



# COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE



**J**une 16, 2016

## EVENT CALENDAR

- 6/19** Father's Day
- 6/20** Panel Discussion: "Understanding Juvenile Justice in the District of Columbia,"  
Anacostia Library, 1800 Good Hope Road, SE, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
- 6/21** Summer Kickoff Event for DYRS youth and families, MLK Achievement Center, 2101 Martin Luther King Avenue, SE, 12 - 4 p.m.
- 6/22** DYRS Office of Workforce Development Networking Breakfast, Pepco Edison Place Gallery, 702 8th St. NW, 11 a.m.
- 6/29** "Fast with DC Muslims" Ramadan awareness event, Sunrise - Sunset

## RAISING THE BAR



Congratulations to Ms. Janay Williams on her new role as Deputy Superintendent of Treatment at New Beginnings Youth Development Center. Ms. Williams experience proven track record of success in the Social Service/Human Service Juvenile Justice Field will be invaluable in meeting the agency's, and New Beginnings, program goals.

## Spotted "On the Job"



DYRS HR staff Muriel Cooper and HR Director Sonya Fox scouting recruits at DCHR's pop-up job expo on June 9



**Join in a day of solidarity and understanding.**  
**June 29: Sunrise - Sunset**

Partake in a one-day fast during Ramadan to evaluate the ideas and bias that divide us, and refocus our attention on each other and our commonalities.

Register online at [fastwithdcmuslims.eventbrite.com](http://fastwithdcmuslims.eventbrite.com) to signal your commitment. Register before June 19 and receive a participant packet, which includes:

- A "Fast With DC Muslims" pin,
- Talking points about fasting, and
- FAQs and additional information about the event.

Sponsored by the DC Office on Human Rights, KARAAH: Muslim Women Lawyers for Human Rights and other partner organizations

## Positive Staff Development



A meeting of the minds with DYRS Case Management, NY Probation, and Community Connections 4 Youth about the Credible Messenger Initiative.

## What "Credible Messenger" Looks Like

You may have heard the buzz about the Credible Messenger Initiative and as the agency prepares to launch its keystone program for its youth and families, it held a meeting of the minds with NY Probation, Community Connections 4 Youth, and the DYRS Case Management division on June 15 to outline the collaborative roles of the agency and Credible Messengers in this innovative and interactive initiative. The key takeaway? Case Management and Credible Messengers are a united front with a common goal – to rehabilitate youth not only by providing them with services, programming and resources, but in using a different lens to pinpoint the indiscernible factors in the community and work through and resolve them as well. More information coming soon!

**THE CREDIBLE MESSENGER INITIATIVE... THE ANSWER IS IN THE COMMUNITY**



# OVERACHIEVERS



W.A. down to the wire in the 400-meter dash.

## Congratulations to youth...

- W.A., who qualified for Districts for Track and Field!
  - D.J. for receiving the “Student of the Month” award for his outstanding work in English III!
  - M.C., who graduated from high school and plans on becoming a cadet at the DC Fire Department and then going to college!
- DYRS is so proud of your achievements!



Hellooooo DYRS,

Guess who? It’s your friendly agency Wellness Co-ordinator, reminding you that Summer officially begins on June 20 and that we’ve got a host of health agendas, events, and creative fitness initiatives in need of your attention and participation this year. But let’s begin with some basic information to prepare for a healthy, productive season of outdoor events, vacations, indoor and outdoor home improvement projects, hiking, biking, walking, talking, and jogging our way down any number of trails in the DMV! Just remember a few key rules and you’re guaranteed to enjoy each outing:

