

Ohio Department of Youth Services

# Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2012

John R. Kasich, Governor  
Mary Taylor, Lt. Governor  
Harvey J. Reed, Director



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## Director's Message

Harvey J. Reed, Director

Youth are the number one priority of the Ohio Department of Youth Services (DYS). Our staff provides juvenile-specific treatment, education, training and programming to make a lasting difference in the lives of young people. We embrace families and community partners in the process and provide a continuum of care that supports positive transformation. By addressing challenges common to juvenile offenders, such as peer pressure, identity formation and maturation, DHS is supporting lasting change in the lives of youth, which ultimately makes Ohio a safer place to live.

DYS reaches thousands of youth in Ohio. Beyond youth in DHS facilities and those on parole, DHS funds and supports more than 610 direct service programs throughout the state offering nearly 110,000 youth (based on annual program admissions) opportunities and services to effect positive change. These range from prevention and diversion programs to residential treatment and community treatment in areas such as mental health, sex offending and substance abuse.

This report includes only a snapshot of the progress made over the last year. In our continued commitment to administrative efficiencies and savings measures, we relocated our DHS headquarters to the state-owned William Green building. This move saves the agency and Ohio taxpayers more than \$300,000 in annual rent.

During FY 2012, DHS enhanced community alternatives to serve the right youth in the right place with the right treatment. We have worked closely with community partners and judges to expand appropriate options in the community for those youth who do not pose a public safety risk. The year started with an average daily facility population of 725 youth in July 2011, and because of these efforts, the June 2012 average population was 582 youth.

Our staff worked tirelessly to improve the agency during the past year and will continue efforts in FY 2013. Although some of the changes have been challenging, we are emerging a stronger and enhanced operation and are proud of the services we provide for youth.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Harvey J. Reed". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

## **Facilities**

Committed to proven approaches, DYS uses evidence-based practices within facilities. According to the U.S. Department of Justice/Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) is “the most evidence-based” form of intervention. CBT is incorporated into every housing unit at DYS. CBT focuses on targeting certain criminogenic factors youth might have and helps them to restructure, or change, the way they think and respond in various situations.

DYS strives to ensure youth receive developmentally appropriate, therapeutic and humane treatment that responds to their individual needs and reduces the likelihood of recidivism. Effectively treating the complex needs of youthful offenders is crucial. By enhancing treatment within the facilities, the department is supporting lasting change in the lives of youth.

## **Parole**

Reentry planning begins as soon as a youth arrives at DYS. The Bureau of Parole has implemented a reentry continuum that ensures all youth are engaged at the time of commitment, participate in their own reentry planning and are eligible to receive a menu of services specific to youth needs. Additionally, our Juvenile Parole Officers (JPOs) are working with family members, during the youth’s stay at DYS, to create the best possible circumstances for the youth’s return to the community. These family engagement efforts include keeping family members in regular contact with the youth, empowering families to hold youth more accountable and enlisting the assistance of the family to create support networks which will benefit the youth on parole and into his or her adult life. Having access to these services has been proven to reduce the likelihood of a youth committing a new offense.

## **Programming**

The agency is committed to offering quality programming to youth including education, mental health services, Strength-based Behavior Management, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, sex offender treatment, substance abuse treatment, medical services, recreation, life skills, mentoring, career technical training, reentry services, occupational therapy and specialized services for youth with cognitive limitations.

### **Mission**

The mission of the Ohio Department of Youth Services is to encourage positive change in the lives of youthful offenders through collaborative partnerships and culturally relevant therapeutic and academic interventions that support public safety and prepare youth to lead productive lives.

### **Vision**

The vision of the Ohio Department of Youth Services is a safer Ohio through positive change in the lives of those impacted by our agency.

## Community Initiatives

### Targeted RECLAIM

Targeted RECLAIM funds evidence-based interventions in communities where juvenile courts have committed the most youth to the department. Participating courts commit to maintain or reduce DYS admissions. This initiative has increased from 6 to 14 counties. Along with Behavioral Health/Juvenile Justice efforts, Targeted RECLAIM has contributed to a reduction in admissions by participating counties of 27.5% in Fiscal Year 2012. By placing the right youth in the right environment and not mixing lower-level youth with the higher-end youth who are better served in one of the DYS facilities, youth remain close to family and receive a good chance of turning their lives around.

