Ohio Youth Assessment System

The innovative Ohio Youth Assessment System (OYAS) was initially born out of the RECLAIM study published in 2005. Based on the final report, it was clear that Ohio was in need of a risk/needs assessment that provided the juvenile justice system with a standardized process in evaluating the risk and criminogenic needs of the youth it served.

This initiative is a significant step toward objective decision-making in juvenile justice, which includes matching youth with the treatment and level of supervision that provides them with the greatest opportunity to succeed.

OYAS Implementation in DYS

OYAS Rollout
The creation of the OYAS has been completed, and trainings on the tools are currently being offered. Staff who still need to register can do so online at www.dys.ohio.gov and click on the link, “Ohio Youth Assessment Registration.” Trainings will be offered in the fall and winter months, and the OYAS will be fully implemented in DYS institutions on February 1, 2010 and in the regions on April 1, 2010.

Benefits for Staff
The fully-automated web-based OYAS is set up to send reminders to staff when youth reassessments are due. The OYAS also identifies areas for case planning that are appropriate for a residential setting (Residential Tool) and areas that need to be addressed in the community (Reentry Tool).

Impact On Youth
DYS youth will benefit from this system because of the consistency it will create throughout the juvenile justice system. OYAS consists of five validated tools that assist DYS and the counties in providing the best treatment and case plan for each youth. The tools identify the youth’s risk and need areas so that an appropriate intervention can be determined.

Find Out More
A final research report about OYAS and its background will be available beginning September 11th at www.dys.ohio.gov (on the “Ohio Youth Assessment System Registration” page).

Questions?
If you have a question about OYAS, please feel free to contact Hannah Phillips at 614-387-2555 or at Hannah.Phillips@dys.ohio.gov.