



DC DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH REHABILITATION SERVICES



FY 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

WE ARE WASHINGTON GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DC MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR

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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

At DYRS, we believe that all of the young people and families in our care are worthy and able to take full advantage of our very best effort to support their success. This is why we do everything we can to protect, guide, nurture, and show up for our youth

and families with compassion, honesty, respect, and resources. At the foundation of our beliefs and actions is the knowledge that our youth are far more than the sum total of their worst decision or most harmful experience. Therefore, we define our relationship as an opportunity to heal, grow, restore, and advance lives.

While we faced some challenges over the course of 2019, DYRS youth's amazing achievements highlighted examples of the courage, intelligence, and grace that they possess within. We saw evidence of their efforts and dedication, through the youth who lit up while learning new skills during the Youth Café in partnership with Starbucks over the summer or the activism that Shamelon championed on Capitol Hill during her time as the president of the Youth Council before heading to college. And of course, there's Jamal, with the guidance of his Credible Messenger Ibrahim, who turned his life around, was accepted into five colleges. These are but a few specific examples of the youth who benefit from the tireless work, mentorship, and love that our everyday heroes at DYRS pour into our youth.

We've had the pleasure to be there for many of these accomplishments and milestones that are wide-ranging, from taking each step toward completing a year of school, securing a GED, sharpening vocational skills, learning real conflict resolution, pursuing entrepreneurship, expressing themselves through art and music, or finally beginning to exhale when embracing the merits of therapy and wellness.

As community leaders, our youth shepherded community conversations, hosted voter registration drives, spoke at conferences, participated in the Day of Empathy, and marched at a Peace Rally. Five of our youth from the New Beginnings Youth Development Center (NBYDC) broke a community service record at the Capital Area Food Bank by preparing and packing 800 meals for those experiencing homelessness throughout the District and surrounding areas. Residents at the Youth Services Center (YSC) took college-level courses side-by-side with Howard University students on criminal justice led by actor and then-student Nick Cannon and Howard University professors.

These were just some of the milestone moments achieved and experienced by our youth and we thank the DYRS staff and other heroes, including our credible messengers, community partners, advocates, grantees, and parents for all that you've done to advance the restoration and wellness of our young people. None of this would be possible without you.

We would also like to thank Deputy Mayor Kevin Donahue and the entire Office of the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice. Last but certainly not least, we want to thank Mayor Muriel Bowser for her unwavering support of DYRS and all District residents for seeking to create healthy, vibrant, and productive communities.

To our youth: we see you, we love you, and we'll be there every step of the way to help you reach your dreams.

Clinton Lacey
Director, DYRS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The core belief of the District of Columbia Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS) is that helping youth transition to a productive and self-sustaining adulthood is the most effective public safety strategy. DYRS assists justice-involved youth in the successful transition to adulthood through careful case planning and care coordination, and by investing in community-based organizations to provide developmentally appropriate supports and services. These efforts and the subsequent findings demonstrate the DYRS approach to meeting its legal mandate to place youth in the least restrictive, most homelike environment that is consistent with public safety.

AGENCY OVERVIEW

DYRS is responsible for the supervision, custody, and care of justice-involved young people in the District of Columbia, who are ordered by a DC Family Court Judge as **1) detained** in a DYRS facility while awaiting adjudication, or **2) committed** to DYRS following adjudication.

The agency provides comprehensive support services to youth committed to its care, both in secure facilities and within the community. At DYRS, it is everyone's responsibility to help young people succeed by providing justice-involved youth the opportunity to reach their fullest potential, and by building on the strengths of youth and their families.

The DYRS vision is to provide the nation's best continuum of care for justice-involved youth and their families through a wide range of programs that emphasize individual strengths, personal accountability, public safety, skill development, family involvement, and community support. In addition, DYRS actively works with other District agencies, community partners, and juvenile justice experts to implement innovative, research-based models that are aligned with national practices for serving justice-involved youth.

COMMUNITY-BASED SUPPORTS AND SERVICES

Although DYRS operates two secure facilities for justice-involved youth in the District, the agency prides itself on developing a robust array of community-based programs to support committed youth placed in their own family homes, local community-based residential facilities, and foster care. From the Achievement Centers to engaging programs and services offered by providers from throughout the District, DYRS works to invest in innovative, community-based programming for youth.

Additionally, DYRS participates in citywide efforts to make DC neighborhoods safer through the implementation of restorative justice practices in its facilities and in the community.



NBC4's Leon Harris interviewed DYRS Jamal and his Credible Messenger Ibrahim for Harris' Heroes.

AGENCY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

DYRS is always seeking ways to evolve and improve the ways we engage and uplift the youth and families that we serve. We believe that innovating while forging local and national partnerships to benefit our youth is key to creating the best opportunities for them.

NATIONAL CREDIBLE MESSENGER SUMMIT

DYRS hosted the first National Credible Messenger Summit in the District, bringing together like-minded leaders to form a common vision and network for Credible Messengers. More than 175 Credible Messengers from across the country convened to formally define the meaning of what a Credible Messenger is, establish best practice standards for the work, and discuss future aspirations to maximize change in the communities served around the country. Through interactive workshops, plenary sessions, and mindful moments, attendees articulated their experiences, lessons learned, and goals for their communities. The four-day experience built a foundation for the future of the Credible Messenger Initiative nationwide.

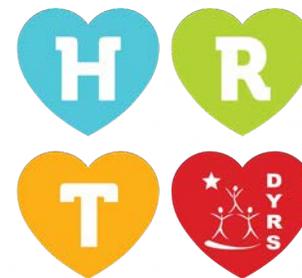


The Credible Messenger Summit

RESIDENTIAL THERAPEUTIC CARE AT NEW BEGINNINGS

The Health Services Administration is developing the structure to provide residential therapeutic care for a broader spectrum of youth with varying behavioral health needs at the New Beginnings Youth Development Center (NBYDC). The goal is to further decrease the reliance on out-of-state placements for youth and thereby maintaining closer connections to their support systems.

LAUNCH OF THE HEART AND RESTORATION TEAM



HEALTH & RESTORATION TEAM

In the summer, the Health Services Administration established the Health and Restoration Team (HRT), a community-based behavioral health team to support the agency's Care Coordination efforts. Establishment of this team closed the potential gaps between the facilities and the community to ensure that continuity of care is optimized. For our youth not in secure settings, the community team is a bridge, advocate, and often conduit to engagement with needed services in the community. The HRT team is also a source of support for staff through the provision of a variety of wellness activities. The Health Services Administration is overall refocusing on the infusion of practices and approaches that support a culture of safety, communication, and collaboration.

CREDIBLE MESSENGER PARTNERSHIPS AND EXPANSION

In addition to hosting more groups and activities at the DYRS Achievement Centers, the Credible Messengers partnered with the DC Public Library at the Shaw location for a pilot program that was extend-

ed through the end of the calendar year. Two Credible Messengers worked in the library to minimize conflicts and engage the public. Credible Messengers continue to increase community outreach and intensive engagement in target neighborhoods to high-risk populations. Credible Messengers also provide training to residents of the Young Men's Emerging Unit at the Department of Corrections (DOC).

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE AMBASSADORS

DYRS is broadening our focus on youth by developing them to become Restorative Justice ambassadors in the community as well as in the facilities by employing the READY (Restorative Education and Development for Youth) curriculum. This curriculum was designed by the Restorative Justice team to incorporate the positive youth development approach, promote accountability, embrace positive decision-making and most of all, encourage youth to adopt non-violent communication techniques. The Restorative Justice team has also designed a two-week Summer Youth Employment program focusing on community service learning, community safety and advocacy.

REAL TALK LECTURE SERIES

The Youth Services Center (YSC) launched Real Talk, a 52-month lecture series developed by Team Leader Dr. Japheth L. Claude that invites professionals who have expertise and/or knowledge pertaining to the topic of the month. Riffing off of the concept of a Ted Talk, invited guests have included Credible Messenger Charles King and Jahvon Gordon of Elite Global. The program is designed to educate participants on the essential tools needed to become well-rounded adults.

Youth subsequently present on the topics, which have touched on everything from domestic violence and conflict resolution to entrepreneurship and higher education. Once a week, residents are responsible for creating a presentation on what they have learned.

They deliver presentations through readings, poems, skits, song, creative dance, and interactive games. Management, administration, vendors and staff are encouraged to sit in on the weekly presentations. The second phase to this program is to invite guest speakers with an in-depth understanding and/or knowledge about the theme to speak to the residents twice a month.

INSIDE-OUT PROGRAM WITH HOWARD UNIVERSITY

Mayor Muriel Bowser and actor Nick Cannon joined DYRS Director Clinton Lacey at the Youth Services Center (YSC) to kick off the Inside-Out Program in September, a new course that resulted from a partnership between DYRS and Howard University. Howard University professors Dr. Bahiyyah Muhammad and Eric Ruffin taught the class along with Cannon, who was also a student at the university at the time.

The professors taught a college-level social justice course to YSC youth and Howard students. This is the first such Inside-Out Program in the District and the first to be offered at a Historically Black College or University (HBCU) that will unfold inside a secure juvenile facility. The Inside-Out program works to bring various Howard University resources into the facility to engage with all residents in order to help facilitate successful reentry back into their families and communities.

The 15-week program and curriculum followed the DYRS approach to education and the Positive Youth Justice (PYJ) framework that seeks to empower youth by meeting them where they are. Each course offering is guided by feedback and leadership of the DYRS youth participants from various units. This version of the program puts an emphasis on the arts and builds on the current innovation, resiliency and consideration of DYRS Director Clinton Lacey's vision of "What Love Looks Like" in the juvenile justice system.

SECTION ONE: THE DYRS APPROACH

In order to realize the DYRS core belief that helping youth transition to a productive and self-sustaining adulthood is the most effective strategy for public safety, the agency employs a complementary set of approaches, practices, and strategies to help young people succeed that also promote safer, stronger communities. Philosophical approaches are operationalized through care planning and coordination, investing in communities, restorative justice practices, and engaging families.

Additionally, the following set of central tenets allow for these approaches and practices to be sustainable and effective:

1. Keep youth in their home as often as possible.
2. Make incarceration a response of last resort.
3. Focus on family.
4. Build on the youth's resiliency.
5. Ensure fairness of process.
6. Restore community.

POSITIVE YOUTH JUSTICE

Research shows that the best way to enhance long-term public safety is to provide justice-involved youth with the tools they need to successfully transition into adulthood.¹ In its approach to working with justice-involved youth,² DYRS utilizes the Positive Youth Justice

(PYJ) model – a framework derived from a broader body of research that supports Positive Youth Development (PYD).

