



Department of  
Youth Services

**Message from DYS Director Harvey Reed  
Courts, Parole, and the Governor's Address**

February 27, 2014

It's always a pleasure to get acquainted with the people devoting their lives to the youth in our state. Earlier this week, Assistant Director Linda Janes and I had the opportunity to visit with colleagues in Summit and Medina Counties.

We were invited to the Summit County courtroom of Judge Linda Teodosio to observe a hearing with a female youth residing at the Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility. Judge Teodosio and the youth carried on a conversation, but the youth was not actually in the courtroom. You may be wondering how this all took place. The answer: while the judge, court staff, and parole staff were all there in person, the young lady and her social worker appeared via video conferencing!



*Top photo pictured from left to right: Judge Linda Teodosio, Summit County Juvenile Court, and Harvey Reed, DYS Director*

*Bottom photo pictured from left to right: Ryan Gies, Deputy Director of Courts and Community Services; Cedric Collins, DYS Training Academy Director; Linda Janes, DYS Assistant Director, Judge Kevin Dunn, Medina County Juvenile Court; Harvey Reed, DYS Director; and Kevin Shepherd, Bureau Chief of Release, Parole and Integrated Reentry Services*



Since 2012, the Summit County Juvenile Court has conducted various juvenile court hearings this way, thanks to a federal grant paving the way for this technology in the courtroom. There are many benefits of video conferencing.

“It provides the court with a way to measure the youth’s progress,” said Joe Marsilio, Akron Regional Administrator.

Judge Teodosio meets with youth about every six weeks to see how they are doing. During a video conferencing session, Judge Teodosio may talk about all sorts of issues, from school, to behavior, to family relationships. She encourages youth to set goals, such as taking the necessary steps to obtain a high school diploma.

Through video conferencing, Judge Teodosio gets a sense of how a youth is adapting at DYS. The technology provides savings through the elimination of transporting youth to and from the court. In addition, parents have another way to participate in court hearings. After the session, if time permits, court officials leave the room so that the youth can visit with family members.

After leaving Judge Teodosio’s courtroom, we went to neighboring Medina County. There we met with Juvenile Parole Officer (JPO) Dee Pendlebury. She’s been working for the Department for 23 years. JPO Pendelbury invited us to ride along with her to visit the home of a youth on parole. The experience highlighted the critical role that parole staff play in providing services for youth, families, and communities.

The next stop in Medina County was a visit with Judge Kevin Dunn and his court leadership team at the Medina County Juvenile Detention Center. Judge Dunn was appointed to the bench in August by Governor Kasich. We were glad we had the opportunity to meet Judge Dunn and talk about DYS and juvenile justice in Medina County. Following the meeting, we toured the 30-bed detention center. It was rewarding to hear about the efforts in Medina County to provide services to youth locally and tailor programming to the needs of each youth.

Later that evening, we attended Governor Kasich’s “State of the State” Address at the Medina Performing Arts Center. We especially enjoyed hearing about several of the proposals highlighted in the Governor’s address, including dropout prevention and recovery, mentoring initiatives, college credit for high school students, and improved vocational and education opportunities.