

Ohio Department of Youth Services

November 2011

Director Harvey J. Reed

30th Anniversary

November 23, 1981—2011

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From the Director

Thank you for joining us in our recognition of 30 years of encouraging positive change in the lives of Ohio's youthful offenders. The Ohio Department of Youth Services (DYS) became an official state agency on November 23, 1981. Over the years, the department has strived to improve how we offer programs, opportunities and services to effect positive changes in the lives of Ohio's youth.

Thirty years is a considerable amount of time, and it is not possible to describe everything that has happened in this anniversary newsletter, but I hope that you will gain a better understanding of who we are today and how we got here.

The staff at DHS are committed to offering youth opportunities for rehabilitation and successful reentry. It is their hard work and commitment to youth, spanning three decades, that has brought us to where we are today. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all DHS staff, both past and present.

DYS has a challenging mission, and I hope this anniversary newsletter will increase your interest in the evidence-based practices we are using to serve youth.

Our Mission

To encourage positive change in the lives of youthful offenders through collaborative partnerships and culturally relevant therapeutic and academic interventions that support public safety and prepare youth to lead productive lives



Our Vision

A safer Ohio through positive change in the lives of those impacted by the agency

A Brief Look at 30 Years of DYS Leadership

1981

In 1980-1981, House Bill 440 created the Ohio Department of Youth Services (DYS), with William K. Willis appointed as our agency's first Director. Willis was previously Chairman of DYS' predecessor, the Ohio Youth Commission. In addition to the creation of DYS, HB 440 removed youth charged with misdemeanors and status offenses from the state correctional jurisdiction and mandated that a minimum length of stay be instituted.

1983-1985

When Richard Celeste took office as Governor in 1983, he appointed James Rogers, Ph.D., to head DYS. Rogers, who had directed the Public Library system in Cleveland, made a number of changes both in the administrative structure of the department and in its policies. Rogers reactivated the concept of continuity of care. The idea of an aftercare contract was developed, and for the first time, meetings were expected to be held in the institutions with the juvenile, his or her parents, and DYS staff members. However, with allegations of misconduct, Rogers' term ended with his abrupt resignation.

1985-1986

In April 1985, Governor Celeste appointed J. Thomas Mullen, a social worker and youth advocate from Cleveland, to the position of Director of DYS.

1985-1986 (continued)

Mullen saw as his primary responsibility the restoration of public confidence in the agency and staff morale.

1987-2004

Geno Natalucci-Persichetti was appointed Director in January 1987. Natalucci-Persichetti, the longest running Director in the agency's history, had professional experience in institutional and community-based corrections with both juveniles and adults. He placed a major emphasis on the professionalism of DYS through initiatives like accreditation by the American Correctional Association (ACA) and the first DYS Training Academy. He also established Partnerships for Success (PFS) and implemented RECLAIM Ohio.

One of "Director Geno's" strongest legacies, however, was the relationship that he forged between DYS and the juvenile court judges. He worked to change a once adversarial association to one of mutual respect and collaboration that exists today.

2005-2010

Thomas J. Stickrath was appointed Director by Governor Bob Taft in January 2005.

Building on the former leadership's accomplishments, Stickrath guided DYS to become the first juvenile correctional system in

2005-2010 (continued)

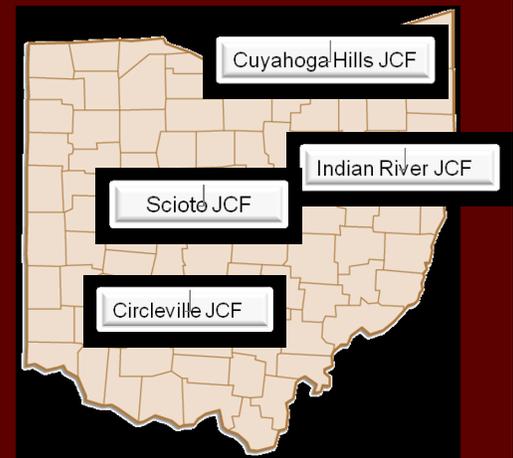
the nation to achieve full accreditation by ACA. Director Stickrath also led the department in the development of a community volunteer and mentorship program, instituted the development of a statewide Risk/Need Assessment Instrument to be used by juvenile courts, and aggressively pursued and was awarded the largest grant in DYS history, \$14 million, to address literacy concerns within the agency's youth population.