The principles of PYD are grounded in the philosophy that youth are assets and resources to the community, and with the right programs, opportunities, supports, and services, youth can develop to their fullest potential. PYD leverages youth strengths to move past challenges and promotes resilience.

PYD is focused broadly on the developmental needs of young people in general, whereas PYJ focuses on the specific developmental needs of young people involved in the juvenile justice system. The PYJ approach recognizes that justice-involved youth are particularly vulnerable to being labeled as victims or villains, which can undermine a PYD approach. The PYJ model also adapts the traditional 40 developmental assets identified through PYD, honing them to six core developmental domains and providing a framework for transforming theory to practice in juvenile justice systems.

The six core developmental domains are:

- **Work:** work experience, apprenticeships, employment readiness, income, and independence
- **Education:** literacy, credentials, learning skills and career planning
- **Health:** physical activity, diet and nutrition, behavioral health, lifestyle and sexuality

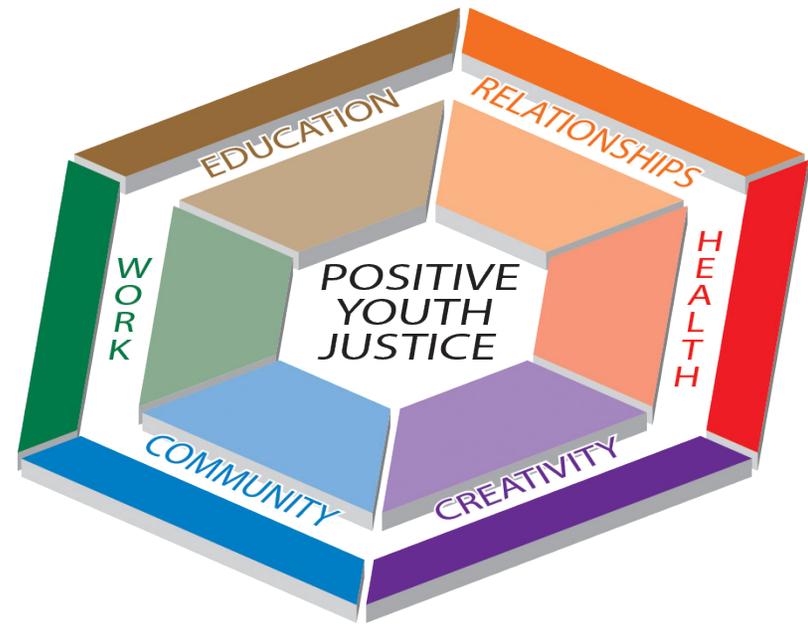
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¹Mendel, Richard (2011). No Place for Kids: The Case for Reducing Juvenile Incarceration. Baltimore, MD: Annie E. Casey Foundation. <https://www.juvenile-in-justice.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/NoPlaceForKids.pdf>; National Research Council. (2012). Reforming Juvenile Justice: A Developmental Approach. Committee on Assessing Juvenile Justice Reform, Richard J. Bonnie, Robert L. Johnson, Betty M. Chemers, and Julie A. Schuck, Eds. Committee on Law and Justice, Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press.

²Butts, Jeffrey A., Gordon Bazemore, and Aundra Saa Meroe (2010). Positive Youth Justice: Framing Justice Interventions Using the Concepts of Positive Youth Development. Washington, DC: Coalition for Juvenile Justice.

- **Relationships:** communication skills, conflict resolution, family systems, intimacy and support
- **Community:** civic engagement, community leadership, services and responsibility
- **Creativity:** personal expression, visual arts, performing arts and language arts

To help youth reach their fullest potential, DYRS focuses on aligning its programs and accountability mechanisms to these foundational ideas and approaches. All aspects of DYRS culture – from staff training to youth programs – are infused with the belief that justice-involved youth can succeed. In addition to meeting the developmental needs of youth, DYRS is committed to building on youth assets and potential, utilizing youth as resources and creating partnerships with youth to generate positive, sustaining change.



POSITIVE STAFF DEVELOPMENT

The Main Thing T-Shirts at New Beginnings

The New Beginnings Management Team wore customized t-shirts in solidarity and to support the concept of intentionality.



Director Lacey Participates in Panel Discussion at Mayor Bowers' Managers Summit

DYRS Director Clinton Lacey participated in a panel discussion moderated by Deputy Mayor of Planning and Economic Development (DMPED) Brian Kenner at the first-ever Managers Summit held for District Government managers in March at the Entertainment Sports Arena.

"As we work with our youth, we work with the families, their friends, and the entire ecosystem because we know that we have to engage that wider circle in order to be successful in engaging that young person," Director Lacey said during the discussion.

Screenwriter Antwone Fisher and Professor Rick Miller Talk Hope with DYRS Youth and Staff

Author and screenwriter Antwone Fisher and Rick Miller, a professor and co-founder of the Center for the Advanced Study and Practice of HOPE at Arizona State University, led "The Soul, Science & Culture of Hope with Antwone Fisher and Rick Miller" for DYRS staff and youth at New Beginnings.

During the discussion, Fisher talked about transitioning from hopelessness to hopefulness alongside Rick Miller, a profes-



sor and co-founder of the Center for the Advanced Study and Practice of HOPE at Arizona State University. Miller also founded Kids at Hope, a child and youth development program that was founded on the belief that all kids are capable of success, and that we should regard youth, no matter their origin, as being 'at hope' instead of 'at risk.'

Miller conducted a series of workshops, trainings and discussions with DYRS staff focusing on hope at various DYRS locations following the initial event at New Beginnings Youth Development Center, including a two-day Train the Trainer Certification Academy at the MLK Achievement Center. The data-driven study of hope references discoveries through MRIs that can watch hope and hopelessness take place in the brain in real time as various areas of the brain light up when engaged.

DYRS Celebrates Mental Health Awareness Month

DYRS staff wore green on Tuesdays during the month of May in observance of Mental Health Awareness Month. DYRS Deputy Director of Health Services Kenya Key and the DYRS Health Services Administration led the effort to highlight the importance

of mental health awareness, understanding trauma, and wellness for our youth and families.

Court-involved youth have disproportionately higher rates of trauma exposure than their non-court-involved peers. As such, it is critical that all aspects of the juvenile justice system develop trauma-informed cultures and utilize trauma-informed practices to maximize the psychological and physical safety of the youth. We at DYRS are happy to count ourselves among the agencies that embrace trauma-informed best practices, cultures of care, and healing-centered approaches in our work with the District's court-involved youth and families.

The DYRS Health Services Administration also hosted a Wellness Fair at New Beginnings and in the Youth Services Center gym in May as part of Mental Health Awareness Month, which included fitness activities from ES Fitness LLC, Planet Fitness, 4selfmotivation Fitness LLC, and Fitness 4 A New You. Additionally, the Wendt Center for Loss and Healing was in attendance providing resources for restoring hope and healthy functioning to adults, teens, and children who are coping with grief, loss, and trauma.



CASE PLANNING AND CARE COORDINATION

A core goal of the agency is to effectively engage and empower youth and families by providing positive, supportive and complete case planning and care coordination. The rehabilitative process is designed to ensure that youth reach their fullest potential and contribute positively to their community. In support of this approach, complete case planning and care coordination include:

- **Assessments to inform decision-making:** DYRS uses a comprehensive set of assessments that are completed prior to and throughout commitment that include a Structured Decision Making (SDM)³ tool and Child and Adolescent Functional Assessment Scale (CAFAS);⁴
- **Engaging family:** Care coordinators engage families in a variety of ways, including facilitating Team Decision-Making (TDM) meetings every 90 days, connecting families to services, skill-building opportunities, support systems, and opportunities for self-advocacy;
- **Success planning:** A comprehensive individualized Success Plan, updated every 90 days, details the goals of the youth, reflects progress, and/or identifies additional supports to help a youth prepare for the transitioning end of commitment; and

- **Connections to opportunities and support:** DYRS connects youth to comprehensive programming and individualized opportunities to build upon each youth's strengths and to target his or her areas of need.

BUILDING COMMUNITY CAPACITY TO SERVE YOUTH

An essential part of DYRS's effort to implement PYJ programming, as well as other supports for justice-involved youth, includes building and deepening community engagement by investing in the community. DYRS recognizes that a young person's time with the agency represents only a brief period of their lives. Young people's families, peers, neighbors and local neighborhood institutions represent a far greater and sustainable resource that predates and will outlive a young person's time with DYRS.

DYRS believes that community supports and services provide youth opportunities to be engaged in developmentally appropriate activities as opposed to experiences that might deepen their involvement in the justice system. Community-based services present one of the most effective and cost-conscious ways of protecting public safety and helping youth succeed.⁵ Therefore, DYRS makes strategic investments in local organizations serving the neighborhoods where

NOTES

³ National Council on Crime and Delinquency and Annie E. Casey Foundation (2012). *DYRS Risk Assessment and Structured Decision-Making: Validation Study and System Assessment Summary Report*. Washington DC: Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services. <https://dyrs.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/dyrs/publication/attachments/DYRS%20Validation%20Study%20System%20Assessment%20Summary%20Report.pdf>

⁴Hodges, Kay (2005). Child and Adolescent Functional Assessment Scale. In T. Grisso, G. Vincent, and D. Seagraves (Eds.), *Mental Health Screening and Assessment in Juvenile Justice* (pp. 123-136). New York, NY: Guilford Press.

⁵Mendel, Richard (2011). *No Place for Kids: The Case for Reducing Juvenile Incarceration*. Baltimore, MD: Annie E. Casey Foundation. <https://www.juvenile-in-justice.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/NoPlaceForKids.pdf>

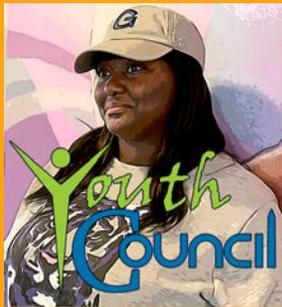
⁶Clear, Todd, et.al., "Coercive Mobility and Crime: A Preliminary Examination of Concentrated Incarceration and Social Disorganization," *Justice Quarterly*, v20 (1), March 2003. www.researchgate.net/profile/Elin_Waring/publication/240525064_Coercive_mobility_and_crime_A_preliminary_examination_of_concentrated_incarceration_and_social_disorganization/links/548fd64e0cf2d1800d862b4e.pdf

youth and their families reside. By partnering with local organizations and individuals who live, work, and grow in the same neighborhoods as our youth, DYRS better equips local neighborhoods to serve and support youth and families where they reside.

