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DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH<http://dmh.lacounty.gov>CENTRAL JUVENILE HALL MENTAL HEALTH UNIT
1605 EASTLAKE AVENUE, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90033

Reply To: (323) 226-8826

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3/2009

To: Steven Angel, President
Drumming For Your Life Institute
Rhythm of Learning Charter School

From: Sammie M. Williams, Psy.D.
Clinical Psychologist II
Juvenile Justice Mental Health Programs
Central Juvenile Hall Mental Health Unit

Dear Mr. Angel,

It is my pleasure to submit this testimonial letter regarding the Drumming for Your Life Workshop (DFYL) conducted at Central Juvenile Hall. In brief, I serve as the primary treating clinical on the Enhanced Supervision Unit (ESU), which is an intensive treatment unit that house some of the most unique and challenging youth throughout Los Angeles County. I have had the pleasure of observing the various positive outcomes in our young people related to the DFYL workshop since its inclusion at Juvenile Hall.

In my professional opinion, I believe that the DFYL workshop effectively teaches a wide range of social, interpersonal, and self-sufficiency skills that are fundamentally essential to the individuals that participate. For example, self-control, patience, active listening, following basic instructions, expressing one's needs and feelings, accepting criticism, providing positive feedback, as well as working with, and respecting the rights and expressions of others. These are just a few select skills that are gained when the young men and women participate in the workshops.

Lastly, one of the most significant challenges the youth we serve has, is the ability to respect authority. Thus, I must highlight the outstanding work of the workshop's facilitator. His ability to connect with the young men and women from diverse backgrounds reflects both unconditional acceptance and objectivity, as he brings out the best in each individual, while teaching them to respect themselves and others without intolerance.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Sammie M. Williams, Psy.D.

Clinical Psychologist II

Juvenile Justice Mental Health Programs

Central Juvenile Hall Mental Health Unit

CC: Shirley Flournoy, Ph.D., Program Head