### Parmadale Treatment Alternative for Females

In partnership with Parmadale Institute and Beech Brook, DYS began a community residential treatment option for females with behavioral health needs. The community alternative is an 8-bed secure setting in Parma, Ohio designed as a step-down option for females shortly after being committed to the department or after showing progress in a DYS facility. This community alternative provides comprehensive behavioral health treatment, gender-specific care and evidence-based programming. Youth receive comprehensive case management, group and individual counseling and family sessions.

### Ohio Interagency Task Force on Mental Health and Juvenile Justice

In September 2011, Governor Kasich appointed Director Reed the chairperson of the Ohio Interagency Task Force on Mental Health and Juvenile Justice. The diverse group is working on a comprehensive plan to treat justice-involved youth who are also mentally ill. The work is addressing statewide information and sharing, ensuring access to mental health services, responding to the needs of youth committed to DYS, protective and risk factors, and the role of prevention. The group plans to complete its recommendations in the fall of 2012.

### Second Chance Act Grant Projects

The U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs is providing DYS over a million dollars in “Second Chance Act” Grants. DYS is receiving more than \$600,000 from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention through the Juvenile Mentoring Initiative. The grant provides mentoring services to youth returning to Cuyahoga, Franklin, Montgomery and Summit Counties. Mentoring begins four to six months prior to a youth’s release and continues in the community for at least an additional six months. Nearly \$500,000 is being received from the Bureau of Justice Assistance through the Technology Careers Training Demonstration Projects for Incarcerated Adults and Juveniles Initiative. The grant assists juvenile offenders from Franklin County with training and employment for information technology-based careers.

## Family Engagement

### Video Communicator/Video Conferencing

DYS is committed to using video technology in an effort to better serve youth and their families during a youth's stay at DYS. This project promotes family involvement, strengthens case management and helps with reentry planning by utilizing webcam technology and wireless internet to connect youth with their families and community while still in a DYS facility. Utilizing this technology helps DYS to keep families engaged in their youth's treatment and programming and also assists in transitioning the youth back into the community.

### Family Finding

DYS kicked off the Family Finding program, which is a process to identify and locate previously unknown family members of youth. It is used to establish a lifetime network for previously disconnected youth with the ultimate goal of creating a network of people to provide permanency, meaningful relationships and support through the transition to adulthood and beyond. Training is paid for by a grant from the Office of Criminal Justice Services.

### Baby Elmo Parenting Program

The Baby Elmo Parenting Program began at Cuyahoga Hills Juvenile Correctional Facility. This program provides parenting education for incarcerated teen fathers through the use of media and experiential learning to develop and strengthen relationships between young parents and their babies. The program consists of ten seminars, each of which is followed by a visit between the teen parent and his child. After the visits, the youth journals about his reactions or experiences. The goals of the program are developing a connection between the youth and his child, strengthening the parenting relationship, increasing chances of rehabilitation and reducing recidivism.

### Family Transportation

Fifty percent of the youth in the custody of the DYS do not receive family visits during the average 12-month stay. This year DYS established the C.L.O.S.E. (Connecting Loved Ones Sooner than Expected) to Home Project, a free bus service, to help families. Mother's Day and Father's Day marked the first bus trips from Columbus, Akron, Cleveland, Dayton and Cincinnati. Seventy family members visited their youth. A total of 17 trips are scheduled for the remainder of calendar year 2012. The trips are funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice.

### Family Training

The Bureau of Parole has expanded the Effective Practices in Community Supervision (EPICS) model to include work with families while the youth is still in a DYS facility. This allows Juvenile Parole Officers to facilitate skill building sessions with the family/placement to address ongoing issues in the home as well as to empower the family to hold youth more accountable.

## Preparing Youth for Success

### Discharge Agreement

The Discharge Agreement, an agreement between the youth, youth's family, significant persons in the youth's life, and the Juvenile Parole Officer, has been implemented in all parole regions. This document serves as a final checklist to ensure that all discharged youth have been connected to long-term services and as a resource list of significant supports for the youth post-discharge. A comprehensive community resource list with contact information accompanies the agreement.

