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Cuyahoga Hills Juvenile Correctional Facility Receives Reaccreditation

HIGHLAND HILLS, Ohio – The Ohio Department of Youth Services (DYS) has announced the reaccreditation of Cuyahoga Hills Juvenile Correctional Facility (ChJCF). The award was presented in conjunction with the American Correctional Association (ACA) 2013 Summer Conference in Maryland.

ChJCF is located at 4321 Green Rd. in Highland Hills, Ohio. The facility serves approximately 150 male felony offenders, ages 12 to 21, committed to DYS. Under the direction of Superintendent Katie Needham, ChJCF provides rehabilitative programming to address the needs of youth. The facility provides a year-round high school located inside the facility that offers general curriculum and career-technical classes. Additional services at ChJCF include behavioral health, medical, religious and recreation as well as opportunities for youth to give back through community service.

Angelina Wurgler, Assistant to the Superintendent at ChJCF, is the manager responsible for accreditation. Other professionals playing significant roles in the accreditation process include Gary Schultz, Deputy Superintendent of Indirect Services; Mark Dobrzynski, Deputy Superintendent of Programs; Jeff Rollins, Deputy Superintendent of Direct Services (now retired); Dale LaChance, Health Services Administrator; Kimmie Hudson, Unit Manager Administrator; and Sean Tuggle, Operations Administrator.

The accreditation program is a professional peer review process based on national standards that have evolved since the founding of the association in 1870. The standards were developed by national leaders from the field of corrections, law, architecture, health care and other groups who are interested in sound correctional management.

ACA is a non-profit organization that administers the only national accreditation program for adult and juvenile justice programs. The purpose of the organization is to support facilities in achieving the highest standard of care for the persons they serve. ChJCF received initial accreditation in 2004 and has been reaccredited in each three-year cycle since 2007.

DYS is the juvenile corrections system for the state of Ohio and is statutorily mandated to confine felony offenders, ages 10 to 21, who have been adjudicated and committed by one of Ohio's 88 county juvenile courts. DYS currently operates four juvenile correctional facilities, provides parole services from five regional sites and funds and supports 625 community programs throughout the state.

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