we were urge the City Council and the Mayor to explore all additional revenue options including but not limited to temporarily rescinding property tax exemptions on private colleges and universities, temporarily

altering property tax agreements on stadiums, and weighing progressive local income tax increases.

When the City's FY 2010 Budget is adopted, the Mayor and City Council must make certain that the City is able to address the increased needs of children during this economic crisis.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



**PROGRAM AREA AND AGENCY BUDGET ANALYSIS  
PROPOSED REDUCTIONS TO VITAL CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

Items in parentheses are negative (i.e. reductions)

**CHILD CARE:  
ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

<b>Program</b>	<b>FY 2010 Preliminary Budget Proposals</b>	<b>FY 2010 Executive Budget Proposals</b>	<b>Failure to Fund City Council Initiative</b>	<b>Total Proposed Increase or Decrease for FY2010</b>
Elimination of 293 Administrative and Child Care Staff	(\$7.6 million)			(\$7.6 million)
Reduction to (in January) and then Elimination of Priority 7 Child Care Vouchers (current families to be offered contracted slots)	(\$7.1 million)	(\$5.7 million)		(\$12.8 million)
Child Care Market Rate		\$25.0 million		\$25.0 million
Elimination of Low Priority (8 and 9) child care vouchers		(\$4.2 million)		(\$4.2 million)
Child Care Market Rate		\$4.2 million		\$4.2 million
Provider's Choice- Family Child Care Supplies			(\$1.2 million)	(\$1.2 million)
Working Parents for a Working New York			(\$300,000)	(300,000)
CEO: Early Childhood Policy and Planning	(\$58,000)			(\$58,000)
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>(\$14.7 million)</b>	<b>\$19.3 million</b>	<b>(\$1.5 million)</b>	<b>\$3.1 million</b>

\* Items with an asterisk are those items where city funding is being replaced with federal stimulus funds. These city funding reductions are not included in the totals (as only the source of funding is changing.)

**CHILD WELFARE:  
ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

<b>Program</b>	<b>FY 2010 Preliminary Budget Proposals</b>	<b>FY 2010 Executive Budget Proposals</b>	<b>Failure to Fund City Council Initiative</b>	<b>Total Proposed Increase or Decrease for FY2010</b>
Elimination of 315 Child Welfare Personnel	(\$8.2 million)			(\$8.2 million)
Reorganization of Family Preservation Program (staff reduction of 234 through attrition)	(\$7.3 million)			(\$7.3 million)
November 2008 Budget Modification: Elimination of 127 Child Protective Level 1 Supervisory vacancies	(\$3.8 million)			(\$3.8 million)
5% Reduction to Administrative Rate for Foster Care Providers	(\$5.7 million)			(\$5.7 million)
Community Partnership Initiative not to be expanded (remain at 11 instead of 15 CPIs)	(\$930,000)			(\$930,000)
Reduce Agency Support Contracts (suspend MSW program, eliminate media campaigns, etc.)	(\$1.8 million)			(\$1.8 million)
Reduction to Foster Parent Supports (10% reduction to providers that have not met performance goals)	(\$909,000)			(\$909,000)
Eliminate Facility Maintenance Expense (turnover facility to private provider)	(\$218,000)			(\$218,000)
CEO: Individual Development Accounts for Foster Youth	\$206,000			\$206,000
Replacing city foster care and adoption funding with federal stimulus funds		(\$19.8 million)*		N/A*
City funds to address state budget reduction for PINS, JDs, Institutional schools, Preventive Services and Adoption Subsidies		\$9.8 million		\$9.8 million
Preventive Service Program Enhancement Funding		(\$9.0 million)		(\$9.0 million)
Child Safety Initiative: Preventive Services Caseload Reduction			(\$3.7 million)	(\$3.7 million)
Child Advocacy Centers			(\$500,000)	(\$500,000)
Family Justice Centers			(\$200,000)	(\$200,000)
CONNECT Domestic Violence program			(\$600,000)	(\$600,000)
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>(\$28.7 million)</b>	<b>\$800,000</b>	<b>(\$5.0 million)</b>	<b>(\$32.9 million)</b>

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**CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH:  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE  
AND HEALTH AND HOSPITALS CORPORATION**

