

February 9, 2007

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PRESS ADVISORY

COURT TO OPEN NEW DROP-IN CENTER FOR JUVENILES

Drop-in center in SE hopes to be first of several in new approach to youth on probation

WHAT: **Grand Opening – Greater Southeast Drop In Center**
(The Balanced and Restorative Justice Drop In Center)

WHERE: **1110 V Street, SE**

WHEN: **Monday, February 12, 3pm**

WHO: Senator Mary Landrieu
Mayor Adrian Fenty
Council Chair Vince Gray
Councilmember Marion Barry
Chief Judge Rufus G. King III
Family Court Presiding Judge Anita Josey-Herring
Terri Odom, Director, Court Social Services Division
Inspector Lillian Overton, Metropolitan Police Department
Paul Quander, Director, Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency

The Balanced and Restorative Justice Drop-In Center is a multi-faceted facility, including a satellite probation supervision office. East of the River youth who are pre-trial or are facing probation revocation will be able to take advantage of a number of pro-social activities including: tutoring, mentoring, education and prevention groups, peer mediation, recreation, and field trips. Refreshments will be provided and the Center will also host a satellite courtroom. The Center will be open Monday through Saturday and will serve court-supervised youth and their families.

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FACT SHEET: Court Social Services Southeast Drop In Center

What is the Drop-In Center?

The Balanced and Restorative Justice Drop-In Center is a multi-faceted facility, including a satellite probation supervision office. East of the River youth who are pre-trial or are facing probation revocation will be able to take advantage of a number of positive, positive, pro-social activities including: tutoring, mentoring, education and prevention groups, peer mediation, recreation, and field trips. Refreshments will be provided and the Center will also host a satellite courtroom. The Center will be open Monday through Saturday and will serve court-supervised youth and their families.

How did the Family Court come up with the idea?

In January 2002, the president signed into law the D.C. Family Court Act of 2001. One major provision of the Act was the One Family, One Judge principle, designed to ensure continuity for families and children before the Family Court. With collaborative support from the D.C. Justice Grants Administration Office, the Court decided to extend this principle by implementing a one family/one probation officer approach, and to expand the use of Family Court Social Services Division's satellite offices to include strength-based probation supervision.

How Exactly Will the Drop-In Center Serve Inner-City Youth?

The Drop-In Center is designed to serve youth residing east of the Anacostia River ages 12-18 who are either pre-trial or are facing probation revocation (and so might otherwise be securely detained). The Center will operate Monday through Saturday, with programming beginning March 1.

Activities during the week will include:

Monday thru Friday 9:00am - 3:30pm

Parents of youth under Court supervision who have been suspended from school will be required to go to the school to gather all educational lessons for the youth and the youth will be required to attend the Center to complete the lessons during suspension.

Monday thru Friday 4:00pm - 9:00pm

Pre-adjudicated youth and those facing probation revocation will be required to report to the Center to participate in the following activities:

4:00pm - 5:30pm Tutoring

5:30pm - 6:00pm Refreshments

6:00pm - 7:00pm Individual, group and mediation sessions

7:00pm - 7:15pm (break)

7:15pm - 9:00pm Recreation, movies, etc.

Each evening, Center staff will ensure that curfews are met by conducting phone calls and face-to-face checks at the homes of all youth who have court-ordered curfews.

Saturdays

Recreation, mentoring, mediation, local field trips and refreshments.

Additional Information:

The Court Social Services Division envisions that this non-traditional approach will enhance probation supervision in the District and beyond. The Division is working to leverage start-up funds to replicate this model in all other quadrants of the city, to centralize functions and services now available from different providers through the Division's satellite offices in Northeast and Southeast and the downtown office serving Southwest and other populations. As part of the Division's commitment to positive outcomes, staff will track the efficacy of its model by measuring re-arrest rates, failure to appear hearing rates, and failure to comply with court-ordered conditions among supervised youth residing east of the Anacostia River.

Mission Statement for Court's Social Services Division:

The mission of the Court's Social Services Division is to assist the District of Columbia Superior Court's Family Court and juvenile justice system in the rehabilitation of youths through the provision of comprehensive services and probation supervision with an eye toward public safety to prevent recidivism and protecting the community.

Statutory Responsibility:

For more than thirty years, the Court's Social Services Division has been charged with managing the initial phases of the District of Columbia's juvenile justice system. Responsibilities include: (1) assessing each youth's risk to public safety, conducting home and family assessments, making recommendations to the Office of Attorney General and to judicial officers in the Family Court, advising the Court throughout all phases of the adjudication process; (2) developing sound comprehensive probation supervision plans and alternatives to detention and commitment; and (3) coordinating services for juveniles and families.

"Out of the ashes of our past, we rise to secure our future and restore justice in our communities." -- Carroll Boswell, former Assistant Deputy Director, Court Social Services Division