A robust network of supports also allows DYRS to place more youth at home, thus limiting the negative impacts of out-of-home placements for individual youth and the destabilizing effect of removing youth from their social networks.⁶ Minimizing both of these effects will result in stronger, safer communities in the long term.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT

Youth Council Hosted Voter Registration Drive



The Youth Council launched a 2019 Voter Registration Campaign at the DYRS MLK Achievement Center. Young people received training on the voter registration process and discussed plans and strategies to register as many young people as possible. The Youth Council partnered with the Board of Elections for the event, which also included a call-to-arms to recruit and train interested young people in this process.

DYRS is proud to be appointed to the Board of Elections as an agency, making it easy to get community members, staff, and youth registered to vote. All DYRS Achievement Centers were equipped with voter registration forms that DC residents can fill out on the spot and have their voter registration card mailed to their address.

Youth Council Advocates on Capitol Hill

The DYRS Youth Council advocated for juvenile justice on Capitol Hill in February alongside California Congressman Tony Cárdenas. DYRS Youth Shamelen sat on a panel discussion persuading Congress to make several amendments to the Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) Act. Shamelen delivered a powerful

speech that shared her perspective as a formerly incarcerated youth who now served as president of the DYRS Youth Council at that time.

Record-Breaking Community Service

In July, five residents from the New Beginnings Youth Development Center (NBYDC) broke a community service record at the Capital Area Food Bank by preparing and packing 800 meals for those experiencing homelessness throughout the District and surrounding areas.

Working alongside NBYDC Recreation Specialists, Treatment Managers, and Youth Development Representatives, each youth was eager, willing, and excited to give back to the community.



Please join us in congratulating our youth for working hard in service to the community and for taking the time to learn about and display generosity, compassion, and teamwork.

National Day of Empathy

#Cut50, a nonprofit founded by Van Jones, held its 3rd Annual National Day of Empathy in March. The national day of action was created to generate empathy on a massive scale for millions of Americans impacted by the criminal justice system. Organizers in all 50 states push for various reforms to help those impacted by crime and mass incarceration.

Tony Lewis, Jr., community leader, activist and author of “SLUGG,” spearheaded the movement in DC with a Day of Empathy event at the Department of Employment Services (DOES). The event highlighted progressive policies, legislation and programming benefitting Returning Citizens in DC, while advocating for some necessary improvements. Tony partnered with several organiza-

tions, including DYRS, bringing out over 100 attendees in support of justice reform efforts.

The highlight occurred at 4 pm when attendees participated in a moment of silence in solidarity with inmates being ‘counted’ in federal prisons across the country at that exact moment, while supporters nationwide simultaneously posted photos on social media using the hashtags #standandbecounted #dayofempathy #cut50.

Vocational Career and Job Fair at the RISE Center

The DYRS Office of Education and Workforce Development and the Far Southeast Family Strengthening Collaborative hosted the Vocational Career and Job Fair in June at the RISE Center. Baker Construction, Events DC, and Busboys and Poets were among nearly 40 employers that shared information about employment opportunities with attendees. More than 500 people registered for the event to learn about careers in a variety of areas, including law enforcement, entertainment, government, and education.

RESTORATIVE PRACTICES IN THE COMMUNITY

Consistent with Positive Youth Justice (PYJ) and building community capacity to better serve justice-involved youth, 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.⁷ 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 commu-

nity-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 community service and civic engagement as a way to empower young people to participate in community restoration.

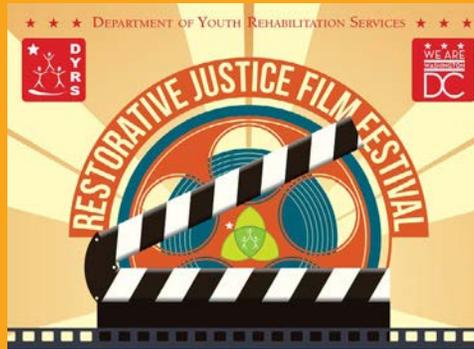
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⁷Degelman Charles, et.al. (2006). *Giving Back: Introducing Community Service Learning, Improving Mandated Community Service for Juvenile Offenders* Washington, DC: Constitutional Rights Foundation. www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ojjdp/237389.pdf

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE AT DYRS

First Restorative Justice Film Festival

DYRS hosted a Restorative Justice Film Festival for the community featuring movies and documentaries that focused on the impact, power and values of the Restorative Justice practice and philosophy. This event shed light on the experiences of those impacted by crime, poverty, incarceration, social and political injustices and other societal ills. The film series, which was held at the Public Welfare Foundation in August, aimed to educate and encourage courageous conversations.



DYRS Youth Participates in Restorative Justice Panel

In July, DYRS Youth Council President Shamelen sat on a Restorative Justice panel hosted by the R Street Institute, a nonprofit organization with a mission to engage in policy research on effective governing. The panel discussion focused on needed reforms in the juvenile justice system as well as criminal justice policy. Shamelen shared insight about being on probation and offered suggestions regarding juvenile justice reforms that she thinks could benefit other youth involved in the juvenile justice system.

PARTNERING WITH FAMILIES

DYRS is committed to engaging and empowering families to promote positive life outcomes for youth. Parents, caregivers, and other family members are not only critical to supporting a youth's positive development,⁸ but they are also valuable resources for one another.⁹ The agency uses family-centered practices and invests in various forms of peer support and leadership development for families of committed youth. DYRS's family-centered practices include:

- Anchored in Strength, a biweekly family support group;
- Town halls geared toward parents and caregivers, general and gender-specific;
- Annual retreat for parents and caregivers of DYRS's committed and post-committed youth;
- Active involvement of families in key decisions regarding their youth;
- Skills-building classes, activities, and other programming open to

families through the Credible Messenger Initiative, Achievement Centers, and community-based programming; and

- Leadership development for families, including opportunities to serve on panels in support of community-based juvenile justice practices.

In summary, DYRS's contemporary approaches continue to allow the agency to foster youth success and promote public safety while focusing on effective case planning, building community capacity, implementing restorative practices, and partnering with families.

NOTES

⁸Sheffield Morris, A., Silk, J.S., Steinberg, L., Myers, S. S., Robinson, L. R. (2007). The Role of the family context in the development of emotion regulation. *Social Development*, 16(2) 361-388.

⁹Kuhn, Emily S., & Laird, Robert D. (2014). Family Support Programs and Adolescent Mental Health: Review of Evidence. *Adolescent Health, Medicine and Therapeutics*, 5, 127-142.

FAMILY EMPOWERMENT

Foster Parent Recruitment Brunch

In January, DYRS hosted a Foster Parent Recruitment Brunch at the Ivy City Smoke House for an information session to learn the process of becoming a Foster Parent. The brunch also served as an opportunity to change the negative perceptions about fostering court-involved youth and educate parents on providing safe, supportive, and structured environments for youth. WPGC 95.5 FM's Poet Taylor delivered a powerful testimony about her experience as a foster child and explained how crucial foster parenting can be in a child's development. The event had a great turnout with more than 60 guests. Many parents connected with partnering agencies and expressed interests in becoming foster parents.



Five foster parents were recruited at the brunch. PCC Stride, an extended and therapeutic family care program that recruited three of the foster parents at the event, hosted a foster parent appreciation event in May in acknowledgment of May being

Foster Care Awareness Month. WIN Family Services, a faith-based child and family mental health network serving youth and families, recruited two foster parents at the January brunch and hosted a foster parent appreciation event in May.

Unity Day Trip to Cameron Run Park

The DYRS Achievement Centers wrapped up their summer enrichment activities with Family Days of Unity at Cameron Run Park. DYRS staff coordinated two trips to the amusement park in Alexandria, Virginia for committed youth and their families from our MLK and 450 Achievement Centers in August. DYRS Care Coordinators, Credible Messengers, and Achievement Center staff worked together to plan a successful activity. The Unity Days were a huge success thanks to the coordination and collaboration efforts of nearly 150 youth, their families, and staff.



Thanks to collaborative efforts, the Achievement Centers were able to deliver wonderful summer activities with a combined total of approximately 225 people participating throughout the summer. Staff kept the momentum going throughout the school year.

DYRS Anchored in Strength Parenting Group

The DYRS Anchored in Strength (AIS) Support Group provides an emotionally safe space for parents, guardians, and caregivers to share their thoughts, feelings, challenges, and triumphs about their youth's involvement with the justice system.

The innate strength and resilience of each family is reignited as they learn how to access and navigate available agency resources. Endurance and perseverance prevail through ongoing empowering and transformative opportunities that raise con-

sciousness and increase civic responsibility. Self-care as it relates to physical health, social-emotional health, financial literacy, time management, and spiritual enlightenment, are intentional points of unceasing focus. Nourishing food for the body and unconditional love for the soul is always present.

The support group convenes every Monday at one of the agency's Achievement Centers. Please note that Princess Taylor, the AIS Group Facilitator, responds to crisis intervention and requests for individual and family coaching.

COVENANT OF PEACE

In keeping with PYD and PYJ, DYRS takes every opportunity to promote our youths' positive growth and development, enhance resilience, and foster healing within the family and community. During commitment, and sometimes before, DYRS youth are engaged in a core set of self-empowering principles through the Covenant of Peace, an anti-violence initiative that addresses systemic issues of violence. Developed by DYRS and community stakeholders, Covenant of Peace subject matter draws from faith, culture, and historical traditions. Covenant of Peace includes seven core pillars:

1. The Impact of Absence
2. The Power of the Tongue
3. What Love Looks Like
4. My Life Matters
5. The Act of Forgiveness
6. My Word is My Bond
7. My Family is My All



POPULATION

DYRS served a total of 1,648 youth in FY 2018 and 1,550 youth in FY 2019. These numbers include both youth ordered by the DC Family Courts to be committed to DYRS and those ordered by the Family Court to be detained or held overnight at YSC or in youth shelters.

POPULATION			POPULATION HIGHLIGHTS
FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	
1,937*	1,648*	1,550*	Total Number of Youth Served (Unique Youth)
357	335	301	Total Number of Committed Youth Served (Unique Youth)
223	224	196	Average Daily Committed Population
140	103	96	Newly Committed Youth

*Includes youth committed, detained, in shelter homes, previously committed and other justice involved youth.

In FY 2019, DYRS served a total of 301 youth that were committed to the agency at any point in the year. The average daily population of youth committed to DYRS steadily decreased over the last several years. In FY 2019, 96 youth were newly committed to DYRS. Similar to previous years, in FY 2019 African American youth are disproportionately committed to the agency with 87 out of 96 youth being African American. The majority of newly committed youth are males (88.5 percent) and between ages 15 to 17 years (76 percent).



