Message from DYS Director Ryan Gies
Second Chance Month
April 26, 2019

April is Second Chance Month, and I would like to highlight the work of the Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition, which just recognized its 10-year anniversary. The group includes members from government, community-based organizations, service providers, crime victims, and an ex-offender, among others, forming a coalition of stakeholders who help make the reentry process successful for the juveniles and adults in our correctional system. Governor DeWine gave DYS and DRC a proclamation and sent a video message highlighting the important work of the Coalition. I congratulate the Coalition for its efforts over the past ten years and look forward to continued success in the future.

DYS releases nearly 400 youth back into the community each year. On average, youth spend about 12.7 months in a facility. During this time, it is critical that youth, staff, family members, and community partners work together in an integrated manner to support a youth’s treatment plan and to help the youth succeed in achieving the goals of the plan.

The agency’s reentry-related highlights include:

- Improving policies to address what every youth needs
- Preparing driver training simulators and courses
- Making ServSafe Food Handler training available once per quarter
- Expanding forklift training opportunities for youth
- Offering job and school fairs
- Organizing Bonding through Books (audio recordings) to keep young parents connected to their children and developing healthy bonds even while away
- Providing CLOSE to Home (Connecting Loved Ones Sooner Than Expected) free busing to facilities – In 2018, we provided a total of 83 trips to 455 passengers
- Helping youth preparing to leave Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility to participate in a job readiness program called AMP (Achieve More & Prosper) thanks to a partnership with the Workforce Development Board of Central Ohio, IMPACT Community Action, Eckerd Connects, OhioGuidestone, and Ohio Department of Job and Family Services
- Referring youth returning to Cleveland, Lorain, and Lake Counties to the Cleveland Summer Y.O.U. Program (Youth Opportunities Unlimited), a nonprofit workforce development program for ages 14-24
• Connecting youth at Indian River Juvenile Correctional Facility with businesses and organizations including UPS, Pittsburgh Institute of Aeronautics, Goodwill Industries, and Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities, through ongoing speaker series
• Teaming up with the Office of the Ohio Public Defender to offer quarterly sealing and expungement clinics

For more information about DYS reentry initiatives, please contact Cynthia Dungey at 1-614-466-9318 or cynthia.dungey@dys.ohio.gov