2011

Christine Money served briefly as Director, and Martha Spohn, (current Assistant Director) acted as Interim Director. On March 1, 2011, Harvey J. Reed was appointed Director of DYS by Governor Kasich. Director Reed, with a degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Cincinnati, has more than 32 years of experience in Ohio's juvenile corrections system including eight years as the Superintendent of the Hamilton County Juvenile Court Youth Center. Director Reed was recently appointed Chairperson of the Governor's Interagency Mental Health Juvenile Justice Task Force, which will address the challenges of delinquent youth who suffer from serious mental illness or emotional and behavioral disorders.

Overview of DYS Today

DYS operates four juvenile correctional and rehabilitation facilities and provides parole services from five regional parole sites throughout Ohio for youth who have been adjudicated delinquent of a felony level offense and have been committed by one of Ohio's 88 county juvenile courts.



Services Offered

Within the Facilities

Committed to proven approaches, DYS uses evidence-based practices within its facilities. According to the U.S. Department of Justice/Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) is "the most evidence-based" form of intervention. CBT is incorporated into every housing unit at DYS. CBT focuses on targeting certain criminogenic factors youth might have and helps them to re-structure, or change, the way they think and respond in various situations.



Artwork by DYS Youth

DYS strives to ensure youth receive developmentally appropriate, therapeutic and humane treatment that responds to their individual needs and reduces the likelihood of recidivism. Effectively treating the complex needs of youthful offenders is crucial. By enhancing the treatment milieu of facilities, the department is supporting lasting change in the lives of youth.

On Parole

Each DYS Juvenile Parole Officer (JPO) has been trained in Effective Practices in Community Supervision (EPICS). This model of supervision allows the JPO to target and discuss identified criminogenic needs, target the maladaptive attitudes and beliefs of youth, teach youth problem-solving skills and make appropriate referrals to the community. In addition to using this research-based approach, a pilot program has been ongoing in the Dayton Regional Office and has recently expanded to the Columbus Regional Office to provide outreach and EPICS coaching to families while the youth are still in a DYS facility. The family coaching sessions allow the JPO to teach parents or guardians a CBT approach in relating to and supervising their young person once he or she returns home.

Programming Overview

The agency is committed to offering quality programming to youth including education, mental health services, Strength-Based Behavior Management, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, sex offender treatment, substance abuse treatment, medical services, recreation, life skills, mentoring, career technical training, reentry services, occupational therapy and specialized services for youth with cognitive limitations.



Artwork by DYS Youth

Recent Highlights

Innovative Facility Programming

The New Freedom-Phoenix curriculum is used in all DYS facilities. Specifically relevant for DYS youth, this strengths-based approach, based on Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, helps youth replace criminal thinking with pro-social thoughts and behavior. Along with the Strength-Based Behavior Management System (SBBMS), positive youth behaviors are reinforced while unwanted behaviors are immediately and consistently addressed with sanctions. The Buckeye United School District offers special education and career technology that helps prepare youth for today's workforce. From July 2010 through June 2011, 173 youth earned a GED and 43 youth earned a high school diploma.

Family Engagement

The Video Communicator Project promotes family involvement, strengthens case management and helps with reentry planning by utilizing webcam technology and wireless internet to connect youth with their families and community while still in a DYS facility. DYS collaborates with the Vera Institute of Justice to boost family and neighborhood support of youth. DYS staff have been receiving training on using tools that emphasize a family-focused approach to juvenile corrections and reentry.

Community Partners

DYS encourages community partners to engage youth in a variety of meaningful activities in an effort to teach the life skills youth need to be thriving adults. Despite the economic slowdown, volunteers provided nearly 40 thousand hours of service within DYS facilities and alongside youth on parole from July 2010 through June 2011. Although it is nearly impossible to measure the gift of volunteering, this contribution to DYS is valued at close to \$850,000.

