

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Office of the Inspector General

Inspector General



September 14, 2022

Hilary Cairns
Director
Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services
450 H Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Director Cairns:

The Office of the Inspector General's (OIG) Inspections and Evaluations (I&E) Unit will soon start an evaluation of the District of Columbia Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services' (DYRS) contracting for and use of community-based services and programs.

DYRS is responsible for the security, safety, and well-being of court-involved youths in the District. In furtherance of its responsibilities, DYRS provides various services and programs to these youths, such as community-based placements and supportive services. These services and programs play a critical role in DYRS' ability to fulfill its mission of ensuring the safety of court-involved youths while giving them the skills and experiences they need to be healthy, productive citizens.

The primary objectives of this evaluation, which is part of my Office's *Fiscal Year 2023 Audit and Inspection Plan*,¹ are to: 1) identify the types of community-based services that DYRS delivers through contracts and 2) analyze the extent to which the various services have been utilized over the last three (3) years.

We will conduct this engagement in accordance with the standards established by the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, paying particular attention to the overall quality of internal control.²

¹ Available at <http://oig.dc.gov>.

² "Internal control" is defined by the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) as comprising "the plans, methods, policies, and procedures used to fulfill the mission, strategic plan, goals, and objectives of the entity" and is "not one event, but a series of actions that occur throughout an entity's operations." Furthermore, internal control is a process that provides "reasonable assurance that the objectives of an entity will be achieved," "serves as the first line of defense in safeguarding assets," and is an "integral part of the operational processes management uses to guide its operations." U.S. GOV'T ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE, STANDARDS FOR INTERNAL CONTROL IN THE FEDERAL GOV'T 5-6, GAO-14-704G (Sept. 2014), <https://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-14-704G> (last visited Sept. 1, 2022).

Please provide Edward Farley, Assistant Inspector General for I&E, with the name and email address of the person who will serve as the primary point of contact at DYRS during the evaluation. He will schedule an entrance conference with the point of contact you identify. Mr. Farley can be reached at (202) 727-9249 or edward.farley@dc.gov.

Also, please provide the following information to Mr. Farley no later than September 30, 2022, so that the I&E team can begin to prepare its fieldwork methodology and plan:

- a list of all community-based programs and services [identifying the name and address of the vendor and the service(s) provided] that DYRS has contracted for since October 1, 2020;
- electronic copies of all contracts and associated procurement documents (including, but not limited to, executed contracts, task orders, and contract modifications) for community-based programs and services that were awarded or have been in effect since October 1, 2020;
- any DYRS policies and procedures pertaining to the delivery and administration of community-based programs and services, particularly those related to evaluating and documenting the use of DYRS' community-based programs and services;
- a current organizational chart for DYRS;
- a list of all current DYRS employees responsible for managing community-based programs and services, to include each person's name, title, email address, and a brief description of their duties; and
- any other documentation or information you believe would assist the review team.

The OIG will also contact any other relevant District agencies directly to request necessary information and schedule interviews.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation. I look forward to working with DYRS in our joint efforts to improve the services and programs provided to DYRS and the youths assigned to its care.

Sincerely,

Daniel W. Lucas

Daniel W. Lucas
Inspector General
DWL/ef

cc: The Honorable Muriel Bowser, Mayor, District of Columbia, Attention: Betsy Cavendish
Mr. Kevin Donahue, City Administrator, District of Columbia
Mr. Christopher Geldart, Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice, District of Columbia
The Honorable Phil Mendelson, Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia
The Honorable Trayon White, Sr., Chairperson, Committee on Recreation, Libraries, and Youth Affairs, Council of the District of Columbia
The Honorable Anita Bonds, Councilmember, Committee on Recreation, Libraries, and Youth Affairs, Council of the District of Columbia
The Honorable Brianne K. Nadeau, Councilmember, Committee on Recreation, Libraries, and Youth Affairs, Council of the District of Columbia
The Honorable Janeese Lewis George, Councilmember, Committee on Recreation, Libraries, and Youth Affairs, Council of the District of Columbia
The Honorable Kenyan R. McDuffie, Councilmember, Committee on Recreation, Libraries, and Youth Affairs, Council of the District of Columbia
The Honorable Kathy Patterson, District of Columbia Auditor, Office of the D.C. Auditor

Signature: 

Email: daniel.lucas@dc.gov