

**Harvey J. Reed, Director**  
**Ohio Department of Youth Services**

## Responsible Public Policy

The Department of Youth Services (DYS) touches the lives of thousands of youth in Ohio. Beyond youth in DHS facilities and those on parole, DHS funds and supports over 610 direct service programs throughout the state offering nearly 110,000 youth (based on annual program admissions) opportunities and services to effect positive change.



## Holiday Greetings!

I would like to extend to each and every one of you my warm wishes this holiday season! As 2012 comes to a close, I would like to thank you for all of your hard work. I appreciate your commitment to our mission *to improve Ohio's future by habilitating youth and empowering families and communities.*

### Habilitating Youth

Committed to quality programming for youth, DHS uses a variety of evidence-based interventions, including Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and a strength-based behavior management system. A Youthful Offender Release Identification Card is provided upon a youth's release to parole supervision. Obtaining this identification enables access to such needed services as housing, public assistance, education and treatment for medical, mental health and substance abuse. Through the "Second Chance Act," mentoring services are being offered to youth returning to Cuyahoga, Franklin, Montgomery and Summit counties. The Collateral Sanctions Bill (S.B. 337) reduces collateral consequences, or those barriers that continue to impact juveniles after incarceration. Now juvenile records eligible to be sealed have been expanded and the sealing process can be expedited giving youth a fresh start upon reentry into the community.

### Empowering Families

DYS is committed to connecting youth and their families. Our C.L.O.S.E. (Connecting Loved Ones Sooner than Expected) to Home Project provides free bus trips on a monthly basis. The Family Finding program is a process to identify and locate previously unknown family members of youth. It is used to establish a lifetime network for previously disconnected youth with the ultimate goal of creating a network of people to provide permanency, meaningful relationships and support through the transition to adulthood and beyond. Juvenile Parole Officers use the Effective Practices in Community Supervision (EPICS) model to include work with families while youth are still in facilities. Skill building sessions with families helps address ongoing issues in the home and empowers families to hold youth more accountable.

### Empowering Communities

Whenever possible, youth who are at lower risk to reoffend are served with appropriate treatment closer to family in their local communities. Targeted RECLAIM funds evidence-based interventions in communities where juvenile courts have committed the most youth to the department. Participating courts commit to maintain or reduce DHS admissions by using community programs that are designed to reduce recidivism and have a long-term positive impact on public safety. The Behavioral Health/Juvenile Justice (BH/JJ) Initiative allows for the identification and diversion of deep-end youthful offenders with serious behavioral health needs from DHS. BH/JJ funds the implementation of evidence-based practice (EBP) treatment models. The six counties participating in both Targeted Reclaim and BH/JJ have reduced DHS admissions by 66.1% over the last three years. Through the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI), the Department supports local community efforts to reduce reliance on secure detention, combat racial and ethnic disparities, develop alternative interventions, and increase positive outcomes for youth.

Our agency is fortunate to have employees who work toward our vision of *a safer Ohio: one youth, one family and one community at a time.* Thank you again for your commitment to DHS. I wish you and yours a safe and joyful holiday

