Happy Holidays!

As 2010 comes to a close and we look forward to a fresh start in 2011, I want to extend my sincere thanks and deep appreciation to the staff of DYS, our partners and our stakeholders. With a strong foundation of progress made over the last year, we will build on our accomplishments in the New Year. Thanks to your commitment, we will continue to increase safety and security, enhance community capacity and prepare youth to return to their communities through our dedication to rehabilitation.

In 2010, DYS strengthened the foundation of reform by:

- Reshaping the direct care position of Juvenile Correctional Officers into Youth Specialists
- Establishing the position of facility Youth Advocate as part of a supportive system of youth advocacy to ensure due process and to identify appropriate interventions for misconduct
- Making it easier for a youth to appeal a grievance to the highest level
- Developing the Individualized Response to Acts of Violence, preserving safety and security
- Reinforcing positive behavior with incentives in a Strength-based Behavioral Management System
- Introducing evidence-based Cognitive Behavioral Therapy to 13 units
- Embracing community partners, who provided 38,457 volunteer hours in FY10, surpassing the target goal of 30,000 hours
- Providing education and GED services that led to 161 youth earning their GEDs and 56 youth obtaining their high school diplomas in FY10
- Expanding the Ohio Youth Assessment System to provide a standardized process for evaluating the risk and criminogenic needs of youth
- Revamping the process to approve youth for release at the earliest possible date while increasing consistency
- Training all parole staff in using the research-based Effective Practices in Community Supervision model to address individual needs of youth on parole
- Establishing Targeted RECLAIM to reduce commitments from the juvenile courts that commit the most youth to DYS
- Enhancing partnerships with Ohio’s largest 14 counties to address Disproportionate Minority Contact
- Improving the community’s ability to address Behavioral Health/Juvenile Justice needs of youth
- Utilizing a community based treatment center as a placement alternative for moderate risk youth committed to DYS
- Launching the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative to help jurisdictions reduce reliance on secure confinement

In 2011, DYS will continue reform efforts by:

- Including a provision in classification for youth with good behavior to be considered for early review
- Replicating Indian River Juvenile Correctional Facility’s best practices of reducing disciplinary time for improved behavior and addressing all misconduct with an appropriate treatment intervention
- Restructuring the Training Academy to include a Center for Professional and Organizational Excellence and expanding the use of data in management
- Reducing seclusion by implementing guidelines for disciplinary seclusion and developing additional alternatives to seclusion
- Improving fidelity to treatment models, programs and service delivery
- Recruiting and retaining child and adolescent psychiatrists for each facility and expanding the role of the Central Office child and adolescent administrative psychiatrist
- Developing innovative vocational training and programming for graduates
- Replicating the video communicator pilot that provides families with the opportunity to remotely visit with youth during their stay at DYS
- Expanding Targeted RECLAIM to provide interventions to further reduce admissions to DYS
- Enhancing the relationship between DYS transition coordinators and public school linkage coordinators to assist youth transitioning back to public schools
- Facilitating the conversion of programming at the 12 Community Corrections Facilitates to a Cognitive Behavioral Therapy model
- Supporting reentry for youth with behavioral health issues through grant-funded collaborations with Nationwide Children’s Hospital, Kent State University, Catholic Charities of Cleveland and the Ohio Department of Alcohol & Drug Addiction Services (watch for more details in the January Monthly Brief!)