



COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE



May 19, 2016

EVENT CALENDAR

- 5/27** Retirement Specialist at New Beginnings, 8400 River Rd., Laurel, MD, 12 p.m. - 4 p.m.
- 5/30** Memorial Day
- 6/2** Judiciary Public Hearing on the "Comprehensive Youth Justice Amendment Act of 2016," 1350 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Rm 500, 10 a.m.
- 6/2** DC Government Federal Credit Union Representative at YSC, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- 6/7** DC Government Federal Credit Union Representative at 450 H. St. NW, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

A WARM WELCOME TO...



Edson Thomas, Supervisory Social Worker, Wards 1-4, 450 H. Street NW

Tracy Allen, Supervisory Social Worker, Ward 8, 2101 MLK Ave.

Please say hello to our new staff if you see them around the agency!



A wide range of employees from various divisions of DYRS participated in trauma-informed care training at New Beginnings on May 17.



Positive Staff Development

Youth Development Representatives are Agents of Change

On Tuesday, May 17, Youth Development Representatives (YDR) from New Beginnings Youth Development Center gave back to a local DC organization and demonstrated the agency's support of the entire community. Members of the YDR Morale Committee "Agents of Change" dropped off the donations from a two-week volunteer drive, where New Beginnings staff collected clothing, shoes, accessories and coats for Martha's Table, an "education, food and opportunity center" for District residents.

"The staff are looking forward to serving the community again," said Tammy Terrie from the Office of Secure Programs. "The spirit and the positive energy were overwhelming and uplifting...it speaks volumes about the dedication and commitment of the staff at DYRS and New Beginnings Youth Development Center. Everyone felt humbled, and just grateful to give."

The volunteers included: YDRs Akosua Kwakyewaa, Karen Maple, Ebony Holmes, Jai Wilson, Latasia Keys, Donneatrice Brown, Kevin Hayman, Yajaira Recinos, Lenisha Harrington, Altimese Hall, Eula Law; Mental Health Therapist Tanisha Jackson; and Treatment Manager Darrell Foster.

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Asante Laing, Program Manager, and Mark Timberlake, Youth Engagement Specialist, The Achievement Centers – "I wanted to express our gratitude for DYRS's swift and effective response when one of our youth was facing homelessness last week...Asante Laing immediately responded, roped in DYRS's housing team, and within a few hours, Mark Timberlake was at our office conducting a housing intake... we just want to say that we are hugely grateful for DYRS's response. We had also reached out to many other agencies and partners but no one else could help. The fact that DYRS responded immediately and conducted a housing intake in the community within a few hours is simply amazing. So we just wanted to say thank you." - P.S.

Crystal Perry, Team Decision Making (TDM) facilitator – "I have had the opportunity of working with DYRS on multiple occasions...I recently took part in a Discharge Planning Meeting for "D." on 5/11 and it was by far the most informed and supportive team I have worked with. Ms. Perry (DYRS) did an excellent job leading the meeting and explaining the many services available...We were able to hear the families concerns and recommendations and after completing the meeting I felt extremely comfortable with this transition! Way to go DYRS!!" - D.F.

Professional Development

Congratulations to Dr. Alsan Bellard, Dr. Ivory McMillian, and Dr. Khandra Tyler-Beynum, who recently earned their professional certifications in the field of correctional health care. DYRS appreciates the steps they’re taking to provide our youth with the best care possible!



Effective immediately all employment verifications should be directed to the DC Department of Human Resources for processing. Please provide the following information to any entity requesting an employment verification:

DCHR Customer Care, 441 4th Street NW, 3rd Floor, Suite 330 South, Washington, DC 20001

