



Committed to Excellence

The Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS) Newsletter.

March 13, 2018



RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

POSITIVE STAFF DEVELOPMENT

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

FAMILY EMPOWERMENT

JERRY M. COMPLETION

Event Calendar

MAR 17 STRAP SESSION II - BOXING EXHIBIT
NEW BEGINNINGS YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CENTER,
8400 RIVER RD. LAUREL, MD 20724, 1 PM

MAR 21 LED BY LOVE, 89.3 FM, 6PM

MAR 24 MARCH FOR OUR LIVES
PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE NW, BETWEEN 3RD NW
AND 12TH NW, DC 20001

MAR 28 OFFICE OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT VOCATIONAL
FAIR, OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY AND EN-
GAGEMENT, 100 42ND ST. NE, 10 AM - 2 PM

MAR 28 LED BY LOVE, 89.3 FM, 6PM

APR 2 RESTORATIVE JUSTICE CIRCLE FACILITATOR'S AC-
CREDITATION CEREMONY, THE ARC, 5:30-7:30 PM



POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

A Royal Transformation

On March 10, the Youth Services Center (YSC) welcomed "Royal Athletes," a youth sports organization that hosted a sports clinic focused on team building, teamwork and sports techniques related to basketball. Young people at YSC engaged with the guest, who provided instruction and skill demonstration for each group of residents with the goal of the youth being able to transfer the experience to his or her everyday life. Royal Athletes states that its purpose is to build "majestic, dignified and noble individuals in sports and life." DYRS applauds its youth at YSC for their efforts in transformation!



The Best Intentions

Female residents at the Youth Services Center (YSC) participated in the Self-Love Mindfulness & Yoga Pilot Program today, designed to bring self-wellness practices residents through mindfulness, yoga, and brief discussions, mixed with a lot of fun! The goal is to teach the residents how to become more intentional, empowered, and grounded in their personal values as well as their personal relationships. The mission is to increase the residents' self-confidence and resilience through the power of the mind-body connection. The program empowers residents to make healthy life choices in preparation for their transition from YSC to their new destination. Activities include group mindfulness, breathing techniques, yoga poses, and journaling.



A Fresh Start

On February 6, New Beginnings Youth Development Center recognized four youth who completed 400 hours with the facility's Barbering Vocational Program. These young men, along with their families, celebrated this major accomplishment with their teachers at Fresh Start Barbering - Marco Price and Vincent Poree - along with the DYRS Staff. Please congratulate our youth for showing that hard work and dedication to a goal does pay off.



On the Road to Success

On January 26, the New Beginnings Recreation Department rewarded three of its top scholars for their academic achievements by taking them to an auto show at the Washington DC Convention Center. The youth participated in various activities, including getting a firsthand look at vehicles which will be debuted in 2019.

Youth Council



A New State of Mind

On Thursday, February 4, the DYRS Youth Council Peer Leadership Team, along with several Credible Messengers, participated in a powerful discussion on the state of policing in the black community facilitated by DC Attorney General Karl Racine. The panel consisted of attorneys, advocates, and MPD officials. But the strong representation of women of color actively fighting for the rights of our citizens is what stuck out most to our youth; so much that the current Youth Council Peer Leadership Vice President expressed that it fueled her motivation to become a lawyer.

PREACH OUTREACH

Don't forget to sign up for PREA training! All sessions will be held on the below-listed dates from 9 am - 1 pm at New Beginnings and are open to all staff.

3/21 • 3/22 • 4/4 • 4/5 • 4/18 • 4/19

For more information, please contact Nancy Fisher at nancy.fisher@dc.gov



Did you hear? DYRS Director Clinton Lacey and Senior Deputy Director Linda Harlee Harper are hosting a radio show on juvenile justice, every Wednesday at 6 pm on WPFW 89.3 FM. Led by Love will cover broad scale national youth justice current events and topics, with listeners able to call in and ask questions. Tune in as DYRS continues to open doors and open the floor for questions and answers.



