

Alabama Department of Youth Services



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Vacca Campus Staff Participate in Debriefing / Critical Incident Documentation Refresher Training

On Tuesday, February 25th, Vacca campus staff participated in a refresher training on the debriefing process and critical incident 24 hour and 2 week follow up documentation. Staff discussed expectations, reviewed the types of critical incidents, and practiced a debriefing. A follow up meeting will be held Wednesday, March 4th from 10 -12 noon. Plans are underway to provide refresher training to Mt. Meigs and Autauga staff in the near future.

Suggestions for Student Programming Needed

"We have all been in discussions over the years either in groups/ committees or individually with one another about the importance of offering our students more programs and activities that further our mission to rehabilitate youth and get them back on track. I am going straight to the source of professionals who already have ideas of what could be done with the right supports and structure. Many of you have already shared an idea or two with me and I appreciate your willingness to not be satisfied with the status quo. I also know there are other faculty and staff that you know who have ideas that could benefit our youth. I ask that you share the document with them as some may not have a computer. Facility Directors, Specialists, Team Leaders, bring this up in one of your management meetings. Spend a few minutes entertaining ideas, but don't get bogged down by what can't get done for whatever reason at this point. Many things will need to be adjusted and put in place to be successful. But we have to get started by taking the first step! You can complete this electronically if you like or print off copies for other staff. Forward them to Central Office (attn Shannon Weston) at Shannon.weston@dys.alabama.gov."

- Steve Lafreniere, Executive Director

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING FOR SUBMITTING THEIR IDEAS!

Arnea Linden, LaShondra Hinton, Lisa Williams, Joy Wright, Melanie Hunter, Quavian Lewis, Hamima Shabazz, Dr. Fatima Johnson, Latrice Freeman, Cathy Foster, Lynn Lockhart, Bailey and Smith Hall staff

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH SERVICES	
DYS SEEKS STAFF INPUT FOR YOUTH PROGRAMMING	
In an effort to increase youth programming at the campuses, DYS is seeking ideas/suggestions for new programming. We anticipate adding new programming into the afternoon, evening, and weekend schedules. Some programs may last a semester (9 weeks), some may be offered all year, and others may only last a month or for a specific weekend. Please see the example below and include your ideas in the additional suggestion boxes. Please submit your ideas to Shannon.weston@dys.alabama.gov .	
EXAMPLE	
Name of group/program	Music Group
# of Kids in group	8 - 10
# of Staff Needed	2 staff in addition to instructor
Duration of group / Frequency	1 hour / once a week
Estimated duration of program	Year round
Where will the group be held?	Holloway Hall
NEW PROGRAM / GROUP SUGGESTION	
Name of group/program	
# of Kids in group	
# of Staff Needed	
Duration of group / Frequency	
Estimated duration of program	
Where will the group be held?	
NEW PROGRAM / GROUP SUGGESTION	
Name of group/program	
# of Kids in group	
# of Staff Needed	
Duration of group / Frequency	
Estimated duration of program	
Where will the group be held?	
NEW PROGRAM / GROUP SUGGESTION	
Name of group/program	
# of Kids in group	
# of Staff Needed	
Duration of group / Frequency	
Estimated duration of program	
Where will the group be held?	

DON'T FORGET THE 'KIDS GOT TALENT' DEADLINE IS MARCH 31ST!

Alabama Department of Youth Services



Mt. Meigs Advisory Board Provides Valentine Treats to Students



DYS continues to be grateful for all of our wonderful volunteers who dedicate their time and efforts to helping our students. We are very appreciative of the Mt. Meigs Advisory Board who came to the Mt. Meigs campus in February to put together and hand out valentine goody bags to all of our students.

Thank you for all that you do!



Students Participate in Mentorship and Black History Month Programs

For the Mt. Meigs campus, members of the Fortitude Leadership Academy, who have a mentoring group for males, spoke to the youth in the Wallace School library on Feb. 19th. The main goal of the program was to set up a mentoring partnership for students.

For the Vacca campus, the McNeel School celebrated their Black History and Honor Roll program on February 26th. Students from Mr. Sudbury's history class were highlighted. Each class period shared presentations. Presentations included "The Blacker the Berry: Portrayals of African American 1st's," "As it was written: Social movements in spite of obstacles," "I like my money like I like my coffee: The power of the black dollar," "Learning while black: Black and education system," "The (B)lack of History: Black myths and prejudices," and "Black silence is Death-ening: Using your black voice to be heard." All of the skits were written by the students. Six students received A/B honor roll recognition. Each teacher gave recognition to their most improved class.



Members of the Fortitude Leadership Academy