



# COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE



**J**uly 28, 2016

## EVENT CALENDAR

**8/2** A Male's Perspective, (Town Hall for Male Caregivers), Busboys & Poets, Events Room, 1025 5th Street NW, 6 p.m., K. St. Entrance

**8/5 - 8/7** Covenant of Peace, Ballou High School, 3401 4th St SE

### Luckey on Life



YSC Youth Development Representative and author Marquieta Luckey facilitated the DYRS biweekly parents' group on July 18 and hosted a book signing for "Did Me and Paid For It," her story of overcoming adversity as a single mother.

## Community Engagement

### Restorative Community Conversations

DYRS Director Clinton Lacey participated in a panel on at the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) Summit on July 21 where Robert Listenbee, Administrator of the Office on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, moderated as Lacey, Councilmember David Grosso, and other stakeholders spoke about steps to restorative justice implementation in the District.



### Positive Staff Development

#### Dr. Stephanie Covington Trains on Gender Specific Programming as DYRS Anticipates Girls' Arrival at New Beginnings

International expert in gender-responsive and trauma-informed services, Dr. Stephanie S. Covington, visited the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS) on July 18 to facilitate the start of a week-long training for staff on programming that supports the agency's upcoming, monumental launch of "Journey." Journey is a gender-responsive 10-bed unit at New Beginnings Youth Development Center (NBYDC) that will meet the treatment needs of girls committed to the agency while keeping them closer to the District.

"In the United States today, you have more guns than you have people. In our work today, we're going to be discussing the tremendous impact this violence has on girls, and other issues specific to girls," said Dr. Covington. "Girls overall experiences are vastly different than boys. The wisdom of the moment is that girls should be close to home, and close to their families. When someone is out of state, it makes transition and re-entry that much more difficult."

The opening of Journey will improve local placement options and services for young women committed to DYRS. Historically, the District of Columbia disproportionately sent girls to out-of-state residential facilities due to a lack of local placements.

"DYRS realized the importance of providing girls with programming that is tailored to their specific needs. "Journey" focuses on the psycho-social development and individualized needs of adolescent girls all within a restorative justice framework," said DYRS Director Clinton Lacey. "We are thrilled that Dr. Covington and her team are working with our staff to ensure a successful implementation of her therapeutic model."

Staff at all levels felt positive about the training. "It was a great experience for staff who haven't had the opportunity to work with at-risk female youth," said Journey Treatment Manager Sharon Pulley. Tammy Fenton, Dean of Students for Maya Angelou Academy (MAA), said that "<MAA> staff participated and integrated educational components into planned programming to make sure the Academy remains in alignment with DYRS' programming plans for Journey."

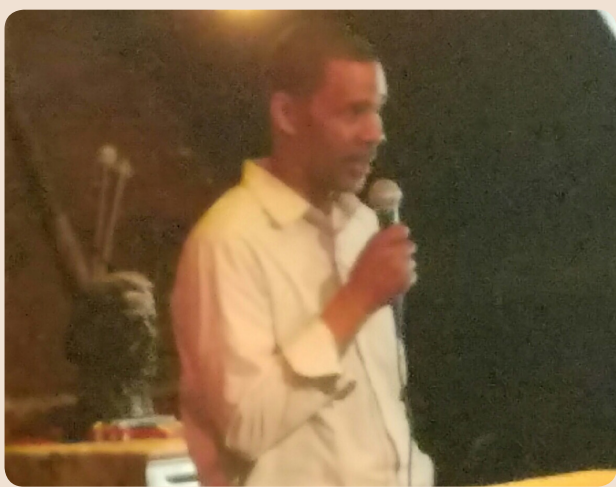
Journey's opening reinforces DYRS' mission to keep youth committed to the agency close to home and their families, while also allowing the agency to continue becoming national leaders in gender-specific juvenile justice programming.

### Family Empowerment



The DYRS Youth and Family Programs Division will host "A Male's Perspective" on August 2 - a town hall geared toward the specific needs and opinions of male caregivers - where Director Clinton Lacey will share his vision of what that role looks like at the agency. The men will also dialogue about the unique perspective of those who play this important role. RSVP to Rashida George at [rashida.george@dc.gov](mailto:rashida.george@dc.gov) or (202) 299-3609 with any questions.



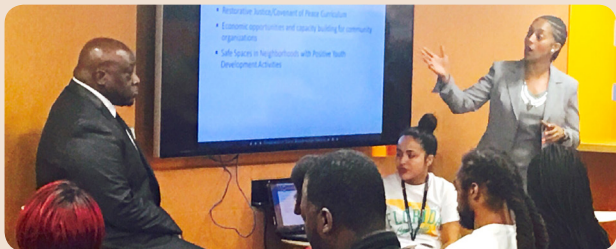


On July 26, Director Clinton Lacey spoke about DYRS' restorative justice approach in a "Restorative Community Conversation" reception called "Creating a Restorative New School Year." Saleem and Dr. Ivy Hylton of Youth and Families in Crisis, who are implementing restorative justice practices at the agency, facilitated the event to address its importance as the new school year begins.

## Graduation Celebrations



On July 26, DYRS youth C.K. graduated from Maya Angelou High School! C.K. made significant academic strides at DYRS and continued to show this same progress in the community. His focus and drive allowed him to achieve his long-term academic goal while maintaining a job. Now that C.K. received his high school diploma, he plans to work full time and is considering attending college. His grandparents are incredibly proud of him, as are we!



DYRS hosts a RFT planning meeting for the Credible Messenger Initiative on July 28.



# DYRS is Looking for Mental Health Specialists!



Do you have a passion for building resilience and supporting young people?

Is it your mission to ensure that youth, family members, and other stake holders are treated with dignity and inclusion?

Then you may have what it takes to be a Mental Health Specialist!\*

\*Master's Degree required. Visit link for all requirements.

★ ★ ★ DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH REHABILITATION SERVICES ★ ★ ★

Go to <http://tinyurl.com/jx2aq5l> for more information and to apply by August 6!

## Positive Youth Development Students and Seniors



Students from the DYRS MLK Achievement Center Cosmetology program hosted a "Spa Day" at Triangle View Assisted Living in Southeast DC on July 14. More than 20 senior citizens received services ranging from haircuts to manicures, and all left feeling beautiful from the inside out.

## Volunteer Recruitment Fair



Wednesday, August 17th | 4:00-7:00pm | Washington Convention Center

Looking for Volunteer Opportunities? Check out the My Brother's Keeper one-day volunteer recruitment fair hosted by EZ Street (WKYS-93.9 FM Radio Personality), Serve DC - The Mayor's Office on Volunteerism and the Taproot Foundation on August 17 at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center.

40 nonprofit and government agencies will participate in The My Brother's Keeper one-day volunteer recruitment fair, providing direct interaction volunteer opportunities with young boys and men of color to inform volunteers of their organization's needs, register volunteers based on their interests and skills with their organizations' programs and activities to form a partnership to invest in the lives of our city's young people. Register now at <http://tinyurl.com/jbesp99>!



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Email Brenda Padavil at [brenda.padavil@dc.gov](mailto:brenda.padavil@dc.gov) with questions or submissions for future issues.

