



Committed to Excellence

The Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS) Biweekly Newsletter.

October 5, 2017



RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

POSITIVE STAFF DEVELOPMENT

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

FAMILY EMPOWERMENT

JERRY M. COMPLETION

Event Calendar

- OCT 9 COLUMBUS DAY**
- OCT 9 ANCHORED IN STRENGTH CAREGIVER MEETING,** MLK AG, 2101 MLK AVE JR. SE, 6:30 - 8 PM
- OCT 10 EMPLOYEE TOWN HALL FOR 450/MLK, 450 ACHIEVEMENT CENTER,** 450 H. ST. NW, 5:30 - 8:30 PM
- OCT 10 I MILE WALK FOR THE CURE, YSC TO UNION MARKET,** PM TOUR WALK: 12:30 PM; AM TOUR WALK: 3:30 PM
- OCT 17 YOUTH ART SHOWCASE,** YSC: 1600, 1:30-5 PM
- OCT 20-22 COVENANT OF PEACE, NEW BEGINNINGS,** 8400 RIVER RD., LAUREL, MD
- OCT 24 "THINK PINK" SURVIVORS DINNER, YSC, GYMNASIUM,** 5-7 PM
- OCT 24 EMPLOYEE TOWN HALL FOR NEW BEGINNINGS,** AUDITORIUM, 5:30-8:30 AM AND 5:30-8:30 PM

Gaining Ground



This past summer, youth at New Beginnings took part in a summer work program called SWAGG (Scholars Winning and Gaining Ground). The excursion had young people performing janitorial, culinary, automotive, and landscaping work, as well as attending job readiness seminars six days a week. SWAGG allowed the youth to gain hands-on work experience and job skills to make them more employable upon their return to the community. Youth also earned \$9.50 an hour, which they will receive upon their return to the community.



On Tuesday, September 26, New Beginnings youth received certificates of achievement for the On Tuesday, September 26, New Beginnings youth received certificates of achievement for the Barbering Vocational Program overseen by Marco Price-Bey from Fresh Start Barbering. These youth received 400 hours for their license, and will complete remaining hours upon their return to the community.



POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Paving The Road to Success

On September 26, the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS) cut the ribbon at the grand reopening of "Carl's Cars," the facility's automotive training shop for youth in its care at New Beginnings Youth Development Center. The reopening of the automotive teaching facility - shut down in 2006 but restored under the current administration - aligns closely with Mayor Bowser's focus on increasing economic opportunity for all District residents, especially returning citizens.

The auto shop is named after Carl Matthews, a 29-year DYRS staff member whose personal experience informed his mentorship of the young people in DYRS care.

"I was one of these youth," said Matthews. "One day I was working and I heard somebody say, 'I think the problem around here is that they keep hiring these ex-convicts.' I remember wanting to crawl out of here because I was afraid you'd find out about my past. And now you're naming something after me? You can't pay me for what you've given me."

Check out NBC4's coverage of the grand opening! <https://tinyurl.com/ybyuhyns>



Books, Boxing and Beginnings

On Friday, September 29, Mr. Simba Sana - former owner of major indie-bookselling phenomenon Karibou Books - conducted a meet and great with New Beginnings residents. He engaged them with stories about his childhood trials and tribulations, and brought with him two local boxing legends - Mr. Joppy and his protégé Mr. Jordan - who presented on the positive effect boxing had on their lives. The day concluded with one-on-one discussions about Mr. Simba's book - "Never Stop: A Memoir" - and how it jumpstarted his lifelong journey to better understanding himself, human nature, faith, and American culture.



Working Out and Working It

On September 27, the 450 Achievement Center hosted youth, families, and staff at a Women's Health Day event. Attendees learned about the importance of striking a work-life balance, collected healthy meal options and recipes from Chef Andrew Marshall, owner of restaurant Exotic Tastebuds. They left with information on home workout routines from DC-based not-for-profit organization Off My Block (OMB), and fitness bundles of workout and health-relevant items. All enjoyed a fun-filled afternoon!

DYRS Supports Efforts to Find Missing Children



On October 3, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children DC Mayor Muriel Bowser and the Washington Metropolitan Police Department for addressing the importance of finding missing young people, and establishing and implementing new initiatives in an effective model recognized as being useful throughout the country.

As part of a six-point plan to address missing young people in DC, Mayor Bowser asked Michelle Garcia, Director of the Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants, and Brenda Donald, Director of the Child and Family Services Agency, to co-chair a working group to focus on trends, underlying issues and services for these youth and their families.

DYRS staff Adrian Richardson, Social Services Officer, and Linda Harlee Harper, Senior Deputy Director, represented DYRS on the task force, serving among other leaders and stakeholders in the community.



