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National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice Presents
Department of Youth Services Director with Equal Justice Honor

Columbus, Ohio — Ohio Department of Youth Services (DYS) Director Harvey Reed was presented with the national Medgar Evers Award on Wednesday by the National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice (NABCJ).

The Medgar Evers Award is given to the individual who has demonstrated unselfish ideals of fair play by developing, policies, enforcing regulations and ensuring that all persons, including those who are institutionalized, receive equal justice under the law. This award is named after the slain civil rights leader whose struggles for equal justice ended with his making the ultimate and supreme sacrifice.

With more than 40 years of service to the juvenile justice field, Reed has made significant contributions since becoming the director of DYS in 2011. Along with juvenile courts, the agency relies on a continuum of programs and interventions to serve youth closer to their families and in the least restrictive setting. The intensity of treatment and community supervision is matched with a youth’s risk to reoffend. As a result, the DYS average daily population has decreased from 730 youth in 2011 to an average of 515 today.
“In Ohio, addressing the overrepresentation of minority youth who come into contact with the juvenile justice system continues to be prioritized through our Disproportionate Minority Contact efforts, but there is more work to be done,” said Director Reed. “We must also continue to look at our practices to ensure that we are giving all youth – regardless of race, religion, sexual orientation, educational status, and other personal attributes – the best possible chance for success.”

Prior to becoming DYS director, Reed served as director of the Hamilton County Juvenile Court Youth Center and drew high praise for his work in improving services to the court and community, including achieving accreditation with multiple professional organizations.

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. DYS currently operates three juvenile correctional facilities, provides parole services from two regional sites and funds and supports 625 community programs serving 93,000 youth throughout the state.

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