



# COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE



**M**arch 10, 2016

DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH REHABILITATION SERVICES

## RIBBON CUTTING & GRAND OPENING

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### Achievement Center

The MLK Achievement Center  
Opens March 16th!



## EVENT CALENDAR

March is the annual Juvenile Justice Month of Faith and Healing, offering youth hope and alternatives by promoting engagement and raising awareness of issues pertaining to juvenile justice.

3/16

**MLK Achievement Center Grand Opening, 2101 MLK Avenue Jr. Avenue SE, 4 - 8 p.m.**

3/21

**Anchored in Strength (Caregiver Support Group), 450 H. Street NW, 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.**

3/25

**Secure Programs “Meet and Greet”, New Beginnings training room, 8400 River Road, Laurel, MD, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.**

4/6

**FY17 Budget Hearing, John A. Wilson Building, 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, 10 a.m.**

4/12

**A Parent’s Perspective - Wards 7 & 8, MLK Achievement Center, 2101 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue SE, 6 p.m.**

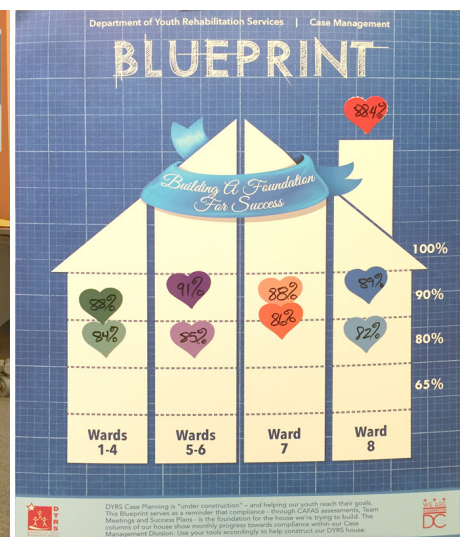
## THE YOUTH SIDE

### Brothers in Arms

DYRS is calling its male youth to join “Brothers in Arms,” a focus group specifically for young men to discuss topics such as health, education, relationships, employment, creativity and community as they relate to men. The group is

## Positive Staff Development

### All Committed, All the Time



On Monday, March 8th, “All Committed” staff - comprised of the Case Management unit, Team Decision Making team, the Youth Assessment Unit and New Beginnings employees - participated in their quarterly booster training at DYRS’ MLK Achievement Center in Southeast DC.

The intensive all-day training session focused on the Complete Case Planning sections of the team’s forthcoming revised Case Management Manual - including a robust presentation by the Office of Research and Evaluation about Structured Decision Making.

Employees also heard from guest speaker, Michael Mancilla, LICSW, who works with the Children’s National Medical Center and LGBT youth. The agency appreciates the “All Committed” staff’s dedication to advancing their development for the betterment of our youth year round.



Coming this Spring...

## Trauma Systems Therapy is Here!

Susan Hansen, Clinical Assistant Professor of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at New York University (NYU), will conduct all-day Trauma Systems Therapy (TST) “pre-deployment” sessions at New Beginnings on March 22. Each session will start with an executive-level summary for supervisors and facility management. Agenda items include NYU’s summary of its role in TST, each employee’s role in TST, and what training roll-out and implementation will look like going forward.

TST training will start the week of April 4, and the training calendar will be in the next newsletter. Get ready to enroll!

## Family Engagement & Empowerment

### Reflections - It Starts With You

From February 26-28, parents and guardians participated in the agency’s winter caregiver retreat, “Reflections.” Workshops and activities throughout the weekend focused on self-discovery and realizing that in building and repairing relations, “it starts with you.”

One focus group – titled “Who Do You Say You Are?” – captured the importance of staying true to self, because who you say you are sets boundaries and teaches others how others treat you. Caregivers and staff alike returned with an overall sense of strength and well-being.



conducted by agency staff and is the brainchild of Youth Development Representative (YDR) W. James Sheffield, who saw a need for a platform tailored to allowing our male youth to share their voice on these topics. For more information, contact YDR Sheffield at (240) 535-6367.



Special thanks to DYRS Family Engagement Coordinator Nkenge Garrett for realizing the importance of touching on the weekend's topics, and to all members of the Family Engagement Team for the support you provide our families and caregivers every day.

## Deputy Mayor for Greater Economic Opportunity Courtney Snowden to Visit “Anchored in Strength” Caregiver Support Group

Deputy Mayor for Greater Economic Opportunity Courtney Snowden will attend the “Anchored in Strength” caregiver support group on March 21 to discuss and explore the following topics with parents and caregivers:

- Mayor Bowser's focus on expanding the middle class.
- The education and workforce initiatives in the city designed to help low-income and working class families advance to the middle class.
- Programs and services that yield employment.
- The process for connecting to education, workforce, and employment programs and services.
- Assistance with securing unsubsidized employment (for themselves and youth who are no longer committed to DYRS).

## CREATIVE CAPTURE



YDR Marco Wimberly paints a mural at the new MLK Achievement Center. A self-taught artist, his focus is to enhance and reflect agency pride and vision, and to promote DC and cultural awareness.



## A Lesson in Restorative Justice

### Ethics in Incarceration, Brought to Life

Dr. Evita Bynum, instructor of an “Ethics in Incarceration” course at Catholic University, toured New Beginnings on Thursday, March 3 with some of her students. The visit fell in line with the students' studies, where they critically evaluate the prison system in the United States and the roles of punitive vs. restorative justice.

Unit Manager Alisha Hunt and SYDR Ernest Waiters led the students through the facility. The scholars asked insightful questions, talked to youth and staff about practices, and ended the tour on a high note saying that “it was one of the best” they had ever been on. DYRS looks forward to future endeavors with Catholic University and in helping all students understand the role of restorative justice at DYRS.



**“COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE”** is the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS) Newsletter. It is published biweekly on Thursdays. Email Brenda Padavil at [brenda.padavil@dc.gov](mailto:brenda.padavil@dc.gov) with questions or submissions for future issues.