1. Drink WATER! Not flavored water. Not colored water. Not SUPER CHARGED water. Just plain, regular old water from the faucet, fridge, or shelf is all you need to aid your body’s absorption, digestion, circulation, transfer of nutrients, and energization of muscles. Since our bodies are 60-70% water, a minimum of three quarts per day are necessary to ensure more efficient functioning of our bodies and minds. In addition, carry more stable polycarbonate plastic containers rather than ones made of polyethylene that leak plastic into the water.
2. Protect yourself and the kids from overexposure to the sun by wearing a hat and using natural sun-blocks or sunscreens without excessive chemicals, and don’t forget the aloe vera in case of sunburn.
3. You’re at work 8-10 hours/day and likely in a sitting position that already stresses the heart if done for long periods. Get up, stand up, stretch, and move for several minutes every half hour if possible. Each time you do this, you’re giving your body a “gravitational stimulus,” reminding it of the effects of gravity and helping muscles and bones stay strong.
4. Implement an exercise regimen into your daily routine. Aerobic activity is critical to heart health, and 30-60 minutes/day of walking with Rosa, hiking with Jose, biking with Sellano, or soccer with Melissa could make all the difference in maintaining your body’s overall balance.
5. Eat what your body needs and not what it wants. Easy to say, hard to do, but rewarding to those who master it. Consuming foods that are cooling and light (organic fresh fruits, vegetable juices, raw salads, nuts, seeds, sprouted beans, fish, soy products) will nourish your body for summertime activities. Many don’t require any cooking and your time can be utilized enjoying other activities.

Have a fantastic summer folks and remember to just keep it simple to keep it safe. The life you save may be your own.

## Let Your Voices Be Heard!

Director Lacey and the executive team are conducting focus groups on specific topics to enhance staff development, and they are interested in hearing your thoughts! Make sure to let your voice be heard in this online staff survey (<http://tinyurl.com/h7trjvy>). Printed surveys will be available at the facilities soon. Your responses are confidential and you can remain anonymous if you wish, but all feedback is welcomed by leadership in an effort to continue to promote positive change.

Look out for the survey results in an upcoming edition of Committed to Excellence!

## Positive Youth Development

### Meet the Interns



Left to Right: Sarah, Naiya, Keith and Curtlyn.

Meet Sarah, Naiya, Keith and Curtlyn, recruits in DYRS’ new Learn, Earn, and Progress (LEAP) internship program!

**Sarah** is currently studying Sociology with concentrations in Pre-Law, Peacebuilding, and Gender Studies at Eastern Mennonite University. She hopes her internship with DYRS offers her insight into Restorative Justice through a juvenile and large city perspective.

**Naiya** attends Marymount University and is double majoring in English and Health Care Management, with a minor in Journalism. She plans on attending law school and wishes to heighten her knowledge of communications and public speaking.

**Keith** is a Criminal Justice major at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. Keith wants to be a part of the creative process that propels youth to fulfill their potential, with his ultimate goal being to reduce systemic issues by these youth becoming role models for the next generation.

**Curtlyn** attends Morgan State University as a Biology major. She hopes her internship grants her the opportunity to work with at-risk youth and to learn more about DYRS’ efforts as a whole.

Please welcome these fresh young faces to the agency!

## Community Engagement

### Understanding Juvenile Justice In Dc

Join the Office of the Attorney General and representatives from the juvenile justice system for a panel discussion on “**Understanding Juvenile Justice in the District of Columbia**” at Anacostia Library (1800 Good Hope Road, SE) on June 20, from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

**Moderator: Karl A. Racine**, Attorney General for the District of Columbia

#### Panelists:

**Commander Jacob Kishter**, MPD Youth and Family Services Division

**Tamar Meekins**, Deputy Attorney General, Public Safety Division

**Wendy Pohlhaus**, Executive Assistant U.S. Attorney for External Affairs

**Hilary Cairns**, Deputy Administrator Youth Services, DCDHS

**Honorable Hiram Puig-Lugo**, Presiding Judge, Family Court, Superior Court of the District of Columbia

**Hannah McElhinny**, Deputy Trial Chief, Juvenile, the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia

**Clinton Lacey**, Director, D.C. Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services



On Wednesday, July 6, FAMCare is getting a new look! Everything will be in the same place you found it before, but the look and feel will be a little different. Users can create favorites to quickly navigate to frequently used forms and reports. Client names will be stored for quick access and users can personalize FAMCare with colors and fonts. Training will be widely available before the launch and Subject Matter Experts will be available across the agency to help answer questions. Please contact Aki Damme ([aki.damme@dc.gov](mailto:aki.damme@dc.gov)) or Amanda Petteruti ([amanda.petteruti@dc.gov](mailto:amanda.petteruti@dc.gov)) with any questions.



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