



# Committed to Excellence

The Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS) Newsletter.

July 26, 2018



RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

POSITIVE STAFF DEVELOPMENT

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

FAMILY EMPOWERMENT

JERRY M. COMPLETION

## SAVE THE DATE



# EXIT

## Rally

SEP 18  
2018

12-4 PM

YOUR PRESENCE IS REQUESTED

- *Learn* everything you need to know about *Jerry M.*
  - about the goals that remain and how you can help DYRS meet the performance standards!
- *Celebrate* recent accomplishments related to the lawsuit!

### Expect:

- Music, food, games, and activities
- Your location assignment (transportation available for both facilities)
- The Exit Rally Planning Committee at your location **soon** to talk it up about *Jerry M.* trivia (hint: partake to win prizes at the Rally)!



## POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

### Colorful Choices

The DYRS Youth Council volunteered and participated in the District's Annual Color Run 5K Marathon on Saturday, July 14. Our young people assisted in picking up trash and taking down equipment, but also had an opportunity to meet different vendors and participate in some of the colorful festivities! DYRS Youth Council staff later treated the young people to lunch and brought them home safely. When staff asked committed youth Q.S. and J.A. if they needed community service for school, they said "No, we volunteer simply because we enjoy giving back!"

*Now that's what love looks like at DYRS!*

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### Youth Services Center

## FAMILY FEST!

JOIN US FOR A FUN-FILLED DAY WITH  
FOOD, FESTIVITIES, FAMILY & FRIENDS!



Youth Services Center - The Maze  
1000 Mt. Olivet Road NE, Washington, DC 20002



For more information, please contact Woodrow Sheffield at (202) 576-8411

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### Out of Sight, On Our Minds

#### A Boy's Life in the Age of Mass Incarceration

Author and DC community leader Tony Lewis Jr. dropped into the Youth Services Center on July 24 to speak with young men at the facility. Mr. Lewis spoke to them in two groups about the themes mentioned in his book "Slugg: A Boy's Life in the Age of Mass Incarceration," including "what it's like to be forgotten by society." The theme highlights that society sometimes seems to have an "out of sight, out of mind" attitude when it comes to incarcerated persons, especially young men of color. DYRS Credible Messenger Paul Winestock joined the visit to give a testimony about his life experiences, after which Mr. Lewis made a spirited plea to the youth to become the leaders for future generations in the District of Columbia. The youth listened attentively as Mr. Lewis proceeded to tell stories about his own life; some of the youth acknowledged that they could relate to his struggles. All of the young men received signed copies of "Slugg" and got a chance to speak with him briefly one-on-one, where he urged each of them to take advantage of the "many opportunities available" to them at DYRS, stating "there aren't too many institutions like this in this country."



## A Warm Welcome...

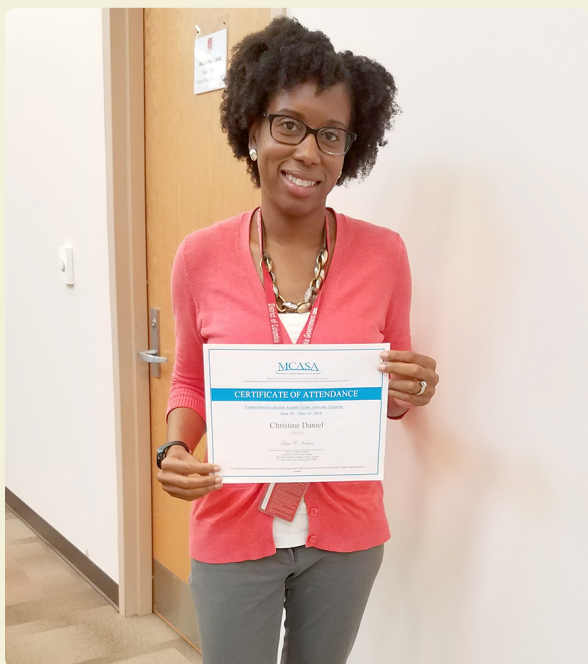


### ...to All New DYRS Employees, including:

Yavonne Williams, Sieta Straughter, Teresa Jackson, Wendell Johnson, Cornell Sutton, Debra Russell, Jerome Latimer, Rashad Muhammed, Charles Wilkinson, and Tiana Fletcher. Please introduce yourself if you see them around our locations!

# PREACH OUTREACH

Meet DYRS' new PREA Victim Advocate, Ms. Christine Daniel, LCP. If she looks familiar, it's because Ms. Daniel currently serves as a Behavioral Health Practitioner at New Beginnings Youth Development Center (NBVDC). While Ms. Daniel's will continue in this role, she is also assuming this very important position as a Victim Advocate on behalf of our youth. The PREA policy states that DYRS "shall offer support of a victim advocate who has been trained in victim advocacy, sexual assault and the needs of youth sexual abuse victims." Ms. Daniel participated in a 25-hour long training session through the Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Abuse from June 18 – 21, 2018. Her new duties include responding to both the Youth Services Center and NBVDC as needed. When asked about her new role, Ms. Daniel stated, "Thank you for this opportunity to become the PREA Sexual Victim's Advocate for New Beginnings and YSC. I will use my skills and certification to exemplify the mission of DYRS. My goal is to provide advocacy to juveniles in need, and most importantly, to identify effective preventative measures to ensure the safety of all." DYRS appreciates Ms. Daniel's commitment to our youth, and PREA Coordinator Nancy Fisher for continuing to spearhead all PREA efforts.



## Successful by Design

On June 5, 2018, youth at New Beginning completed their Digital Arts Vocational Class. The scholars designed across four categories: Graphic Design, Comic Strip Creation, Tattoo Design, and Animation. At the end of their eight-week course, they created a portfolio of their final projects which included animation shorts, comic strips, business cards, CD covers, cartoon characters, web layout, t-shirt design and independent works of art. Congratulations to our scholars for tapping into their creativity to complete this milestone!



## Dreaming Big in NYC

On Wednesday, July 18, young men from DYRS participated in a New York City "Dream Big Career Exploration" trip, where they had the opportunity to hear from an array of young professionals who work for some of the biggest companies within the music and fashion industries. The roster included Bad Boy Enterprises, Power 105, and Roc Nation. This is the DYRS Achievement Center's second time hosting the "Dream Big" trip, with the goal of helping youth expand their career aspirations by exposure to entrepreneurs - and in learning about their struggles and triumphs along the way. The journey ended with them touring the city and taking in the sights and sounds of New York.



## ★ ★ ★ DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH REHABILITATION SERVICES ★ ★ ★ TUITION ASSISTANCE REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM (TARP)



- Up to \$2000/semester and \$4000/year reimbursement for eligible\* fulltime employees
- Courses must be taken at accredited institutions of higher education in the United States
- Applications for current Summer academic sessions will be accepted through, Friday, August 3, 2018



### Need a TARP application?

- Look under the HR tab on the DYRS intranet, or
- Send a request to [dys.hrops@dc.gov](mailto:dys.hrops@dc.gov)

For more information, contact TARP Coordinator Vernee Briscoe at (202) 299-3129 or [dys.hrops@dc.gov](mailto:dys.hrops@dc.gov).



\*Please refer to the TARP policy for eligibility. TARP - "We've got you covered"

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