SECTION TWO: DYRS PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

ACHIEVEMENT CENTERS

In FY 2014, DYRS opened its first Achievement Center in Northwest Washington, DC and opened a second Achievement Center in Southeast Washington, DC in FY 2016. Consistent with Positive Youth Justice, the Achievement Centers foster career development, life skills and healthy living, as well as support families and youth as they develop into healthy, independent and capable people who can thrive and enjoy a high quality of life.



YOUTH SERVED AT THE ACHIEVEMENT CENTERS

274 COMMITTED YOUTH **53** POST-COMMITTED

POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT IN THE COMMUNITY

Fall Back Fashion Showcase

In October, talented DYRS young designers hosted a fashion called the Fall Back Showcase at the H Street Atlas Performing Arts Center. DYRS teamed up with local non-profit EAT Cares to provide youth in their fashion design program with the awesome opportunity to share their creations in a showcase that was open to the community. More than 200 people attended the event, which was hosted by 93.9 FM WKYS's Little Bacon Bear and Malik

Jarrett, founder and owner of EAT and EAT CARES.

Several young designers showcased their brands at the event, including 18-year-old Isaiah, who created a clothing line called OCHI; Carza, 14, who started clothing line the Respect Brand; Brianna and Lynndon founded the Royal Hectic Rebels (RHR); and the MNF clothing line started by Charles.



Go-Go Vote

DYRS youth came together to create a song that emphasizes the importance of voting in October. Doug Watson of Urban Encouragement Group (UEG) pitched the idea to UEG CEO Art Garfield with the goal of motivating young people, the elderly, and non-voters to register and “GO-GO VOTE!”

Auditions were held and three youth were selected to be a part of the song. Samantha produced the music track, while Kenneth (aka “KADO”) and Lynndon performed on the track with one of the instructors from the DYRS music production program, Thomas Payne. Mr. Craig and Mr. Miles, instructors/producers for the music production program, mastered the music track. The song incorporated lyrics listing reasons voting is so important, including: “Reason number seven, they all up in heaven, our ancestors died for that voting blessing.” Art Garfield expressed the following about the song: “This was a very important project, which introduced our youth to civic involvement that may have a global effect one day.”



DYRS Youth Attend the In Solidarity We Rise Conference in Atlanta

DYRS Youth Council Members Shamelen and Sebene delivered presentations at the “In Solidarity We Rise Conference” in Atlanta, Ga in May. The national convening of young leaders, advocates, social service professionals, and policymakers included a variety of opportunities to engage, learn, and connect. The youth participated in intensive deep-dive learning sessions with leaders and experts on critical issues, sharing creative models and ideas for programming, community organizing, communication and policy reform, and dynamic training opportunities.

President of the DYRS Youth Council, Shamelen, delivered a presentation that focused on the importance of self-advocacy and the impact that DYRS services and programs like the Girls Programming, Credible Messengers, and Care Coordination services, had on her. The high school senior and aspiring lawyer also shared the story of her evolution, including several community service projects, advocating for the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act, and lobbying Congress with her peers.

Sebene, a budding entrepreneur who became a masterful wig-maker after learning the craft through DYRS programming, discussed the virtues of capitalizing on skill development in her presentation. Inspired to start her own business, Sebene launched “Touched by Sebene,” through which she creates and sells wigs to clients impacted by Alopecia and other hair-loss diseases as well as offers beauty services such as makeup and hair care. The multi-talented Sebene also is a licensed cosmetologist and licensed security guard. The proud mom also plans to complete her degree in early childhood development.

CREDIBLE MESSENGER INITIATIVE

In an effort to build stronger and safer communities, DYRS invests in neighborhoods and people that help to make up the communities that our youth call home through the Credible Messenger Initiative. The Credible Messenger Initiative is a transformative mentoring program for youth committed to DYRS. Credible messengers are community members who share their similar experiences with the youth and families served by DYRS. The Credible Messengers' approach draws from restorative justice practices and peace-building principles. Through this initiative, credible messengers serve as one-on-one transformative mentors and family engagement specialists.



CREDIBLE MESSENGER: ENGAGEMENT AND ENROLLMENT

TYPE OF PARTICIPANTS	ENROLLMENTS		UNIQUE PARTICIPANTS		AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY	
	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2018	FY 2019
Committed Youth	508	457	298	273	137.5	133.4
Committed Youths' Families	190	156	154	132	144.0	136.8
Post Committed Youth	89	79	70	74	134.9	180.4
Post Committed Youths' Families	26	34	25	33	154.2	147.1
TOTALS	813	726	327	320	146.7	139.8

CREDIBLE MESSENGERS

1st National Credible Messenger Summit

The National Credible Messenger Summit took place from October 1-4 in the District, bringing together like-minded leaders to form a common vision and network for Credible Messengers. More than 175 Credible Messengers from all across the country convened to formally define the meaning of a Credible Messenger is, establish best practice standards for the work, and discuss future aspirations to maximize change

in the communities served around the country.

Through interactive workshops, plenary sessions, and mindful moments, attendees articulated their experiences, lessons learned, and goals for their communities. This incredible four-day experience built a foundation for the future of the Credible Messenger Initiative nationwide.

CREDIBLE MESSENGERS

Credible Messenger Unity Breakfast

In November, DYRS hosted its second quarterly Credible Messenger Unity Breakfast. The event took place at the District's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement (ONSE) to give Care Coordinators and Credible Messengers the opportunity to come together and share helpful information regarding effective ways of serving youth. With more than 100 people in attendance, DYRS staff and Credible Messengers shared impactful stories about successful collaborations that have helped to more efficiently and effectively serve our youth and their families.

DC Unity Summit

In September, frontline violence intervention workers across District government agencies gathered for a Unity Summit. The event hosted more than 200 guests, including Credible Messengers from DYRS; the Deputy Mayor of Public Safety and Justice (PSJ); Project Change, the District's Hospital-based Violence Interruption Program from the Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants (OVSJG); the Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement (ONSE); Roving Leaders from the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR); and the Cure the Streets program from the Office of the Attorney General (OAG).

The two-day event included welcome remarks from Dr. Roger Mitchell, Chief Medical Examiner from the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) and from CJ Blair of CJ Blair Speaks. Guests also participated in team-building exercises and workshops that focused on everything from Restorative Justice and trauma to conflict resolution and financial literacy. The event closed out with Keynote Speaker Eric Thomas, PhD of ET Inspires, a Chicago-based author, educator and pastor.

DYRS Director Clinton Lacey led and moderated Developing You, a panel discussion that talked about potential career evolution possibilities that consider education, dedication, and entrepreneurship. Panelists included Credible Messenger Program Manager Norman Brown; Ronald F. Day, Vice President of I-CAN, Education, and Employment Services for the Fortune Society; Credible Messenger Keith "Wali" Johnson; and Nicole Styles, Program Coordinator for East River Family Strengthening Collaborative (ERFSC).



SECTION THREE: YOUTH OUTCOMES

The Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS) provides youth with an important network of positive supports and services to assist in their individual successes. However, no single placement, service, or person is the sole reason for the success of a young person. It is the good work of each individual youth that propels them towards individual achievement, with the agency staff and community-based providers playing a supportive and collaborative role along the way.

The chart below provides an overview of the positive outcomes achieved by young people served by and committed to DYRS. In addition, DYRS does not calculate the percentages of youth who achieve these outcomes because not every youth committed to the agency would be eligible. For example, a 15-year-old in grade nine would not necessarily be eligible to earn a high school diploma.

OFFICE OF EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The DYRS Office of Education and Workforce Development (OEWD) creates and implements programs grounded in Positive Youth Justice principles that support youth engagement in school or work. OEWD strives to provide committed and previously committed youth with the appropriate services, supports, and opportunities within the community that promote education, workforce development, and employment.

In FY 2019, 10 DYRS youth obtained unsubsidized employment at several DYRS partner agencies and area businesses that included Safeway, the Food Industry, and the Labor Force industry. In addition, 11 youth received certifications in the fields of construction and video production.

Regarding educational outcomes, 5 youth earned a high school diploma or GED in FY 2019. Additionally, 6 youth enrolled in post-secondary educational institutions, which included Lincoln University, Virginia State University, and the University of the District of Columbia.

	EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT MILESTONES					
	WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019
	Certificates Earned	128	33	37	9	11
Paid Work	17	33	13	10	10	
EDUCATION	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	
GED/HS Diploma	5	19	13	9	5	
College Education	24	13	4	4	6	

EDUCATION

Transition Zone

In May, the DYRS Education and Workforce Development staff hosted the grand opening for the Transition Zone, a new space designed to provide educational, vocational, and behavioral support to DYRS's youth. Located in the Achievement Center at DYRS headquarters, the program was designed to host workforce development sessions, in-person and online tutoring sessions and Restorative Justice sessions.



Youth and Family Programs College Tour

The Office of Education and Workforce Development hosted its 5th Annual College Tour in July. Chaperoned by the Youth and Family Programs staff, five youth visited Virginia State University, Virginia Union University, Coppin State University, Morgan State University, and Hampton University. Three of the youth attended their first-ever college tour. The purpose of the three-day trip was to give youth the opportunity to experience life on campus with the hopes of providing additional motivation to attend college.

Back to School Event

The annual DYRS Back to School event for committed youth in August included the distribution of backpacks, school supplies, and resources from vendors for the school year. Achievement Center staff and volunteers stuffed backpacks with school sup-

plies and hygiene products to ensure that our youth are ready for this school year. DYRS youth also received complimentary haircuts gifted by professional barber Tyrell Guinyard at the Achievement Center at 450 H Street NW. DYRS's youth also took advantage of free hairstyling services provided by Luxe Cosmetics Beauty Bar of Temple Hills. Ladies had the option to choose from braided styles, blowouts, and roller sets.

3rd Annual Graduation for Youth at The Arc

DYRS hosted its 3rd annual graduation ceremony for committed youth in the community, themed Stars in the Making. Held at THEARC in June, the ceremony celebrated a number of youth who graduated from high school and earned a GED this year. Undeterred by previous challenges, the graduates include an aspiring nurse, firefighter, mortician as well as college-bound youths Shamelen and Jovanni, who will both attend Virginia State University, and Simone, who will attend the University of the District of Columbia. Rufus, a 2019 graduate of Clark Atlanta University, was the keynote speaker.





All of the graduates were presented with gift bags, certificates, and a celebratory dinner. DYRS Chief of Staff Adam Aljoburi delivered opening remarks welcoming the guests and graduates and DYRS Youth Engagement Specialist Rendell Keith, gave closing well wishes. DYRS Director Clinton Lacey shared commendations with his message. Director Lacey encouraged the graduates to be role models and leaders within their community to their peers and younger children and youth.