### Release Identification Cards for Youth

A Youthful Offender Release Identification Card (ID) is now provided upon a youth's release to parole supervision. By including the new ID card in his Mid-Biennium Review legislation, H.B. 487 (Amstutz), Governor Kasich codified into law that the Bureau of Motor Vehicles will accept the DYS-issued release card as an acceptable form of identification. Obtaining this identification enables access to such needed services as housing, public assistance, education and treatment for medical, mental health and substance abuse. Having access to these services reduces the likelihood of a youth committing a new offense and increases the likelihood that they can be self-sufficient members of their communities.

### Addressing Collateral Sanctions

Keeping with his vision to inspire a true second chance for youth and adults returning to Ohio's communities, Governor Kasich signed the Collateral Sanctions Bill, S.B. 337 (Seitz, Smith) into law on June 26, 2012. This legislation reduces collateral sanctions, or those barriers that further impact juveniles, including breach of confidentiality involving juvenile records, educational hindrances for youth returning to their communities and laws or administrative codes that impede a youth's ability to get a job. This legislation will help youth and adults receive a fresh start upon reentry into the community. This law benefits youth by promoting and ensuring the confidentiality of juvenile records; allowing judges the discretion to seal juvenile records when appropriate; and developing the juvenile portion of the Civil Impacts of Criminal Convictions Database (CIVICC) to clearly distinguish between adult convictions and juvenile adjudications in background checks. This new law ensures those who have learned from their mistakes and served their time will have a genuine opportunity to be successful, productive citizens.

### Reentry Coalitions

The Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition (OERC), consisting of 14 state agencies, helps reintegrate offenders back into their home communities, reduce recidivism and maintain public safety via development and collaboration with local reentry taskforces. Currently there are more than 30 local reentry coalitions that operate at the county level, and DYS parole staff participate in nearly every local coalition. DYS staff are working with reentry coalitions to enhance funding as well as to focus specifically on juvenile reentry services.

## **Commitment to Ongoing Progress**

### **Reaccreditation**

The Indian River Juvenile Correctional Facility was awarded a perfect reaccreditation score by the American Correctional Association (ACA) in January 2012. After a rigorous review of all aspects of its operations, the facility achieved scores of 100% in both mandatory and non-mandatory standards, signifying the staff's commitment to excellence.

### **National Award**

The Cuyahoga Hills Juvenile Correctional Facility (ChJCF) received the prestigious honor of being selected as the recipient of a national award from the Performance-based Standards (PbS) Learning Institute. The facility was named winner of the Barbara Allen-Hagan Award for best exemplifying the core principles of performance-based standards by treating all youth in custody as one of their own. ChJCF was selected as the top juvenile correctional facility in the country based on positive outcomes for youth, staff and families.

### **Juvenile Relational Inquiry Tool**

The Juvenile Relational Inquiry Tool (JRIT), developed by the Vera Institute of Justice, Family Justice Program, was created for use by staff in providing day-to-day case management and developing reentry plans. The JRIT is used by both facility and parole staff to gather important information and family and social network "resources" that will assist in successful reentry. The JRIT provides staff with a user-friendly method of recognizing and reinforcing positive connections to family and social networks during and after incarceration.

### **Ohio Benefit Bank**

Each DYS Regional Office is a registered Ohio Benefit Bank (OBB) site. OBB is a web-based system that allows juvenile parole officers to assist families in applying for public benefits such as the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FASFA), cash and food assistance, Medicaid/Medicare and assistance with utility bills. Juvenile Parole Officers are trained as OBB counselors. With staff access to mobile wireless Internet service, OBB assessments can be completed in the convenience of a family's home or in the community.

