



Department of
Youth Services

Message from DYS Director Harvey Reed

Immediate Steps to Guard Against the Opportunity for Misconduct

June 18, 2013

Dear Staff and Stakeholders:

The Interagency Task Force on Sexual Misconduct that Governor Kasich put into place has been meeting frequently to develop and implement a strategic approach to address the issues reflected in the recent report from the Bureau of Justice Statistics. The Task Force is supporting DYS to immediately respond to guard against the opportunity for sexual misconduct to occur.

I appreciate the in-depth work that the Task Force has completed quickly to assist us in doing all that we can to prevent and address any type of sexual abuse, harassment or assault at DYS. The Task Force established a Protocol Development Team to develop and implement strategies and practices to guard against sexual misconduct while providing a safe and secure environment for both youth and staff. Immediate steps include the following:

- Continue the Climate Assessor initiative at each DYS facility
- Develop effective communication methods among facility youth and staff, Central Office staff and Task Force members
- Implement random security checks to serve as a deterrent for misconduct
- Establish a monitoring system for supervisors who view live cameras to enhance safety and security for youth and staff
- Develop an integrated reporting protocol to improve mandatory reporting and coordination of investigations between DYS and other state agencies
- Enhance reporting mechanisms for both youth and staff
- Review 2012 Activity Management System (AMS) reports to ensure that information is accurately entered
- Develop a plan to conduct cultural assessments at all DYS facilities
- Work with Bureau of Justice Statistics to receive a detailed summary of Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) survey information pertaining to DYS facilities
- Review, analyze and summarize historical information and reports to better understand the context of data collected by the Bureau of Justice Statistics

Thank you for your ongoing assistance as we address this serious matter. I will continue to keep you updated on our progress as we work together to make DYS a safer and better environment for our youth to live.