

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH SERVICES

July 2020 Newsletter

JUNE EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH

MT. MEIGS CAMPUS

Christopher Beck



Venessa Hall



AUTAUGA CAMPUS

Runyun Thomas

VACCA CAMPUS

TBD

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I want to express my appreciation on behalf of the DYS Board for the continued dedication of so many DYS employees and all levels who have continued to persevere each week through this pandemic. We may never have a celebrity on a PSA thank us along with other first responders and medical professionals for the work we do. However, our work continues to be critically needed as a component of public safety and the rehabilitation of young people.

It is important we take responsibility for our wellness while we continue to cope with the ongoing stress caused by this pandemic, at home, at work, and in our community. Patience and understanding will go a long way in making our work environments less stressful. As we protect ourselves and one another from the virus by adhering to CDC safety precautions, let us also be mindful of our need, and that of others, to protect our entire wellbeing from the toxic effects of stress. Over time, it can affect our attitudes and cause us to feel isolated or overwhelmed. Hopefully, friends, family and co-workers can be a source of support for us during these times.

A crisis can also bring opportunity. And in the midst this public health crisis our agency continues to identify opportunities to improve how we deliver programming, education, and services. We may have to get beyond the pandemic to fully implement our plans but this crisis has provided us an opportunity to press the reset button in a number of areas. I look forward to sharing more about this in the next newsletter.

Thank You.

In this Newsletter.....

Letter from the Executive Director

Employees of the Month

DYS Information and Resources

- Memo Regarding Social Media
- COVID-19 Resources

PbS Information / Facility Improvement Planning Highlights

A Special Thank You

DYS INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Social Media Use

The use of social media has become an integral part of our society as an information sharing, communication, and networking tool. As a state government agency, employees need to be aware that personal communications must not be construed as a reflection of policies or leanings of DHS. Recently, a news report warned of some people on social media seeking out employees of public agencies or companies and baiting them into exchanges on highly charged topics. The purpose of these exchanges is to report employees to their Human Resources Office or supervisor and demand that something be done. We see nearly every day that individuals are losing their jobs because of something they have posted on social media platforms. It is important that you are able to ensure that personal postings or interactions on social media platforms are made separately and distinctly from your role as a DHS and State of Alabama employee. I would strongly encourage you to review your public profiles to ensure that anything you may post does not reflect negatively on you as a public servant. As an agency, we value respectful language and professional behavior.

COVID-19 Public Service Announcements

Protect Yourself & Others (COVID-19 PSA)

Link: https://youtu.be/6QE_ZApiXGc

Description: The number of COVID-19 cases and deaths in Alabama continue to rise, but you have the power to change this. A few simple steps can greatly reduce your chances of being exposed and exposing others to COVID-19. Learn more at <https://alabamapublichealth.gov/covid19>.

You are Safer at Home (COVID-19 PSA)

Link: <https://youtu.be/EgNr1qjaiM>

Description: The number of COVID-19 cases and deaths in Alabama continue to rise, but you have the power to change this. A few simple steps can greatly reduce your chances of being exposed and exposing others to COVID-19. Learn more at <https://alabamapublichealth.gov/covid19>.

Know the Symptoms (COVID-19 PSA)

Link: <https://youtu.be/4XER82uaXWI>

Description: If you have symptoms of COVID-19 and want to get tested, call your healthcare provider first. For testing sites near you, call the Alabama COVID-19 24/7 Hotline at 1-888-264-2256. If you are tested, you should self-isolate and follow quarantine instructions. Learn more at <https://alabamapublichealth.gov/covid19>.

Symptoms? Get Tested! (COVID-19 PSA)

Link: <https://youtu.be/5O8GWqAJyHI>

Description: If you have symptoms of COVID-19 and want to get tested, call your healthcare provider first. For testing sites near you, call the Alabama COVID-19 24/7 Hotline at 1-888-264-2256. If you are tested, you should self-isolate and follow quarantine instructions. Learn more at <https://alabamapublichealth.gov/covid19>.

PbS Information / Facility Improvement Planning Highlights

PbS is now accepting applications for the 2020 PbS Employment Matching Award!



PbS believes teenagers thrive when they are trusted to earn their own money. The new PbS Education and Employment Foundation allows the opportunity for more youths to earn the PbS Employment Matching Award and will match up to \$1,000 of what selected youths earn from July 1 - Sept. 1, 2020. Applications will be accepted until June 30, 2020.

For more information and to download a copy of the application, visit:

https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A_pbstandards.org_awards_employment-2Dmatching_&d=DwlIFAg&c=8K0mnSt5E4j4U_dMGxZxbA&r=FPWgOHuqL2aMDO1NvvYZWgLv1ovl-np8VUX46GchpX8&m=5QcVpGRNwkyG72-jUxmVwI9fZUw40_RUQ9xfHECJGqA&s=qT0TsfTALC2VHRS7CNfFb_kvUkD-rv_5kHg68_I94Vw&e=

PbS Performance Profile calls for the Mt. Meigs and Vacca campuses are rescheduled for mid-July. An email will be sent out once dates and times are confirmed.

New Performance Profile Report

A new Performance Profile Report was set live on June 17, 2020. Permissions to access the report will remain the same as the old Performance Profile. Historical Performance Profiles from October 2019 and other previous data collections are still available in the Other Reports section of the website. The new report is now more print-friendly than the previous Performance Profile.

The report can be found by navigating to:

1. Sign in
2. Reports
3. Other Reports
4. Performance Profile (click "View")

New Youth Reentry Scale Summary Report

A new and interactive Youth Reentry Scale Summary report was set live on June 17, 2020. All users with access to PbS Reports can view this interactive report. Toggles on this report will show your individual site as well as provide a comparison between your site and the rest of the field for every question on a likert scale (ex: Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree, Strongly Disagree options) in the Youth Reentry Survey.

The report can be found by navigating to:

1. Sign in
2. Reports
3. Interactive Reports
4. Youth Reentry Scale Summary (click "View")

Youth Reentry Survey responses can also be found in the PbS Response County Summaries section of the website. Reports are available for individual sites as well as the Youth Reentry Survey – Agency report summarizing all facilities in the agency for users with access to multiple sites within an agency.

A Special Thank You!

On July 1st, DYS Executive Staff presented Mr. Lafreniere with a small token of their appreciation for his ongoing leadership, support, and determination during these unprecedented and challenging times. July 1st also marks Mr. Lafreniere's 6th anniversary as Executive Director of DYS. We are grateful to have his ongoing support and encouragement. Thank you, Mr. Lafreniere, for all that you do for staff and the youth that we serve.



I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.

– Maya Angelou
