



Committed to Excellence

The Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS) Newsletter.

August 9, 2018



RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

POSITIVE STAFF DEVELOPMENT

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

FAMILY EMPOWERMENT

JERRY M. COMPLETION

- THE -



EXIT

Rally SEP 18
2018

IS IN



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 8/14 at New Beginnings 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 if interested!



YSC
Youth Services Center



POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Family Matters

On July 28, the sounds of "old school" Go-Go music permeated the "Maze" courtyard at the Youth Services Center (YSC) as Youth Development Representative (YDR) Demetrious "Big Jack" Jackson deejayed the 2018 YSC "Family Fest." Greeted by family and YSC staff, youth filled the Maze and took part in individual and family caricature drawings, bull riding, food, popcorn, and refreshments - ecstatic to spend quality time with family. The highlight of the day? Staff joining youth and families for a line dance session.

Now that's what love looks like at DYRS!



Every Picture Tells a Story

On July 31, the C200 pod at YSC tapped into their inner artistry as they completed a day of art therapy with a little help from Youth Development Representatives (YDR) Legonn Haskins, Scott Bullock, and Marqueta Luckey. Art therapy helps youth express and communicate their feelings, and to work through the issues and concerns that brought them to DYRS. As the old saying goes, "every picture tells a story," and art therapy allows youth tell a story they may not otherwise be able to express.



HEALTH FAIR
Live FIT, Love Life!



August 14 ■ 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM ■ YSC Community Room



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!

The Correct Attitude

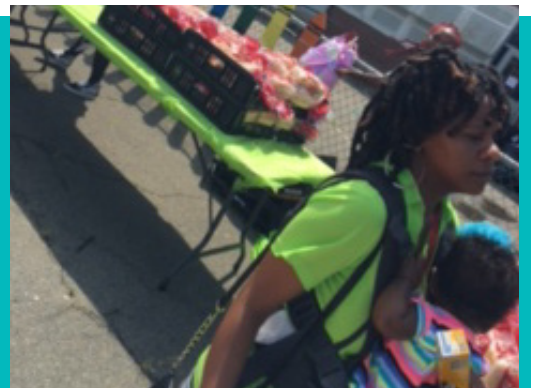


Left to right: Mack McGhee, Jannifer Nevilles, Mark Hamlett, Willie Fullilove, Dr. Alsan Bellard. Not pictured: Janay Williams

On Sunday, August 5, executive team members of DYRS' Secure Programs Division attended the 148th Congress of Corrections in Minneapolis, MN, presented by the American Correctional Association. New Beginnings Deputy Superintendent Mark Hamlett and Deputy Superintendent for Treatment Janay Williams gave a powerful presentation at the conference in Minneapolis. They spoke about Restorative Justice practices and the successful operations and implementation within the secure juvenile settings of the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS).

Deputy Director for Secure Programs Willie Fullilove and New Beginnings Superintendent Mack McGhee served as moderators, while Youth Services Center (YSC) Superintendent Jannifer Nevilles and DYRS Chief Medical Officer Dr. Alsan Bellard served as panelists. Attendees of the conference from all over the United States expressed interest in a lively Q & A session. The workshop gleaned international interest as well, as representatives from Abu Dhabi stayed after the session to learn even more about the Restorative Justice Philosophy.

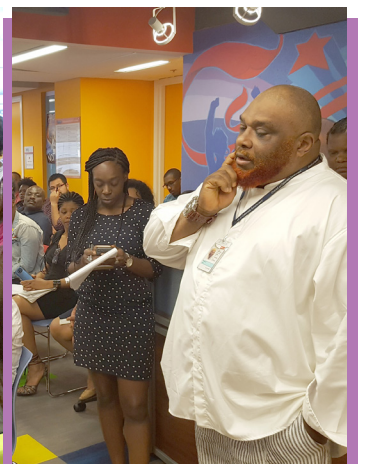
Media showed interest in DYRS' efforts as publication "Corrections Today" interviewed Deputy Director Fullilove and Superintendent McGhee about staff wellness initiatives and the development of the New Beginnings staff "Peace Lounge." Our DYRS staff left the Congress of Corrections feeling confident that it embodies the correct attitude for positive youth justice and juvenile justice reform.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Reciprocity

On August 4, the DYRS Youth Council volunteered at Garfield Elementary School's Back to School Kickoff with DC Councilmember Trayon White. Youth and staff assisted in giving away free school supplies to Ward 8 residents, served food, and shared the opportunities available through DYRS' Achievement Center programs with the community. While at the event, DYRS youth Q.S. found a lost cell phone. He tried to find the phone's owner by dialing a recently called number. He happened to reach the owner's sister, who met Q.S. at the volunteering site and thanked him profusely for the extra effort he took in ensuring the owner received her phone - a perfect way to end a day that emphasized giving back.



POSITIVE STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Talk of the Town

On Tuesday, August 7, DYRS Director Clinton Lacey hosted a town hall meeting for DYRS staff at 450 H. Street and the Martin Luther King Jr. Achievement Center who interact most directly with youth in the community. Director Lacey emphasized the importance of maintaining a constant of will, love, focus, and dedication in order to provide the highest level of care to youth. He also acknowledged the role of a care coordinator in orchestrating the wraparound services that young people receive via the Credible Messenger Initiative, workforce development programs, and other offerings. When he opened up the floor for comments/questions, several staff members provided their thoughts. Long-time DYRS Social Worker Leroy Thorpe stated that "the one thing we need to work on is how to relate to each other" and emphasized the importance of "raising someone up instead of pushing them down." Another staff member commented on bringing solutions instead of simply raising problems. All in attendance found the town hall constructive, and appreciated leadership at DYRS continuing to find ways to engage with staff at all levels.



Food Truck Flashback!

DYRS staff at 450 H. Street and the MLK Achievement Center feast on Astro Doughnuts and Fried Chicken during staff appreciation events on August 2.

★ ★ ★ DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH REHABILITATION SERVICES ★ ★ ★

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

