The Ohio Department of Youth Services (DYS) is specifically tasked to confine felony offenders, age 10 to 21, who have been adjudicated and committed by one of Ohio’s 88 county juvenile courts.

DYS provides a variety of services and treatment for youth including a fully-accredited high school, behavioral-health services, unit management, medical and dental care, recreation, religious services, community service opportunities, victim awareness, and reentry services.

The two DYS regional parole offices supervise youth on parole, working with them and their families to provide the guidance necessary for youth to become positive, contributing members of society. Beyond the task of supervision, staff help youth on parole to receive needed services including housing, public assistance, education, and treatment for medical, mental health, and substance abuse. Having access to these services reduces the likelihood of a youth committing a new offense.
Letter from the Director

This year marked an exciting milestone for us as the Ohio Department of Youth Services (DYS) turned 35 years old! To celebrate, we issued a special anniversary newsletter, looking back on our achievements and thanking our colleagues, partners, and community stakeholders who have helped make Ohio a national leader in juvenile justice.

Over the years, the agency has assisted hundreds of thousands of young people, their families, and communities. Now more than ever before, the agency supports public safety by keeping an appropriate balance between serving youth in the community and placing those youth with the highest level of needs in facilities for rehabilitation. The approach is not only more effective in getting positive results with youth, but also more cost-effective. In October, the Office of Justice Programs’ National Institute of Justice highlighted Ohio’s community-based alternatives as being the “future” of youth justice.

Our commitment to excellence for helping youth was also demonstrated by the American Correctional Association’s reaccreditation of the Bureau of Parole, Training Academy, and Central Office. Accreditation from ACA ensures that we are in compliance with, and even exceed, national standards. Ultimately this supports the best approaches to help youth get on the right track.

We are proud of what we have accomplished and will continue to make progress in our facilities, parole regions, and community programs during the year ahead. I would like to thank our committed team of employees – people who approach their work with a passion for helping youth achieve productive, crime-free lives. Ultimately, our efforts support a safer Ohio.

Sincerely,

Harvey J. Reed
Director
Fiscal Year 2017 Highlights

Career Opportunities for Youth
In the career technical program, youth have the opportunity to obtain entry-level job certificates in fields such as building trades, automotive, horticulture, and administrative office technologies, to help prepare them for employment. Through a new partnership with the Pickaway-Ross Career and Technology Center, a total of 8 youth from Circleville JCF earned the National Center for Construction Education and Research core certification, an important first step toward earning specialized certificates in the construction trades.

Housing for Older Youth Leaving DYS
In July 2016, DYS, the Corporation for Supportive Housing, FrontLine Service, and Lighthouse Youth Services began a pilot project, Reset for Success, to provide a seamless continuum of care for youth in need of housing and returning to Hamilton and Cuyahoga Counties. The project began assisting older youth leaving DYS who were unable to reside with family and were ready to journey into independence. In FY 2017, a total of 20 youth were served.

Give Back Through Community Service
Community service provides meaningful activities for youth to give back to society while learning new skills.

During FY 2017, a total of 13,341.5 hours of community service were provided by youth in facilities, and 2,992.95 hours of community service were provided by youth on parole. At minimum wage in Ohio ($8.10 an hour), community service provided by DYS youth would equate to $132,309.05.

Investing in Our Community Programs
DYS provided funding and technical assistance for a continuum of programs and interventions that serve youth closer to their families and in the least restrictive, appropriate setting. This included statewide support of juvenile courts and county partners through RECLAIM Ohio, Targeted RECLAIM, Competitive RECLAIM, the Detention Alternatives and Enhancements Initiative, Youth Services Grant, Behavioral Health/Juvenile Justice (BH/JJ), and CCFs. These community investments provided youth with the intensity of treatment and community supervision that matched their risk to reoffend. More information on these initiatives and their outcomes can be found at http://dys.ohio.gov/Community-Programs by pulling down the Community Programs tab and selecting the desired initiative.
Family Engagement

DYS recognizes the importance of interaction between youth and their families. The CLOSE to Home Project (Connecting Loved Ones Sooner than Expected) provides free transportation to help connect youth with their families. In FY 2017, DYS provided a total of 55 bus trips that served 439 family members.

The Video Communicator Project promotes family involvement using laptops and wireless technology. In FY 2017, the Video Communicator was used for 65 family visits, 127 reentry meetings, and 250 staff meetings (between facility and parole staff) regarding youth.

DYS provides plentiful opportunities for families to connect with youth. All facilities offer visitation to family members seven days a week. Facility tours are also offered to family members. Virtual tour videos, available at www.YouTube/OhioDYS, allow families to catch a glimpse of facilities.

The Just Beginning Program (formerly known as the Baby Elmo Program), in place at all three juvenile correctional facilities, is a parenting and structured visitation program to build bonds between children and their incarcerated teen fathers. Last year, Just Beginning’s served 48 youth and their young children.

