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August 25, 2009

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New York Times
Letters to the Editor
620 Eighth Avenue
New York, NY 10018

Dear Editor,

It is outrageous to state that the Justice Department investigation of Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) facilities "fully vindicates" Commissioner Carrión ("New York's Disgrace", August 25, 2009). Instead, it rightly holds her agency accountable for the deficiencies found in these facilities under her watch.

Since her appointment 20 months ago, Commissioner Carrión has blamed the problems in OCFS on her predecessors. Violence has gotten worse under her administration, including rampant youth on youth violence and youth on staff violence not addressed in the report.

While the Commissioner has made her reform efforts a public crusade, she hasn't done enough to change the underlying problems in these facilities, including widespread understaffing in critical care areas. She must now be held responsible for implementing the actions mandated by Justice Department, including increased training for staff and an overhaul of the mental health care across the system.

President,

Kenneth Brynien,
President