



Department of
Youth Services

Message from DYS Director Harvey Reed

Update on Task Force Recommendations

July 10, 2013

Dear Stakeholders:

The National Survey of Youth in Custody, 2012 Report from the Bureau Justice Statistics (BJS) is available at <http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/svifry12.pdf>. The study was thorough and included mechanisms to account for reliability of responses, including follow-up questions when victimization was reported.

The results from the BJS study, along with information gathered by our climate assessors, are helping us to be much more aware of victims, perpetrators and vulnerable times of day and locations. In addition, here are some of the important tasks currently in progress:

- We are developing a more sophisticated system for doing random security rounds with checks at multiple levels.
- We are identifying more ways for youth and staff to report.
- We are working with partnering agencies to better coordinate reporting and investigations.
- The Task Force is visiting facilities, and its presence ensures that the importance of this issue is understood.
- We have cultural assessments scheduled at each of the facilities, with the first one taking place at Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility beginning on July 22nd.
- We are modifying our staff training to more strongly emphasize appropriate boundaries, reporting expectations and prevention of sexual abuse.

Please see the attachment for a summary of all the recommendations from the Interagency Task Force on Sexual Misconduct and those staff who have been designated to lead efforts. You will notice that recommendation #19 follows recommendation #10 because of the importance to quickly modifying training.

As you can tell from the broad range of recommendations, we are undergoing a comprehensive approach to making improvements. Your input is welcome and needed. Feel free email suggestions@dys.ohio.gov. Suggestions will be directed to the appropriate person.

Thank you for your continued cooperation as these efforts support safety and security as well as the overall mission of our work to habilitate youth.