



Department of
Youth Services

Message from DYS Director Harvey Reed

DYS Celebrates National Reentry Week 2016

April 25, 2016

In Calendar Year 2015, DYS released a total of 486 youth back into the community. However, reentry efforts for these youth did not wait until the time of release; the process of reentry began as soon as these youth entered our care.

Reentry must be approached uniquely for each youth, and it requires a series of individualized steps to achieve the goal of productive and crime-free lives. While youth are in our facilities, our focus is on their immediate needs, especially education, treatment and programming, and we are equally committed to meeting youths' long-term needs for lasting success. The continuum of care that begins when a youth enters our system continues with services when youth return home. In particular, we are planning early for critical reentry needs, including:

- Physical needs – shelter, food, clothing, and healthcare
- Employment
- Education and job training
- Continued mental health and substance abuse treatment
- Guidance to help youth avoid criminal behavior and continue progressing

A blue square with a grid pattern containing the text "BLUEPRINT (INTEGRATED CASE MANAGEMENT MODEL)" in white, bold, uppercase letters.

BLUEPRINT
(INTEGRATED CASE
MANAGEMENT
MODEL)

The [Blueprint](#) is a framework of case management principles that guide how we serve youth at DYS. The goal is to ensure that youth are surrounded with services that lead to continued success. For this to happen, DYS staff work together, as well as with local and state agencies and organizations, to support youths' reentry.

The Department of Justice has designated this week as [National Reentry Week](#), and we are excited by the increased awareness of the importance of reentry efforts to support returning youth and adults. Throughout this week, DYS will be leading many reentry-related efforts:

- Motivational speakers at all of the facilities
- Voter registration for eligible youth at Circleville JCF
- Five youth at Circleville JCF completing SafeServe training
- Ohio Department of Transportation representatives meeting with Indian River JCF youth regarding employment possibilities
- Mock interviews to help prepare Indian River JCF youth for employment
- Juvenile parole officers Frank Manuel, Jewel Jones, and Dwight Phinizee speaking with graduates at Cuyahoga Hills JCF about going home and *staying* home
- The Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition Juvenile Branch meeting on April 28 (more than 70 individuals have registered!)

Effective reentry planning offers youth a real shot at success. It's an investment worth making. By dedicating efforts early and when youth return home, we are helping reduce recidivism (future offending) and increasing the likelihood of youth living productive lives.