Director’s Message:

Welcome to the Department of Youth Services (DYS) website. This is an exciting time for the department as we continue to grow and adapt, remaining always adaptable, motivated and responsive. DYS is confronting a time of many changes and we strive to embrace these changes during a period of larger nation-
The world of youth development is an exciting area in which to work, study and play, as we continue to meet and inspire young people, bringing them together in forums, to ensure that DYS remains at the cutting edge of youth development.

Our hope is to empower a large number of Belizean youth through the established programs managed by DYS along with the many programs offered by our youth stakeholder organizations.

DYS is geared toward the promotion of the ideals deemed most appropriate for the positive and full development of Belize's young people. The department aims to more coherently link the range of existing efforts – complemented by a number of new measures to address gaps in existing services – to ensure that those endeavors are better coordinated, better targeted, better understood and better used; essentially, that they provide more access, more relevance, more opportunities, and more hope to our youth. We are transforming the way we operate to continuously improve our ability to develop and empower our youth population. My staff and partners have continued to meet the challenges of our field and to excel despite some setbacks.

I would like to thank all youth who have taken the time to attend our conferences, workshops, forums and Award Gala, bringing your skills and expertise to our gatherings. Your vision, knowledge and high energy brought new life into DYS and indeed into the world of youth development work in Belize. You are truly our greatest asset today and tomorrow, and we could not accomplish what we do without your support and leadership.

My personal respect and appreciation go out to all of you. I am very proud of where we are today and excited about where the department is headed.
OUR SERVICES

The National 4-H Youth Development Center operates a 10 months semi-residential Personal Development Training Course for out of school youth ages 14-17.

PSAST

Primary and Secondary Art Skill Training is a program sponsored by NICH, Department of Youth Services, and The Embassy of Republic of Taiwan, to provide professional painting & drawing skills through their art instructors Fiona Hsu & Christine Huang.

DYS Recording Studio

The Department of Youth Services Recording Studio is designed to support students with the recording and audio production of their music projects as well as provide audio-base assistance to out of school youths who are interested in singing and music as a career.

Resource & Training Center
The Resource Training Center is tailored to provide all youth with a youth friendly environment to access the tools of information technology for information & research, training, leisure and social purposes.

Empowerment and Community Outreach

The School Suspension Program is designed to support students at risk of dropping out of school while it provide tutoring and life skills counseling.

Health and Well-Being

The Sexual Reproductive Health Unit provides information in order to reduce the incidence of HIV/AIDS among youth.

The Enterprise & Job Creation Unit

The Enterprise and Job Creation Unit, is charged to support and foster youth entrepreneurship and productivity.

Youth Governance Unit

The Youth Governance Unit is mandated to increase youth participation and build leadership capacity.