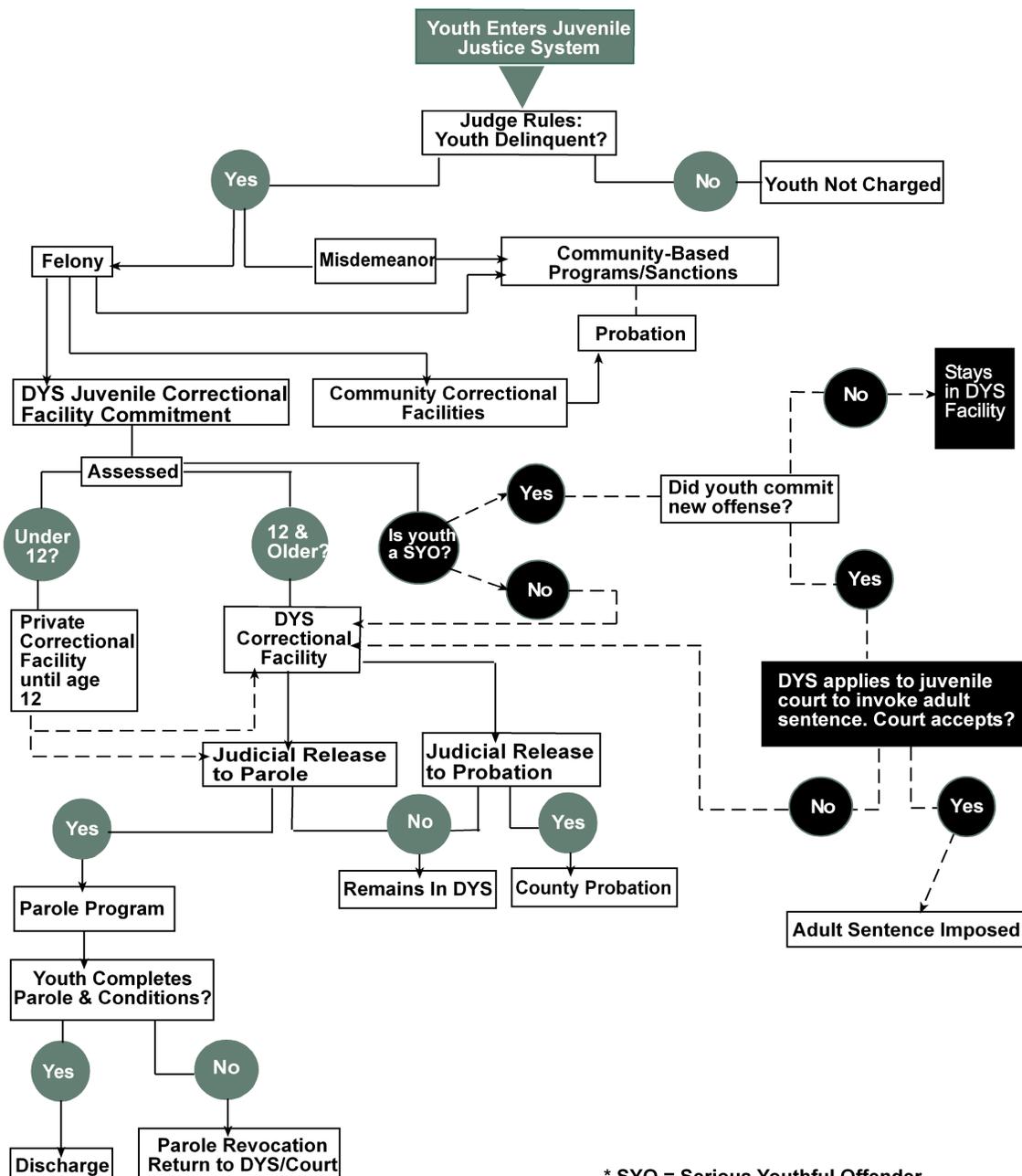
### **Stipulation Progress**

The *S.H. v. Reed* Stipulation outlines reform to be accomplished in five years. Over the last year, which was the fourth year of the Stipulation, the agency has made significant strides in the areas of education, youth advocacy, safety and security, medical care and dental services.

An **adjudication** is the final decision in a youth’s criminal case and is similar to a conviction in the adult court process.

A **commitment** is when a youth is committed to the Ohio Department of Youth Services by the juvenile court. The total number of youth committed to DYS on a felony-level offense in FY 2012: 534