It's flu season, and DYRS is offering flu clinics at its facilities starting next week. View the list of times and locations below to get your **FREE** flu shot.

- YSC - Lobby**
- Tuesday, 10/3 and 10/10**
- Night shift: 5-7 am
 - Day shift: 11am- 2pm
 - Evening shift: 4-7pm
- 450 H. Street - Conf. Room 201**
- Monday, 10/16 and 10/23**
- 10 am - 12 pm
- New Beginnings - Medical Suite**
- Tuesday, 10/3 and 10/10**
- Night shift: 5-7 am
 - Day shift: 11am- 2pm
 - Evening shift: 4-7pm
- MLK Achievement Center**
- Tuesday, 10/17 and 10/24**
- 10 am - 12 pm



Save the Date: Open Enrollment 2018 begins Monday, November 13 and ends on Monday, December 11, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. EST. This is your annual opportunity to review your current benefit elections and make any necessary changes. For more information, please visit: <https://dchr.dc.gov/page/employee-benefits>



POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Waiting for Opportunity

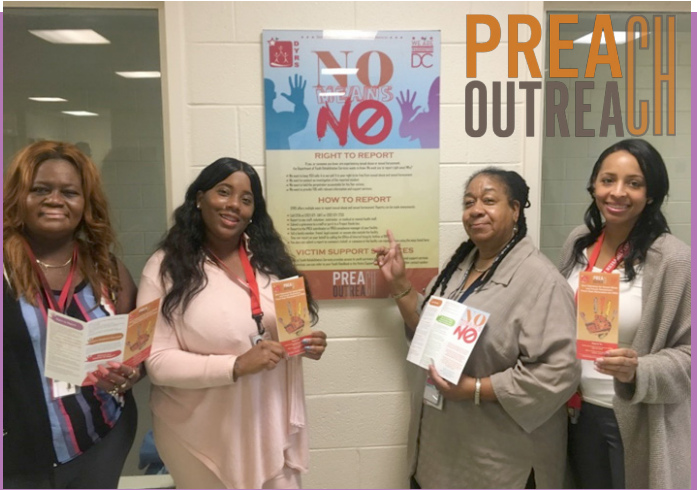
On September 26, young people participating in the Washington Aggression Interruption Training (WAIT) program at New Beginnings identified three (3) short-term goals, including target dates and action items to accomplish them. For most boys, the number one goal stood clear: to leave New Beginnings, and reenter the community equipped with the knowledge and skills to overcome any obstacles. They agreed the development of employable skills essential to their survival beyond New Beginnings, and discussed the actions needed to obtain them. Midway thru the session, they discussed leadership, and it became abundantly clear that they grasped learning how to lead vs. being a follower. They also concurred that an important component to leadership is finding someone beyond the facility to show them how to be a positive leader and role model. The youth left with “Certificates of Completion” that listed their three (3) goals, to serve as a reminder for them to stay focus and steadfast on their path to success.



POSITIVE STAFF DEVELOPMENT

The Youth Services Center is Thinking Pink for Breast Cancer Awareness

On Tuesday, October 3, the Youth Services Center (YSC) and the DYRS Fraternal Order of Police kicked off a series of Breast Cancer awareness month events by recognizing one of its very own warriors, Youth Development Representative (YDR) D. Chambers. YDR Chambers garnered her strength to battle and overcome this disease, not once, but twice – setting an example of strength to all employees. As YSC continues a full month of Breast Cancer awareness activities, it encourages all staff to get involved and make a difference in the lives of survivors, and/or acknowledge those they've lost.



On September 20, PREA Coordinator Nancy Fisher met with the DYRS Juvenile Justice Institutional Counselors (JJIC) to discuss the agency's stance on the Prison Rape Elimination Act and ask Ms. Marjorie Turner, Ms. Stephanie Evering, Ms. Cherie Harmon, Ms. Angela McCollum, Ms. Tameisha Crawford, Ms. Beverly McCoy and Ms. Shannon Ball what their roles are as they pertain to providing youth with PREA education.

As they went through their daily tasks, Ms. Fisher emphasized that their overarching role is to ensure youth feel comfortable about receiving the information; talking about and defining sexual misconduct; and understanding their rights. The JJIC agreed that they set the tone for youth to feel supportive and confident. They also shared that though spread across all areas of the agency, the JJIC is one team, and that one person's success is everyone's success, and that they represent one voice for the agency. The JJIC team appreciated DYRS' newly designed, multi-lingual PREA educational materials, and walked away even more confident of the important part they play in PREA compliance.