



**Council of the District of Columbia  
Committee on the Judiciary  
Performance Oversight Hearing  
Pre-Hearing Questions and Answers**



**Services for Committed Youth 6,7**

6. Please describe all programming offered by DYRS specifically to address the needs of committed girls. Please also describe the agency’s efforts in FY15 and FY16, to date, to improve the available services for committed girls in the District of Columbia, including increasing the availability of suitable placements. Please include a list of the existing residential placements in the District of Columbia that can serve girls.

*During FY15-FY16, the Department of Youth and Rehabilitation Services (DYRS) launched efforts to improve programming for committed girls. These efforts included a series of internal and external thought partners evaluating the current programmatic needs for at risk committed girls. The evaluations revealed that many of the challenges at risk girls are affected with are systemic trauma related issues, habitual truancy, teen pregnancy, and sex trafficking. DYRS formulates structured programming for girls integrating trauma systems therapy, resiliency practices, and skills training. In addition, the DYRS Achievement Center staff and DC YouthLink services currently engage the female population and offer community transitional services.*

*DYRS currently contracts with six group home vendors in the District of Columbia that have the capacity to provide services based on a request for female beds. DYRS also utilizes the Youth for Tomorrow Group home in Leesburg, Virginia and Outreach House for Girls in Richmond, Virginia under a Human Care Agreement (HCA), and, if more intensive services are needed, can access - the North Springs PRTF in Leesburg, Virginia, Keystone Newport News RTC in Newport News Virginia, and Harbor Point PRTF in Portsmouth Virginia for residential care.*

*The recent Covenant of Peace initiative the agency piloted focused on girls at the Youth Services Center. It was a successful weekend highlighting the different challenges our young ladies face in their time with the agency.*

7. Please describe the agency’s efforts in FY15 and FY16, to date, to ensure that LGBTQ youth are safe throughout their commitment to the agency. Please detail any specialized support and programming that the agency provides to LGBTQ youth that are in the custody of the agency.

*As far as the facility, there have been efforts to train staff more on gender responsive and understanding the needs of this population. Also the agency has one of the most progressive policies on this topic in the facilities. Our facility policy titled LGBTQI was designed to provide this population a safe, healthy, accepting environment for LGBTQI youth, and to prevent harassment and discrimination against youth who self-identify or*



**Council of the District of Columbia  
Committee on the Judiciary  
Performance Oversight Hearing  
Pre-Hearing Questions and Answers**



*are perceived as LGBTQI. The policy is also a very progressive policy in that it allows LGBTQI youth the freedom of expression and the ability to program with the gender in which they identify.*