



COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE



December 1, 2016

EVENT CALENDAR

12/6 Credible Messenger Summit,
R.I.S.E. Center, 2730 Martin Luther
King Jr. Ave SE, 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.

12/13 Journey Showcase, New Begin-
nings Auditorium, 8400 River Road,
Laurel, MD, 4 - 7 p.m.

Welcome...



...to Erika Mason, who will be working in the Office of the Director. Erika previously worked as the Associate Director in the Office of Scheduling and Advance for Mayor Muriel Bowser, but is a (proud) native of Cleveland, Ohio. Her love for Cleveland sports teams led her to pursuing her Bachelor's Degree in Sports Management and working for the Cleveland Indians and later the Cleveland Browns. (She also holds a certificate in Meeting and Event Planning). Erika later moved into the media sector where a job relocation brought her to Maryland, and finally DC! We're glad she's here. Please wish her a warm DYRS welcome if you see her around our locations!

Stepping Up



DC dance group Step Afrika! is working with young people at the Youth Services Center (YSC), exploring with them the history and culture of stepping, and teaching them a routine! The students demonstrated their newfound skills at a showcase on November 19, along with a performance by Step Afrika!



Community Engagement

Valerie Jarrett Meets Girls in DC's Juvenile Justice System *Senior Presidential Advisor Supports the Journey Home*

On November 18, Senior Presidential Advisor Valerie Jarrett visited with young women in "Journey," the gender-responsive 10-bed unit at the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS) New Beginnings Youth Development Center that meets the treatment needs of girls committed to the agency while keeping them close to the District. The unit opened this past summer.

"Girls should be close to home, and close to their families," said Ms. Jarrett, who also serves as the Chair of the White House Council on Women and Girls. "This is a huge step for the District."

Ms. Jarrett visited New Beginnings as part of an effort led by the Vera Institute of Justice to increase the understanding of incarceration and conditions of confinement, encourage transparency of facilities, and foster public engagement around criminal justice reform.

Positive Youth Development Reliving Thanksgiving

On Tuesday, November 22, New Beginnings Youth Development Center and Maya Angelou Academy (MAA) hosted a Thanksgiving dinner for residents and their families, preceded by the school's annual speech competition. "I really enjoyed myself...the food was good and spending quality time with my son, 'J' was wonderful," said one parent. "In addition, it was a pleasure meeting and speaking with all the people that are in direct contact with 'J.'" The day started off with the facility's annual Turkey Bowl, where staff and residents combined to form teams, engage in friendly competition, and had a great time. All then headed to the auditorium for MAA's 7th Annual Speech Competition, and their first ever debate competition which was reminiscent of scenes from the Great Debaters. The Scholars' delivery and precision proved exceptional as they discussed timely topics, including the "Black Lives Matter" movement, the death penalty, abuse of power, and juvenile bail. The day's festivities culminated with family members and residents relished in a holiday meal compliments of the New Beginnings culinary team, where everyone also enjoyed good music and great conversation. 11 families also received food baskets.



Speaking Your Language

DYRS staff, like the youth we serve, represent many cultures and speak many different languages. Please complete this very short survey (<http://tinyurl.com/jxke4p9>) to showcase the array of languages - including English - that our very talented staff speaks. The agency is aiming for 100% participation this year as part of the District of Columbia's Language Access Program requirements.



How to Prevent Locking Out Your Network Account

If you have a government-issued cell phone and you change your password on your PC, you MUST ALSO change your password on your cell phone or it will eventually lock you out of your account.

You MUST do this within five minutes of changing the password on your PC. Check with IT if you don't know how to change your password on your cell phone.

Do not just lock the screen. If you do that and you change your password, you will continually get locked out because that old session is still logged in under your old password.

Also, whenever using a PC that is not your assigned PC, LOG OUT when you are done (this includes Smartboards).

Training Days

CPR Training

As part of the agency's mandated training, all staff are required to train in CPR. If you are not trained, or your certification expired, then this important, lifesaving class is for you. This course will be taught from 9 am - 3 pm per the below schedule.

12/14/2016, YSC, Room 1600

12/28/2016, YSC, Room 1600

1/11/2017, NB, Training Room

Mandated Reporter Training

Staff is required to take Mandated Reporter training. Please access and take the 2-hour course, print out your certificate of completion, and email it to Cathy Ohler.

SkillPort Training

As a DYRS employee - you can access free training through two different Skillport portals:

MyDYRSlearning.Skillport.com – includes required training for DYRS employees; and

DCHR.skillport.com – includes thousands of books, videos, courses.

Employees can take these courses anytime, anywhere, without supervisor sign off. Just sign on, find something that looks interesting and read it, watch it, or listen to it.



Restorative Justice

Restoring Hope, Restoring Communities

On November 18, staff at New Beginnings Youth Development Center attended a screening of the film Southeast 67, the inspirational story of a group of Southeast DC seventh graders in the 1990s that had the opportunity to receive full scholarships to college by means of the "I Have a Dream" program as long as they graduated from high school. Staff had the privilege of Steve Bumbaugh, former Program Coordinator of the "Dreamer" project, joining them as well.

Staff watched mesmerized as the "I Have a Dream" program, spearheaded by the Bainum Family Foundation, captured the youths' struggle to make it from seventh grade through high school.

After the screening, staff discussed "how powerful the film is" and how the film helped "this film helped "gain a greater understanding of just how important our work is here at DYRS." All shifts left motivated and inspired.

Focused on Finding Homes



DYRS youth and staff participated in an energetic discussion about ending youth homelessness on November 17. This focus group was facilitated by DYRS staff and members of the DC Alliance of Youth Advocates facilitated this focus group to gain insight into the issues that young people face at home and in the community. Youth offered suggestions on how to curb youth homelessness, such as building more youth-focused employment programs, learning trades, and other skills that would give them the ability to simply pay rent. They also mentioned more family therapy and even constructing 24-hour drop-in centers for youth.

Family Engagement Fun



DYRS parents, caregivers and staff headed to Massanetta Springs in Virginia from November 18-20 for a weekend of reflecting, refreshing and reuniting.