Graduation for Youth at New Beginnings

DYRS Director Clinton Lacey opened the Maya Angelou Academy Graduation Ceremony at the New Beginnings Youth Development Center with powerful remarks to the graduating youth before their families, teachers, and Credible Messengers in June. Director Lacey shared that graduating from high school is a special accomplishment and encouraged them to “not to let the current circumstances define who you are becoming.” Educators then took to the stage to reflect on the young people’s growth and maturity over the past school year.

Youth also got the opportunity to speak about their own journeys towards graduating high school and earning their diplomas. Youth and families enjoyed taking pictures and a dinner reception following the ceremony, where they were given the opportunity to mingle with teachers and mentors. DYRS is proud to congratulate the Maya Angelou Academy Class of 2019 for their hard work and commitment and wish them all continued triumph in the future.



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Pathways Career Fair



The Pathways Career Fair is the first in a series of professional development events launched by the DYRS Education and Workforce Development Department in the spring that were intended to help DYRS youth find their path and achieve their educational and career aspirations. The event

exposed youth to different potential tracks allowing them to make an informed decision regarding what next steps they will pursue during and after their commitment to DYRS.

Youth had the opportunity to take an O*NET career test, which helped zero in on what their interests are, how they relate to the world of work, provide a sense of what kinds of careers may be a good fit. Once the youth had a solid idea of what they wanted to pursue, staff helped them create vision boards to focus on their goals and aspirations.



Youth Café in the Achievement Center

The Office of Education and Workforce Development partnered with Starbucks to create a skill-building opportunity for DYRS youth in the community. In July, DYRS youth hosted the Youth Café, where they prepared Starbucks beverages and snacks for visitors over the course of a two-week period while running the café in the Achievement Center at 450 H Street NW.

Starbucks staff trained college-bound youth on how to craft drinks and provide top-notch customer services. Those youth employed a train-the-trainer model and instructed high school age youth on the same skills and ran the café for two weeks. The youth were so inspired that they wanted to extend the café hours and created themed days such as Staff Appreciation Days.

Youth Secured Photography Job

In September, DYRS Post-Committed Youth “K” recently landed a photography job with Out of The Box (OTB) Photography. OTB Photography Founder Jermaine Gibbs worked closely with DYRS youth last year during a Youth Restorative Justice Photojournalism Program. After completing the program, Jermaine was so inspired by K’s dedication, consistency and talent that he invited him to assist with various photography jobs. K did so well that Jermaine offered him a permanent position at OTB Photography.

“K was always present and positive. He never missed a class and when he showed up, he was ready. He never complained about his circumstance and was very dedicated and professional in producing high-quality work,” Gibbs said. “After a trip to New York, I really started to notice the great quality of his photos and how professional they were. K showed up to every shoot with a positive mindset. His energy was vibrant and positive.”

SECTION FOUR: FY 2019 DYRS YOUTH POPULATION

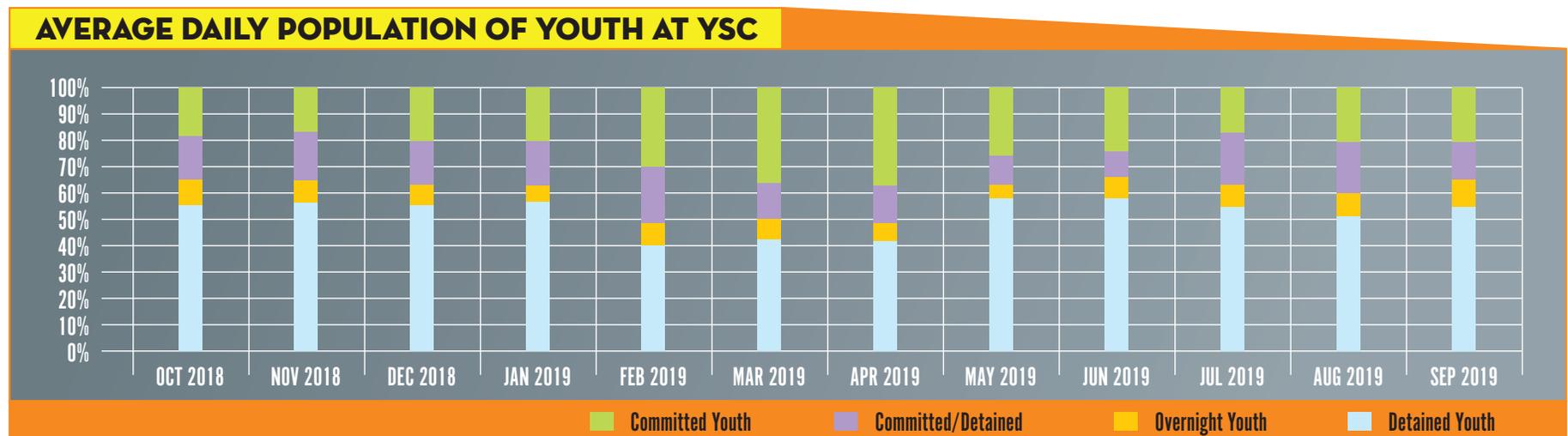
DYRS YOUTH AT THE NEW BEGINNINGS YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CENTER AND THE YOUTH SERVICES CENTER

In FY 2019, the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS) served 136 unique youth at the New Beginnings Youth Development Center (NBYDC), a total of 1,339 youth at the Youth Services Center (YSC), and 249 unique youth in shelter homes. These numbers include both youth ordered by the DC Family Court to be committed to DYRS and those ordered by the Family Court to be detained or held overnight at the agency's Youth Services Center, (YSC) – a secure residential facility for detained male and female youth awaiting adjudication and/or disposition by the courts; or in youth shelters.

Youth Services Center

The Youth Services Center (YSC) is an 88-bed, secure detention facility that provides 24-hour supervision, care and custody to youth who have been ordered to YSC by a DC Family Court Judge while awaiting adjudication or disposition. YSC also houses a smaller number of committed youth who are awaiting placement. In FY 2019, YSC served a total of 1,339 youth with an average daily population of 40.3, including youth admitted for one overnight stay. The YSC's average length of stay, not including overnight stays, was 19.4 days. Of the 1,339 unique youth served, the majority were male (68%). Over 92 percent of the enrollments were African American.

On any given day in FY 2019, detained youth represented approximately half of the population at YSC, an average of 52 percent.



New Beginnings Youth Development Center

New Beginnings Youth Development Center (NBYDC) is a 60-bed secure residential treatment facility with 24-hour supervision and comprehensive social services grounded in the principles of Positive Youth Justice. Youth may be placed at NBYDC while awaiting placement in another facility or as part of the DC Model Program. The DC Model Program is a level system through which the youth progresses through a process of staff-facilitated self-exploration that addresses history, behavioral patterns, family issues and challenges, and how these factors influenced their present situation. The program also includes components of behavioral modification, cognitive therapy, and Positive Youth Development. The DC Model Program also incorporates smaller homelike housing modules that limit the number of youth per unit to 10.

The total daily population at NBYDC for FY 2019 averaged 35.8 youth. The average length of stay (ALOS) was 120.4 days. NBYDC served 136 unique youth, with a majority being male (97 percent) and African American (94 percent).

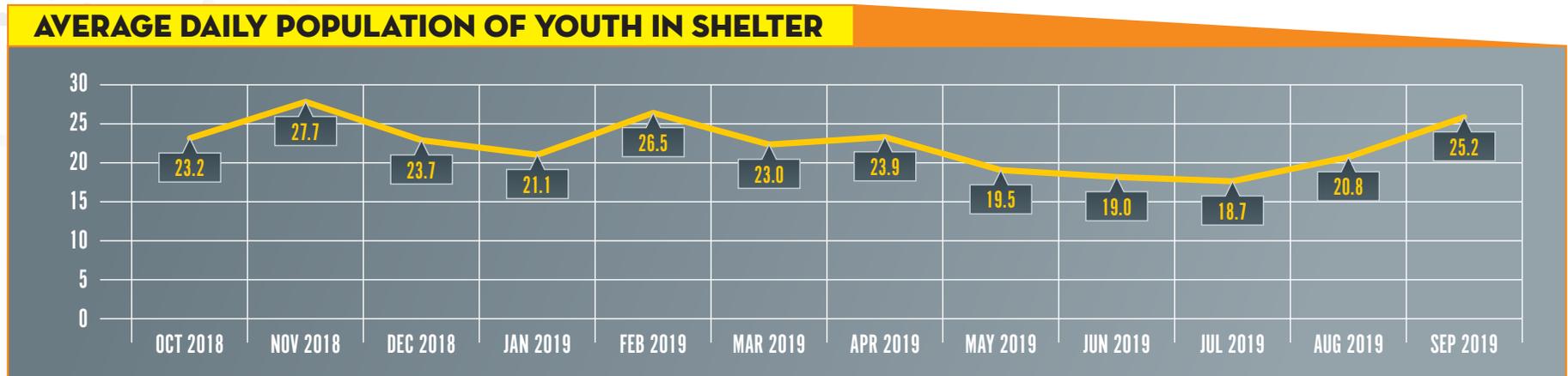
Title 16

In FY19, NBYDC became the primary housing facility for Title-16 youth. Title-16 youth are those who are 16 and 17-years-old that have been charged as an adult. On occasion, a Title-16 youth may be housed at YSC. There were 52 unique Title-16 youth at NB in FY 2019. YSC served 12 unique Title-16 youth in FY 2019.

TITLE 16 DEMOGRAPHIC			
PRE-TRIAL		SENTENCED AND SERVING	
GENDER	NUMBER OF YOUTH	GENDER	NUMBER OF YOUTH
Male	53	Male	17
Female	1	Female	0
RACE	NUMBER OF YOUTH	RACE	NUMBER OF YOUTH
Black-African American	52	Black-African American	15
Hispanic/Latino	2	Hispanic/Latino	2
AGE AT ENROLLMENT	NUMBER OF YOUTH	AGE AT ENROLLMENT	NUMBER OF YOUTH
Sixteen	23	Sixteen	1
Seventeen	29	Seventeen	8
Eighteen	2	Eighteen	8
GRAND TOTAL	54	GRAND TOTAL	17

Youth Shelter Homes

Youth shelter homes are considered a non-secure, pre-adjudication or pre-disposition placement. Some youth are ordered by a DC Family Court Judge to be placed in a DYRS-contracted shelter home instead of YSC. DYRS contracts with providers to run youth shelter homes and provides a robust system of oversight to ensure quality. In FY 2019, 249 unique youth resided in youth shelter homes with an average daily population of 22.7 youth and an average length of stay of 19 days. Approximately, 72 percent of those youth were male.



