



Department of
Youth Services

Message from DYS Director Harvey Reed

More Visitation Opportunities for Youth and Families

January 28, 2015

Dear Staff and Stakeholders:

DYS recognizes the importance of interaction between youth in our care with family and members of the community. Such access allows youth to maintain contact with their families and community and contributes to effective planning for a youth's treatment needs.

Effective this week, Cuyahoga Hills Juvenile Correctional Facility now offers visitation to family members seven days a week. This is a proud first for our department and yet another step in the right direction to connect youth to their families more often.

The expansion of visitation builds upon our family engagement efforts. The [CLOSE to Home Project](#) (Connecting Loved Ones Sooner than Expected) provides free transportation to help connect families and youth. In 2014, DYS provided a total of 69 bus trips to 677 passengers.

The Video Communicator Project promotes family involvement using laptops and wireless technology. In 2014, the Video Communicator was used for 160 family visits, 217 reentry meetings, and 280 staff meetings (between facility and parole staff) regarding youth.

I will keep you updated as we anticipate that Indian River Juvenile Correctional Facility and Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility will also expand visitation opportunities.

We also provide family members a variety of ways to keep informed about DYS:

- [Emails from DYS](#) (choose "mailing list")
- [Facebook](http://www.Facebook.com/OhioDeptYouthServices) (www.Facebook.com/OhioDeptYouthServices)
- [Twitter](#) (@OhioDYS)
- [YouTube](http://www.YouTube.com/user/OhioDYS) (www.YouTube.com/user/OhioDYS) (*virtual tours* of facilities available here)

All of our youth will leave our care by age 21. Most of the time, they return to families. We have to engage families. It's one of the most important ways to guide youth to a successful fresh start.