Supporting Staff

Staff are the most important resource of any correctional system, and it is critical for staff to be healthy in order for youth to get healthy. The agency used Critical Incident Stress Management to support staff when they experienced trauma, Peer Assistance to help staff with personal issues, and Desert Waters™ to improve culture by addressing correctional fatigue through awareness, validation, and a variety of tools. During FY 2017, a total of 2,870 staff engaged in Peer Assistance for a total of 4,482 contacts, while 2 debriefing and 14 crisis management briefings were conducted.

In April 2017, an agency-wide employee recognition program was held. Lorie Lee, Unit Manager at Cuyahoga Hills Juvenile Correctional Facility, was named Employee of the Year. Starlet Arrington, Youth Specialist at Indian River Juvenile Correctional Facility, was named Youth Specialist of the Year.
Services for Victims

DYS has an Office of Victim Services (OVS) that is responsible for ensuring that the rights of crime victims of DYS youth are recognized and honored. OVS provides written notification of potential or actual status changes of youth, information and support, victim-offender dialogue opportunities, victim advocacy through linking victims with the Release Authority, and referrals. The office offers a support hotline that victims can call for free 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at (800) 872-3132.

In FY 2017, OVS provided 6,020 written notices of potential or actual status changes of youth and managed 1,543 victim-related phone calls. During the year, a total of 146 youth successfully completed the Victim Awareness Curriculum, and 15 staff were trained to facilitate the Victim Awareness Curriculum.

Sites Reaccredited

Four DYS sites and three Community Corrections Facilities (CCFs) received final approval on reaccreditation from the American Correctional Association. In August 2016, Cuyahoga Hills Juvenile Correctional Facility was reaccredited. The Bureau of Parole, Training Academy, Central Office were reaccredited in January 2017. The Butler County Juvenile Rehabilitation Center, Juvenile Residential Center of Northwest Ohio, West Central Juvenile Rehabilitation Center, and Montgomery County Center for Adolescent Services were also reaccredited in January 2017.

Successful PREA Audits

All state-operated juvenile correctional facilities and county-operated Community Corrections Facilities have previously completed Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) audits, which are conducted at each site every three years. In July 2016, the Northern Ohio Juvenile Community Corrections Facility successfully completed the PREA audit, certified through the Department of Justice. The facility was found to have fully complied with all PREA standards. In addition, Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility and the Miami Valley Juvenile Rehabilitation Center were audited in August 2016 and found in full compliance.
Alternative Placements for Youth

DYS uses a continuum of residential facilities to meet the individualized treatment, education, and behavioral health needs of youth. Alternative placement options provide the treatment and services youth need to become responsible young men and women. In FY 2017, these included the following sites:

- Applewood Centers
- Lighthouse Youth Center at Paint Creek
- Montgomery County Center for Adolescent Services
- Pomegranate Health Systems

Alternative placements served a total of 130 youth during FY 2017.

Community Corrections Facilities

CCFs served a total of 626 youth during FY 2017. The average length of stay in CCFs was 6.79 months.

There are 12 CCFs throughout the State of Ohio which are used by juvenile and family court judges in lieu of committing to DYS youth who have been adjudicated for a felony offense. These include the following sites:

- Butler County Juvenile Rehabilitation Center
- Hocking County Community Residential Center
- Juvenile Residential Center of Northwest Ohio
- Multi-County Juvenile Attention System Community
- Northern Ohio Juvenile Community Corrections Facility
- Perry/Multi-County Juvenile Facility
- Montgomery County Center for Adolescent Services
- Miami Valley Juvenile Rehabilitation Center
- Lucas County Youth Treatment Center
- North Central Ohio Rehabilitation Center
- West Central Juvenile Rehabilitation Center
- Oakview Juvenile Residential Center
**Fiscal Year 2017 Statistics**

- **Admissions By Gender**
  - Female: 5.7%
  - Male: 94.3%

- **Admissions By Age**
  - Age 13: 0.7%
  - Age 14: 5.1%
  - Age 15: 13.4%
  - Age 16: 26.6%
  - Age 17: 35.6%
  - Age 18: 16.3%
  - Age 19: 1.5%
  - Age 20: 0.9%

- **Admissions By Race**
  - Black: 57.4%
  - White: 31.6%
  - Other: 11.0%

- **Admissions By Offense**
  - Homicide: 1.5%
  - Sex: 11.4%
  - Person: 49.4%
  - Property: 24.0%
  - Drug: 1.2%
  - Other: 12.6%

- **Admission By County**
  - Cuyahoga: 27%
  - Franklin: 13%
  - Hamilton: 11.2%
  - Montgomery: 4.6%
  - Licking: 3.7%

- **Average Daily Population for the 3 Juvenile Correctional Facilities**
  - Applewood Centers: 3
  - Montgomery County Center for Adolescent Services: 8
  - Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility: 140
  - Cuyahoga Hills Juvenile Correctional Facility: 150
  - Indian River Juvenile Correctional Facility: 139
  - Lighthouse Youth Center - Paint Creek: 45
  - Pomegranate Health Systems: 9

  **Average Daily Population for the 3 Juvenile Correctional Facilities**
  - Total: 429

  **Average Daily Parole Population**
  - Northern and Southern Regional Offices: 292
### FY 2017 Expenditures

**$223,012,377**

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