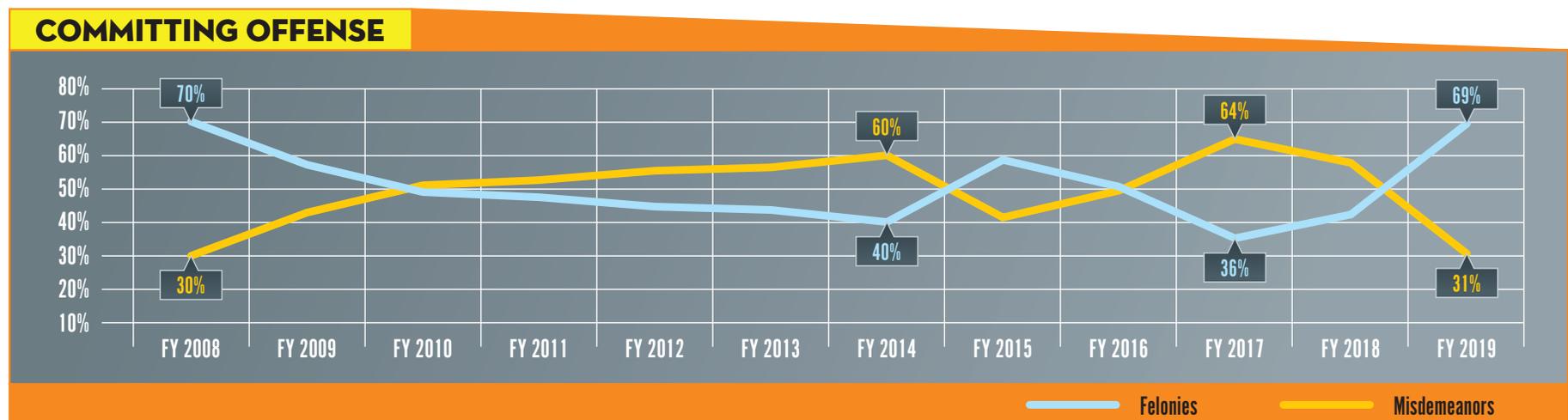
Committed Youth by Offense Type

The charge for which a young person appears before a DC Family Court Judge typically dictates the committing offense. For FY 2019, the DC Family Court committed 61 percent of youth for a violent offense – an offense in which force or threat of force is used against a person (i.e., misdemeanor simple assault or robbery).

NEW COMMITMENTS PER OFFENSE TYPE		
OFFENSE TYPE	# OF NEW COMMITS	% OF NEW COMMITS
Violent	59	61%
Property	20	21%
Drug	4	4%
PINS	1	1%
Weapons	10	10%
Threats	2	2%

Committed Youth by Misdemeanor and Felony Offenses

In FY 2019, more youth were committed for felony offenses (69 percent) than for misdemeanors (31 percent). This is in contrast to recent years when youth were more likely to be committed for misdemeanors.



Newly Committed Youth by Probation Revocation Status

Youth are not always committed to DYRS because they committed a new offense. Some youth, prior to DYRS commitment, are placed in a formal probation program supervised by the Court Social Services Division of the Superior Court (CSSD). In FY 2019, 16 percent of newly committed youth were remanded to DYRS custody after their probation with CSSD was revoked. Probation revocation is often triggered by non-compliance with probation conditions and/or due to the commission of a new offense while on probation. In FY 2019, 67% of youth committed to DYRS on a revocation order were due to non-compliance.

Committed Youth Placement Distribution

DYRS is committed to placing youth in the least restrictive and most homelike environment possible, consistent with public safety. The most restrictive placements are considered secure and include New Beginnings Youth Development Center (NBYDC), residential treatment centers (RTC), or psychiatric residential treatment facilities (PRTF). Less restrictive placements range from staff secure community-based residential facilities, foster homes and independent living programs to the least restrictive placement – the youth’s own family home.

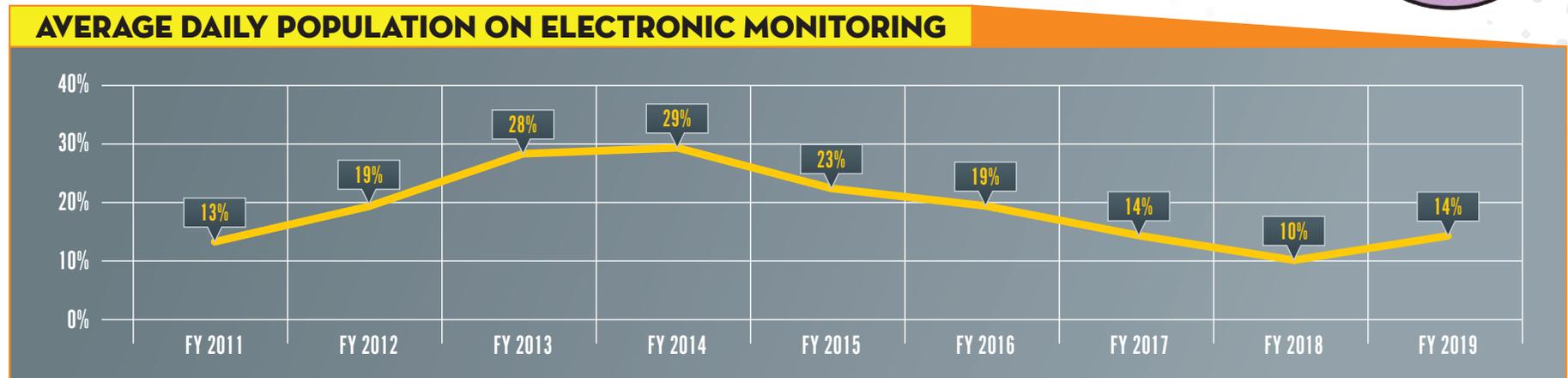
During FY 2019, 60% of the average daily population of committed youth resided within the community, with 39% of those youth placed at home.

COMMITTED YOUTH PLACEMENT DISTRIBUTION								
COMMUNITY-BASED			SECURE			ABSCONDENCE		
PLACEMENT TYPE	ADP	LOS	PLACEMENT TYPE	ADP	LOS	PLACEMENT TYPE	ADP	LOS
Local Community-Based Residential Facility	7.9%	26.0	Hospital	0.2%	18.1			
			Jail	9.2%	58.6			
Out-of-State Residential Facility	4.1%	123.1	New Beginnings Youth Development Center	8.4%	146.4			
Foster Home	9.2%	83.5	Residential Treatment Centers	6.3%	174.6			
Home	38.9%	110						
Independent Living Programs	0.04%	37.5	Youth Services Center	8.9%	9.7			
Total Community-Based	60.0%	77.6	Total Secure	33.1%	29.6			

PUBLIC SAFETY

Electronic Monitoring

Electronic monitoring technology allows DYRS to monitor youth placed in the community in real time to ensure that he/she is complying with any pre-determined travel restrictions or curfews. On an average day in FY 2019, DYRS tracked 14 percent of committed youth by electronic monitoring technology.



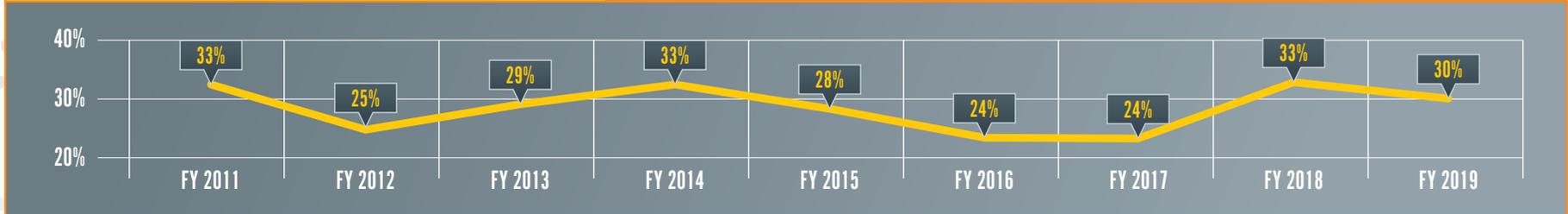
Abscondence

A youth is said to be on abscondence when they leave a DYRS authorized placement without permission, do not return as required, or lose communication with care coordinators, making the youth's whereabouts unknown. In FY 2019, approximately six percent of DYRS youth were on abscondence on any given day, continuing the trend since FY 2012. The average length on abscondence in FY 2019 was 17 days. However, 50 percent of all abscondences in FY 2019 were four days or less.

Rearrests

Rearrest rates are calculated by tracking the rearrests of all DYRS youth regardless of where they are placed. The rate refers to the total number of unique DYRS youth that are rearrested in a year. Rearrest rates show a downward trend from Calendar Year (CY) 2014 from a high of 33 percent to a low of 24 percent in CY 2017. In CY 2018, rearrest rates returned to 33 percent and in CY 2019, DYRS saw a decrease to 30%.

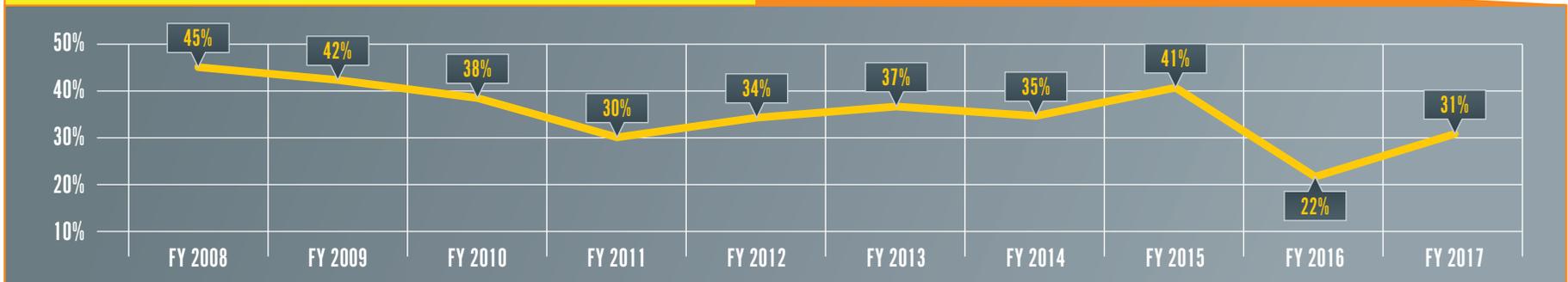
DYRS ARREST TRENDS: CY 2011-2019



Recidivism

Recidivism is another way of measuring DYRS's performance regarding public safety. DYRS tracks newly committed youth for one year following their first placement in a community-based setting¹⁰ to determine how many of the agency's youth have been found involved or guilty of a new offense. The recidivism outcomes presented below are measured using the newly committed cohort for each fiscal year. The recidivism rate for youth committed in FY 2017 was 31 percent, approximately average for most years since DYRS began collecting data on recidivism.

