



Committed to Excellence

The Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS) Newsletter.

August 23, 2018



RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

POSITIVE STAFF DEVELOPMENT

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

FAMILY EMPOWERMENT

JERRY M. COMPLETION

- THE -



EXIT

Rally SEP 18
2018

IS IN

4

TUESDAYS




Rally Together

The *Jerry M* Exit Rally is on September 18! Be sure to look out for the planning committee at your location for "Talk it Up Tuesdays," where you'll learn everything you need to know about *Jerry M*, the goals that remain, and how you can help DYRS meet performance standards. You'll also get the answers to need-to-know trivia questions to score prizes at the Rally. The next Talk it Up Tuesday will take place on 8/28 at YSC and 450 H. Street from 12-4pm.

Calling All Game Show Hosts!

Do you have a bubbly personality? Have you always wanted to be the next Alex Trebec, Steve Harvey, Pat Sajak, Oprah? Do you have what it takes to reel people in? If so, you might just be perfect to host games at the rally and test your fellow employees on their *Jerry M* knowledge. Please contact Patrice Swift-Taylor at patrice.swift-taylor@dc.gov if interested!



#GUNZDOWNDC

#DYRSFAM,

As you all know, gun violence greatly impacted us this year with several youth as wounded victims of gun violence, lost lives, and unfortunately also gun-related arrests. The availability and influx of guns in DC is astounding, particularly in light of the very successful rate of gun recovery by MPD.

Our youth often share that they cannot put their guns down because everyone else has a gun. We challenged our youth to use their voices to be a part of the solution.

The result is an amazing compilation of verses written and performed by our talented young people, with an outro by our very own Director, Clinton Lacey.

It is our hope that our song, titled #GunzDownDC, will grow into a citywide anti-gun violence campaign for the District of Columbia.

One of our youth created the logo for the song and movement; it clearly exemplifies the message asking the community to please put the guns down.

The song will drop **Tuesday night at 8 pm (8/28) on WPGC 95.5 FM (Tony Redz Show)**, and release **Wednesday night (8/29) at 6 pm on WPFW 89.3 (Led by Love)** — with our youth guests discussing the lyrics and the making of the track. Please tune in, and thank you for rallying with our young people to stop gun violence.

Linda Harllee Harper, Sr. Deputy Director
& Dana McDaniel, Program Manager



POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

YSC's Got Talent

The "YSC's Got Talent" event at the Youth Services Center on August 14 proved to be another resourceful avenue to inspire and expose youth to the world of art. At times, they needed to look no further than themselves as the talent and the art. They found themselves able to open up to another world of possibilities with motivation and inspiration from agency staff. YSC direct care staff provide support, energy, and most importantly, their presence, encouraging all young people to perform to the best of their ability. Kudos to YSC for always being there for our youth.



Self Expression

On Monday, August 13, youth at New Beginnings Youth Development Center took full advantage of a "Punch and Paint" arts and crafts session on campus. Our scholars sketched, painted, and exhibited their creativity, proud to display their final works of art. Art continues to be an avenue for healing and self expression for DYRS youth. Many youth realized talents that they didn't know they had, proving that sometime it takes finding the beauty within to blossom and flourish.



WITH **Clinton Lacey**
AND **Linda Harlee Harper**

WPFW 89.3 FM
Jazz and Justice

Did you know that DYRS Director Clinton Lacey and Sr. Deputy Director Linda Harlee Harper host a radio show on topics surrounding juvenile justice? It's on WPFW 89.3 FM, every Wednesday at 6 pm EST. Tune in and catch up on the last few shows!

Washing Their Worries Away



On Thursday, August 16, Level Five and Six youth at New Beginnings (youth in transition back to the community) fulfilled summer community service activities by washing District residents' cars. They picked up a few new skills and felt grateful to spend some time in the sunshine during the last of the summer days, and especially thankful to be able to give back through their time and assistance to the community.



From the top: Youth Council members perform community service activities outdoors; the Achievement Center "fliers" spend a day reaches new heights; girls in Journey Beyond programming participate in Saturday etiquette classes.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Vision and Oversight

District of Columbia Council Member Brianne Nadeau, Chair of the Committee on Human Services, visited DYRS' Southeast Achievement Center on August 23 to experience the extensive programming, resources, and opportunities offered by each Center. She also spoke with youth in a film production class about their experiences and welcomed their suggestions. The visit concluded with a discussion on how to further enhance services. DYRS is grateful to Council Member Nadeau for her support.



POSITIVE STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Well on Their Way

On Tuesday, August 14, the DYRS Health Services Administration (HSA) hosted the first-ever agency wide Health Fair. Staff enjoyed a healthy selection of foods from a variety of vendors and participated in cooking demonstrations. They also tested their fitness knowledge as they visited interactive, health education booths (scoring giveaways such as hand sanitizer and lotion), got body composition analysis, and sought nutritional counseling. Health providers such as Aetna, Kaiser Permanente, United Health Care and the INOVA Employee Assistance Program (EAP) set up stations where employees could freely engage with them on questions and concerns pertaining to their health benefits and options. VIDA Fitness kept the pulse going as they encouraged staff to get moving during a series of line dances. All in all, staff felt well on their way to a healthier way of life. DYRS applauds the HSA for its efforts in keeping the health of all staff in mind, and ensuring that they are well on their way to making better decisions.



Leading by Example

Staff members who are part of the New Hire Buddy Program participated in a luncheon in their honor, as well as "Sip and Paint" events on August 9 at New Beginnings and August 13 at YSC. They engaged with staff at all levels and bonded over their common mission - to help guide new Youth Development Representatives (YDRs) through their first six weeks on the job. Buddies for the program went through a rigorous application process and had to be selected based on high standards of criteria. DYRS applauds all Buddies, listed below, for guiding their colleagues in an effort to make strong, positive impact on our youth.

David Allen • Scott Bullock • Japheth Claude • April Finley • Monica Hill • Legonn Haskins
Nkosinathi Mncube • Andre Phillips • Sharon Pulley • Talut Sultan • Ernest Waiters • Charmony Wright

★ ★ ★ DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH REHABILITATION SERVICES ★ ★ ★

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

