CONCEPT PAPER

Focus: Alternative placements for lower-level offenders committed to DYS

Goal: Continue to build on the success of RECLAIM Ohio by opening several Cognitive-Behavioral Centers around the state

What is a Cognitive – Behavioral Center?
DYS Cognitive – Behavioral Centers (CBC) will be staff secure (no fences), intensive, short term programs intended to keep youth who qualify, closer to home and out of DYS facilities.

What will the admission criteria be?
Initially, moderate risk (or lower) youth committed to DYS on a Felony level 3, 4, or 5 offense will be eligible for the program.

What will the program consist of?
The program would be based on a Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy (CBT) model with a focus on targeting certain criminogenic risk factors through cognitive restructuring and skill acquisition. Each youth will have a comprehensive assessment and case plan, and will be expected to meet defined behavioral goals as the youth progresses through the program.

How long will the youth be in the CBC program?
The length of the program would be based on the youth’s risk and need as well as progress, and would range from 90-120 days. This is a significant decrease from the current DYS average length of stay of 11.4 months.

What services will the youth have after the program is finished?
An intensive aftercare program will be developed based on the youth’s level of risk and stage of progress. Aftercare services will include structured opportunities for youth to receive ‘booster’ sessions as well as behavioral interventions with family members and other caregivers. A team approach will be employed to assure aftercare is intensive and family-focused.