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## **Audit Recommends DYRS Streamline Management, Improve Performance Reporting**

**Washington D.C.** – An audit of the District’s Department of Youth and Rehabilitative Services (DYRS) found the agency could streamline a cumbersome administrative structure and likely reallocate more funds for services for court-involved youth, a step DYRS has said it will pursue in the next fiscal year.

In the audit period, FY 2014, and currently, DYRS channels funds through the DC Children’s Youth Investment Trust to three “lead agencies” that then contract with service providers. In its response to the audit, DYRS wrote, “In FY17 DYRS intends to lower administrative costs by no longer utilizing the services of the DC Trust.” The agency also indicated they had reduced overhead in the current fiscal year by “closely evaluating FY16 Lead Agency budgets and explicitly denying approval of a number of indirect costs.”

The audit also faulted DYRS for failing to retain source documents to back up its claims of improved performance. The report by the D.C. Auditor, [\*DYRS Can Strengthen Management of DC Youthlink, Community-based Residential Facilities and Performance Reporting\*](#), found that DYRS claimed that 75 percent of committed youth in community-based residential facilities had “increased pro-social behavior” in FY 2014, documented in case files. But the Auditor found that DYRS could not provide the source data for the performance metric. “ODCA was not able to verify the ‘pro-social’ behavior metric included in DYRS’s internal reports.” “Pro-social behavior” included participating in approved activities including arts, mentoring, recreation, counseling or crisis intervention.

The audit also was unable to confirm the number of abscondences reported in DYRS’ internal report because, again, the source data were not available. The audit also noted that in several instances in FY 2014, the agency failed to report abscondences to the Office of Unified Communications as required.

The report recommends that DYRS “restrict access to its case management system” to protect against the potential for creating fraudulent entries and disbursements. During the audit period, a total of 345 staff at the agency had access to the database which included enrollment records that are the basis for payments made to providers who work with individual committed youth.

For more information on the Office of the District of Columbia Auditor, visit [dcauditor.org](http://dcauditor.org) or call 202- 727-3600.