



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



Services for Committed Youth 8,9,10

8. Please describe any programs or services that the agency funded or provided to committed youth in FY15 or FY16, to date, to:
- a. Improve the employability of committed youth;
***Retention Program.** The Workforce Retention Incentive Plan is designed for youth who have obtained Unsubsidized Employment opportunities. This plan motivates our youth, keeping them focused and excited about their jobs, and increases employment retention. We offer pay points for the number of days a youth is actively employed.*
 - b. Develop the workplace skills of committed youth;
***On the Job Training/Internship with employers that will lead to unsubsidized employment opportunities.** This training provides our youth opportunities to work in the workplace and gain valuable experience. In addition, the agency ensures our youth receive the soft skills needed to succeed when entering the workforce.*

***Developing Young Professional College Internship Program** - The DYRS Office of Education and Workforce Development joined forces with The Center for Nonprofit Advancement to create the Developing Young Professionals College Internship Program. The program is geared toward DYRS youth presently enrolled in Post-Secondary education to provide internship opportunities in their field of study during summer and spring breaks. The goal of the program is to provide youth with early work experience in their selected field, connect them to others who can mentor them in their field of study, and give them real practical experience in the world of work. We would like our Developing Young Professionals to cultivate relationships with employers that will continue throughout their college experience and potentially lead to future employment.*
 - c. Provide committed youth with employment certifications;
***Construction Training** - This Construction Industry Training focused on equipping youth with the occupational skills and certifications (OSHA 10 and 20, DDOT Traffic, Flagger, and 1st Aid/CPR) needed to enter the Construction/Mechanical Industry. This program provides youth with portable, industry-recognized credentials through implementing the TRAC (Train, Retain, Assess and Certify) training.*



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Video Production - *The program exposes youth to various careers in the field of video production. Youth participate in a real video production from conception to completed product. The instructors guide and teach the youth, the youth will conceptualize an idea, determine how to shoot it, determine what is said in the video, determine camera angles, set up lighting, connect all of the appropriate cables, operate the cameras, and assist in editing the footage. The program teaches various camera techniques, lighting techniques, writing techniques, producing tips and styles, how to direct a production and basic editing techniques. The objective is to give the youth a realistic view of the various careers in video production by hands-on interactive instruction so that they can make an informed decision as to whether or not they would want to pursue one of the aspects of video production as a career.* **Certification** - *Video Field Production*

- d. **Subsidize the employment of committed youth; and**
The DYRS Office of Education and Workforce Development joined forces with DOES and other construction companies as Miller and Long and BF Joy Construction.
- e. **Connect committed youth to unsubsidized employment.**
The DYRS Office of Education and Workforce Development offer On the Job Training experiences for youth, which lead to unsubsidized employment opportunities. The DYRS youth are working at various industries that are in the food and beverage, construction and administrative office support fields. Youth are also exposed to industries in the janitorial and housekeeping arena with a new partnership with Providence Hospital.

- 9. **For each program or activity identified in Question 10, please also provide:**
 - a. The nature of the program or activity;
 - b. The goals of the program or activity;
 - c. The vendor that administered the program or activity, if applicable;
 - d. The cost per youth of the program or activity;
 - e. The total number of youth that took part in the program or activity; and,
 - f. Any outcome data from the program or activity.
- 10. **Please describe any programs or services that the agency provided to the families of committed youth in FY15 or FY16, to date, to build the capacity of families, to develop parenting skills, or to otherwise engage families in their children's rehabilitation.**

Anchored in Strength Parent/Guardian Support Group



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Since 2012, the Anchored in Strength Parent/Guardian Support Group consistently offers a safe place for parents to come together to achieve the following goals:

- *Build a support base comprised of others who share common experiences,*
- *Explore various topics regarding navigating their children's commitments, and*
- *Share strategies for raising children connected to the juvenile justice system.*

While the support group is facilitated by DYRS staff members, vendors have lent support include East of the River Clergy Police Community Partnership, Progressive Life Center, and the National Center for Children and Families. On average, we have approximately 15 family members of committed and post-committed youth and three community members participate per meeting. The total number of attendees during FY 15 and 16 totals approximately 45. As a result of the support group, two parents have become DC Department of Behavior Health Certified Parent Peer Support Specialist and we have built a solid core of parents who consistently support family empowerment efforts at DYRS.

Self-Love and Forgiveness Workshop

During a parent support group meeting, attendees shared their desire to work on loving and forgiving themselves. In an effort to meet this need, a four-part self-love and forgiveness workshop was offered in November 2015 to parents/guardians and adult family members of DYRS youth. The goals of the workshop included:

- *Increasing knowledge of how guilt over perceived losses and poor choices cause mental, emotional and physical paralysis.*
- *Helping families utilize strategies for advancing from the guilt of poor decisions, and*
- *Teaching how negative events can become great learning opportunities.*

The Self-love and Forgiveness Workshop was presented by DYRS staff members and Progressive Life Center and facilitated by Dr. Deborah Evans. Approximately 15 attendees participated in the workshop.

Third Annual Anchored in Strength Parent/Guardian Retreat

Each year, DYRS offers a parent/guardian weekend retreat designed to provide parents a break from the ordinary and an opportunity to:

- *Enjoy a peaceful environment,*
- *Build a support system comprised of others who share common experiences, and*
- *Work towards creating home and community environments that will support the successful rehabilitation of youth.*



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The FY15 retreat was sponsored by DYRS and the National Center for Children and Families. It engaged 31 family and community members in peer-led workshops and activities that challenged their comfort zones and increased their knowledge of practical youth justice skills they can use to support their children's successful development.

Family Focused PYJ Activities and Events

During our Summer in the Capital 2015 initiative, 249 youth and family members participated in 41 Summer in the Capital activities and events. Summer in the Capital 2015 was a DYRS initiative designed with one goal in mind, to provide opportunities for youth and families to advance in personal development by:

- *Exploring a variety of career and educational interests,*
- *Gaining new experiences,*
- *Developing critical life skills, and*
- *Cultivating and strengthening positive relationships.*

Collaborators included DYRS Achievement Center, DYRS Office of Workforce Development and Education, Progressive Life Center, East of the River Clergy Police Community Partnership, and the National Center for Children and Families. In addition, the following vendors coordinated activities and events:

- *Maximus*
- *Total Family Care*
- *Living Classrooms*
- *Image Works*
- *Judith Johnson*
- *Eva Wood*
- *NOMIS*
- *Career Path*
- *Women on the Water*
- *Contemporary Family Services*
- *Community Technology*
- *Rize Up*
- *Majestic Studios*

In addition, ParentWatch Inc. continues to provide support to the families and guardians.