The year ahead is filled with promise and excitement. At the stroke of midnight today, I took the oath of office, along with the other agency directors, in the Ohio Senate chamber.

It was the first time that I was a participant in this ceremony. As you may know, I stepped into the director’s position in March 2011, several months after the first inauguration of Governor Kasich.

After the swearing-in ceremony, Governor Kasich spoke of his second term as being an opportune time for renewal.

It was a great moment for me to ponder about our agency and the year ahead. At this time of year, everything is new, bringing with it the promise of possibilities and the unknown, as well.

As you’ve heard me say, DYS can and will become the best agency in Ohio. We can get there. It will just take all of us.

Dare to dream, commit to planning and focus on teamwork. That will make all the difference and will launch us forward to even greater accomplishments in 2015.

Next week, we will celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King. He said this: “If you can’t fly then run, if you can’t run then walk, if you can’t walk then crawl, but whatever you do, you have to keep moving forward.”

Together, let’s keep moving forward.