

For Immediate Release: November 21, 2013

Contact: Kim Parsell
614-466-9854 / 614-623-2209
Kim.Parsell@dys.ohio.gov

Ohio Department of Youth Services Plans Facility Closure
Successful reforms have decreased the youth population

COLUMBUS, Ohio – The Ohio Department of Youth Services (DYS) today announced plans to close the Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility (SJCF) in Delaware County. Successful reforms to treat more youth in community settings has led to a 23 percent population decrease over the past two years, allowing DHS to improve efficiency of its operations. SJCF is expected to close in May 2014.

“We are pleased our reforms have been so successful and more youth are being served in their home communities,” said Harvey J. Reed, Director of DHS. “As the number of youth served in our facilities continues to decrease, it allows us to reduce our costs and facility needs. DHS will make every effort to link SJCF staff to other employment opportunities within DHS and other state agencies.”

Current employees at SJCF will be offered other positions within the department. Over the course of the next six months, DHS will evaluate appropriate placement options for the youth currently at SJCF and transfer them to facilities that best meet their individual needs.

DYS has supported communities to treat lower-risk youth close to home, with treatment and rehabilitation for high-risk youth reserved for DHS facilities. Reform efforts such as RECLAIM Ohio, the Ohio Youth Assessment System (OYAS), Targeted RELCAIM, and the Behavioral Health/Juvenile Justice (BH/JJ) Initiative have all contributed to reduced costs and lower incarceration rates for youth without jeopardizing public safety.

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. DHS currently operates four juvenile correctional facilities, provides parole services and funds and supports 625 community programs throughout the state.

###