



Department of  
Youth Services

**Message from DYS Director Harvey Reed  
Expanding Treatment Options for Girls**

September 22, 2011

Dear Staff:

DYS is looking into offering an alternative for treating girls with behavioral health needs. We are moving forward with plans to provide an option for female youth that is comparable to the option of the Lighthouse Youth Center –Paint Creek for male youth.

In the coming months, we will pilot a community-based, mental health, residential treatment option in either central or northeastern Ohio. DYS will issue a request for proposal (RFP) to solicit licensed, residential providers who could offer a 6-10 bed secure setting along with gender-specific, evidence-based programming.

Selection for participation in the program, which will require the agreement of the committing juvenile court, may occur either when a youth is committed to the department or after progress in the DYS facility indicates the youth may be better served in a step-down capacity at the community-based pilot. The current female population may be considered for the program.

I will keep you posted as this unique treatment option for girls is developed.

Harvey J. Reed, Director  
Department of Youth Services