



# A Year of Excellence

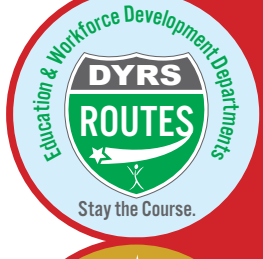
The Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS) Newsletter.

December 27, 2018



# Happy New Year!

Team DYRS, below are a few of our accomplishments over the past year. As we celebrate the holiday season with our loved ones, please also take a moment to reflect and take pride in your great work as none of these achievements could have occurred without a collective focus on our mission to provide the best care possible to the young people and families we serve. Now let's carry this momentum into 2019 and beyond!



## Youth and Family Programs

### Improved Public Safety Outcomes

- DYRS's most recent recidivism data for our committed youth population is at a near-record low of 22%, whereas historically, the agency's recidivism rate is between 35%-50%.
- Current abscondence rates for the agency are at a record low of approximately 1.5%, whereas historically, the agency's abscondence rate is between 6%-15%.

### Enhanced Community Programming

- Through initiatives like the Credible Messenger Mentoring, DYRS began expanding our work with stakeholders such as DC Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement and the Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services to expand restorative-justice based services such as community healing circles to additional DC residents. Incorporating restorative justice practices across the District helps improve public safety while also developing stronger communities.

### Expansion of Restorative Justice Practices

- DYRS infuses restorative justice practices into its approach to working with youth. Restorative practices are grounded in the idea that harm to the community can be addressed by allowing a responsible person to make a positive contribution back to the community. While restorative justice is typically used as an alternative to incarceration or the justice system, approaches to resolve conflict proactively and build peace help youth give back to their communities and build stronger neighborhoods, regardless of justice system involvement. Encouraging youth to participate in neighborhood solutions to resolve conflict outside of the justice system is an important community-building strategy. DYRS strives to restore community by connecting youth to people and organizations in the neighborhoods they call home. Moreover, the agency actively encourages youth to participate in community service and civic engagement as a way to empower young people to participate in community restoration.

## Secure Programs

### Successfully transitioned youth from DC Department of Corrections (DOC) to the custody of DYRS

- In accordance with the Comprehensive Youth Justice Amendment Act of 2016, removing juveniles from DOC's custody affirms the District's commitment to ensuring that all young people involved in the justice system are treated in a manner that aligns with their age-appropriate needs.

### Successfully eliminated the use of secure confinement by opening the Hope House for status offenders

- In accordance with the Comprehensive Youth Justice Amendment Act of 2016, these vulnerable youths are now placed in a caring, home-like environment and offered valuable community-based services.

## Health Services Administration

### Establishment of emergency simulation training program in partnership with Children's National Medical Center

- Therefore, improving emergency response coordination between medical and security staff as well as the overall preparedness level for all staff in secure settings.

### Establishment of formal Departmental Multidisciplinary Continuous Quality Improvement Program

- Formalizing a structured process for collecting and reviewing data on remaining indicators tied to the Jerry M. Consent Decree.
- Continuous monitoring of both the quality and timeliness of healthcare delivery to youth in secure facilities will ensure that residents receive the best possible health services, which will improve youths' health outcomes.

## Operation and Administration Services

### 100% completion rate for FY18 Performance Plans

- his milestone increases accountability and performance for all agency staff, while also allowing employees to be eligible for incentives based on their outstanding performance.
- Represents an increase of 32% from lat year.

### Completion of \$4.5 million Capital Improvement Project (CIP) project at New Beginnings Youth Development Center

- This long-term project installed suicide deterrent air diffusers and return ducts, as well as facilitated the continuously even air temperatures and proper humidity levels throughout the youth living areas at New Beginnings Youth Development Center. The impact is demonstrated through its substantive effect on the youth's safety, security, and quality of life at the facility.

## Strategic Planning and Performance Improvement

### Graduated Responses Implementation

- Graduated responses, which include both incentives and sanctions that do not include incarceration, have been shown to reduce out-of-home placements and help youth with decision-making. Over the past year, the strategic planning team worked closely with a team of care coordinators, a coordination supervisor, and an outside consultant to implement the graduated responses matrices outlined in the Care Coordination Manual.

