

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services**



**Open Government Report 2014**

To institutionalize a culture of transparent and open government, accountability, and to expand opportunities for resident participation and collaboration, this report describes how the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS) has and will continue to develop and enhance transparency, public participation, and collaboration. In accordance with Mayor's Order 2014-170, this report addresses the following topics:

1) **Transparency**

DYRS prides itself on open and transparent government agency, resulting in a 3-prong approach ensuring the public is well-informed about the inner-workings of the agency. This includes 1) data, 2) specialized reports, and 3) direct access:

1. Data

On our government website, numerous data points are provided to the public; specifically in relation to public safety, population, and youth development indicators.

<http://dyrs.dc.gov/page/data>

2. Specialized Reports

To assist our stakeholders to better understand the work of the agency, we constantly provide specialized reports on our government website. These include, but are not limited to: performance reports; knowledge briefs; research reports; and white papers.

<http://dyrs.dc.gov/page/dyrs-specialized-publications>

3. Direct Access

The agency also provides easy-to-use direct access to our stakeholders on our website. This includes an Ask the Director form on every page; Media Inquiries page; Open Government and FOIA page; and telephone numbers for the Director and agency.

While the agency is proud of the access provided to the public, there is always room for improvement. Having said this, DYRS is working closely with the Office of the City Administrator (OCA) and the Office of the Chief Technology Officer (OCTO) to

identify a significant number of datasets that OCA and OCTO expect to publish online later this year. If no dataset from DYRS is selected to be included in this 2014 release, we will continue to work with OCA and OCTO to identify datasets appropriate to publish in 2015. In the future, requirements for open data reporting will be provided by the Chief Data Officer.

## 2) **Public Engagement and Participation**

DYRS provides stakeholders, including our youth and their family's direct ability to participate and be informed of the agency's decision-making process. We ensure families know their rights, roles, expectations, frequently asked questions, and where to go if help is needed. On our website, we specifically have a "For Families" page providing the following necessary information to keep our families informed throughout their involvement with DYRS:

<http://dyrs.dc.gov/page/dyrs-resources-families>

DYRS also provides information on the services we provide:

<http://dyrs.dc.gov/page/dyrs-services>

And our approach and methodologies:

<http://dyrs.dc.gov/page/about-dyrs>

Going forward, DYRS will improve its use of social media to enhance public engagement and participation. This is an emphasis for the upcoming year to ensure every avenue is exhausted to keep our stakeholders informed and involved.

## 3) **Collaboration**

DYRS works closely with our internal and external stakeholders. DYRS regularly participates in cluster meetings with the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice, Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services, and the Interagency Incident Management Team.

Additionally, DYRS and the Children and Youth Investment Trust (CYITC) collaborated to launch DC YouthLink, a coalition of community-based organizations that provide a diverse array of services to court-involved youth in their home neighborhoods. By focusing on community-based interventions, DC YouthLink is at the forefront of a national trend in positive, community-based services and placements for youth committed to a juvenile justice agency. The initiative is based on the premise that youth are best served within the context of their home community

and that building upon their strengths and the strengths of the community is the most effective way to enhance public safety.

<http://dyrs.dc.gov/page/dc-youthlink>

To improve information sharing within and outside of the agency, DYRS recently implemented the FAMCare system. FAMCare is designed and developed as a juvenile justice case management system. It is the standard application many jurisdictions around the country. Its robust architecture permits flexible and user-friendly customization by the end users, thus eliminating much of the need for IT involvement in customizing forms and ad-hoc reporting.