



For Immediate Release
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Delaware Youth Rehabilitative Services Honored with Two National Awards

Wilmington – The Delaware Children’s Department, Division of Youth Rehabilitative Services was recently honored by receiving the prestigious Barbara Allen-Hagen Award. The award was established in 2007 to honor Barbara Allen-Hagen upon her retirement from the federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) which is under the auspices of the US Department of Justice. The Barbara Allen-Hagen Award is given in three categories: juvenile correction facilities, detention/assessment centers, and community residential programs and are judged on exemplary commitment to Performance-based Standards to best serve youths, families, and staff.

One winner in each category was selected and honored at the Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators and Performance-based Standards Awards Night in Chicago, IL on October 25, 2017. Of the jurisdictions considered for the three awards, Delaware won two. Ferris School for boys was selected as the best Level 5 juvenile facility in the nation while Grace Cottage for Girls was selected as the best Community Residential Program.

“Being recognized nationally for the work the Division of Youth Rehabilitative Services does every day to improve results for youth in our care is exciting and validates that we are on the right track in helping these adolescents and their families achieve better outcomes.” said Josette Manning, Cabinet Secretary for the Delaware Children’s Department.

Performance-based standards is a data-driven improvement model grounded in research that challenges youth correction, detention, assessment and community-based facilities and agencies to treat all youths in custody as ‘one of our own.’

“We could not be more thrilled with taking home two of the three awards,” said Division of Youth Rehabilitative Services Director Nancy Dietz. “we have made dramatic improvements in our juvenile rehabilitation programs since adopting Performance-based Standards three years ago” said Dietz, “these improvements have led to better outcomes not only in the lives of the adolescents we serve, it has also improved the lives of their families and has positively impacted staff.” Dietz concluded

The mission of the Division of Youth Rehabilitative Services is to guide youth involved in juvenile justice to a successful future and support public safety

The Children's Department provides services to children who have been abused, neglected, are dependent, have mental health or substance problems, have been adjudicated delinquent by the Courts, as well as prevention services targeted toward all youth. For more information, please visit www.kids.delaware.gov.

For more information of Performance-based Standards, please visit their website at <http://pbstandards.org>

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