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## Happy New Year!

Happy New Year to all of the staff at DYS! As we move into the year 2020, we hope to continue to bring positive change to the campuses. Although there may be challenges ahead, we as a team can overcome the challenges we face and strive to make a difference in the lives around us. We will start the new year reflecting on where we are as it relates to safety, security, order, programming, education, behavioral health services, staff wellness, and family involvement. On January 8th, both campuses will have their performance profile calls with Ms. Lois Jenkins. Due to the passing of Mr. Michael Murph, we moved this call from December to January. Both teams will review the data and determine priorities for this year. We will be encouraging leadership to be aware of the priorities and discuss progress during regularly scheduled management meetings.

During the week of January 20th, Ms. Jenkins will be visiting both campuses for their annual site visit. Ms. Jenkins will first meet with central office staff and will then visit the Vacca and Mt. Meigs campuses. Once the site visits are complete, Ms. Jenkins will meet with central office staff to provide a review of her visit.

## Award Opportunities! Mark Your Calendars!

Be on the look out for application and submission guidelines!

**Kids Got Talent Contest Submission: Feb. 1st—March 31st**

**Youth & Staff Scholarship Application Submission: Feb. 1st—March 31st**

**Youth Reentry Application Submission: April 1st—April 30th**

**Employment Matching Application Submission: June 1st— June 30th**

**Youth Art Contest (NEW): April 1st— May 31st**

**PbS Day! (NEW): June 5th**

## Congratulations!

A congratulations is in order for Ms. Marique Ruffin. Ms. Ruffin has been appointed as Campus Administrator for the Mt. Meigs Campus.

We are all very happy for you!

## Family Visitation, Behavioral Incidents, and Staff Safety Concerns in Juvenile Correctional Facilities

PbS recently published a research brief written by researchers at Georgetown University titled "[Family Visitation, Behavioral Incidents, and Staff Safety Concerns in Juvenile Correctional Facilities](https://pbstandards.org/cjcaresources/274/2019-FamilyVisitationBehavioralIncidentsStaffSafetyConcerns.pdf)." This brief details the researchers' work analyzing PbS' administrative, incident and staff survey data from 2011 through 2016. Specifically, they measured how family visitation related to youth behavioral incidents, and how behavioral incidents related to staff perceptions of facility safety.

**Family Visits and Behavioral Incidents.** The number of family visits was significantly associated with the total number of incidents in a facility. As family visits increased, total incidents decreased. Specifically, a one-unit increase in family visits was associated with a two percent decrease in total number of incidents. In other words, if there were 100 incidents in a facility, their results suggest that one additional family visit would be associated with two fewer behavioral incidents.

**Behavioral Incidents and Staff Perception of Safety.** The total number of incidents was significantly associated with the staff reports of feeling safe. As total incidents increased the odds that staff feared for their safety increased. Relatedly, as the number of incidents increased, staff rating of the safety of the facility environment decreased.

Additional information on this study can be found at <https://pbstandards.org/cjcaresources/274/2019-FamilyVisitationBehavioralIncidentsStaffSafetyConcerns.pdf>.

