



Department of  
Youth Services

## Message from DYS Director Harvey Reed

July 13, 2011

Ohio, like other states throughout the country, faces the challenge of youth gangs. Many of the youth in our care admit to being involved in gangs. We know that addressing gang involvement will help us better manage our facilities and support our efforts of rehabilitating the youth in our care.

I am pleased to share that Alan Mitchell, co-author of the Phoenix-New Freedom Curriculum, which is a gang-specific treatment intervention, is working with DYS to better handle the challenge of youth gangs. Mr. Mitchell provided a 4-day training for trainers for select DYS staff in June. Participants, including many Youth Specialists, were passionate about addressing Security Threat Group (STG) involvement. Topics included understanding the gang mindset, breaking through to youth and assisting youth with exiting gangs and leading pro-social lives.

Monitor Will Herrell also participated in the training and said, "The trainers were truly gifted, and I sensed a deep commitment from the DYS staff in attendance. This progressive, cognitive-based approach has tremendous potential, and it represents a refreshing departure from the failed punitive practices of the past. I commend DYS leadership for their vision and commitment to reform." Training for facility staff is scheduled to roll-out before the end of the year.

Each facility will be staffed with an STG Coordinator in the coming months. This person will collect intelligence and lead a multidisciplinary team to address security and treatment needs within the facility.

I look forward to expanding gang-specific treatment interventions. Please join me in committing to this endeavor to treat and rehabilitate the youth in our care.

Harvey J. Reed, Director  
Department of Youth Services