



COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE



August 11, 2016

EVENT CALENDAR

- 8/16** "DREAM BIG" Summit (Discussion on fashion, entertainment, entrepreneurship, & goals), 450 H Street NW, 5 - 8 p.m.
- 8/18** Back 2 School Night, MLK Achievement Center, 2101 Martin Luther King Avenue SE, 4 - 8 p.m.
- 8/19** KidSpace Day (event for staff's little ones), 450 H Street NW, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Family Empowerment



A Call to Men

On Tuesday, August 2, the DYRS Youth and Family Programs Division hosted "A Male's Perspective" at Busboys and Poets in Northwest DC. The town hall - a branch off the "Parent's Perspective" meetings that took place earlier this year - catered to the specific needs and opinions of male caregivers. The evening consisted of Director Clinton Lacey sharing DYRS' vision of what the male caregiver role looks like, and an open forum with the men who play this important role. "While the event brought new perspective to the table, I look forward to seeing where the learnings and relationships established will go from here," said event organizer and DYRS Program Analyst, Rashida George.

DOING BUSINESS WITH DYRS



As DYRS heightens community engagement and invests in building community capacity for juvenile justice reform, it's reconfiguring its service delivery model at all levels to serve youth with more precision.

As such, the agency is excited to announce the selection of an Administrative Partner for Fiscal Year 17 - The Progressive Life Center(PLC)!

BACK

Thursday, August 18, 2016
4:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.
MLK - ACHIEVEMENT CENTER
 2101 Martin Luther King Jr Ave SE
 Washington, DC 20020

Receive information helpful to your future during a vendor showcase! Join in for giveaways, free haircuts, refreshments and entertainment!

For more information, please contact Dana McDaniel at (202) 285-8799, or dana.mcdaniel@dc.gov

Positive Youth Development



The Covenant of Peace Comes to the Community

From August 5 through August 7, DYRS held its first community-based Covenant of Peace sleep-in event at Ballou Senior High School in Ward 8. Each Covenant of Peace features a weekend-long stay with members of the community - "Credible Messengers" - who are dedicated to helping engage and mentor DYRS youth. These devoted individuals spent three days in the high school's gymnasium, facilitating various activities and engaging youth in a host of trauma-informed, restorative justice activities, including mediation circles, team-building exercises, a talent showcase, midnight basketball, and a chess tournament. The tenets or "pillars" that make up the Covenant of Peace are grounded in the following Restorative Justice themes:

MY LIFE MATTERS • MY WORD IS MY BOND • MY FAMILY IS MY ALL
 THE ACT OF FORGIVENESS • THE POWER OF THE TONGUE • THE IMPACT OF ABSENCE
 WHAT LOVE LOOKS LIKE

Previous Covenant of Peace sleep-ins took place at DYRS' New Beginnings Youth Development Center and Youth Services Center, respectively. This most recent event is the first to take place with agency youth currently residing in community-based congregate care homes.

The Administrative Partner role will take the place of the Lead Entities in the model used by DC Youth-Link since its inception.

The service delivery model change emphasizes an increased focus on accountability and bridging the gap in youth transition from facility placement to community supervision.

PLC is a community-based non-profit that specializes in mental health and placement services for youth and families in D.C. It is an active partner in the D.C. juvenile justice community, providing leadership and service coordination as a Lead Entity for DC Youth-link programming since 2009.



Helloooooooooo DYRS,

It's me, it's me, it's Wendell E., your local friendly neighborhood agency Wellness Pest/Coordinator, once again appealing to my work family to explore the unknown health benefits of stair climbing rather than elevator hopping. Although not a sport, scientific evidence identifies everyday activities like stair climbing to be strongly associated with improved health. It's highly recommended by doctors and health professionals worldwide, easy, convenient, and best of all results in the following benefits if included as part of your daily regimen. First, climbing just eight flights of stairs a day lowers your average mortality risk by 33%. Second, seven minutes of stair climbing a day can halve the risk of a heart attack over ten (10) years. And third, just two minutes of extra stair climbing a day is enough to stop average middle age weight gain!

You didn't know? It's all because of climbing's ability to raise our heart rates, thereby protecting against high blood pressure, diabetes, heart disease, bone and muscle atrophy, and even some cancers. So in the spirit of combining our most productive waking/work hours with some much needed MOVEMENT and IMPROVED HEALTH, DYRS will officially begin "STAIR-WAY FRIDAYS" next Friday, August 19 through September 30. Although not mandatory, your participation is strongly encouraged and you only need to hide your ID in your purse/wallet each Friday while navigating the building and cultivating those critical work relationships via stairs. Have bags and boxes and need help?? No worries. We'll have Olympic style "runners" ready and waiting to whisk your gear to your designated floor/office in seconds while you slowly but steadily ascend the 10-floor pathway to Nirvana. We only ask that you track your weekly stair flight totals (honor system) to compete for a prize that's yet to be determined.

Good luck, and if you happen to see Garine Dalce, Allisa Taylor, Megan McNeil, Lisa Smiley, or Elaine Russell STUCK IN BETWEEN FLOORS, be a real team player and give them a nudge, a tug, a push, or even tie a rope to them and drag them to the next floor. Don't forget that TEAMWORK MAKES THE DREAM WORK!!

Language Access Training

All staff are required to take the Language Access training offered through PeopleSoft. Please email Harpreet Moore at harpreet.moore@dc.gov upon registration.



DYRS Youth Honored at OAG Right Direction Awards

On August 10, former DYRS youth D.D. and D.W. received the Office of the Attorney General's (OAG) "Right Direction Awards." This ceremony honors D.C. young people who are showing significant self-improvement, serving as role models to other youth, and affecting positive change in their communities. We applaud the commitment of DYRS youth - and all youth honored - to moving in the right direction!

Girls, Girls, Girls

From racecar driving, to Six Flags excursions, to introspective activities that teach coping mechanisms, DYRS Youth Engagement Specialists are showing our girls that there isn't anything they can't do or deal with! Special thanks to staff who go above and beyond to ensure customized programming is tailored to the needs of our female population.



Positive Staff Development



YSC softball team "AM Crew" in action at Highlands Park in VA. They won 17-4!

