



Committed to Excellence

The Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS) Newsletter.

June 13, 2019



RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

POSITIVE STAFF DEVELOPMENT

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

FAMILY EMPOWERMENT

JERRY M. COMPLETION

Event Calendar

- JUN 15** **FATHER'S DAY FAMILY FIELD DAY**
15 6ST STREET NE, WASHINGTON, DC - 11 AM - 2 PM
- JUN 17** **ANCHORED IN STRENGTH** - 2101 MLK AVENUE SE,
WASHINGTON, DC - 12:30 PM - 2:00 PM
- JUN 17** **LEVEL UP, ELIMINATE TRUANCY**
450 H STREET NW - 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM
- JUN 18** **BOOK CLUB SESSION** - YSC AND NBYDC
1:30 PM - 2:00 PM
- JUN 20** **STARS IN THE MAKING**
CELEBRATION OF OUR 2019 GRADUATES
THEARC - 1901 MISSISSIPPI AVE SE - 5:00 PM
- JUN 24** **ANCHORED IN STRENGTH** - 450 H STREET NW -
WASHINGTON, DC - 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM
- JUN 26** **VOCATIONAL CAREER AND JOB FAIR**
R.I.S.E. DEMONSTRATION CENTER
2730 MLK JR. AVE SE - 10 AM - 2 PM
- JUL 8** **YOUTH CAFÉ SOFT OPENING**
450 H STREET NW - 11:30 AM

Achievement Center Cook Off



Marco and Michelle cooked up some competition in the Achievement Center's Cook-Off, but ultimately Vernesha and Jamelen were the contestants who tasted victory. The junior chefs put their culinary skills to the test by preparing their own flavorful versions of chicken stir fry. The teams of two carefully selected and diced ingredients within an hour's time before a crowd of spectators on Tuesday, May 14th in the basement kitchen.



POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

In Solidarity We Rise

DYRS Program Manager Asante Laing took DYRS Youth Council Members Shamelen and Sebene to present at the "In Solidarity We Rise Conference" in Atlanta, Ga, last month. The national convening of young leaders, advocates, social service professionals, and policymakers included a variety of opportunities to engage, learn, and connect. The youth participated in intensive deep-dive learning sessions with leaders and experts on critical issues, sharing creative models and ideas for programming, community organizing, communication and policy reform, and dynamic training opportunities.

President of the DYRS Youth Council, Shamelen, delivered a presentation that focused on the importance of self-advocacy and the impact that DYRS services and programs like the Girls Programming, Credible Messengers, and Care Coordination services, had on her. The high school senior and aspiring lawyer also shared the story of her evolution, including several community service projects, advocating for the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act, and lobbying Congress with her peers.

Sebene, a budding entrepreneur who became a masterful wigmaker after learning the craft through DYRS programming, discussed the virtues of capitalizing on skill development in her presentation. Inspired to start her own business, Sebene launched "Touched by Sebene," through which she creates and sells wigs to clients impacted by Alopecia and other hair-loss diseases as well as offers beauty services such as makeup and hair care. The multi-talented Sebene also is a licensed cosmetologist and licensed security guard. The proud mom also plans to complete her degree in early childhood development.



Transition Zone Grand Opening

On May 30th, the DYRS Education and Workforce Development staff hosted the grand opening for the Transition Zone, a new space designed to provide educational, vocational, and behavioral support to DYRS's youth. Located in the Achievement Center at DYRS headquarters, the program can be accessed by youth via a referral from their care coordinator. The Transition Zone will also be used to host workforce development sessions, in person and online tutoring sessions, and Restorative Justice sessions.

Foster Care Awareness Month



Five foster parents were recruited at the Foster Parent Informational Brunch that DYRS hosted on January 5th at Ivy City Smokehouse. PCC Stride, an extended and therapeutic family care program that recruited three of the foster parents at the event, hosted a foster parent appreciation event on May 22nd in acknowledgment of May being Foster Care Awareness Month.

WIN Family Services, a faith-based child and family mental health network serving youth and families, recruited two foster parents at the January brunch and hosted a foster parent appreciation event on May 30th. Congratulations to Terry B., who was one of the foster parents recruited by PCC Stride and is the first of the newly minted foster parents to have a DYRS youth placed in her home.

Congratulations on your retirement Jerome Ball



Congrats to Youth Development Representative Jerome Ball on his retirement from the Youth Services Center. His colleagues and managers from YSC and the Fraternal Order of Police gathered on May 29th to celebrate him and his 27 years of service with the District Government. Thank you for dedicating 14 of those years of service to DYRS. Please join us in wishing Jerome Ball a fond farewell.

★ ★ ★ DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH REHABILITATION SERVICES ★ ★ ★



ELIMINATE TRUANCY

Join Us in an Emergency Circle dedicated to eliminating truancy.

Learn about **resources**, **support**, and **strategies** you can use to elevate your youth.

JUNE 17, 2019 • 6:30 - 8:30 pm • 450 H Street NW, Washington, DC 20001

June 17th 2019 DYRS will be hosting a Level Up Truancy Elimination Meeting for DYRS Youth and Families. Join us in an Emergency Circle dedicated to eliminating truancy at 450 H Street in the Achievement Center from 6:30PM-8:30PM. Learn about resources, supports, and strategies you can use to elevate your youth. The Purpose of the fair is to provide our parents and guardians with resources related to school attendance, summer school, school enrollment and special education. Representatives from DCPS OSSE and My School DC will be in attendance to support.

Food and refreshments will be served and street parking is available during the hours of the event.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



DYRS Participates in Peace Rally

DYRS Director Clinton Lacey spoke about ending gun violence and promoting peace during the Peace Rally hosted by the Department of Forensic Science (DFS) alongside DFS Director Dr. Jenifer Smith and Deputy Mayor of Public Safety and Justice Kevin Donahue. The event was inspired by the DFS forensic scientists who process multiple bullet casings on crime scenes. As public servants, they were motivated to create an anti-gun violence event.

The Peace Rally began with a walk that started at KIPP DC and led to the Boys and Girls Club at 4103 Benning Road NE. The Metropolitan Police Department, the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence, Code 3 Association, WPGC 95.5 FM, and many other government agencies, nonprofits, community organizations, and supporters gathered to spread the message of peace in our city. The event included advocacy workshops on conflict resolution, community conversations, live music, games, activities, and more.



Health and Wellness



INDOOR EXERCISE – DYRS Dietitian Kimelia Austin and DC Department of Human Resources (DCHR) Exercise Training Instructor Daria Shaw performed Cardio Shred Fitness with staff at the New Beginnings Youth Development Center on Tuesday, May 14th as part of indoor exercise efforts for Mental Health Awareness Month.

WELLNESS FAIR – The DYRS Health Services Administration hosted a Wellness Fair at New Beginnings and in the Youth Services Center gym on Tuesday, May 21st as part of Mental Health Awareness Month, which included fitness activities from ES Fitness LLC, Planet Fitness, 4selfmotivation Fitness LLC, and Fitness 4 A New You. Additionally, the Wendt Center for Loss and Healing was in attendance providing resources for restoring hope and healthy functioning to adults, teens, and children who are coping with grief, loss, and trauma.

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



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