Dear Colleagues,

Thank you for the warm welcome as Director of the Department of Youth Services! From the time I have spent so far with staff, volunteers and community partners, I am delighted to see so many hardworking and caring individuals devoted to Ohio’s youth. Your efforts are much appreciated.

As you know, the state is facing a considerable financial shortfall. The proposed FY 2012-2013 Executive Budget has significant effects for DYS. The closure of the Ohio River Valley Juvenile Correctional Facility, reduction to DYS Parole and decrease to Central Office Administration funding presents a trying time for impacted employees. DYS Central Office Human Resources staff will continue to offer assistance to staff impacted by reductions. Also, employees can receive answers to questions by emailing questions@dys.ohio.gov.

The allocation of funds in the proposed budget requires that we continue to focus on our efforts to support community programming for low to moderate-risk youth who are better served in less restrictive and less costly community settings. We know from research that matching youth risk level with the least restrictive program setting leads to better outcomes for youth, supports community safety and makes wise use of taxpayer dollars. Committed to ongoing reform, we will continue our careful balance of supporting facilities and community options.

I would like to encourage all staff to continue their hard work and their professionalism as we work together to encourage positive change in the lives of youth throughout the state.

Sincerely,

Harvey J. Reed
Director