



Committed to Excellence

The Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS) Newsletter.

May 23, 2019



RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

POSITIVE STAFF DEVELOPMENT

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

FAMILY EMPOWERMENT

JERRY M. COMPLETION

Event Calendar

- MAY 30** **TRANSITION ZONE GRAND OPENING** - 450 H ST. NW
WASHINGTON DC - 11 AM - 2 PM
- JUN 1** **PEACE RALLY** - 480I BENNING ROAD SE
WASHINGTON DC - 11 AM
- JUN 3** **ANCHORED IN STRENGTH** - 210I MLK AVENUE SE,
WASHINGTON, DC - 6:30 PM
- JUN 10** **ANCHORED IN STRENGTH** - 450 H STREET NW -
WASHINGTON, DC - 12:30 PM
- JUN 11** **BOOK CLUB SESSION** - 450 AND MLK
1:30 PM - 2:00 PM
- JUN 18** **BOOK CLUB SESSION** - YSC AND NBYDC
1:30 PM - 2:00 PM

DYRS Celebrates Mother's Day



Read below to check out how DYRS celebrated Mother's Day at our various locations in thoughtful and unique ways:

New Beginnings Surprises Mothers on Staff

The New Beginnings Youth Development Center surprised mothers who work at the facility with a celebration on Tuesday, May 14th. The Recreation Department along with Kevin Hooks who works in the Culinary department came up with the idea to give back to our hardworking mothers by hosting an event complete with food and music. The New Beginnings moms were excited and appreciative for the thoughtful gesture.

The MLK Achievement Center Honors Our Young Mothers

The MLK Achievement Center team hosted a Mother's Day celebration on May 10th for the young mothers we serve. We celebrated one another, learned how to make waist beads, and gave flowers to our mothers. Many of our young mothers and mothers-to-be are beating the odds. They need our support and we are here for them. DYRS staff help our young mothers navigate motherhood with resources and with making positive decisions.

YSC Hosts a Mother's Day Luncheon for Youth and their Moms, Grandmothers

The Youth Services Center (YSC) hosted a Mother's Day luncheon for Youth and their mothers, grandmothers, and maternal figures. The YSC Culinary Department prepared a delicious meal for all of the youth and more than 30 guests. A guitarist played live music and residents and their loved ones were able to laugh, smile, and enjoy quality time with one another.

YSC leadership would like to thank all of the staff who made the Mother's day luncheon possible and ensured that the event ran smoothly.

Visit www.facebook.com/DYRSDC to see pictures from the Mother's Day events at our various locations.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice visits the Youth Services Center



DYRS Director Clinton Lacey led a tour of the Youth Services Center in Northeast, DC Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice Kevin Donahue. Deputy Mayor Donahue learned more about the school and saw the programming pods, gym and more. DYRS joined the Public Safety cluster earlier this year after most recently being in the Health and Human Services cluster.

North Carolina Delegation visits New Beginnings

A delegation from the North Carolina Department of Public Safety/Juvenile Justice said that the New Beginnings Youth Development Center has set the standard for what the Balanced and Restorative Justice (BARJ) Model should look like in a juvenile justice setting after touring the facility on May 9th.

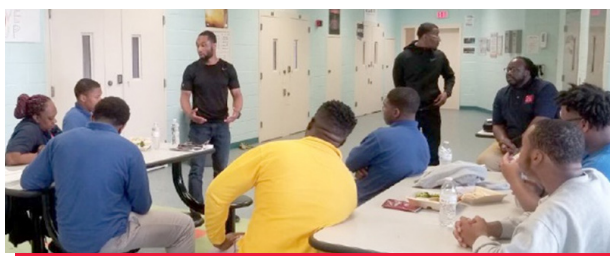
The group expressed gratitude for the experience and left feeling motivated to implement a similar approach within their agency. The collective saw every aspect of our program and participated in a Restorative Justice Circle with the youth from the Sankofa Unit. The circle was led by Restorative Justice Coordinator Rashida George and Youth Development Representatives Brianna Bruce, Jovan White, and Robert Ponder.

The visitors also took part in information-sharing sessions with our youth, learned about the Grow Up Team, and more. They concluded the day with a debriefing conversation with Deputy Superintendent Mark Hamlett. Deputy Hamlett would like to thank all the youth, staff, and partners that made the tour a success as it was truly a team effort.



POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Motivational Speaker Halim Flowers Speaks to Youth at YSC



Halim Flowers, a motivational speaker and youth advocate, delivered a powerful message to youth at the Youth Services Center on Friday, May 3rd. Born and raised in the District during the crack era, he began serving a 40-year prison sentence as a teenager. Mr. Flowers served 22 years behind bars in some of the worst prisons in the country before being released early at age 38. He was released early because of the

DC Council's Incarceration Reduction Amendment Act, which allows a judge to commute the sentences of those who were convicted as juveniles depending on their demonstration of personal growth while incarcerated.

The native Washingtonian took Georgetown University courses in government and philosophy through the Georgetown Prison Scholars Program while he was incarcerated. Mr. Flowers has penned and published 11 books, including memoirs detailing his time in prison, self-help books, and poetry. #Unchained is his most recently published book and his fourth collection of poetry.

The Youth Services Center Launches the Real Talk Lecture Series

The YSC Real Talk Lecture Series is a 52-week program developed by Supervisory Youth Development Representative Japheth L. Claude. The program is designed to educate youth on the essential tools needed to become well-rounded adults. Each month is assigned a theme and the staff assigned to each unit are required to provide groups and/or independent life skills lessons on the monthly topic, three to four times per week.

