



COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE



April 21, 2016

EVENT CALENDAR

- 4/22** DYRS Workshops at New Beginnings (DC Gov. Employee Learning Week), 8400 River Road, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
- 4/22** Brothers in Arms (Young Men's Focus Group), 450 H. Street AC, 5 p.m.
- 4/25** Medical Billing Certification Program, MLK Achievement Center, 2101 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave, SE, M,W,F from 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
- 4/29-5/1** Covenant of Peace (boys only event), Youth Services Center, 1000 Mt. Olivet Rd. NE
- 5/14** Children's Mental Health Awareness 5K Walk & Rally, 1700 E. Capitol St. NE, 10 a.m.

May is for Mental Health Awareness

DC DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PRESENTS

2016 CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WALK AND RALLY

1st 50 youth to register receive a \$10 iTunes gift

WALK STARTING POINT
EASTERN HS FOOTBALL FIELD
1700 E. CAPITOL ST. NE, WASHINGTON, DC

RALLY LOCATION
HILLCREST REC CENTER
3100 DENVER ST. SE, WASHINGTON, DC

MAY 14, 2016
Walk 10am
Rally 12pm

Pre-register online at www.LetHelpIn.com

Facebook: [facebook.com/MindandBodyDC](https://www.facebook.com/MindandBodyDC)
Twitter: [@MindandBodyDC](https://twitter.com/MindandBodyDC)

It's almost Children's Mental Health Awareness (CMHA) Month, and the District is getting inside the minds of youth and families about what mental health really means. Save the date for DC's 1st official 5K Walk and Rally for CMHA!

MORE WORDS

CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING...



What does love look like in juvenile justice?

How about in the workplace?

What would that look like?

THE AGENCY WILL SOON LAUNCH "MORE THAN WORDS," A CAMPAIGN SHEDDING SOME LIGHT ON THE POSSIBILITIES...

Community Engagement

Director Clinton Lacey Participates in Public Safety Panel

On Tuesday, April 12, DYRS Director Clinton Lacey participated in a panel discussion on "Understanding Juvenile Justice in the District of Columbia", hosted by Attorney General Karl Racine and Advisory Neighborhood Commissions 1A and 1B. The event featured representatives from various District agencies who convened to explain the juvenile justice process from infraction to resolution. When asked about the biggest opportunity the juvenile justice system has to produce better results, Director Lacey said "We have the opportunity to address the disconnect between us, as enforcers within the juvenile justice system and the communities we serve. We have to make sure we are empowering our families and neighborhoods just as much as we are empowering their youth." He also stated that "DYRS' goal is not to have youth 'serve time,' finish a sentence, and toss them back to society. The goal is to get youth back home - supported, safe, and engaged with their community."



Positive Staff Development

Health and Wellness Expo

On Tuesday, April 19, New Beginnings staff participated in a Health and Wellness Expo. More than eight vendors helped introduce employees to a Health and Wellness Program designed to promote, encourage, and emphasize healthy behaviors. Recreational Staff Kendra White, Eric Boggs and Charles Jackson led efforts for the event with the support of the Superintendent Suite. (Picture next page).

THE YOUTH SIDE

Congratulations K.S.!

Congratulations to youth K.S. on graduating from the "Run, Hope, Work" program. K.S. is known around the Achievement Center for his great attitude and love of music. He's a terrific example to his fellow youth and we are proud of him!



The Covenant of Peace at YSC



From April 29 - May 1, the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS) will conduct "The Covenant of Peace" for young men at its Youth Services Center (YSC). This is the agency's third weekend event since the program launched last year.

The "Covenant of Peace" calls for youth to engage in conversations about violence and come up with solutions to help make a positive impact for change in their lives and in the community. The young men will engage in focus groups, workshops and activities on the seven pillars of the "Covenant" (seen above).

The program follows the agency's mission of helping young people identify alternative paths to the choices they made that resulted in them being committed or detained.

AC SNAPSHOTS



Left: Youth D.T. and M.F. volunteering at the 10th Annual National Walk for Epilepsy on April 16. Right: Youth performing a haircut as part of the MLK Achievement Center's Barbering program.



Building Leaders and Being the Best



While most DC Government employees enjoyed a day off for Emancipation Day, the management staff at New Beginnings used the day for professional development in a Quality Leadership Training with Sylvester Baugh. Staff participated in teamwork exercises, open discussions and debates on how to better themselves and become better managers. Staff members said a key takeaway of the training consisted of a five day project that reflected on the question: "Am I Being the Being that I Want to Be?" The assignment tested the managers on their ability to withhold from blaming, complaining or criticizing for five days.

Family Empowerment

Parents Share their Perspective at the MLK Achievement Center

On Tuesday, April 12, the Office of Youth and Family Engagement facilitated "A Parent's Perspective," a family empowerment town hall to promote partnership between DYRS and the families of committed youth. The forum provided an opportunity for parents and guardians to hear from other caretakers about ways



they worked through challenges with DYRS, and success they experienced as a result of building a support system of others in similar situations. Representatives from various areas of the agency sat on a panel and answered questions, giving parents an opportunity to receive information from those most knowledgeable about those subject matters. Caregivers also learned about a variety of agency and community-based resources available to DYRS youth and families.



The dashboard in FAMCare is getting a new display that will include features such as saving favorites, the ability to change background color, and a more user friendly interface! More details will be shared after initial testing is completed. *Coming Soon* - a video that highlights the new features. Look out for an announcement on where to view it!



"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 with questions or submissions for future issues.

