



Department of  
Youth Services

**Message from DYS Director Harvey Reed  
Staff Set Course with Case Management Blueprint**

February 18, 2015



It's our job to provide the treatment and services our youth need to get on the right track, and to do it better all the time.

For the past year, a variety of DYS staff, youth, families, court personnel, and experts worked on a "blueprint" for how DYS should provide direct services to youth from the commitment decision through reentry into the community. Through multiple focus groups for facility and parole staff, a parent focus group, and other meetings, a framework was created to build on those things that DYS does well to support youths' long-term success.

The Blueprint is a framework of case management principles to support and expand how we serve youth. It's about ensuring that a youth is surrounded with services that lead to continued success. While we want our youth to do well during their stay at DYS, it's even more critical that youth succeed when we return them to their communities. For this to happen, we all have to work together to support their reentry.

The Blueprint covers youth commitment, assessment, case planning & treatment, and reentry. A summary of its guiding principles follows:

- Parole involved in commitment decision
- Youth assessed & screened at reception (with referral for services)
- Evidence-based programs
- Comprehensive individual treatment plan
- Formal, collaborative interdisciplinary team meetings held monthly
- Program continuity with parole and court

To read more about the Blueprint, please click [here](#).

Efforts have been supported through a one-year Second Chance Act reentry planning grant from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. We're currently seeking a three-year implementation grant. We are also creating a reentry taskforce to gain input from a local perspective. Representatives from the Juvenile Branch of the Ohio Ex-offender Reentry Coalition have already signed on, and others can find out more by contacting Kim Kent, Reentry Administrator, at [Kim.Kent@dys.ohio.gov](mailto:Kim.Kent@dys.ohio.gov) or (614) 644-5179.

Just as a blueprint provides guidance for building a structure without addressing details like flooring choices or paint colors, our Blueprint provides a general framework with discretion for how it is implemented. Some recent best practices include:

- Expanding family visitation to 7 days a week at Cuyahoga Hills JCF
- Reorganizing "close" (higher security) units of youth at Indian River JCF into smaller groups based on risks/needs assessments
- Engaging families in programming at Circleville JCF through regular phone calls to discuss the Power of Peace project
- Pooling facility and regional resources to offer meaningful activities
  - The Columbus Region and Circleville JCF have partnered to provide Black History Month activities at the facility
  - The Cleveland Region and Cuyahoga Hills JCF have partnered to establish a food pantry to help families of DYS youth
- Discussing treatment alternatives prior to a youth's commitment to DYS (each parole region currently collaborates with at least one court)
- Providing Community Reinforcement Approach (A-CRA) model services to youth who have both mental health and substance abuse needs, and who are from Cleveland, beginning while they are still in a facility and continuing while the youth are on parole
  - Thanks to a separate Second Chance Act grant, these services are provided by Recovery Resources

In the coming months, we'll be sharing more about how the Blueprint is impacting youth for the long-haul. Researchers from Ohio University will gather information from the sites to help us advance best practices. I look forward to showcasing Blueprint activities that help make our youth successful.