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Vacca Campus Staff Utilize Debriefing Meetings to Discuss Progress with Facility Improvement Plans

- **August 2nd** - The team discussed the disciplinary process as it relates to dropping a student's level. The team agreed that they must work to develop consistent procedures of carrying out consequences from disciplinary infractions.
- **August 8th** - The team reviewed the PbS Blue Print chapter *Responses to Misbehavior: Restraints*. The team discussed the impact the use of physical restraints has on the rates of student/staff injury, fear among youth, and the safety of youth. The team feels that staff are using de-escalation techniques more often. The team discussed the practice of debriefing with students and staff after the use of physical restraints.
- **August 22nd** - The team discussed collection of all information pertaining to a critical incident. Team Leaders were reminded to thoroughly review the incident and information reports before submitting their Initial Debriefings to the Campus Administrator for review.
- **August 29th** - Team Leaders shared how they utilize information from incident reports to assist with managing their units. They also discussed training provided during staff meetings and any hands on training that the Team Leaders provide their staff.

PbS Data Collection Update

The 2018 October data collection will be here soon. Staff and youth are encouraged to take the climate surveys in order to provide valuable input into the quality improvement process. The Campus Quality Assurance Coordinators and Campus PbS Team members are working diligently to input data into the PbS system. As of now, Vacca has completed 31 youth exit interviews, 1 family exit interview, and entered 28 youth records. Mt Meigs has completed 54 youth exit interviews, 1 family exit interview, and entered 14 youth records. Keep up the great work!

The 2018 PbS Barbara-Allen Hagen Award winner for Corrections Category Announced

During the PbS State Coordinator Training, the Kansas Juvenile Correctional Complex – West Female from the Kansas Department of Corrections, Juvenile Services was announced the winner in the Correction category. As PbS has done for the past three years, a video was shown showcasing their facility and improvements. Copy and paste the link into your web browser to view the video highlighting their accomplishments!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KPltaSTLmSs&feature=youtu.be>

Putting Research into Practice

The PbS Scholarship Fund offers Juvenile Justice Staff and Youth Opportunities to Pursue Post-Secondary Education

Staff and youth from around the country applied for the 2018 PbS Scholarship Award. “The PbS Scholarship Fund was established in 2016 to inspire, encourage and assist youths and staff pursuing post-secondary education. Two youths and two staff are selected to receive up to \$2,000 each by the PbS Board of Directors based on the applicants’ essay explaining how he or she will “pay it forward” and use what they learn to better the lives of future generations.” This year, the scholarship fund had \$6,000 available for youths and staff in PbS facilities. PbS received 62 applications and have announced the winners of this year’s scholarship awards.

The following youths and staff will each be awarded:

- Naomi P., youth at Good Shepherd Services - Rose House, New York City. She will receive \$2,000 to assist with the cost of her Cosmetology program at the Aveda Institute.
- Stephen K., youth at Camp Tillamook, Oregon. He will receive \$1,000 to assist with his Master’s in Global Supply Chain Management.
- Elizabeth F., staff member of Echo Glen Children’s Center, Washington. She will receive \$2,000 to assist with her Bachelor’s in Criminal Justice from the University of Washington.
- Demarie K., counselor at Decker Lake Youth Center, Utah. She will receive \$1,000 to assist with her Master’s in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from Prescott College.



The Alabama Department of Youth Services encourages staff and youth to apply for these scholarships and help us spread the word!

The Mt. Meigs Advisory Board hosts a Back to School Ice Cream Social

The Mt. Meigs Campus recently established an advisory board to provide support for student activities and events. The first event supported by the Mt. Meigs Advisory Board was held on Saturday, August 25th. Ms. Machea Jones, Ms. Marquie Ruffin, Ms. Angelia Brooks, Ms. Bridget McDonald, and Mrs. Marcia Calender helped to spearhead this event.