Alumni Speak

Former Maya Angelou Academy scholars at New Beginnings Youth Development Center joined together on January 26 at the "Alumni Speaks/Career Fair" to speak about life pre- and post-DYRS commitment, current employment/academic experiences, and barriers they overcame in the community. The event provides current scholars with the opportunity to learn from the experiences of those who once walked the same path. A special thanks to L., J., M., B., D., M., and C., who did an amazing job of answering them and engaging our youth.



YSC Representing!

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Illustrating Progress

On Thursday, February 1, after successfully completing a Digital Arts Vocational Program, four youth at New Beginnings received certificates for completing Adobe Photoshop CS6 and Illustrator CS6 – Beginners Training.

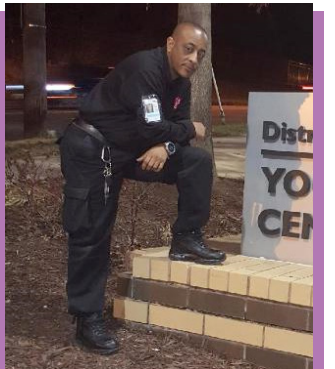


FAMILY EMPOWERMENT

Anchored in Strength-Social Justice & Empowerment "Teach Us Our History, Show Us Our Strengths"

From March 2 through March 5, Anchored in Strength parents, guardians and caregivers realized their strength and growth through the 53rd Anniversary Celebration of the Bridge Crossing/Bloody Sunday Jubilee in Selma, Alabama. The was All realized the strength of family as they found themselves immersed in the vibrations of our ancestors who died for voting rights, and overall equitable treatment for humanity. The echoes of the foot-soldiers and civil rights leaders spoke to the hearts and minds of DYRS parent leaders, as they have truly started to embody and embrace rich history and civic responsibility. The value of the experience will translate and inspire ownership of the tone and political climate in their own neighborhoods/ communities.

As the families came face to face with the source of their innate strength, they conjured a strong sense of social justice. All accepted the charge of continued growth, active involvement, and intentional movement to emerge as social justice warriors on purpose. Family Strength, Community Strong, Empowered Families Matter! Here we grow....



POSITIVE STAFF DEVELOPMENT

A Time for New Beginnings

In alignment with DYRS's belief in positive staff development, the agency supports Youth Development Representative (YDR) Tyrik Gooden - affectionately known as "TJ" - in his "new beginning" as the first transgender male staff at DYRS. YDR Gooden is a symbol of courage to young people who battle with their self-identity who uses his experiences to encourage others. YDR Gooden served the District government for 12 years and is a valued member of the DYRS transportation team. YDR Gooden is in the process of publishing his personal memoir titled "Trapped," where <at a young age> he expresses "I would look in the mirror and feel trapped inside of a body that just didn't fit." Currently, YDR Gooden says he's the happiest he's ever felt, and that he's grateful for the support and encouragement from family, friends, and co-workers alike, including:

Secquana Flowers • Paula Chambers • Clinton Merchison • Marco Wimberly • David Butler
Viva Whiteing • Jamia Richardson • Stacy Sanders
#DYRSFam

SUPERINTENDENT SUITE

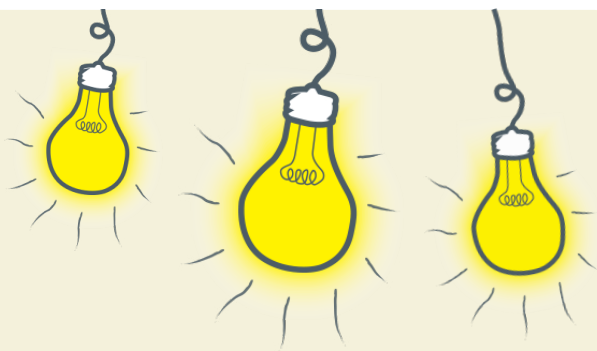
A Truly New Beginning: Moving from Detention to Rehabilitation

By Mack McGhee, Superintendent,
New Beginnings Youth Development Center

At New Beginnings Youth Development Center, our responsibility is to lead our region, country, and our world in moving youth justice interventions from a model focused on detention to rehabilitation. In light of the past 30 years of mandated reform, what proves obvious is that mandated reform is not enough. Instead of reform, a transformative approach is needed to take us from old models of incarceration to new, visionary practices of restorative justice - services that rehabilitate those who are disabled by society, and resources that respond to lack and scarcity in opportunities in our community.