### Creation of internal quarterly performance management process

- In 2018, we instituted an internal quarterly performance management process that allows the Agency's leadership to review progress on strategic initiatives and performance indicators. The new process has helped 1) increase the number of staff involved in the development of strategic initiatives and performance management activities; 2) standardize the way staff report out performance updates; and, 3) expand the number of opportunities staff have to discuss performance successes and challenges. The added dialogue around performance is helping the Agency make better data-driven decisions/operational changes that, subsequently, improve the efficiency and effectiveness of services provided to youth and families by the Agency's direct care staff.



Event Calendar

JAN 5

FOSTER PARENT RECRUITMENT BRUNCH

1356 OKIE ST NE - WASHINGTON, DC - 10:00 AM

JAN 7

ANCHORED IN STRENGTH

2101 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR AVE SE  
WASHINGTON, DC 20020- 12:30-2:00 PM

JAN 14

ANCHORED IN STRENGTH

450 H STREET NW - WASHINGTON, DC 20001  
12:30-2:00 PM

JAN 28

ANCHORED IN STRENGTH

450 H STREET NW - WASHINGTON, DC 20001  
6:30-8:00 PM

★ DYRS

WE ARE WASHINGTON DC

Foster Parent Recruitment Brunch

Ivy City Smoke House  
1356 Okie Street NE  
Washington, DC 20002

January 5, 2019  
from 10 am to 2 pm

SPECIAL GUEST

RADIO HOST POET

Join DYRS in a FREE informational recruitment brunch to learn more about the process to become a licensed foster parent.

“ Parenthood requires LOVE ”

For more information, please contact Anesha Parker at [anesha.parker@dc.gov](mailto:anesha.parker@dc.gov)

Join us Saturday, January 5th from 10 AM to 2 PM at the Ivy City Smoke House located at 1356 Okie Street NE for an information session to learn the process of becoming a Foster Parent.

The Brunch serves to educate our community becoming a licensed foster parent, while changing negative perceptions about the challenges of fostering a court-involved youth.

The Brunch is open to all residents of the DC Metropolitan Area, particularly those who are interested in fostering youth under the care of DYRS.

REGISTER NOW at <https://bit.ly/2EwLqfs>

For more information, please contact Ms. Anesha Parker at (202) 702-4570

LED BY LOVE

WITH Clinton Lacey AND Linda Harllee Harper

Wednesdays at 6PM

ON WPFW 89.3 FM

Jazz and Justice

YOUTH COUNCIL

POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

### Toys for Tots

On December 8th, the Youth Council was back at it again! With support from our DYRS family, youth were provided a platform to serve others by helping Toys for Tots sort donated toys by age and gender.

DYRS would like to give a special shout out to the Youth Council Team, Achievement center staff, and everyone who participated in this event. Thank you for creating this opportunity for our youth to give back to the community.

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RAISING THE BAR

On December 6th, Deputy Director of Youth & Family Programs, Garine Dalce; Program Managers Ana Guzman and Asante Laing; Family Engagement Specialist, Princess Taylor; DYRS Parent, Lesa Holmes; and Quion, spoke in front of a large crowd of Juvenile Justice professionals in Winchester County, Virginia.

The presentation focused on how DYRS successfully transitioned from a punitive probation approach to a community-centered model. The “DC Model” is based on the six elements of Positive Youth Justice (PYJ), it is inclusive of Restorative Justice Practices, and delivered with the support of community-centered initiatives like Covenant of Peace and Credible Messenger.

### A Warm Welcome...

To our new Deputy Director of Health Services, Dr. Kenya Key, Psy.D., CCHP. Dr. Key will be providing guidance and oversight to the behavioral health programs at New Beginnings and the YSC.

Prior to her arrival here, Dr. Key served as the Chief of Psychology with Cermak Health Services-Cook County Department of Corrections. There, she oversaw the clinical operations of mental health services, supervised all clinical activities, and managed a staff of over 90 mental health providers in the provision of inpatient, residential, and outpatient treatment services. Before this role, she worked as licensed clinical psychologist and mental health center leader at Cook County Juvenile Detention Center.

Dr. Key majored in Education and Social Policy/Psychological services and received her master's in counseling/psychology at Northwestern University. She received her Doctorate in Clinical Psychology from Pepperdine University.

Dr. Key brings a wealth of experience in mental health administration, correctional psychology, juvenile justice and women's issues, gender-responsive services, and trauma-informed care.

We are indeed fortunate to have her on #teamdysr!

★ ★ ★ DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH REHABILITATION SERVICES ★ ★ ★

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