
DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

W.W. Long Youth Development Center Receives Grant

The W.W. Long Youth Development Center (YDC) in Aiken has received a \$3,000 grant from the South Carolina Arts Commission to incorporate arts into its educational curriculum. The YDC, the result of a joint partnership between DJJ and Clemson University, is designed as an alternative juvenile justice program for nonviolent, low-risk offenders ages 12 to 18. While at the residential, camp-like setting, juvenile offenders from across the state learn behavior modification and continue their education with unique, hands-on curriculum modules that align with S.C. educational standards.

The SC Arts Commission grant will enable the YDC to utilize an art educator and consultant to incorporate performing and visual arts into existing curriculum modules such as aerospace, zoology, electricity, marine science, horticulture, food and nutrition, and mechanical science. A portion of the grant funds will be used to purchase art supplies.

“Family Solutions” Program Recognized by OJJDP as “Promising” Model Program

“Family Solutions” a 10-week program used by DJJ at the community level has been recognized nationally as a “promising” model program by the U.S. Justice Department’s Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) in its latest *Model Programs Guide*. DJJ currently contracts with Families4Change, a non-profit, for use of the program in 10 South Carolina counties. The program was developed for use in Georgia’s juvenile justice system and is now used in seven states nationwide.

Multiple families in group sessions are able to confront, support, and witness others’ successes and failures. The group generally has eight or more families participating and at least one professionally trained leader assisted by group facilitators who help the group leader manage group interaction and provide a vigilance that prevents opportunities for exclusive peer interaction. The OJJDP *Model Programs Guide* (MPG) is designed to assist practitioners and communities in implementing evidence-based prevention and intervention programs that can make a difference in the lives of children and communities.

DJJ Ceremony to Honor Crime Victims

On Tuesday, April 15, DJJ held a ceremony dedicated to crime victims in observance of national Victims’ Rights Week. The event was held on DJJ’s Broad River Road complex in its Victims Garden. The work of DJJ’s Victims Services Program is focused on victims of crime. During the ceremony, State Law Enforcement Division chief Reginald Lloyd delivered the keynote address. Victor Oyinbo, a DJJ employee and a victim of crime, discussed being shot in the face in 2003 and left for dead on a Columbia street, and the impact it is having on him and his family. Trees in the Victims’ Garden were dedicated to the 13 major crime categories. The trees will serve as a symbol of respect to victims of crime in South Carolina. DJJ’s Victim Services program runs a toll-free victims assistance hot line at (888) 224-6165.

DJJ 2008 Spring Fling for Wellness

DJJ employees recently celebrated their 2008 Spring Fling for Wellness with a full day of activities that were held at the Department’s Wellness and Training Center on Shivers Road. The activities included health screenings by the Lexington Medical Center, Health Fair with health-related vendors, a seminar featuring a DJJ career education teacher who shared her weight-loss journey (200 plus pounds), a 5-mile “Yes, We Can Walk,” and an employee volleyball tournament. The Wellness Center opened last year and membership has been growing among DJJ employees.

Schedule

- April 21 Speak at Columbia Rotary Club
Seawell's
- April 28 Presentation at Coalition for Juvenile Justice Annual Spring Conference
Renaissance M Street Hotel, Washington, DC
- May 1 Provide Keynote Address at Ohio Summit on Children
Hyatt Regency, Columbus, Ohio
- May 5 Speak at SC Correctional Association's Task Force on Adult and Juvenile Offenders
Conference, Brookland Conference Center, West Columbia