



From The Corner Office – Happy New Year!

Is it too soon? Well perhaps I am jumping the gun by a couple of months – however, for LCYDC our new fiscal year did indeed begin on October 1st. We are off to races with Fiscal Year 2020 in our small corner of the universe with much to reflect upon and much more to look forward to.

During the past fiscal year we had a record number of our young people to graduate high school from our Chanticleer Learning Center and from Opelika High School – we count this as our crowning achievement. However there were countless other small victories in the lives of our children and families which were far less flashy but no less meaningful. These victories included learning new coping skills; addressing habits which hold you back; reconnecting with family; and establishing linkages which will help to reach future goals both large and small.

And yes, our children and families have also faced adversities, setbacks and challenges as has LCYDC. This agency and those we serve must be continual seekers – always looking for better ways forward which align with our goals and our mission. I am proud to announce that one new path forward LCYDC is the establishment of a Human Right Committee (HRC). We are in the planning stages of forming this committee which will allow us to better review all incidents and issues which might be creating barriers to providing the quality of care that those we serve both need and deserve. Our HRC members will consist of agency staff, external partners along with clients served and their family members. We are excited about the change that the feedback from HRC will make at LCYDC throughout this new fiscal year.

We are also so pleased to announce the establishment of the position, Deputy Director – Operations & Programming. This Senior-level position will work in tandem with the Executive Director and our Board of Directors in carrying out the policies set forth by our Board. Our veteran employee, Ms. Wendy Birmingham, LPC, NCC, has agreed to take on this new role. She will be working closely with our staff as well as our children and families – listening, learning, teaching and touching. In addition she will be working closely with our external licensing, contracting, accreditation, advocacy and oversight agencies in a collegial effort to enhance performance and service quality throughout all programs. Yes, being Deputy Director is a very big job with lots of moving and emerging parts but - we know from her body of impeccable human services work- Ms. Birmingham is well up to the task.

And so as we start this New Year, we ask that our newsletter readers and all LCYDC stakeholders journey right along with us into the future. We have much work to do and so much to accomplish as we work to live up to our FY 2020 motto of One Agency...One Mission. LCYDC continues to be “A Place of Service – offering hope to children and families – strengthening communities”.

Laura Cooper, Executive Director



BLESSINGS TO... SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 9-5 Cora McGriff
- 9-11 Doneesha Buchanan
- 9-13 Kristie Thomas
- 9-15 Jessica Askew
- 9-15 Kyle Cooper
- 9-15 Calandra Harris
- 9-21 Kayona Brown
- 9-22 Anashia Ross
- 9-24 Rosetta Joyner

- 9-24 Mashaun Palmore
- 9-26 Phyllis Jeter
- 9-28 Jocelin Davis

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 10-2 Argentina Harris
- 10-2 Dakota Nguyen
- 10-3 Teresa DeMunn
- 10-4 Cayla Huffman
- 10-7 Francis Blumenfeld
- 10-13 Latoya Lockhart
- 10-14 Debra Witherspoon
- 10-21 Sandra Blackmon
- 10-29 Jacqueline Jordan
- 10-30 Sha’Ron Scott
- 10-31 Tywon Battle

NEW HIRES

- Shannon Pettus - Social Worker
- Kwanza Williams - Residential Specialist (Journeys)
- Notorious Jones - Residential

- Specialist (Passages)
- Sherry Williams - Residential Specialist (Voyages)
- Ryan Loftly - Residential Specialist (Journeys)
- Roshica Warren - Weekend Residential Specialist (Journeys)
- Gaynell Morris - Surveillance Specialist
- Princess Hill - Residential Specialist (Voyages)
- Chan-Tal Wilburn - Therapist/Counselor
- Jamie Mardis - Therapist/Counselor

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www.lcydc.org

