



COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE



June 2, 2016

EVENT CALENDAR

- 6/7** DC Government Federal Credit Union Representative at 450 H. St. NW, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
- 6/8** Trauma Systems Therapy Clinical Training Day, YSC, Community Room, 9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- 6/8** Maya Angelou Academy Graduation Ceremony, GALA Hispanic Theatre, 3333 14th Street, NW, 6-8 p.m.
- 6/13** "Summer in the Capital" Registration, 450 H. Street, NW, 12- 6 p.m.
- 6/19** Father's Day

Positive Youth Development

Pathways to Success



On Friday, May 28, New Beginnings staff in conjunction with the Maya Angelou Academy (MAA) hosted an afternoon of Career Enhancement events. Several universities set up career booths where youth learned how to approach getting a job and guest speaker Brian Heat from Prince George's Community College Diverse Male Student Initiative spoke about the college experience. The afternoon concluded with a "Career Fashion Show," coordinated by Senior Youth Development Representatives (SYDR) Felicia Brown and Inga Gaskins, and supported by SYDR Damon Thompson, YDRs Derrick Davis and Rodney Henderson, who appeared in the show. The youth and staff showcased items appropriate and inappropriate for job interviews, and our young people in the audience did a great job selecting specific attire not appropriate attire for the workplace during this high energy event!

★ ★ ★ DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH REHABILITATION SERVICES ★ ★ ★

Summer in the CAPITAL

Registration Day MONDAY, JUNE 13, 2016 FROM 12:00 NOON- 6:00PM

ACHIEVEMENT CENTER
450 H STREET, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20001

Staff and youth will have an opportunity to meet summer programming providers, learn about activities, and sign up for all summer programs and events.

DYRS **THE ACHIEVEMENT CENTERS**
IN COLLABORATION WITH THE OFFICE OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND THE CASE MANAGEMENT DIVISION
For more information, please contact Tahmika Aldrich at (202) 578-0418, or Lanice Williams at (240) 893-2770

A Pause to Say Thank You

I want to take a moment to acknowledge our staff and say thank you for the challenging, yet rewarding, work that we do every day. The last several months have been very busy with challenges and accomplishments.

Another Successful Covenant of Peace (COP)

The COP is becoming a movement in the District and is recognized as our agency's very worthy contribution to reach the hearts of our young people and to address the city's violence.

GRANTS

Becoming a Grant-Making Agency

DYRS has decided to exercise our own grant-making authority. Our agency has embarked on a new mission and has released two grants for competitive award. This is a huge undertaking but we have a wonderful and capable team managing this effort.

Journey

The Girls are Coming!

New Beginnings is preparing to launch a gender-responsive, trauma-informed girls unit, appropriately named "Journey."

This effort will not be without trials and tribulations, but we will be investing in our girls and keeping them closer to home. Our girls deserve quality services that meet their needs with the goal of preparing them for a successful journey back home, stronger and wiser than when they arrived.

Wellness Wendell



In alignment with Mayor Muriel Bowser's focus on wellness in the District, DYRS appointed employee Wendell Harris to serve as its Workplace Wellness Leader. Look out for his tips and tricks on leading a healthier, "WELL-thier" life.

Hello DYRS Family,

That's right, it's me, it's Wendell E., coming to you in light of our continuing need(s) for wellness interventions to keep us all running at maximum efficiency in service of youth and families, as well as maintaining a healthy regimen for mind, body and soul enhancement. Although in its early stages, the new DYRS Wellness Committee will be comprised of staff from all areas of the agency, and will lead the charge in a number of events, agendas, initiatives, and promotions to reduce risk associated with serious health conditions, diminish work-related stress and/or burn-out, quell on-the-job injuries, and foster an overall healthier climate. The workplace typically consumes 50% of our waking hours during the workweek. We'll need a few spirited volunteers to join the Wellness Committee and "weigh in" on what needs to be done! We'll host the first meeting next Monday, June 6, at 10 a.m. at 450 H St NW. Stay tuned for more details. It'll be a blast!

Respectfully,

Wendell Emmanuel, DYRS Wellness Leader

AROUND THE AGENCY



DYRS employees participating in the Safe Crisis Management at the MLK Achievement Center



L.F. cutting the hair of an especially youthful client in the Barbering Program at the MLK Achievement Center



The "Agents of Change" YDR morale committee organized a Zumba Fitness Class for staff at New Beginnings.



The Youth Services Center

Our team at YSC has been working extremely hard for a long stretch and without reprieve.

Since January 1, we've been at or over capacity 88 days out of 153 (57%). Using morning population counts, YSC has been at or over capacity every morning since April 21.

We all know that overcrowding is hard on our kids and our staff. But we keep pressing, day in and day out.

There are so many good things going on in our agency that it's hard to name just a few. Young people passing the GED, graduating from high school, and working. The new MLK Achievement Center is booming with parents and youth in attendance. The 450 Achievement Center is undergoing renovation and is ready for summer activities. Consistently low abscondence numbers and ongoing safe returns.



THE CREDIBLE MESSENGER INITIATIVE

The Credible Messenger Initiative is poised to launch this summer...There is so much...

Thank you for all that you do on behalf of the young people and the families that we serve.

Linda K. Harlee Harper, Senior Deputy Director

Positive Staff Development

Believing in Change



We recognize DYRS Director Clinton Lacey, who on May 28 received the 25th Annual Esther House Prison Ministry Award, an honor given to persons identified as improving the quality of life and enhancing the human experience of the disenfranchised, oppressed and forgotten. Each year, the award acknowledges those who work on helping others find a second, third, and even fourth chance. Congratulations Director Lacey for your life's work in believing that people can change and turn their lives around. It inspires the work we do everyday!

Building Bridges



Congratulations to DYRS Program Manager Natalie Gillard, who received the 2016 "Bridge Builder Award: Outstanding Community Partner" from Georgetown University's Center for Social Justice Research, Teaching & Service. The award is given to an outstanding partner organization or individual who is a critical supporter of the University's social justice work and community. In her current role, Natalie bridges the gap between providers and the agency. We are proud of her efforts and success!



Sign Up for the Last TST Training Sessions - June 21 & 22!

Training takes place on June 21 & 22 from 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at the Youth Services Center (YSC).

TST Clinical Training Day - June 8

Training takes place on June 8 from 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. in the YSC community room. All behavioral health and case management staff, and social workers are required to attend.

Contact Dr. Ivory McMillian at ivory.mcmillian@dc.gov with any questions.



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

