DYS provides opportunities for positive youth development and rehabilitation in 5 facilities.

The foundation for full-service living units has been laid over the past year through enhanced Unit Management, the development of strength-based goals for youth and the roll-out of the Strength-based Behavioral Management System (SBBMS). SBBMS is a multi-level behavior motivation system designed to increase positive youth behaviors through the use of reinforcements and decrease unwanted behaviors through a menu of appropriate sanctions.

Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) is being incorporated into every housing unit. CBT focuses on targeting certain criminogenic factors youth might have and helps them to restructure, or change, the way they think and respond in various situations. This is done through learning and practicing pro-socials skills and behaviors.

The next step in transforming the treatment milieu of the living units is with the introduction of the New Freedom-Phoenix curriculum, designed to fit the needs of youth in the care of DYS. The comprehensive program addresses the most critical personal, environmental and community risk factors while building on the most important protective factors and assets.

SBBMS, CBT and New Freedom-Phoenix provide staff with many proven tools and skills to use when working with youth and are transforming units into effective treatment milieus.

DYS has established a variety of community initiatives to reach youth, support families and build communities.

The Ohio Youth Assessment System, a web-based system, provides objective assessment of youth risk to reoffend and promotes consistency in the determination of treatment and level of supervision for juvenile offenders.

RECLAIM Ohio is a funding initiative that encourages juvenile courts to use a range of community-based options to meet the needs of juvenile offenders. Targeted RECLAIM provides additional funding for evidence-based and model programs in 6 metropolitan counties that reduce commitments to DYS.

The agency funds the operational costs of 12 Community Correctional Facilities which are operated by counties and used to treat lower-level felony delinquent youth who would otherwise be committed to a DYS facility.

The Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) promotes collaboration between systems to reduce secure confinement, improve public safety and make efficient use of resources.

The Behavioral Health/Juvenile Justice initiatives enhance the community’s ability to locally serve juvenile offenders with serious behavioral health needs.

Parole officers are using Effective Practices in Community Supervision (EPICS), an evidence-based model through which officers build collaborative working relationships with youth and effectively employ graduated programs to address individual youth needs.