

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH SERVICES

August 2020 Newsletter

JULY EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH

MT. MEIGS CAMPUS

Tonya Dorn



Daryl Norris
(not pictured)

AUTAUGA CAMPUS

Sharon Trimble
Trailer

VACCA CAMPUS

TBD

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I cannot remember ever being happy to see the month of August in Alabama since moving here in 1975. However, after the challenges of July, I think I will welcome flipping the calendar on another month.

The leadership and staff at Vacca are to be credited for working through our first medical isolation event with 3 students. These youth were asymptomatic and remain healthy. The campus did an excellent job of preventing additional students and staff from contracting the virus. However, DYS saw an increase in July in number of staff who tested positive for Covid-19. I want to especially recognize our nursing staff and their efforts to minimize the effect on our campuses through contact-tracing testing. While many communities struggle to provide this important information in a timely manner, DYS continues to provide this resource for staff to minimize disruption for their families and allow them to make timely health decisions.

We will use the month of August to plan and prepare our campuses for the transition of our educational services in September. Each campus education plan will look a little different taking advantage of the strengths and unique resources at the three facilities. Additionally, our IT staff continue to work to increase our capacity to provide treatment, programming, and communication remotely.

Please keep our co-workers who are sick and their families in your prayers.

In Appreciation,

Steven Lafreniere

In this Newsletter.....

Letter from the Executive
Director

Employees of the Month

PbS Information / Facility
Improvement Planning Highlights

Highlighting Youth & Staff
Feedback

Programming Highlights

- Youth and Staff Art Contest
- Special 'Thank You' luncheon for nurses & administrators

PbS Information / Facility Improvement Planning Highlights

Congratulations to the Mt. Meigs and Vacca Campuses!

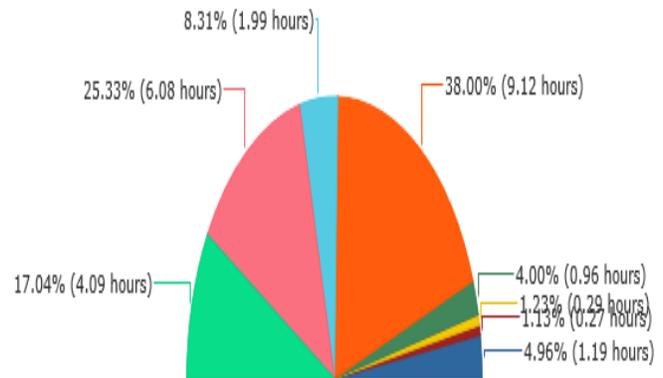
The Mt. Meigs and Vacca campuses were honored with certificates of appreciation from PbS for “Successful Completion of Performance-based Standards April 2020 Data Collection during the COVID-19 Pandemic.” We are so very proud of the staff and are appreciative of all their hard work. April was a challenging time to collect data and information, but staff rose to the challenge! Again, thank you for your determination and dedication!



PbS Performance Profile Calls

On July 23rd, the Mt. Meigs and Vacca campuses participated in their PbS Performance Profile calls with Ms. Lois Jenkins, the DYS’ PbS coach. Both campuses reviewed their performance outcome data, including critical outcomes, and outcomes related to their facility improvement plans (FIPs). The teams also reviewed the new interactive performance profile report, the interactive unit logs that record average time of daily activities per dorm (see example to the right), and the new Youth Reentry Scale Summary. The teams will review and edit their current FIPs prior to July 31st.

Average time of daily activities



- Education
- In sleeping rooms
- Other facility programs
- Recreation activity
- Sleeping
- Uncategorized
- Leisure activity
- Operational activity



Highlighting Youth and Staff Feedback

In this newsletter, DYS is highlighting a few of the responses from the PbS Youth and Staff Climate Survey. DYS utilizes these surveys twice a year during the months of April and October to receive ongoing feedback. For the Youth Climate Survey, areas addressed include living conditions/climate, Understanding Rules and Rights, Programs, Family Contact, Safety and Security, Staff, and Justice. For the Staff Climate Survey, areas addressed include Safety and Security, Training, Living and Working Conditions, Programs, and Staff/Youth Relations. For April 2020, some of the responses are listed below.

