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**Progress at Ohio Department of Youth Services Leads Federal Court  
to Find Quality Assurance and Improvement Practices Compliant**  
*Agency has demonstrated to the Court that it is able to identify and address challenges  
in order maintain and improve conditions for youth*

**Columbus, Ohio** — Today U.S. District Court Judge Algenon Marbley found that the Ohio Department of Youth Services (DYS) has demonstrated that it is able to identify and address challenges through its quality assurance and improvement processes.

“We are proud of our staff who have been working hard to reach this milestone achievement,” said Harvey J. Reed, Director of DHS. “Our quality assurance process helps us maintain high standards to make a difference in the lives of the young people we serve.”

“Effective quality assurance and quality improvement practices are key to any institutional reform effort, because they demonstrate to the Court, plaintiffs, and community stakeholders that the agency is capable of identifying and addressing problems related to conditions of confinement as they arise,” said Will Harrell, Lead Monitor. “The agency thus demonstrates that court oversight is no longer necessary by establishing that it can effectively monitor itself.”

“We congratulate DHS on all the progress made over these last five years including a substantial reduction in the institutional population, increased support for community-based treatment, improved treatment and education for youth in DHS custody, and instituting a quality assurance system that will provide a basis for continued improvement,” said Al Gerhardstein and Kim Brooks Tandy, attorneys representing youth. “DYS deserves a great deal of credit for its steady progress, and we are confident that we will see similar progress on the areas that remain in the case.”

Focused court monitoring will continue for mental health services and the special management unit. While some challenges remain, the Department is committed to continuous improvement in its facilities and programs to promote the continued rehabilitation of the youth in its care.

DYS is the juvenile corrections system for the state of Ohio and is statutorily mandated to confine felony offenders, ages 10 to 21, who have been adjudicated and committed by one of Ohio's 88 county juvenile courts. DHS operates four juvenile correctional

facilities, provides parole services from five regional sites and funds and supports 625 community programs throughout the state.

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