<b>Program</b>	<b>FY 2010 Preliminary Budget Proposals</b>	<b>FY 2010 Executive Budget Proposals</b>	<b>Failure to Fund City Council Initiative</b>	<b>Total Proposed Increase or Decrease for FY2010</b>
Elimination of dental clinics for children (November 2008 Budget Modification- \$2.5 million)				(\$2.5 million)
Child Health Clinics	(\$960,000)	(\$111,000)	(\$5.0 million)	(\$6.1 million)
Mental Hygiene-Community based and other non-HHC providers	(\$1.1 million)			(1.1 million)
Reduction of HHC MR/DD Services in CBOs (non-HHC)		(\$544,000)		(\$544,000)
HHC Mental Hygiene Services	(\$869,000)			(\$869,000)
Reduction of HHC MR/DD Clinic Services		(\$558,000)		(\$558,000)
DOHMH Staff Reductions	(\$1.3 million)	(\$1.5 million)		(\$2.8 million)
CEO: Expand Access to Healthy Foods	\$182,000			\$182,000
Obesity Prevention Initiatives			(\$3.0 million)	(\$3.0 million)
Mental Health Treatment for Children Under Five			(\$1.6 million)	(\$1.6 million)
Autism Awareness Initiative			(\$1.6 million)	(\$1.6 million)
CEO: School Based Health and Reproductive Health Centers	\$1.4 million			\$1.4 million
Infant Mortality Initiative			(\$3.5 million)	(\$3.5 million)
Asthma Control Initiative			(\$545,000)	(\$545,000)
Podiatric Screening			(\$500,000)	(\$500,000)
Diagnostic and Treatment Center Funding	(\$473,000)			(\$473,000)
Primary Care Capacity Initiative	(\$2.7 million)	(\$2.0 million)		(\$4.7 million)
Supplemental School Health Services	(\$754,000)			(\$754,000)
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>(\$6.6 million)</b>	<b>(\$4.7 million)</b>	<b>(\$15.7 million)</b>	<b>(\$27.0 million)</b>

**JUVENILE JUSTICE:  
DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE**

<b>Program</b>	<b>FY 2010 Preliminary Budget Proposals</b>	<b>FY 2010 Executive Budget Proposals</b>	<b>Failure to Fund City Council Initiative</b>	<b>Total Proposed Increase or Decrease for FY2010</b>
Discharge Planning / Program Services for Youth in Facilities			(\$640,000)	(\$640,000)
Decrease in Dental Services	(\$71,000)			(\$71,000)
Eliminating the DJJ Discharge Planning Unit	(\$513,000)			(\$513,000)
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>(\$584,000)</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>(\$640,000)</b>	<b>(\$1.2 million)</b>

\* Items with an asterisk are those items where city funding is being replaced with federal stimulus funds. These city funding reductions are not included in the totals (as only the source of funding is changing.)

**YOUTH SERVICES:  
DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES**

<b>Program</b>	<b>FY 2010 Preliminary Budget Proposals</b>	<b>FY 2010 Executive Budget Proposals</b>	<b>Failure to Fund City Council Initiative</b>	<b>Total Proposed Increase or Decrease for FY2010</b>
Reduce SYEP work week by 1 day (November 2008 Budget Modification)- (\$1.8 million)				(\$1.8 million)
Reduction in SYEP summer job slots	(\$2.0 million)	(\$6.6 million)		(\$8.6 million)
Beacon opening fees			(\$3.0 million)	(\$3.0 million)
Elimination of OST Option II	(\$6.0 million)			(\$6.0 million)
Reduction in OST Option I slots	(\$2.56 million)			(\$2.56 million)
Reduction in OST Summer Program	(\$2.9 million)			(\$2.9 million)
Increase in OST Low Performance Penalty	(\$570,000)			(\$570,000)
Shelter Beds for At-Risk Runaway and Homeless LGBTQ Youth			(\$1.7 million)	(\$1.7 million)
Institute for Student Achievement			(\$1.4 million)	(\$1.4 million)
Street Outreach/Neighborhood Youth Alliance			(\$1.0 million)	(\$1.0 million)
The After-Three Program			(\$3.8 million)	(\$3.8 million)
YMCA Virtual Y Program			(\$500,000)	(\$500,000)
Sports and Arts Foundation			(\$1.2 million)	(\$1.2 million)
Helping Involve Parents in Schools Project (HIP)			(\$4.3 million)	(\$4.3 million)
Cultural After School Adventure (CASA)			(\$5.5 million)	(\$5.5 million)
CEO: Youth Programs	\$14.3 million			\$14.3 million
Transfer of Social Services Funding from NYCHA	\$12.3 million			\$12.3 million
WIA Federal funds (generating \$4.2 million in city savings)		\$32.3 million federal funds*		N/A*
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$12.57 million</b>	<b>(\$6.6 million)</b>	<b>(\$22.4 million)</b>	<b>(\$16.4 million)</b>

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**FAMILY HOMELESSNESS:  
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELESS SERVICES**

<b>Program</b>	<b>FY 2010 Preliminary Budget Proposals</b>	<b>FY 2010 Executive Budget Proposals</b>	<b>Failure to Fund City Council Initiative</b>	<b>Total Proposed Increase or Decrease for FY2010</b>
HomeBase Homelessness Prevention Program	(\$5.1 million)*	(\$1.8 million)*		N/A*
Eliminate Recreation Staff from Shelter Contracts	(\$2.4 million)	.		(\$2.4 million)
Elimination of direct social service staff in commercial hotels housing homeless families	(\$1.1 million)			(\$1.1 million)
Rate reduction to family hotels	(\$575,000)			(\$575,000)
Eliminate Homecare Kits for Families	(\$354,000)			(\$354,000)
Eliminate Clothing Bank Contract	(\$221,000)			(\$221,000)
Family capacity re-estimate		\$24.7 million		\$24.7 million
Citywide Homeless Prevention Fund			(\$250,000)	(\$250,000)
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>(\$4.65 million)</b>	<b>\$24.7 million</b>	<b>(\$250,000)</b>	<b>\$19.8 million</b>

