



Committed to Excellence

The Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS) Newsletter.

March 21, 2019



RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

POSITIVE STAFF DEVELOPMENT

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

FAMILY EMPOWERMENT

JERRY M. COMPLETION

Event Calendar

- MAR 25** **ANCHORED IN STRENGTH**
450 H STREET NW - WASHINGTON, DC - 12:30 PM
- MAR 27** **WOMEN CELEBRATION**
450 H STREET NW, WASHINGTON, DC - 4:00 PM
- APR 1** **ANCHORED IN STRENGTH** - 2101 MLK AVENUE SE,
WASHINGTON, DC - 6:30 PM
- APR 4** **MIND, BODY, AND SOUL**
450 H STREET NW, WASHINGTON, DC - 3:00 PM
- APR 8** **ANCHORED IN STRENGTH**
450 H STREET NW - WASHINGTON, DC - 12:30 PM
- APR 8** **OPEN MIC NIGHT POETRY SLAM**
450 H STREET NW, WASHINGTON, DC - 4:30 PM
- APR 15** **ANCHORED IN STRENGTH** - 2101 MLK AVENUE SE,
WASHINGTON, DC - 6:30 PM
- APR 19** **CAREER FAIR - KENILWORTH COURTS COMMUNITY**
CENTER - 4500 QUARLES ST NE, WDC - 10:00 AM



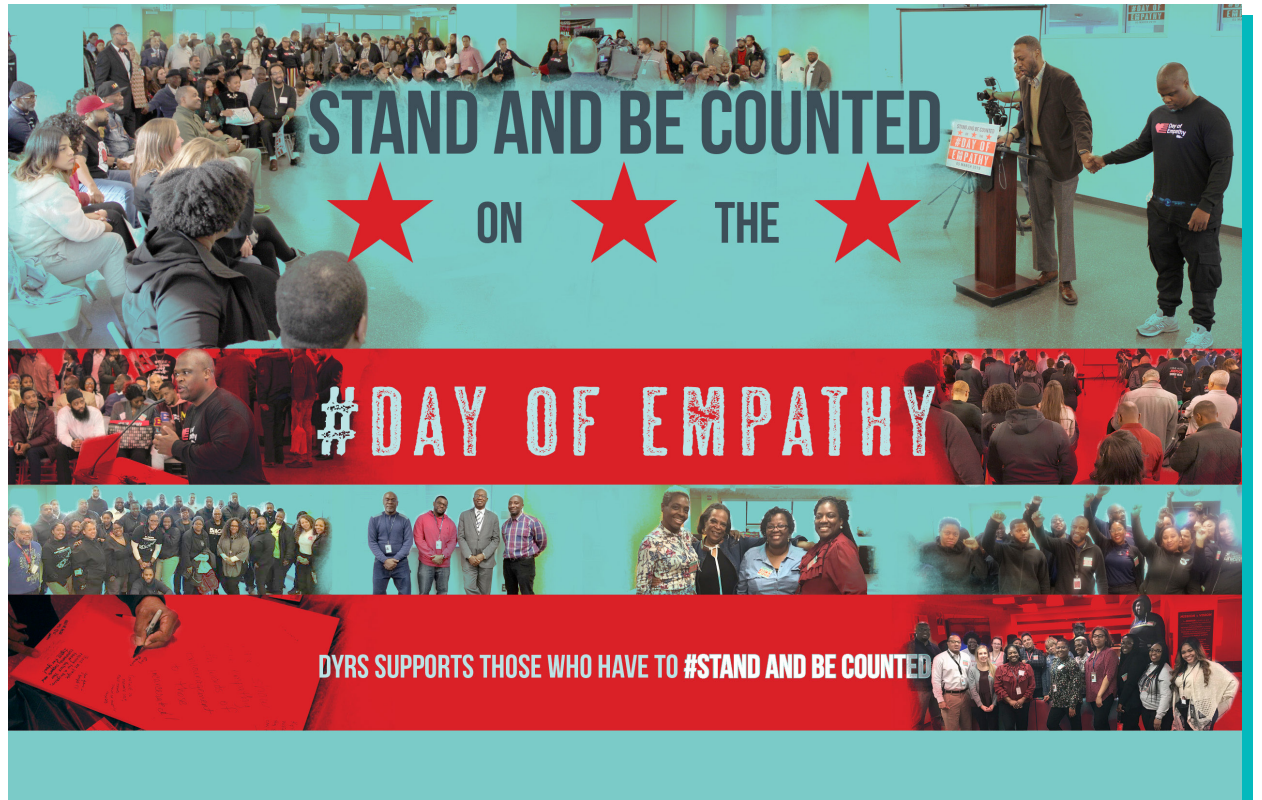
One Year of Love

Please join DYRS in congratulating the Led by Love radio show for its one-year anniversary as of March 8th. The first episode of the juvenile justice talk show was broadcasted live from the agency's New Beginnings Youth Development Center and covered National Women's Day discussing topics related to young women involved in the justice system.

Having aired more than 40 shows since then, the program's mission is to humanize court-involved youth and to tackle tough issues by creating a platform for those impacted by the criminal justice system.

DYRS Director Clinton Lacey and Senior Deputy Director Linda Harlee Harper serve as regular co-hosts. They take turns engaging different guests and listeners with a wide variety of discussion topics, educating the public about issues that plague court-involved youth as well as discussing the ongoing reforms to the criminal justice system.

