



Committed to Excellence

The Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS) Biweekly Newsletter.

May 4, 2017



RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

POSITIVE STAFF DEVELOPMENT

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

FAMILY EMPOWERMENT

JERRY M. COMPLETION

Event Calendar

MAY 5 "AS ONE" STAFF/STAKEHOLDER MIXER, *R.I.S.E. DEMONSTRATION CENTER, 2730 MLK JR. AVE SE, 9 A.M.-6 P.M.*

MAY 8 "ANCHORED IN STRENGTH" PARENT SUPPORT GROUP, 450 H. STREET NW, 6:30-8:30 P.M.

MAY 8 GRAND OPENING AND RIBBON CUTTING OF YSC COURTYARD, 1000 MT. OLIVET RD NE., 3-5 P.M.

MAY 8 PANEL: OAG SPONSORED-PROTECT OUR KIDS: UNDERSTANDING AND PREVENTING HUMAN TRAFFICKING, KENNEDY CENTER, 1401 7TH ST. NW, 6:30-8 P.M.

MAY 9 DYRS BUDGET HEARING WITH DC COUNCIL 1350 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, RM 412, 10 A.M.

MAY 9 FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE RECOGNITION DAY NEW BEGINNINGS AND YSC, 11 A.M. - 5 P.M.

MAY 14 MOTHER'S DAY

MAY 17 CREDIBLE MESSENGER "MENTOR SUPPORT GROUP" 450 H. STREET NW, 5:30-7:30 P.M.

MAY 18 ACHIEVEMENT CENTER SUMMER ACTIVITIES REGISTRATION, 450 H. STREET NW, 3-6 P.M.

Social Media Snapshot



Brianne K. Nadeau @BrianneKNadeau · 20 apr
Inspired by Students @DYRSDC New Beginnings today during my visit

DC Councilmember Brianne Nadeau visits New Beginnings Youth Development Center on April 20

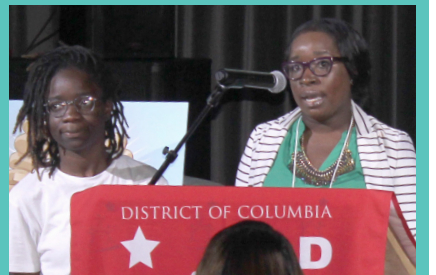
OVERACHIEVERS

Harpreet "Rodi" Moore

DYRS recognizes agency Language Access Policy Coordinator Harpreet "Rodi" Moore, who oversaw the agency's fulfillment of the Language Access Act's reporting requirements in FY 16, as determined by the DC Office of Human Rights (OHR).

According to Mayor Bowser's FY16 Language Access Compliance report, "DYRS provided four language access compliance training for more than 128 managers and front line staff, developed and adopted a language access policy, and translated nine vital documents into the three languages most encountered by the agency. DYRS also ensured that translated documents are accessible online."

Ms. Moore worked diligently with OHR and staff throughout all areas of DYRS to ensure agency compliance. The agency applauds her determination and efforts!



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Committed to the Community

Did you hear the buzz around town? On Tuesday, May 2, the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS) held a community town hall to engage Washingtonians in interactive dialogue about the agency's progress and process with its community-based efforts. The meeting served as a follow up to a town hall that DYRS hosted in late 2015, where the agency first discussed its plans for the Credible Messenger Initiative, a mentoring movement that since launched with 130 youth participating. Attendees participated in an interactive forum where they learned about progress with DYRS' signature "Credible Messenger Movement," updates on the Covenant of Peace non-violence initiative, and also had an opportunity to learn about offerings to the entire community.



POSITIVE STAFF DEVELOPMENT

East Meets West in Probation Practices

The Los Angeles County Probation Department, accompanied by former DYRS Director/current Senior Research Fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School Program in Criminal Justice Policy and Management, Vincent Schiraldi, touring New Beginnings on April 28.

Building Up, Moving Forward



Congratulations to New Beginnings “Gentleman” for the month of March - J.R! The new “Gentleman” incentive program at New Beginnings highlights youth who are placed on the Spotlight Board for exceeding expectations, with no incidents, exhibiting proper uniform etiquette, full participation in all groups, and 100% attendance in school. These young men truly stand out. J.R. landed on the Spotlight Board in March nine times, making him a shoo-in for “Gentleman” for the month. His picture will remain posted on the Spotlight Board, and he will be awarded with a gift card to purchase a meal of his choice from outside the facility.

Kudos to you J.R., and to New Beginnings for finding new and innovative ways to keeping our youth on the right track!

Cinco de Mayo Moment



The Spanish department at New Beginnings Maya Angelou Academy (MAA) sponsored a Cinco de Mayo celebration on May 2 to introduce students to Mexican culture. Scholars learned the significance of this important date for Mexicans and danced to Mariachi Music. MAA recognizes staff including Ms. Johnson (Spanish teacher), Ms. Arielle, Ms. Turley, Ms. Williams, Ms. Tammy and the rest of the school community for planning and coordinating this event, and also thanks SYDRs and YDRs for supporting this activity!

Smooove Operator



Comedian and Actor JB Smoove of the hit movie “Almost Christmas” stopped by New Beginnings on April 29 as a part of the Urban Encouragement Program hosted by Art Garfield. Mr. Smoove shared testimony with the kids about growing up in the projects of New York and discovering his passion for comedy. He provided them tips on cultivating and developing the things that they are passionate about, and turning them into a career.



Family First - The Sixth Covenant of Peace

On Saturday, April 29, parents and caregivers of DYRS youth participated in the first Covenant of Peace event for families, where they participated in an informative, introductory session about the seven Covenant of Peace pillars. Attendees enjoyed interactive group activities that reinforced the concepts inherent in each pillar and familiarize themselves with the treatment modality that DYRS youth undergo. The agency also utilized the opportunity to show appreciation for its dedicated family members by offering various wellness activities, including massages, facials, manicures, henna design, dance, and meditation. Filled with fun, food, laughter and love, it turned out to be a momentous event. The agency thanks all staff who assisted and participated -- exemplifying once again what love looks like at DYRS.



Basic Reality Training

20 staff members from DYRS’ Secure Division participated in and received certification in Basic Intensive Training for Reality Therapy this week, in sessions facilitated by consultant Sylvester Baugh of the William Glasser Institute. Reality Therapy is a basic approach that direct care staff will utilize to help DYRS residents process through issues and problems. Reality Therapy is derived from Glasser’s “Choice Theory,” which in practice emphasizes that “the most important need is love and belonging, as closeness and connectedness with the people we care about is a requisite for satisfying all of the needs.” Staff who attended this training will move on to a Practicum and Advanced Choice Theory training.



A Warm DYRS welcome to...

New and transitioning staff:
Daniel Mulugeta – IT Specialist, 450
Aaron Washington – Electrician, NB
Michael Ransome – Cook. NB
James Brown – YDR, YSC
Kierra Johnson – YDR
Please greet these friendly faces if you see them around the agency!

★ ★ ★ DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH REHABILITATION SERVICES ★ ★ ★

Email Brenda Padavil, Communications Director at brenda.padavil@dc.gov with questions or submissions for future issues.