Direct (202) 442-9700 - Fax (202) 650-7153



Outlook Tips

- 1. Insert a Screenshot in Outlook. When you want to emailing a picture of a dialog box, browser screen, or anything else that appears on your desktop, begin writing your message, click on the “Insert” tab on the Ribbon, then click “Screenshot.” A tiny dialog box shows you all the current windows open on your desktop so you can choose the one you want to insert, or click on Screen Clipping and click to draw a box on screen. Press Enter, and the contents of the box will be inserted into your message.
- 2. Use Outlook 2010’s Advanced Search Features. When you click on the Search field at the top of Outlook’s message list, the Ribbon displays a new tab labeled “Search Tools.” In the Search Tools tab, find the icon labeled “Search Tools,” click the down arrow, and choose Advanced Find to open a dialog that lets you fine tune your search. While this tab is open, you might also want to click on the Search Tools icon, then choose Search Options to add further controls to your Outlook searching. The same Search Options dialog is also available from anywhere in Outlook by using the File menu, clicking Options, and scrolling to Search.
- 3. Auto-close Outlook 2010’s Message Window After Replying - When you’ve replied to a message, let Outlook close the message window automatically after. To do this, click on File, then Options, then Mail, then scroll down to Replies and Forwards, and add a checkmark next to “Close original message window when replying or forwarding.” Then click OK.
- 4. How to Resend or Recall Your Outlook 2010 Message. When you sent a message unintentionally, use this feature. Open the message in your Sent Items folder, choose File, Info, click Message Resend and Recall, and follow the prompts. Outlook will report back to you on the status of the resend or recall.
- 5. Flag Outgoing Messages. While writing a message, you can create a reminder for yourself to follow up on the message later. With the message editor window open, go the Ribbon’s “Message” tab, and in the “Tags” group click “Follow Up.” Select a time for the follow-up from the dropdown menu. If you click “Custom,” the menu will appear and you can fine-tune details of the reminder.



Community Engagement

Exercising Mental Health Awareness

Top: DYRS employees Dr. Ivory McMillian (Health Services Manager) and Heather McGowan (Performance Improvement Manager); Bottom center: DBH employees Thomas Houston III and Gloria Mensah

DYRS youth and staff participated in DC’s first ever walk and rally for Children’s Mental Health Awareness Month on May 14, where the Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) encouraged District residents to “Let Help In” and recognize the signs of mental disorders in their youth. Various DC Government agencies including DYRS, the Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA), DC Public Schools (DCPS), the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE), DC Public Charter Schools (DCPCS) and DC Housing Authority (DCHA). spoke about importance of mental health awareness at various stages in youths’ lives to the more than 300 people who attended. All guests also enjoyed a rally where youth expressed their own thoughts and experiences about mental health through various art forms, and local DC celebrities performed. The walk is one of the first initiatives in a three year mental health awareness campaign sponsored by DBH and partners DYRS, CFSA, DCPS, OSSE, DCPCS and DCHA. DYRS also started an interagency initiative - “Keeping in Mind” - that highlights the correlation between mental health and youth in the juvenile justice system.



1.5 MILLION youth in the US are arrested each year.
60-70% of youth meet the criteria for at least one mental disorder.
60% of youth with at least one mental disorder experience a co-occurring substance use disorder, and
25% of youth have disorders severe enough to require immediate and significant treatment.

Isn’t it time to LET HELP IN? Stop saving face and save a life.

- Youth in the juvenile justice system have an increased risk of suicide
- Suicide is the second leading cause of death among youth ages 10–18
 - About one in 13 high school aged juvenile justice youth attempted suicide in the past year
 - Suicide is the leading cause of death for youth in confinement
 - Studies report that more than 1/2 of the youth in the juvenile justice system had current suicidal ideation and 1/3 had a history of suicidal behavior
 - Males are more likely to die by suicide and females are more likely to attempt suicide in the justice system
 - Certain populations, such as sexual minority youth, experience increased rates of suicide

Positive Youth Development



Two DYRS youth volunteered at the commencement ceremony for George Washington University (GWU) as part of a community service project and had the opportunity to hear Senator Corey Booker talk about the challenges faced by young people who are growing up in poverty. Senator Booker discussed living in public housing while running for mayor, and how he chose to lived off of food stamps for a year as a way to better understand the people that he served. He also spoke of the youth he interacted with daily while he lived in housing projects, and shared the story of his reaction to a young man named Hasan getting killed in the streets. Senator Booker said “it broke him down because he watched him grow up, and he felt that he failed him because he could’ve done more for him and other young people like him.” Our young men left with a better understanding of Senator Booker and a renewed outlook on the roles of politicians.



DYRS youth enjoying the Washington Mystics opening game on May 14.



DYRS staff Isaacba Davies and Nataly Del Valle representing the agency at an Expungement Fair sponsored by Ward 8 on May 17.

