



Message from DYS Director Harvey Reed

April 30, 2013

Dear Staff:

As you know, last week we added a new member to our DYS team – Ms. Linda Janes is now serving as DYS Assistant Director. Ms. Janes joins us from the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (DRC), and while DYS and DRC are similar, we all know these are two very unique agencies. I am hearing talk that Ms. Janes joining the DYS leadership team means DRC is taking over DYS. Let me assure you this is not the case.

Ms. Janes brings a wealth of knowledge to her new role as DYS Assistant Director. In her previous role Ms. Janes advised the Director on agency operations, budget, prison and community corrections related initiatives. She directed the development of policy and the management of staff and inmates for all matters involving Ohio's 28 prisons and the Division of Parole and Community Services. She is the right person to help guide us as we enhance employee and youth safety, set the agency strategic plan, and continue our nationally recognized work to habilitate youth.

You will be seeing a lot of Ms. Janes and me this week. Ms. Janes met with staff from the Office of Finance and Planning, the Chief Inspector's Office, the Bureau of Human Resources and Facility, Programs and Operations yesterday. Today, she met with Release, Parole and Integrated Reentry Services, Courts and Community Services, Legal Services and Legislative Affairs. She will travel to Indian River and Cuyahoga Hills tomorrow and Scioto and Circleville on Friday to meet with facility staff and tour the facilities. We are working with Kevin Shepherd to plan Ms. Janes' visits to the Parole Regions soon, but at a time that is best for Parole staff coordinating important court dates and home visits.

Our focus is on supporting a safe environment in which staff can help youth accomplish their rehabilitation goals. Each of you should feel comfortable reaching out to your superintendents, Assistant Director Janes and I with your concerns and ideas for improvements. I encourage you to take advantage of the employee suggestion boxes located at each facility and regional office or send your suggestions for improvements directly to the Director's Office by emailing suggestions@dys.ohio.gov You are on the front lines every day and we value your input and first-hand knowledge.

You are directly influencing positive change in the lives of youth. It's true, we are now managing some of the most aggressive youth in the agency's history, but I know together we can continue to foster a safe, positive environment to help them turn their lives around.

Thank you for the impact you have on the youth currently in our custody and on parole, and for the many youth you have helped become productive members of their families and communities.

Harvey J. Reed, Director
Department of Youth Services