Led by Love excitedly looks forward to another successful year of programming. The show airs on Wednesdays at 6 pm on WPFW 89.3 FM. Catch up on recent episodes by visiting WPFWFM.org.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

National Day of Empathy

#Cut50, a nonprofit founded by Van Jones, held its 3rd Annual National Day of Empathy on March 5th. The national day of action was created to generate empathy on a massive scale for millions of Americans impacted by the criminal justice system. Organizers in all 50 states push for various reforms to help those impacted by crime and mass incarceration.

Tony Lewis, Jr., community leader, activist and author of "SLUGG," spearheaded the movement in DC with a Day of Empathy event at the Department of Employment Services (DOES). The event highlighted progressive policies, legislation and programming benefitting Returning Citizens in DC, while advocating for some necessary improvements. Tony partnered with several organizations, including DYRS, bringing out over 100 attendees in support of justice reform efforts.

The highlight occurred at 4 pm when attendees participated in a moment of silence in solidarity with inmates being 'counted' in federal prisons across the country at that exact moment, while supporters nationwide simultaneously posted photos on social media using the hashtags #standandbecounted #day-ofempathy #cut50.

POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



Youth Council Advocates on Capitol Hill

The DYRS Youth Council advocated for juvenile justice on Capitol Hill on February 26th alongside California Congressman Tony Cárdenas. DYRS Youth Shamelen sat in on a panel discussion persuading Congress to make several amendments to the Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) Act. Shamelen delivered a powerful speech that shared her perspective as a formerly incarcerated youth who now serves as president of the DYRS Youth Council.

"I am part of the DYRS Youth Council because I think youth advocacy is very important. It is crucial for the youth in my generation to have a voice about things we experience and about services we need," she said. "Since being in the DYRS Youth Council, I have been motivated and focused on school. I am now a senior in high school and am in the process of applying to colleges. I have been accepted to three 4-year universities so far. No one knows their outcome in life, but I have a strong belief that if I could have received the mentoring and therapy services earlier that I receive now, that my life would have progressed without being securely detained for truancy and running away."

Shamelen shared her experience of what worked and what didn't work and how certain areas in the system needed to be improved for youth like her to thrive and succeed. She highlighted some improvements of the Act, including eliminating the incarceration of youth for status offenses, ensuring youth are not housed in adult facilities, and keeping youth closer to home by offering in-state services. She also spoke of how these changes had an immediate impact on her life and the lives of her family and friends.

Youth Council's Voter Registration Campaign

The Youth Council launched a 2019 Voter Registration Campaign on Saturday, March 16th at the DYRS MLK Achievement Center. Young people received training on the voter registration process and discussed plans and strategies to register as many young people as possible. The Youth Council partnered with the Board of Elections for the event, which also included a call to arms to recruit and train interested young people in this process.

DYRS is proud to be appointed to the Board of Elections as an agency, making it easy to get community members, staff, and youth registered to vote. All DYRS achievement centers are equipped with voter registration forms that DC residents can fill out on the spot and have their voter registration card mailed to their address. For more information on registering to vote, please visit www.dyrs.dc.gov to find contact information for our achievement centers or email Anderson Crenshaw at anderson.crenshaw@dc.gov.

Achievement Center Vendor Showcase



Inspired by the creative work of youth currently enrolled in DYRS Achievement Center programs, youth learned about and registered for programs focusing on everything from fashion merchandising and barbering to graphic design and filmmaking at the DYRS Achievement Center Vendor Showcase held last month. Attendees were able to meet class instructors as well as currently enrolled youth. For more information about youth programming, call Timothy Durant Jr. at (301) 237-8854.

A Warm Welcome to...



...our new DYRS employees!

Kiwahna Reid
Human Resources Specialist
and

Kish Rusek
Supervisory Grants Management Specialist

Please introduce yourself if you see them around the agency!



POSITIVE STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Mayor's Managers Summit

The DC Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS) Director Clinton Lacey participated in a panel discussion moderated by Deputy Mayor of Planning and Economic Development (DMPED) Brian Kenner at the first-ever Managers Summit held for District Government managers on Wednesday, March 6th at the Entertainment Sports Arena.

"As we work with our youth, we work with the families, their friends, and the entire ecosystem because we know that we have to engage that wider circle in order to be successful in engaging that young person," Director Lacey said during the discussion.

Director Lacey focused on public safety alongside Michelle Garcia, Director of the Office of Victim Services and Grants (OVSJG). DC Public Schools Chancellor Dr. Lewis Ferebee and Dr. Unique Morris-Hughes, Director of the Department of Employment Services (DOES), spoke about education while Department of Human Services Director (DHS) Laura Zeilinger and Department of General Services (DGS) Keith Anderson weighed in on housing and quality of life.



Celebrating Women in the Month of March

In celebration of Women's History Month, the DYRS Achievement Center hosted a series of events, beginning with a "sweet success" reception that included women throughout the agency enjoying music, desserts, and a recognition circle. DYRS staff and Credible Messengers participated by sharing quotes by great women from the past and providing some words of encouragement to other women who were present. Participants also recognized women who are making history today. They discussed how women in their lives have impacted and helped them.

Here is an example of a quote that was shared:

"There is no limit to what we, as women, can accomplish," said former First Lady Michelle Obama

DYRS will continue to celebrate Women's History Month with events for DYRS staff and youth occurring each Wednesday for the remainder of the month, capping off the month with "Wrapping It Up," an event that will include trivia, dancing and more.4 pm-6 pm, March 27th at 450 H St. NW.

For more information, please contact Asante Laing at asante.laing@dc.gov.