Community Service

DYS provides youth with opportunities to give back through community service. During FY11, nearly 46,000 hours of community service were provided by youth in facilities and on parole.

New Sentencing Law

House Bill 86, which went into effect September 30, 2011, promotes uniformity in juvenile competency determinations, puts in place a task force to look at the mental health needs of youth across systems, modifies mandatory bindover of youth in certain situations, expands discretion in granting judicial release for youth in DYS, and promotes the use of RECLAIM dollars for research-supported, outcome-based programs and services, to the extent they are available.

Second Chance Act Grants

The U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs recently awarded DYS over a million dollars in "Second Chance Act" Grants. DYS will receive more than \$600,000 from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention through the Juvenile Mentoring Initiative. Nearly \$500,000 has been awarded to DYS from the Bureau of Justice Assistance through the Technology Careers Training Demonstration Projects for Incarcerated Adults and Juveniles Initiative. The grant will assist around 60 juvenile offenders from Franklin County with training and employment for information technology-based careers.

Enhancing the Community Continuum for Serving Youth

DYS touches the lives of thousands of youth in Ohio. Beyond youth in DYS facilities and those on parole, DYS has established a variety of community initiatives to reach youth, support families and build communities. DYS is implementing, in collaboration with its numerous community partners, a comprehensive community-based service delivery system that is designed to provide appropriate services and supports for youth by matching risk level with the least restrictive program setting.

This is being achieved by expanding evidence based community program capacity to provide services for youth and engage families closer to their homes. The basis for the regional system is RECLAIM Ohio, which has been building capacity in the juvenile courts and incentivizing community corrections since its statewide implementation in 1995. Targeted RECLAIM provides 6 metropolitan counties additional funding for evidence-based and model programs that reduce commitments to DYS. In addition, the Behavioral Health/Juvenile Justice initiatives enhance the community's ability to locally serve juvenile offenders with serious behavioral health needs.

The increase in effective local program alternatives, building on the strong platform for prevention and early intervention programs provided through RECLAIM Ohio and supported by the locally-based Community Corrections Facilities (CCF), has already contributed to the significant reduction in daily population at DYS facilities from an average daily population of 2,167 in CY 2000 to 1,843 in CY 2007 to 956 in CY 2010.



Artwork by DYS Youth

Five fundamental efforts primarily responsible for community transformation to date will remain as core areas of emphasis:

1. The Ohio Youth Assessment System (OYAS) will be implemented statewide so that decisions are made on youth throughout the continuum using an objective, research-based, Ohio-indigenous set of tools.
2. DYS will promote community-based services and programs using the principle of least restrictive alternative, resulting in the capacity to serve youth closer to home and a population reduction in DYS facilities.
3. The use of Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) will be expanded through Community Based Treatment Centers (CBTCs) and CCFs.
4. DYS will reform the Release Authority process to ensure that youth are held no longer than necessary for successful reentry.
5. DYS will strengthen parole services to promote successful reentry and improve the effectiveness of interactions with supervised youth.

Vision: A community-based service delivery system that is designed to provide appropriate services and supports for youth by matching risk level with the least restrictive program setting

In the Future

Over the next year, we will find opportunities to improve the quality of services for youth as well as the value we provide to taxpayers. DYS staff will continue to strengthen the opportunities for positive youth development and rehabilitation in our facilities and will continue to build on initiatives to reach youth, support families and enhance community capacity to serve appropriate youth close to home. Along with our many stakeholders across the state, we will take our agency to the next level as we work to improve safety and security, enhance community capacity and prepare youth to successfully return to their communities.

John R. Kasich, Governor

Mary Taylor, Lt. Governor

Harvey J. Reed, Director

Find Us on Facebook

We have entered social media and now have a Facebook page! Our presence on Facebook allows us to better engage individuals who are interested in the agency. You can find us at www.facebook.com/OhioDeptYouthServices. Our page features the latest news about DYS, links to helpful information, pictures of youth artwork and more. A free Facebook account is required to “like” the page and receive regular updates.

Ohio Department of Youth Services

51 N. High St.
Columbus, OH 43215

614-466-4314

www.dys.ohio.gov