

Exhibit

A

STATE OF NEW YORK)
)
COUNTY OF NEW YORK) ss:

CHARLES BARRIOS, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

1. I am employed by the New York City Administration for Children's Services ("ACS") as the Associate Commissioner of Juvenile Justice Programs & Services within the Division of Youth & Family Justice ("Division") and have held this position since July 2014. I have been employed by ACS since February 2011.
2. This affidavit is based on my personal knowledge, and on information available to me in the course of my official duties.
3. As part of my duties as Associate Commissioner of Juvenile Justice Programs & Services, I am responsible for coordinating and overseeing the Division's strategic analysis, planning, and implementation of consistent, integrated, and culturally competent service delivery models for health and medical services to youth in ACS' and this Division's legal custody.
4. Prior to my appointment as Associate Commissioner of Juvenile Justice Programs & Services, I served as the Division's Senior Advisor for Juvenile Justice Clinical Services, and prior to that as Deputy Commissioner of the Division of Family Support Services within ACS.

COVID-19 and ACS efforts to mitigate risks

5. With the recent pandemic of COVID-19, and in accordance with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") and DOHMH guidelines, I have been instrumental in increasing awareness of sanitation protocols and comprehensive cleaning measures to combat its spread, which we have disseminated throughout the Division's directly-operated secure detention facilities as well as the Division's contracted congregate care provider-operated non-secure detention facilities. This includes implementing enhanced cleaning and sanitizing procedures in areas in these facilities which have heavy traffic, including hallways and bathrooms.
6. As part of its ongoing efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19, the Division has implemented the guidelines recommended by the New York State Department of Health as it pertains to cleaning and disinfection for congregate care settings. These guidelines have been posted on ACS' website and have been communicated to all Division staff working directly with youth and

to all contracted providers operating congregate care facilities via in-person, intranet, email, teletype, and through posters conspicuously posted in each facility. These recommendations include:

- a. People should cover their mouth/nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing or sneeze/cough into their elbow and dispose of soiled tissues immediately after use;
 - b. Refrain from touching your face;
 - c. Hand hygiene - wash hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and the use of alcohol-based hand sanitizer is employed,
7. ACS staff have been trained in the proper use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), including the use of N-95 masks and gloves, and the proper disposal of such items.
8. Social distancing strategies have been employed which include: explanation to staff regarding the use of social distancing, limiting movement within a facility, limiting youth recreational activities to avoid contact between youth, and having youth separated from each other during meal times and/or staggering meal times whenever possible. Youth in secure detention facilities are housed in units with individual bedrooms. Youth in non-secure detention facilities are currently no more than two youth to a bedroom and are able to sleep at least six feet apart from each other.
9. In an effort to reduce potential spread by person-to-person contact and protect youth, all in-person visitation has been suspended. Additional phone calls are provided to youth to communicate with families and significant others as practicable and we are increasing our tele-visiting capabilities, effective 3/30/20 to enable families to communicate with youth via other platforms such as Skype.
10. Staff are instructed to stay home if they feel ill or have been in close contact with someone who is symptomatic or ill. Staff who either appear ill or express being ill or not feeling well, are immediately instructed to return home and to follow up with medical personnel and only return when a note from a doctor clearing the return is presented.
11. In conjunction with medical staff stationed in both secure and non-secure detention, ACS and all medical staff are instructed to self-monitor for any symptoms of Covid-19 twice a day and must ask themselves the following questions:
 - a. Do I have a fever at or above 100 degrees?
 - b. Do I have a new cough?

- c. Do I have new shortness of breath?
- d. Do I have a new sore throat?

If the answer to any of those questions are yes, the staff must report to their supervisor and be immediately sent home.

- 12. Staff are instructed to ask youth the same four questions as above with the first question modified to ask if youth thinks they may have a fever. If the answer to any of the questions is yes, the staff must immediately take the youth to the medical unit for an assessment.
- 13. For youth in secure detention for whom the answer above is Yes, these youth shall be isolated in the Special Housing Unit (SHU) or a designated room and provided a surgical mask. Contact with the clinically symptomatic COVID-19 youth will be limited to medical staff and designated facility security staff who will be using a surgical mask or N95 mask during all encounters. If symptoms are severe, medical shall immediately notify EMS and facilitate a transfer to the emergency room for testing, further work-up and appropriate treatment. Youth will remain in the SHU for observation, and medical will determine disposition based on assessment over time. Isolation for symptomatic youth will last until youth is asymptomatic for at least 72 hours.

Soap/Facility Cleaning

- 14. As part of its response to COVID-19, further, sanitation work details are regularly assigned to sanitize the facilities, including housing areas, bathrooms, showers, and sinks. Preventive sanitation and cleaning measures include: cleaning high contact surfaces that are touched by many different people, such as light switches, handrails and doorknobs/handles, cleaning shower areas daily; cleaning and disinfecting counters, tables, and chairs regularly (at least once daily) cleaning and sanitizing transport vehicles daily; any vehicle that is transporting a person who is symptomatic of respiratory illness will be sanitized immediately after transporting that individual.
- 15. Staff are instructed to have youth wash hands more frequently, for the recommended amount of time, and youth are counseled to avoid touching their face.
- 16. All housing areas are equipped with an adequate supply of soap and any staff member may request additional soap if needed.
- 17. Staff are expected to take the necessary steps to ensure there is an adequate supply of soap and sanitizing products available for their assigned work areas. As staff report to work, they are

instructed to clean and disinfect their workstations, including cleaning phones, desks, and other frequently touched items and are provided hand sanitizer, gloves, and a bleach solution for cleaning purposes.

18. ACS has increased the hours of cleaning and housekeeping staff in secure detention and thus their availability to respond to any area within a facility as needed.

Coordination with Medical Staff

19. Upon entry into secure or NSD facilities, each youth is provided with a comprehensive medical screening and assessment. Thereafter, each youth is provided with medical services for the entirety of their stay in the secure or NSD facility. The Division partners and contracts with qualified healthcare providers to offer comprehensive medical, dental, and mental health services to youth across ACS' detention continuum. All services are provided onsite in ACS' secure detention facilities, with additional offsite initial screening and assessment options offered to youth in Non-Secure Detention at the District 79 DOE Passages School, where practicable. Medical services are provided 24 hours a day, seven days a week; dental services are provided two days a week; and mental health services are provided seven days a week and includes an on-call option during off hours.
20. The Division's staff and contracted provider staff maintain regular contact with medical personnel on location at the facilities and have been instructed to immediately refer any youth in detention who is exhibiting COVID-19 like symptoms to medical personnel for an evaluation.

21. ACS takes the spread of COVID-19 very seriously and is committed to protecting the health, safety and security of the individuals who work in, live in, and visit its facilities. Thus, it is taking the steps necessary to best ensure the prevention of widespread community transmission of COVID-19.



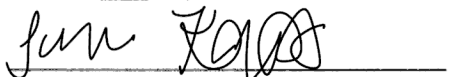
Charles Barrios, LCSW

Associate Commissioner

Juvenile Justice Programs &
Services

Division of Youth & Family Justice

Sworn to and subscribed before me
On the 26 day of March, 2020


Notary Public

Janine Lucia Kapp
Notary Public, State of New York
No. 02KA6344992
My commission expires 07/18/2020