The Changing Footprint

The Department of Youth Services (DYS) has collaborated with our partners to identify and support local alternatives that best meet the needs of youth involved in Ohio’s Juvenile Justice system and their families. By using research and data to equip courts with helpful information, youthful offenders are more likely to be placed in the environment most appropriate for their rehabilitation. Research from the University of Cincinnati (UC) indicates that moderate risk youth placed in DYS facilities returned back to the correctional system at a much higher rate than similar youth placed in the community.

With this study in mind, the Changing Footprint works to divert low to moderate risk youth to community options when appropriate, and higher risk youth are served in larger DYS facilities.

Community Based Treatment Center

The opening of the first DYS Community Based Treatment Center (CBTC) is in line with the changing footprint of the Department. The CBTC, located at Starr Columbus, has opened to provide Franklin County judges with another option for moderate risk youth who have committed a felony level crime. Rather than being placed in a DYS facility, youth will go directly to the Starr Columbus facility where they will stay for an average of four months, followed by an aftercare program.

Targeted RECLAIM

Another important initiative is Targeted RECLAIM which provides additional funding through RECLAIM to reduce commitments from the juvenile courts that commit the most youth to the Department. The initiative, which includes Cuyahoga, Franklin, Hamilton, Lucas, Montgomery and Summit Counties, funds evidence-based and model programs in these counties.

Behavioral Health/Juvenile Justice

Behavioral Health/Juvenile Justice (BH/JJ) efforts are enhancing the community’s ability to locally serve juvenile offenders with serious behavioral health needs. The initiative is transforming the community’s capacity to identify, assess, evaluate and treat multi-need, multi-system youth and their families.