Once a week the residents are responsible for putting together a presentation on what they have learned. The residents present through readings, poems, skits, song, creative dance, and interactive games. Management, administration, vendors, and staff are encouraged to sit in on the weekly presentations.



SPOTTED

New Beginnings Homecoming Basketball Game



The Recreation Department at the New Beginnings Youth Development Center hosted their annual Homecoming game on Saturday, April 27th. The New Beginnings Phoenix team defeated a team from the National Guard Challenge Academy, 44-35.

Families came out to support the teams, and the New Beginnings team presented gifts to their loved ones following the game to show their gratitude.

DYRS Wears Green in Honor of May being Mental Health Awareness Month



DYRS staff are pictured wearing green on Tuesdays during the month of May – Mental Health Awareness Month. DYRS Deputy Director of Health Services Kenya Key and the DYRS Health Services Administration are leading the effort

to highlight the importance of mental health awareness, understanding trauma, and wellness for our youth and families. Visit www.facebook.com/DYRSDC to see pictures of DYRS staff wearing green on Tuesdays in acknowledgement of May being Mental Health Awareness Month. For information on DYRS mental health services, please email kenya.key@dc.gov. For information about accessing mental health services in the District, contact the DC Department of Behavioral Health at 1-888-7WE-HELP (793-4357).

Youth at YSC Observe Ramadan



Muslim Brother Buheira Sabour of the Bridges volunteer group led a class about the importance of Ramadan. Sixteen youth participated in the class, which focused on the nine virtues of Ramadan. The Holy Month of Ramadan,

the most important month of the year on the Muslim calendar, lasts from sunset on May 5th through sundown on June 4th. During this period of spiritual dedication and personal growth, Muslims around the world abstain from eating or drinking during daylight hours.

RAISING THE BAR



Please join DYRS in congratulating John Sandy, Program Manager for the Contracts and Performance Monitoring Unit, for his nomination for a Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation Award for Distinguished DC Government Employees. The Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation, in partnership with George Washington University Center for Excellence in Public Leadership, acknowledge and reward outstanding performance and exemplary service by DC Government employees. Mr. Sandy has been invited to attend the 18th Annual Cafritz Awards Gala on June 20th, where he will be presented with a certificate of recognition celebrating his outstanding work and accomplishments.

Notice of Funding Availability

DOING BUSINESS WITH DYRS



DYRS announces the availability of funding for a single grantee to manage the implementation of a comprehensive and coordinated system of programs and services for DC court-involved youth and families. The amount available is approximately \$7.9 million for a one-year period starting October 1, 2019 – with the possibility to renew the award for up to three years pending funding availability and grantee performance.

The goal of this funding announcement is consistent with the DYRS mission – to improve public safety and give court-involved youth the opportunity to become more productive citizens by building on the strengths of youth and families in the least restrictive, most homelike environment, consistent with public safety. DYRS seeks applicants to support the DYRS vision – to provide the nation's best continuum of care for court-involved youth and their families through a wide range of programs that emphasize individual strengths, personal accountability, public safety, skill development, family involvement, and community support.

DYRS expects that the selected grantee will support our agency in its efforts to offer progressive, rehabilitative, juvenile justice programming.

For questions or comments about the funding announcement, consult the DYRS website or write to dyrscapacitybuilding.2020@dc.gov or call 202-299-3996.

A Warm Welcome to...

...our new DYRS employees. We would like to introduce our new Assistant General Counsel, Chanel Hall, who comes to us from the Prince William County Attorney's Office where she represented the Prince William County Department of Social Services in child welfare matters. Prior to that, Ms. Hall was an Assistant Attorney General in the Juvenile Section of the DC Office of the Attorney General. We look forward to the wealth of experience Chanel adds to our General Counsel's office.

Please also welcome familiar faces Sammy Sanchez and Norman Brown to the DYRS staff. Mr. Sanchez, who has worked closely with DYRS youth in the community, joins the Workforce Development team as a Program Analyst. Mr. Brown, who has worked with DYRS youth as a Credible Messenger, joins the DC YouthLink team as an Assistant Program Manager.



JUNE 1, 2019 4TH ANNUAL

PEACE RALLY



11 AM PEACE WALK - KIPP DC - 4801 BENNING ROAD SE

12-5 PM PEACE RALLY - BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB - 4103 BENNING ROAD NE

#ChooseLivesOverGuns

PEACE RALLY



ADVOCACY WORKSHOPS:

CONFLICT RESOLUTION, COMMUNITY SPEAKOUTS, PHONE A SENATOR AND MORE!

FUN & ENTERTAINMENT:

E.U. FEAT. SUGAR BEAR, MPD SIDE BY SIDE BAND, N.E. PERF. ARTS GROUP, AND MORE!

For more information, please contact Dayne Dixon at dayne.dixon@dc.gov



WE ARE WASHINGTON
GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR

The Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services cordially invites you to the



TRANSITION ZONE GRAND OPENING



Come visit a new space designed to provide educational, vocational, and behavioral support to our young people.

The Transition Zone will serve Youth awaiting school placement, or in need of employment services.

Thursday, May 30, 2019 - 11 am to 2 pm

450 H Street NW - Washington, DC 20001

For more information, please contact Rendell Keith at rendell.keith@dc.gov or (202) 299-3599

★ ★ ★ DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH REHABILITATION SERVICES ★ ★ ★

For questions or submissions for future issues, please contact dyrs.media@dc.gov



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