

Committed to Excellence

THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH REHABILITATION SERVICES (DYRS) NEWSLETTER

October 24, 2019



Event Calendar

OCT 25

COMMUNITY FAIR - 2101 MLK JR AVE SE
WASHINGTON, DC - 10 AM - 1 PM

OCT 28

"HRT TALK" - YOU'RE ENOUGH!
2101 MLK JR AVE SE - 12 PM - 1 PM

OCT 28

ANCHORED IN STRENGTH - 450 H STREET NW -
WASHINGTON, DC - 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

OCT 30

PROVIDER FAIR - 450 H STREET NW
WASHINGTON, DC - 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

OCT 30

PROVIDER FAIR - 2101 MLK JR AVE SE
WASHINGTON, DC - 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

NOV 4

"HRT TALK" - MEDITATION
450 H STREET NW - WASHINGTON, DC - 12 PM - 1 PM

NOV 13

"HRT WELLNESS" - COLORING COOL DOWN
2101 MLK JR AVE SE - 12 PM - 1 PM

COMMUNITY & FAMILY WORKFORCE FAIR

*** DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH REHABILITATION SERVICES ***

Vocational Career Fair

Apprenticeships

Job Opportunities

Vocational Training

Parents attended the Community and Family Workforce Fair hosted by the DYRS Office of Education and Workforce Development on Friday, October 18th at the MLK Achievement Center. Attendees learned how to navigate various resources to obtain government identification, vital records, educational services, employment opportunities, drug treatment, and clothing. Participating parents registered to attend a three-week professional development course that the DYRS Office of Education and Workforce Development holds each Friday within their communities, which will result in a certificate of completion. Registrants who complete the training class will then be eligible for employment through various organizations and agencies, such as the DC Department of Employment Services (DOES) and the DC Infrastructure Academy.

- Keith Whiteing, *Digital Media Specialist*



DYRS Presents at the National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC) Conference

Dr. Ivory McMillan, Health Services Program Manager, and Darrell Foster, Deputy Superintendent of Programs at the Youth Services Center, delivered a presentation titled "Don't Take it Personal: An Approach to Juvenile Detention" on Monday, October 14th at the National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC) Conference held in Fort Lauderdale, FL.

Dr. McMillan and Mr. Foster used real-life examples to make the information accessible. They focused on the secondary trauma that staff can experience, how to work effectively, and how to deal with challenges when working with a juvenile justice population.

"We can sometimes internalize a lot of the anguish and angst that the youth we serve feel. It's important that we take care of ourselves as we take care of others," said Dr. Kenya Key, Deputy Director of the DYRS Health Services Administration, who also attended the conference. "The presentation was well received. Juvenile systems are not as prevalent at these various conferences as adult systems are. We need to raise more awareness about what we see happening in juvenile justice systems."

- Dr. Kenya Key, *Deputy Director of the DYRS Health Services Administration*

DYRS Hosts a Domestic Violence Awareness Month Event

On Wednesday, October 16th, the MLK Achievement Center welcomed Mark Timberlake, Domestic Violence Intervention Specialist with the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) Victim Services Branch, and Angela Howard, Mental Health Specialist with Domestic Violence Wears Many Tags (DVWMT) to discuss breaking the cycle of domestic violence within our community as part of Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Staff at the DYRS MLK Achievement Center explored the "tags" or indicators of domestic violence that include verbal, mental, physical, emotional, and sexual abuse. During the discussion, Mr. Timberlake suggested incorporating "healthy relationship therapy" for youth to address domestic violence issues that they may be faced with.

Ms. Howard shared a heart-wrenching story about her niece Anaiona, who was a victim of domestic violence and murdered by the father of her child, leaving their newborn baby to be "caught in the cycle" of violence that has plagued our communities. She said that "hurt people, hurt people" and we must do the internal work to heal ourselves before we get emotionally involved with partners.

Some statistics about youth dating violence from Love is Respect (loveisrespect.org), a 24-hour resource for teens experiencing domestic violence that started as a project from the National Domestic Violence Hotline (thehotline.org), include:

- The severity of intimate partner violence is often greater in cases where the pattern of abuse was established in adolescence.
- Only 33 percent of teens who were in violent relationships ever told anyone about the abuse.
- Though 82 percent of parents feel confident that they could recognize the signs if their child was experiencing dating abuse, a majority of parents (58 percent) could not correctly identify all the warning signs of abuse.

