

Ohio Department of Youth Services NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

Wednesday, August 15, 2007

Contact: Andrea Kruse

614 466-9854 / 614 395-2122

Andrea.Kruse@dys.ohio.gov

Ohio Department of Youth Services Receives Highest Honor ODYS Recognized as the First Juvenile Justice System to Obtain Eagle Award

Columbus, Ohio – The American Correctional Association (ACA) has presented its highest honor for commitment to excellence, the Eagle Award, to the Ohio Department of Youth Services (ODYS) for its work to have all programs within its jurisdiction accredited. According to the association, ODYS is the first juvenile correctional system in the nation to claim such an accomplishment.

Director Tom Stickrath recently accepted the award on behalf of the department. “This award is recognition of our dedication to transform Ohio’s juvenile justice system into a national model,” Stickrath said. “I applaud all of our employees whose hard work and dedication is clearly demonstrated with such an achievement.”

ODYS began the accreditation process in 1984 when Mohican Juvenile Correctional Facility became the first ODYS juvenile correctional facility to achieve accreditation. Since that time, all 8 state facilities have achieved and maintained accreditation along with six parole offices, the DYS Training Academy and Central Office. Each ODYS facility and their programs are reaccredited on a three-year cycle.

For more than 125 years, the American Correctional Association has been the driving force in establishing national correctional policies and advocating safe, humane and effective correctional operations. Founded in 1870 as the National Prison Association, ACA is the oldest association developed specifically for practitioners in the correctional profession and today has 20,000 members in the United States, Canada and other nations. Adult and juvenile correctional facilities, jails and corrections programs throughout the world are accredited based on compliance with standards established by ACA’s Commission on Accreditation for Corrections.

The Ohio Department of Youth Services is the juvenile corrections system for the state of Ohio. ODYS 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. ODYS operates eight correctional and rehabilitation facilities and provides parole services from six regional sites.

###