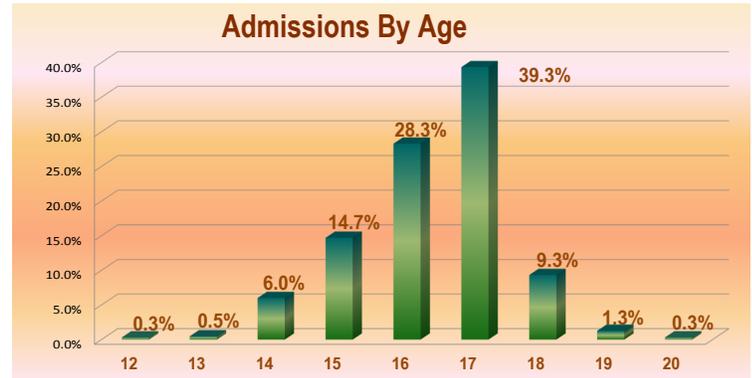
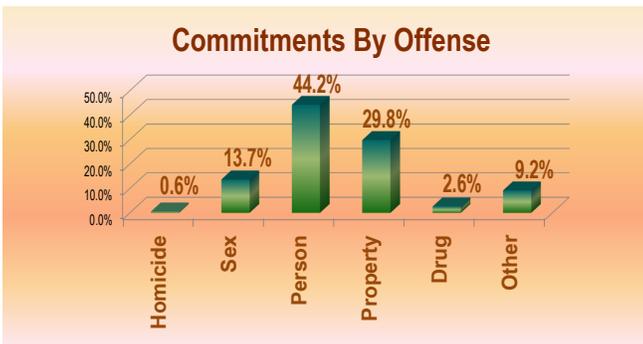
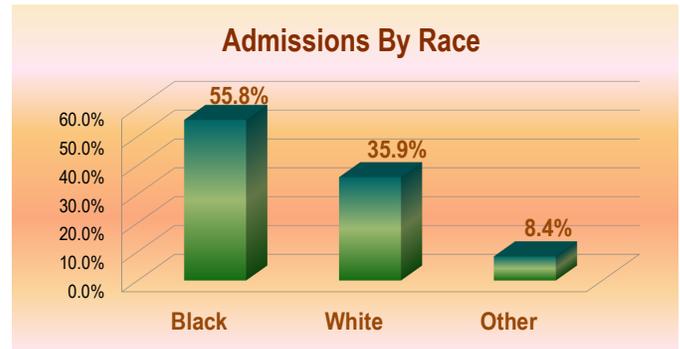
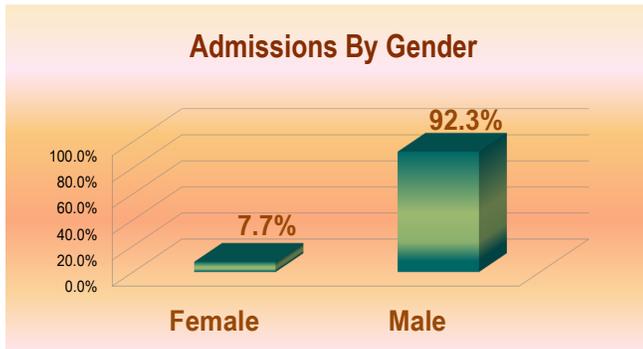
## Juvenile Justice Flow Chart



## DYS Facilities and Regional Offices



# Statistics



## FY 2012 Statistics

The average daily facility population was 649 youth. (Includes DYS facilities, Lighthouse Youth Center, Parmadale Treatment Alternative and other contracted placements.)

The average daily parole population was 696 youth.

The average length of stay for a youth in a DYS facility was 11.8 months.

A total of 1,206 students were served by the Buckeye United School District. 102 youth received their GEDs, and 56 youth obtained their high school diplomas. 173 youth received career-technology certificates.

The total number of volunteer hours provided to DYS was 37,853.

The total number of community service hours provided by youth was 15,849.

The average per diem cost to house, care and treat a juvenile offender in a DYS facility was \$466.50.

## Admissions by County

1. Cuyahoga 20%	2. Franklin 15%	3. Lorain 7%
4. Summit 5%	5. Ashtabula 5%	6. Other 49%

## Average Facility Population by Sites

Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility	101
Cuyahoga Hills Juvenile Correctional Facility	190
Indian River Juvenile Correctional Facility	169
Ohio River Valley Juvenile Correctional Facility*	44
Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility (male)	98
Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility (Female)	32
Other (Lighthouse Youth Center, Parmadale Treatment Alternative and other contracted placements)	50

## Average Parole Population by Sites

Akron Regional Office	142
Cleveland Regional Office	151
Columbus Regional Office	133
Dayton Regional Office	155
Toledo Regional Office	114

## FY 2012 Budget Expenditures: \$251,041,496

DYS/Private Facilities	\$110,140,046
Parole & Community Services	\$13,552,119
Juvenile Court Subsidies & Grants	\$76,417,518
Administrative Support	\$23,811,191
Debt Service	\$17,312,028
Capital—Physical Plant Improvements	\$9,808,595

\*Facility closed in September 2011