OVERALL RECIDIVISM RATES FOR DYRS YOUTH



NOTES

¹⁰Placement in a community-based setting includes placements in a foster home, independent living program, local community-based residential facility or in the youth's own family home.

POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT IN THE FACILITIES

Code Listen Ensemble

The Code Listen Ensemble performed for DYRS youth at the Youth Services Center in April. Comprised of police officers from the Boston Police Department as well as teen artists and mothers who have lost their sons to homicide, the collective shared original music, stories, and poetry. This diverse group brings together law enforcement, members of the community, and individuals who have been affected by racism, crime, and policing. During a community circle, the ensemble and youth discussed the themes of peace, love, understanding, and unity. Special thanks to facility leadership, administration, and Code Listen Ensemble/Sound Impact for making this possible.



Youth Services Center Residents Observe Ramadan

Muslim Brother Buheira Sabour of the Bridges volunteer group led a class about the importance of Ramadan. Sixteen youth participated in the class, which focused on the nine virtues of Ramadan. The Holy Month of Ramadan, the most important month of the year on the Muslim calendar, lasts from sunset

on May 5th through sundown on June 4th. During this period of spiritual dedication and personal growth, Muslims around the world abstain from eating or drinking during daylight hours.

The Youth Services Center Launches Mindful Meditation

For the month of July, the Youth Services Center (YSC) introduced mindful meditation sessions for all youth at the facility. Youth Development Representative (YDR) Woodrow Sheffield spearheaded the idea and created different programs and activities for the youth to engage in to benefit their mental health. YSC youth (pictured) participating in a meditation exercise.



Motivational Speaker Halim Flowers Speaks to Youth at YSC

Halim Flowers, a motivational speaker and youth advocate, delivered a powerful message to youth at the Youth Services Center in May. Born and raised in the District during the crack era, he began serving a 40-year prison sentence as a teenager. Mr. Flowers was incarcerated for 22 years in some of the worst prisons in the country before being released early at age 38. He was released early because of the DC Council's Incarceration Reduction Amendment Act, which allows a judge to commute the sentences of those who were convicted as juveniles depending on their demonstration of personal growth while incarcerated.

POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT IN THE FACILITIES

The native Washingtonian took Georgetown University courses in government and philosophy through the Georgetown Prison Scholars Program while he was incarcerated. Mr. Flowers has penned and published 11 books, including memoirs detailing his time in prison, self-help books, and poetry. #Unchained is his most recently published book and his fourth collection of poetry.

Father's Day Luncheon

The Youth Services Center (YSC) hosted a Father's Day luncheon in June on Saturday June in the outdoor recreation area. Residents of the facility spent quality time with their fathers or father figures. Luncheon participants enjoyed music, games, a meal prepared by the YSC Culinary team, music and more.

New Beginnings Chess Club

The New Beginning Chess Club for committed youth was founded by Youth Development Representative Rodney L. Henderson, Sr, and co-founded by Supervisory Youth Development Representative Lashaun Jones in November 2018. In January, the Chess Club included 12 active youth members and was established after staff realized that youth were interested in learning the game. The Chess Club hosted a final championship tournament. Each member of the New Beginnings Chess Club was presented with trophies. Chess club participants received a medal with their name engraved on it.

DYRS Hosts 7th Covenant of Peace

The New Beginnings Youth Development Center hosted its seventh Covenant of Peace during a weekend in January. The entire weekend was incident-free and tremendously impactful for the

youth, families and staff. The young people enjoyed a fun-filled weekend and had the opportunity to hear from some impactful presenters, including Bennie Lee, founder of

the National Alliance for the Empowerment of the Formerly Incarcerated; Jamila T. Davis, co-founder of Women Over Incarcerated; Credible Messengers Sean Branch and Musa Mahdi; and Elder Jennifer Gibbs also known as Mother Love. The event culminated with a powerful message by DYRS Director Clinton Lacey and a special Family Engagement Luncheon in the gymnasium.

The event also served as the first experience that the new Title 16 population that were then recently transferred to the facility from the DC Jail had with the anti-violence initiative.

New Beginnings Hosts 1st Midnight Madness Basketball Game

The Phoenix basketball team representing the New Beginnings Youth Development Center (NBYDC) celebrated wins two days in a row. The Nike Representatives, a team of college students and employees from the Nike Outlet in Arundel Mills, made their first visit to the NBYDC to play the DYRS Phoenix Basketball team

in a fundraising game in August. The teams played a close game, with New Beginnings taking home the win with a final score of 72 - 71. The next



POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT IN THE FACILITIES

day, NBYDC hosted its first Midnight Madness Basketball Tournament with teams participating from Job Corps sites in Woodstock, Woodland, and Potomac. NBYDC and the three teams have been building a relationship for the past four years to ensure that our youth participate in structured sporting events.

Grass is Greener Program

“You and your crew provided me with outstanding customer service, and I would LOVE to be able to express that to your supervisor or whomever is in charge of this program,” wrote Ward 4 resident Jocelynn Johnson in an email about the DYRS Grass is Greener program.



“When something goes well in DC, we need to talk about it and shout about it from the house tops.... In my opinion, this is my experience that they need to know – actually WORKS!”

Ms. Johnson applauded the quality service she received from the youth who provided landscaping services as part of the program, which allows committed to youth to give back to their community by donating lawnmowing services to elders in need. She also commended the youth and DYRS staff for how “friendly, respectful, and professional” the youth were while mowing her lawn. She said that she was so appreciative that she contacted her Councilmember, Brandon Todd.

Maintenance Lead Carl Matthews founded the Grass is Greener Program, wanting to create a spirit of forgiveness for the

community and to help youth heal. The Grass is Greener on the Other Side Program ran from June 1st and concluded on August 31st, offering biweekly services to 19 seniors every other weekend throughout the DC area – we never missed one weekend. Youth Development Representative Jermall Morgan provided excellent counseling skills about life situations as well as hands-on training.

Dramatic Solutions Teaches Expression Through Theater

In June, participants in the Dramatic Solutions VAMP program at the New Beginnings Youth Development Center (NBYDC) performed their original musical production, Lessons from a Dead Man. The play is the story of Malik, a young man who is released from prison and is faced with choosing between returning to his former destructive ways or taking a chance on love and reconciliation. The story is narrated by Malik’s deceased friend who watches over him to help him see what is important in life.

Dramatic Solutions, Inc. is a small, minority-owned consulting firm with more than 20 years of experience as a leader in drama-based training. Lessons from a Dead Man was created through a collaborative effort with DYRS youth. The DYRS Players shared emotions, concerns and life events to develop the central character and story. Youth also composed poems and songs to support the themes in the play. After weeks of revision and rehearsal, the DYRS Players took to the stage for the performance.



JERRY M. WORK PLAN AND CONSENT DECREE

JERRY M. CONSENT DECREE AND WORK PLAN

In 1986, a group of plaintiffs filed the *Jerry M.* lawsuit in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia alleging violations of basic health and safety standards at the District’s Oak Hill Youth Center. The lawsuit resulted in the *Jerry M.* Consent Decree that set standards regarding services provided at the District’s juvenile secure facilities.

After 22 years of attempting to meet the requirements of the Consent Decree, DYRS negotiated a Final Work Plan in 2008. The Work Plan established consent decree indicators and requirements that would release the agency from *Jerry M.* when fulfilled.

The overall structure of the Work Plan includes 12 goals. Since the establishment of the Work Plan, several performance standards were vacated from the lawsuit as a result of either the court’s ruling that the agency met the requirements of the performance standards, or due to the partial settlement agreement reached by the parties in May 2015.

JERRY M. CONSENT DECREE STATUS		
GOAL	STATUS	YEAR ACHIEVED
I. Secure Facilities	Partially Vacated	As of 2015, 2019
II. Discrete Populations	Vacated	As of 2011
III. Committed Case Planning	Vacated	As of 2015
IV. Education	Vacated	As of 2011
V. Behavioral Health	Under Court Supervision	
VI. Structured Activities and Grievance Process	Vacated	As of 2015
VII. Environmental Health, Safety, and Fire Safety	Partially Vacated	As of 2015
VIII. Health Services	Partially Vacated	As of 2016
IX. Construction of a New Facility	Vacated	As of 2013
X. Staff Training	Vacated	As of 2015
XI. Disabling Oak Hill	Vacated	As of 2013
XII. Continuous Quality Improvement	Vacated	As of 2015

RECENT *JERRY M.* PROGRESS

Vacated December 2015

- Timely investigations and disciplinary action (Goal I.A.2)
- Population at facilities and room requirements at NBYDC (Goal I.A.3)
- Use of mechanical restraints (Goal I.A.4)
- Educational programming at YSC regarding individualized education (Goal I.V.B.)
- Committed case planning (Goal III.A)
- Outdoor recreation (Goal VI.A.1)
- Daily structured activities and grievances (Goal VI.A.2-3)
- Environmental health and safety (Goal VII.A)
- Staff training (Goal X)
- Continuous quality improvement (Goal XII)
- Medication administration without missing prescribed dose (Goal VIII.A.2.a.)
- Timely administration of newly prescribed medications at YSC (Goal VIII.A.2.b.)
- Explanation of missed doses of medication at NBYDC (Goal VIII.A.2.c.ii.)
- Locked and confidential boxes, writing implements, and Request for Care forms are readily available to youth (Goal VIII.A.3.a.)
- Review, assessment and implementation of recommended plans of care following return of youth from off-site health encounters (Goal VIII.A.4.a.)
- CPR certification for licensed medical providers (Goal VIII.A.4.b.)
- Transfer of youth to a hospital for medical treatment when advanced care is required (Goal VIII.A.4.e.),

Fulfilled settlement reporting requirements related to:

- Education at YSC (April 2015)
- Training (August 2015)
- Grievances (April 2015)
- Room confinement (August 2015)
- Planning and delivery of services and placements (August 2016)
- Intake assessment and housing assignments (August 2015)
- Timely referral of youth with rashes to an advanced care provider (Goal VIII.A.5.a.)
- Administration of recommended immunizations (Goal VIII.A.7.a.)
- Content and timeliness of annual medical assessments (Goal VIII.A.7.b.)
- Medical management of youth with HIV/AIDS (Goal VIII.A.8.b.)
- Autonomy of health services (Goal VIII.A.10.a.)