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES:  
HUMAN RESOURCES ADMINISTRATION**

<b>Program</b>	<b>FY 2010 Preliminary Budget Proposals</b>	<b>FY 2010 Executive Budget Proposals</b>	<b>Failure to Fund City Council Initiative</b>	<b>Total Proposed Increase or Decrease for FY2010</b>
Nutrition for Adults and Families Living with HIV/AIDS	(\$491,000)			(\$491,000)
Food Stamps at Farmer's Markets			(\$270,000)	(\$270,000)
CEO: Employment Services for Non-Custodial Parents	\$380,000			\$380,000
CEO: Enhanced Employment Services	\$111,000			\$111,000
FFFS Funding Adjustment (City funds to accommodate state reduction)		\$61.3 million		\$61.3 million
WeCARE Contract Reduction		(\$2.0 million)		(\$2.0 million)
Emergency Food Programs			(\$2.1 million)	(\$2.1 million)
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$59.3 million</b>	<b>(\$2.4 million)</b>	<b>\$56.9 million</b>

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**HOUSING:  
HOUSING PRESERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

Program	FY 2010 Preliminary Budget Proposals	FY 2010 Executive Budget Proposals	Failure to Fund City Council Initiative	Total Proposed Increase or Decrease for FY2010
City-Task Force on Housing Court			(\$500,000)	(\$500,000)
Anti-Eviction Legal Services			(\$2.3 million)	(\$2.3 million)
CEO: Family Self-Sufficiency Program	\$2.1 million	(\$40,000)		\$2.06 million
Community Based Consultants			(830,000)	(830,000)
NYC Neighborhoods		\$2.0 million		\$2.0 million
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$2.1 million</b>	<b>\$1.96 million</b>	<b>(\$3.6 million)</b>	<b>\$460,000</b>

**EDUCATION:  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

Program	FY 2010 Preliminary Budget Proposals	FY 2010 Executive Budget Proposals	Failure to Fund City Council Initiative	Total Proposed Increase or Decrease for FY2010
Reduce 1,440 Pedagogical Employees in Schools (through attrition)	(\$91.2 million)			(\$91.2 million)
Estimated Headcount Reduction from Anticipated State Cut at time of Preliminary Budget (13,930 positions)	(only if state cut implemented)	\$951.6 million** (federal funds)		N/A*
Playgrounds		\$2.0 million		\$2.0 million
Special Education pre-kindergarten		\$316,000		\$316,000
CEO: Early Childhood Policy and Planning	(\$72,000)			(\$72,000)
Universal Pre-kindergarten (full day in ACS programs)			(\$2.6 million)	(\$2.6 million)
Teacher's Choice (supplies for schools)			(\$13.0 million)	(\$13.0 million)
Urban Advantage			(\$500,000)	(\$500,000)
Dropout Prevention and Intervention			(\$2.0 million)	(\$2.0 million)
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>(\$91.2 million)</b>	<b>\$2.3 million</b>	<b>(\$18.1 million)</b>	<b>(\$107.1 million)</b>

\*\*Federal Funds, including Title I, IDEA, and AHRA stimulus funds ameliorate the state budget reduction and prevent the layoffs of almost 14,000 teachers.

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**LEGAL SERVICES:  
MISCELLANEOUS**

<b>PROGRAM</b>	<b>FY 2010 Preliminary Budget Proposals</b>	<b>FY 2010 Executive Budget Proposals</b>	<b>Failure to Fund City Council Initiative</b>	<b>Total Proposed Increase or Decrease for FY2010</b>
UI/SSI Legal Assistance			(\$1.3 million)	(\$1.3 million)
Legal Services for Working Poor			(\$1.0 million)	(\$1.0 million)
Citywide City Legal Services			(\$1.5 million)	(\$1.5 million)
MFY Legal Services			(\$100,000)	(\$100,000)
Legal Services for NYC (LSNY)			(\$300,000)	(\$300,000)
Legal Information for Families Today (LIFT)			(\$300,000)	(\$300,000)
<b>Sub-Total</b>			<b>(\$4.5 million)</b>	<b>(\$4.5 million)</b>

**TOTALS**

<b>PROGAM</b>	<b>FY 2010 Preliminary Budget Proposals</b>	<b>FY 2010 Executive Budget Proposals</b>	<b>Failure to Fund City Council Initiative</b>	<b>Total Proposed Increase or Decrease for FY2010</b>
<b>ALL VITAL CHILDREN'S SERVICES</b>	<b>(\$131.76 million)</b>	<b>\$97.1 million</b>	<b>(\$74.1 million)</b>	<b>(\$108.8 million)</b>

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