

New York State Citizen Review Panels

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June 7, 2010

Honorable Michael Bloomberg
Mayor, City of New York
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor Bloomberg:

The city's most vulnerable populations need support in these tough economic times more than ever; they will suffer the most from cuts in city funding. The New York City Citizen Review Panel for Child Protective Services is deeply opposed to any cuts in preventive services at this time. These are the very community-based services that strengthen and support families while reducing child deaths and more costly placements into residential care. If \$12.8 million is cut from the city budget, the city will also lose over \$35 million in matching funds from the state.

The New York City Citizen Review Panel members urge your Administration to exercise extreme care in making budget decisions that affect the City's children and families involved in the child welfare system in particular. Panel members ask that you **restore \$12.8 million (in city tax levy) for Preventive Services to support the following:**

- **\$11.0 Million for the 3,000 slots** ACS is eliminating from the system (2,400 are being eliminated due to ACS RFP awards and 600 are a component of ACS's Preventive Services PEG.)
- **\$424,000 to lower caseloads** to 12 families per caseworker at **Beacon Preventive Service Programs** (which the City Council has funded since FY07 as part of the larger Child Safety Initiative.)
- **\$1.4 million to restore the remainder of the ACS Preventive Service PEG.** This funding restores the rate reduction to FT/R programs, homemaking services, and the 5% reduction to PINS preventive services.

We thank you for your past support for our most vulnerable children and families and for your leadership on their behalf during this trying budget season.

Sincerely,



David Lansner
Co-Chair
New York City Panel



Elba Montalvo
Co-Chair
New York City Panel

cc: Christine Quinn, City Council Speaker
Dominic Recchia, City Council Finance Committee Chair
Annabel Palma, City Council General Welfare Committee Chair
PV Anantharam, NYC Deputy Budget Director, Office of Management and Budget
Preston Niblack, City Council Finance

Citizen Review Panels are mandated by federal law. In 1999 the New York Legislature passed S371-b of the Social Services Law establishing panels in New York State to evaluate the extent to which agencies are effectively discharging their child protection responsibilities in accordance with the State's Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) Plan, child protection standards set forth in the federal law, and any other criteria that the panel considers important to ensure the protection of children.