



Department of
Youth Services

Message from DYS Director Harvey Reed

Around-the-Clock Services for Youth

May 27, 2016



Operations Manager Bobby Tucker Addresses Indian River JCF Third Shift Youth Specialists During Roll Call

There is an important group of staff at DYS that makes it possible for us to keep our facilities safe and secure 24 hours a day: third shift! From Youth Specialists to nurses and managers, our third shift staff work hard, while others sleep, to provide services for our youth.

At DYS, we have a total of 102 employees who work third shift at our three juvenile correctional facilities. Turneikeio Belcher is a Youth Specialist at Circleville JCF and has been with the agency for 22 years. She explains: "We work hard on third. It's not easy to stay up all night, and it's not for everybody. For those of us that do, we're here."

Despite the fact that third shift takes place from 10 pm to 6 am, staff *DO* interact with youth. Jeanie Shaw, a Youth Specialist at Cuyahoga Hills JCF, explains the unique opportunity present on third: "The youth let their guard down with us. They have no audience. They are more likely to be real with us." Ms. Shaw focuses on offering encouragement and advice to youth during her shift. "They can be so angry and feel that no one has cared for them," she said. "I let them know that I care and want to see the best for them... not just with my words, but with my body language and my voice."

Ms. Belcher has a similar outlook. "Little things do count. They kids know who you are. They build a rapport with you," she said. "You are the first thing they see in the morning and the last thing they see at night."

Rodney King, a Youth Specialist at Circleville JCF, debunks the misnomer that third shift is for unsociable workers. "I like people, and I like to set the tone for their day," Mr. King said. "I try to greet everyone with a positive attitude."

Staff on third shift may be more likely to depend on their coworkers. Anthony Ollie, Youth Specialist at Cuyahoga Hills JCF, said, "Third shift has to be tight knit. We depend on each other. And we depend on others to share good information with our shift."

Because of their schedules, providing training, human resources, and other assistance can be challenging, but it is just as important for third shift staff as any other group. "That's the biggest thing," said Circleville JCF Operations Manager William Carter. "It's so important that my folks on third get the services they need."

Jacqueline Logan previously worked third shift at Cuyahoga Hills JCF. "I loved them, but I had to leave them. It was taking a toll. I have an all new respect for third shift," she said. "They have each other's backs. For them to stay sharp during those hours is remarkable."