Vacca Campus

76% of youth stated the facility had a good school program.

84% of youth stated that the statement “My treatment or service plan helps me to understand what I must do in order to reach my goals” is true or mostly true for them.

76% of youth stated that staff members showed them respect all or most of the time.

91% of staff rated the security policies and procedures as good, somewhat good, or excellent.

76% of staff agreed or strongly agreed that they received the information they needed to perform their job effectively.

85% of staff rated the support and guidance received from their supervisor as good, fair, or excellent.

Mt. Meigs Campus

88% of youth stated that they did not fear for their safety.

91% of youth stated that it was true or very true of the statement “The programming I go to is helping me to understand what I need to do to succeed when I return home.”

94% of youth stated they believed staff members genuinely care about them most of the time.

95% of staff rated the security policies and procedures as good, somewhat good, or excellent.

80% of staff agreed and 18% somewhat agreed that they received the training needed to perform their job.

90% of staff agreed or strongly agreed with the statement “I am satisfied with my job”.

Programming Highlights

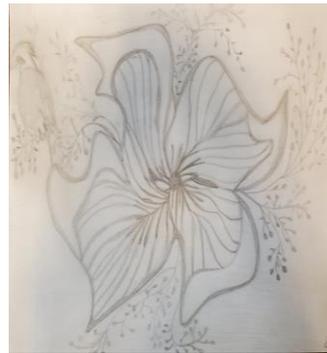
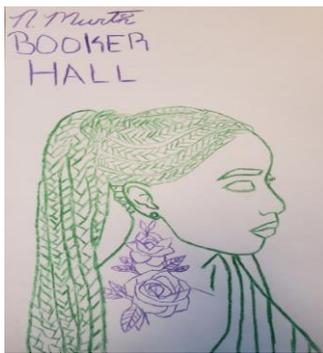
Youth and staff at the Mt. Meigs campus recently participated in a youth and staff art contest and a “Best Flag” art contest. Their artwork is displayed below along with the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners and the Honorable Mention winners. Congratulations to everyone who participated!



FIRST PLACE: Staff Shentavial Mims

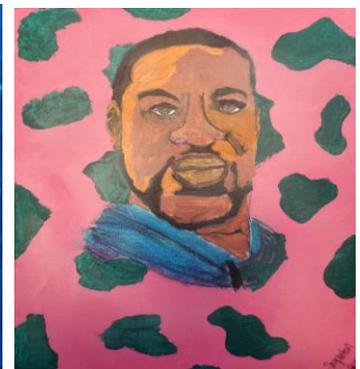
SECOND PLACE: Staff Marion Smith

THIRD PLACE: Youth N. M.



HONORABLE MENTION
Staff Paulette Underwood

HONORABLE MENTION
Youth J. M.



Programming Highlights

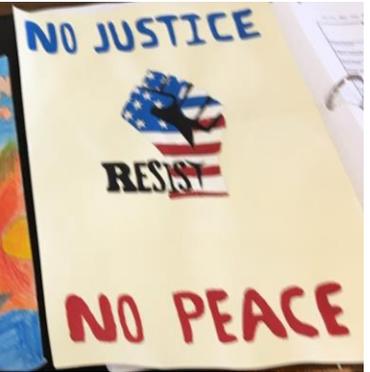
Mt. Meigs Flag Contest Winners



FIRST PLACE



SECOND PLACE



THIRD PLACE

Appreciating our Campus Nurses and Administrators

On Thursday, July 30th, the DYS campus nurses and administrators were provided an appreciation lunch for all of their hard work and dedication to staff and youth. Special thanks to Ms. Janice Coles-Lewis for coordinating and sponsoring this luncheon!

Autauga

THANK YOU!



THANK YOU!

Mt. Meigs



Vacca