Vacated July 2016

(Pertains to both facilities unless otherwise noted)

- Content and timeliness of initial mental health risk screenings (Goal VIII.A.1.a.)
- Content and timeliness of comprehensive medical assessments at NBYDC (Goal VIII.A.1.b)

Vacated March 2019

(Pertains to both facilities unless otherwise noted)

- Supervision and Staffing (Goal I.A.7.)



In the News

HARRIS' HEROES: YOUNG MAN TAKES RIGHT PATH TO COLLEGE WITH HELP FROM CREDIBLE MESSENGERS



In 2018, NBC4's segment "Harris' Heroes" hosted by news anchor Leon Harris, featured a story highlighting Credible Messengers and the work they do to help change the lives of DYRS youth. One of DYRS's committed youth at that time, Jamal, was interviewed and featured on the segment.

Jamal explained how he turned his troubled past into a hopeful future with the help of credible messengers like Norman Brown and Antonio Fernandez. In January 2019, DYRS welcomed Mr. Harris back to conduct a follow-up interview with Jamal

and his credible messenger Ibrahim Lyles. Mr. Harris was ecstatic to learn of the great strides Jamal has made since they last spoke. Jamal was eager to share his accomplishments, discussing how he was accepted to not only one but five different colleges and is currently enrolled in the college of his choice. He did well in his first semester and has decided to major in Construction Management Technology.

Jamal shared his appreciation for DYRS staff, teachers, and Credible Messengers at New Beginnings and Maya Angelou Academy. He thanked them for their dedication to helping youth like him get back on the right path. Jamal is grateful for how far he has come and proud to pave the way for other committed youth, showing them that they too can attain success after their commitment. He left his peers with these words of encouragement "Stay woke, stay real and be you!"

<https://www.nbcwashington.com/local/young-man-takes-right-path-to-college-with-help-from-cr-washington-dc/3309/>

YOUNG LADY'S JOURNEY TO BECOMING A JUVENILE JUSTICE ADVOCATE

In February, The Washington Post highlighted Shamelen, a DYRS youth who overcame tremendous obstacles in the article. Columnist Theresa Vargas outlined the difficulties faced by the youth and what ultimately led to her unbelievable transformation. This impactful story follows her journey from living in 24 foster homes to recently advocating for juvenile justice reform in front of the Council of the District of Columbia. DYRS is always proud when the youth we serve work with us to positively transform their lives. To read the full article please visit <https://tinyurl.com/y24zak9z>





In the News

THE ANNIE E. CASEY FOUNDATION SPOTLIGHTS DYRS DIRECTOR CLINTON LACEY AND THE CREDIBLE MESSENGERS

The Annie E. Casey Foundation highlighted DYRS Director Clinton Lacey and the Credible Messenger Movement in [“Mentors Build Meaningful Connections With Youth in Washington, DC,”](#) an article published in July.

“Since launching the program in 2015, DYRS has connected 474 youth and families with credible messengers. Twice a week,



the mentors host youth for a hot meal and a group outing, such as a paintball session or go-kart racing. Credible messengers also employ their knowledge of community dynamics and resources to help young people achieve goals, like finding a job, advancing their education or managing everyday challenges,” the article states.

CARE NOT CAGES

DYRS Director Clinton Lacey highlights the positive impact that the DYRS Credible Messenger Initiative has had on our youth in an op-ed in *Governing*.



“We need a new vision for youth justice, one with love as its organizing principle that defines healing, restoration, and renewal as its core objectives. This vision challeng-

es the notion that youth who have been involved in and impacted by violence must be incarcerated to achieve public safety. In short, such a new vision asks what we would want for our own children,” writes Director Lacey.

Visit the following link to read the article in its entirety: <https://tinyurl.com/y5tn5s65>.

NICK CANNON AND HOWARD U. ENGAGE DYRS YOUTH AT THE YOUTH SERVICES CENTER WITH A SOCIAL JUSTICE COURSE



INTERAGENCY PARTNERSHIP AND THOUGHT LEADERSHIP IN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SPACE

Kenilworth Courts Workforce Fair Hosted in Partnership with the Department of Employment Services (DOES)

Ready to Work?



In April, more than 30 participants attended the Kenilworth Courts Workforce Fair hosted by DYRS in partnership with the Department of Employment Services (DOES) at the Kenilworth Recreation Center. The event highlighted employment-based community services to District of Columbia residents.

Carl Smith of the Resident Council for Kenilworth Public Housing and DYRS Youth Development Representative Johnathan Salters were instrumental in helping to make this event possible.

DCPS Chancellor Visited the Youth Services Center

Many thanks to DC Public Schools Chancellor Dr. Lewis D. Ferebee for visiting the school at the DYRS Youth Services Center (YSC) on a guided tour led by Darrell Foster, DYRS Deputy Superintendent of Programs at YSC.

The DYRS Pathways Program Partners With OSSE's DC Reengagement Center

The DYRS Pathways Program launched a partnership with the DC Reengagement Center (DCRC), which is housed with the Office of the State Superintendent of the State of Education (OSSE). This program is for youth ages 16-24 who are not currently enrolled in school, reside in the District of Columbia or are wards

of DC, and have no high school diploma or GED. DCRC will help identify educational supports, assist with re-enrollment processes, and provide ongoing support for at least a year after enrollment. DYRS hosted intake sessions for this program at the MLK and 450 Achievement Centers starting in August at the Achievement Centers.

Director Lacey Spoke at the Department of Forensic Sciences (DFS) Peace Rally

DYRS Director Clinton Lacey spoke about ending gun violence and promoting peace during the Peace Rally hosted by the Department of Forensic Science (DFS) alongside DFS Director Dr. Jenifer Smith and Deputy Mayor of Public Safety and Justice Kevin Donahue. The event was inspired by the DFS forensic scientists who process multiple bullet casings on crime scenes. As public servants, they were motivated to create an anti-gun violence event.

The Peace Rally began with a walk that started at KIPP DC and led to the Boys and Girls Club at 4103 Benning Road NE. The Metropolitan Police Department, the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence, Code 3 Association, WPGC 95.5 FM, and many other government agencies, nonprofits, community organizations, and supporters gathered to spread the message of peace in our city. The event included advocacy workshops on conflict resolution, community conversations, live music, games, activities, and more.



INTERAGENCY PARTNERSHIP AND THOUGHT LEADERSHIP IN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SPACE

Director Lacey Participated in the My Brother's Keeper Panel

DYRS Director Clinton Lacey spoke on the R(ED) Table Talk panel during the My Brother's Keeper DC Summit 2019 hosted by ServeDC, and the Mayor's Office on Fathers, Men and Boys in September. Held at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, the summit examined issues facing young men of color and effective strategies to help them succeed. DYRS, DC Public Schools (DCPS), the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), and DC Council Member Kenyan McDuffie (Ward 5) also attended the event.

North Carolina Delegation Visits New Beginnings

A delegation from the North Carolina Department of Public Safety/Juvenile Justice said that the New Beginnings Youth Development Center has set the standard for what the Balanced and Restorative Justice (BARJ) Model should look like in a juvenile justice setting after touring the facility in May. The group expressed gratitude for the experience and left feeling motivated to implement a similar approach within their agency.

The Hudson County Juvenile Justice System Visits New Beginnings

Director Ron Edwards and Director of Programs Vivian Teran of the Hudson County Juvenile Justice System in New Jersey came to the New Beginnings Youth Development Center (NBYDC) to tour the facility in July.



KEY TERMS AND ACRONYMS

Abscondence: Youth status when they have left a DYRS authorized placement without permission or not returned as required, as well as youth who have lost communication with care coordinators and the youth's whereabouts are unknown.

Achievement Center (AC): Provides drop-in activities along with structured programming and classes that foster career development, life skills and healthy living, and community service. The programs include classes and activities that educate youth, prepare them to enter the workforce and teach them valuable life and leadership skills.

Awaiting Placement: Status of committed youth when they are waiting for a DYRS placement.

Child and Adolescent Functional Assessment Scale (CAFAS): An assessment that tracks how youth are doing in all areas of life. These include school/work, home, community, behavior toward others, moods/emotions, self-harmful behavior, substance use, and thinking problems. Each youth has a CAFAS every 90 days to help with planning at their Team Decision Making (TDM) meeting.

Commitment: Court Order from the District of Columbia Superior Court remanding adjudicated youth to the care and custody of DYRS after unsuccessful probation or because a youth is identified by the Court as a young person in need of more intensive services and supervision than probation can provide.

Committed Youth: Youth who have been adjudicated and committed to DYRS's care and custody for a period of time determined by a District of Columbia Superior Court Judge.

Community-Based Residential Facility: A local or out-of-state, staff-secure residential facility.

Court Social Services Department (CSSD): A division of the District of Columbia Superior Court that is responsible for supervising juvenile probation in the District.

Covenant of Peace: An anti-violence initiative geared toward addressing systemic issues of violence by engaging DYRS youth in intensive group workshops based on seven pillars for self-empowerment.

Credible Messenger: A programming initiative connecting community members who share similar life experiences with the youth and families served by DYRS. Credible Messengers are neighborhood leaders, experienced youth advocates and individuals with similar life experiences who serve in a variety of capacities to coach, guide, mentor and advocate for youth and families in both group and individual settings.

New Beginnings Youth Development Center (NBYDC): DYRS's 60-bed residential treatment center located at 8400 River Road in Laurel, Maryland.

Person in Need of Supervision (PINS): A youth who is in need of care or rehabilitation, is regularly missing school without reason, has committed an offense that can only be committed by children, or regularly disobeys their parent, guardian or other custodian.

Positive Youth Development (PYD): An intentional, pro-social approach that engages youth within their communities, schools, organizations, peer groups and families in a manner that is productive and constructive; recognizes, utilizes and enhances youth's strengths; and promotes positive outcomes for youth by providing opportunities, fostering positive relationships and providing the support needed to build on their leadership strengths.

Positive Youth Justice (PYJ): A framework for youth justice intervention informed by PYD. The Positive Youth Justice Model targets juvenile offenders and focuses on assets needed by all youth – learning/doing, attaching/belonging – and developing these assets within the context of six separate life domains: work, education, relationships, community, health and creativity.

Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility (PRTF): An out-of-community, and often secure, treatment facility for youth with significant mental health, behavioral or substance abuse needs.

Residential Treatment Center (RTC): An out-of-community, and often secure, treatment facility for youth with significant behavioral concerns.

Structured Decision-Making Tool (SDM): A tool used to classify a youth's likelihood of offending into three categories (low, medium or high). The SDM Tool is only used to establish a youth's level of restrictiveness in the initial placement upon being committed to DYRs.

Youth Services Center (YSC): The District of Columbia's 88-bed short-term detention center located at 1000 Mount Olivet Road, NE in Washington, DC.

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