Responsible Public Policy

The Department of Youth Services (DYS) touches the lives of thousands of youth in Ohio. Beyond youth in DYS facilities and those on parole, DYS funds and supports over 650 direct service programs throughout the state offering more than 130,000 youth (based on annual program admissions) opportunities and services to effect positive change.

DYS invests in youth by finding ways to incorporate treatment and other strategies that have shown evidence of effectiveness. From programs implemented in the community to curriculum used in DYS facilities, evidence-based practices improve outcomes for young people. Research indicates that Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) helps reduce recidivism. CBT focuses on targeting certain criminogenic factors youth might have and helps them to restructure the way they think and respond in various situations.

Community Correctional Facilities serve as alternatives to DYS placement. The University of Cincinnati (UC) has been assisting DYS and community partners with developing, training and implementing CBT programs. Lucas County Youth Treatment Center, Juvenile Residential Center of Northwest Ohio and Northern Ohio Juvenile Community Correctional Facility have already converted to the CBT model. UC has begun assessments and trainings for Butler County Juvenile Rehabilitation Center, West Central Juvenile Rehabilitation Center and Miami Valley Juvenile Rehabilitation Center. Full implementation for these six facilities will be complete by July 2012.

Targeted RECLAIM provides funding for evidence-based and model programs in the community. A variety of CBT initiatives are currently being used to treat youth in Hamilton, Montgomery and Summit counties through Targeted RECLAIM. In addition, Cuyahoga and Lucas counties will rollout CBT programming during this fiscal year.