In my last column, I explained our three-part framework for healthy youth justice interventions in place of systemic harmful detention. Our aim is to make all contact between our young people and the justice system rare, fair, and beneficial. As emerging experts in youth interventions, we can put in place strategic practices that manifest our ideals. To ensure that youth contact with the justice system is rare, we need to develop skills and systems that make our work beneficial for our young people. We must model de-escalation, positive communication, and discipline ourselves and our young people to work through multisystemic problem solving.

To ensure that our young people are not being incorporated into a cycle of incarceration, we must work to make their time at New Beginnings the furthest thing from "incarceration." Our young people come to us overwhelmed by fear, anger, and deficiency, and we can grow and develop their powers of courage, joy, and abundance. Through our educational, vocational, and therapeutic programming, we must equip our young people to be restored as visionary leaders in their communities, prepared to share their newfound knowledge and skills. Against all statistical odds, which indicate that a young person in detention is bound to a life of incarceration, we should reimagine our work as a process of transformation and commit ourselves to care for our young people in ways that propel them toward a new future, in which we will not only love them but will also be inspired by the change they can be in our world.



Professional Development Training Survey

Don't forget to reserve three minutes to provide input on your training needs through the Office of Professional Development's Training Survey! Invest in yourself by going to the link <http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/4192880/Office-of-Professional-Development>

Entitled to Justice

Committed to transparency and positive staff development, the executive team at DYRS hosted a series of focus groups in February to encourage staff to express their thoughts and opinions about the Comprehensive Youth Justice Amendment Act (CYJAA) legislation which calls for DYRS to take custody of Title XVI youth. Staff asked relevant questions about how and where the Title XVI youth will be housed, and others. Senior Deputy Director Linda Harlee Harper reassured staff that agency leadership would equip staff with the tools and training necessary for the upcoming changes. "I want people to realize that they too are young people, so they don't need different policies and procedures," said Senior Deputy Director Harlee Harper. "But I do think we all agree that we could always use more tools in our toolbox about how we deal with young people in general. You can never train enough, so we'll support you not just to deal with this population, but our entire youth population."

Your Choices are Your Life

Starting Tuesday, January 30, healthcare and direct care staff from the Youth Services Center and New Beginnings participated in a three-day Advance Reality Therapy Choice Theory course with William Glasser, author of The Choice Theory; and Kim Olver and Sylvester Baugh, coauthors of Leveraging Diversity at Work. This three-day session is part of the continued preparation for staff to become certified in, and future trainers of, the Choice Theory model, which states that:

- All we do is behave;
- That almost all behavior is chosen; and
- That we are driven by our genes to satisfy five basic needs: survival, love and belonging, power, freedom, and fun.

The Theory also states that "In practice, the most important need is love and belonging, as closeness and connectedness with the people we care about is a requisite for satisfying all of the needs," qualifying an understanding of it important for an agency that is led by love.



Well on Their Way

On Tuesday, January 30, the Staff Morale Committee at New Beginnings promoted health and wellness by passing out healthy snacks accompanied by literature on the importance of eating a balanced nutritious diet. The committee introduces different vendors in the health and wellness arena to New Beginnings staff every month, as the agency understands that a healthy lifestyle leads can positively affect the entire agency.



Health and Fitness

The 450 Achievement Center hosted its 3rd annual "Health and Fitness Day" event where youth received health tips from certified clinicians who checked blood pressure, cholesterol, and BMI, on site. Youth also learned innovative techniques and workout routines for living a healthy lifestyle with members from "Off My Block," a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing programs and activities for youth to achieve a sense of confidence, connection, and control beyond their perception.

Personnel from various divisions within the building made their way to the Achievement Center to receive services, participate in the mini obstacle course set up in the Achievement Center common area and enjoy the healthy mix of menu items such as Thai ginger, sweet chili, and a baked chicken and seafood pasta salad.

★ ★ ★ DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH REHABILITATION SERVICES ★ ★ ★

Email Brenda Padavil, Communications Director at brenda.padavil@dc.gov with questions or submissions for future issues.

