

---

## DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

---

### **DJJ and African Methodist Episcopal Church sign Memorandum of Agreement**

On Monday, July 11, the DJJ and the Seventh Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church of South Carolina, outlined and signed a historic Memorandum of Agreement during a press conference to formalize a partnership that has evolved over the past few months. Governor Sanford spoke during the press conference and observed the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement by Director Byars and Presiding Bishop Preston Warren Williams, II, of the Seventh Episcopal District. In addition to statewide news coverage, the signing of the MOA was covered on National Public Radio and the BET network.

The partnership combines efforts to create and enhance services and programs that provide at-risk youth, juvenile offenders, and their families with the skills and services necessary to succeed in society. Also, the partnership will enhance juvenile supervision at the community level, while working to reduce the disproportionate number of minority youth coming into the juvenile justice system.

### **National magazine *Corrections Today* names DJJ's Stacey Atkinson as one of the "Best in the Business"**

"Corrections Today," the official membership publication of the national American Correctional Association (ACA), lauded DJJ's own Stacey Atkinson in its annual "Best in the Business" issue in June. Praising Atkinson's "work ethic and commitment to the juveniles" and "her true devotion to the field," the magazine devoted a full-page profile to the 24-year DJJ veteran. Atkinson, a long-time member and supporter of the state chapter of the ACA, is the first DJJ employee to receive the honor.

The timing of the award serves the agency well as it is in the midst of developing the "Community Behind the Fence" initiative. Atkinson, director of Community Behind the Fence, supervises the initiative, which is focused on developing specific programs and services for juveniles with long-term commitments.

### **New Berkeley County DJJ director appointed**

Nicol Ashe, a former DJJ probation officer and supervisor, was recently named as the new director of the DJJ Berkeley County office. The office currently processes about 1,400 juvenile cases a year and deals with an unusually high delinquency rate in the county.

#### Schedule

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| July 21   | Common Ground for School Improvement Panel<br>ETV, Bank of America Conference Room |
| August 10 | Address DJJ Education Staff<br>DJJ Birchwood Auditorium                            |