- Keith Whiteing, *Digital Media Specialist*



Saturday Girls Programming Family Day at Six Flags of America



Staff from both Achievement Centers took young mothers who participate in DYRS Girls Programming on a family outing to Six Flags America in Largo, MD., on Saturday, September 28th.

"Our young ladies bonded with their children by spending significant quality time, while riding rides and enjoying other activities at the theme park," said DYRS Youth Peer Advocate Nataly Del Valle. "A message we share with our girls is to value the importance of quality time with their children. You can be a good mom despite your financial status."

- Nataly Del Valle, *Youth Peer Advocate*

Susan Taylor Visits the Youth Services Center



Susan Taylor, award-winning author and former editor-in-chief of Essence Magazine, participated in a guided tour of the Youth Services Center (YSC) with DYRS Director Clinton Lacey on Wednesday, September 18th. The founder of the National CARES Mentoring Movement (NCMM) got an opportunity to spend time with and talk to youth at YSC.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH REHABILITATION SERVICES

Join Us at the
ELEVATE
Provider Fair
Taking Youth to the Next Level

DYRS Social Workers and Credible Messengers will learn more about available programs directly from the Providers.

All FY20 Providers will be available with flyers and brochures to answer questions and to help you make a referral tailored to the needs of each youth.

October 30, 2019

**450
10 AM - 12 PM**
450 H Street NW

**MLK
1 PM - 3 PM**
2101 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave SE

For more information, please contact Sebastian Carrillo at sebastian.carrillo@dc.gov

POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



DYRS Participates in Youth Summit

Nearly 30 committed and post-committed DYRS youth participated in "U Good? Let's Talk: Conversations & Activities to Elevate DC Youth," a free youth summit hosted by the DC Department of Behavioral Health (DBH). The event was held at the Washington Marriott at Metro Center on Saturday, September 21st. It focused on personal and professional development for youth as well as mental health and wellness.

"The turnout was amazing, DYRS youth had a lot to say," said Jeff Walker, Family Engagement Coordinator at DBH. "They weren't afraid to speak up."

In partnership with WKYS 93.9 FM, the summit included panel discussions and activity labs. It also included an artistic showcase that focused on resources and strategies to use when dealing with individual and environmental stressors.

The event "was like that!" said post-committed youth Vernesha, who attended the summit with Achievement Center Program Manager Janay Williams and other DYRS youth. "Tell us about more stuff like this so we can come."

It was important to involve DYRS youth in the discussion because their voice added value. The youth felt heard, empowered to advocate for services, and safe to share their concerns, said Dr. Adrian Faulkner, DYRS Community Health Services Program Manager, who spoke on one of the panels.

"I was so proud to listen to the youth share what they need and who they needed it from," said Dr. Faulkner. "The panel allowed the youth to feel heard and validated. It empowered them to advocate for services that they felt would help them thrive and overcome disparity."

- Dr. Adrian Faulkner, *Community Health Services Program Manager*

POSITIVE STAFF DEVELOPMENT



New Beginnings Hosts Men's Health Fair

The Health Services Administration Team at the New Beginnings Youth Development Center (NBYDC) hosted a Men's Health and Wellness Fair in the gym at New Beginning on Tuesday, September 3rd. The fair was open to all DYRS agency employees. Dr. Christiana Keke-Ekekwe and her team were inspired to create the event after she realized through a series of conversations with male staff that they wanted to play a more active role in learning about and taking care of their health.

Kaiser Permanente, United Healthcare, Aetna, Cigna Dental, the District of Columbia Retirement Board, and others shared valuable information with participants about everything from high cholesterol and diabetes to men's preventative care and obesity. The fair also featured fitness activities such as Zumba and line dancing, and attendees were able to receive health screenings and blood pressure checks. Thank you to those who attended and to those who shared information with participants.

- Eric Hugh, *Nurse Team Leader*

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



GOVERNMENT OF THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR