



Department of  
Youth Services

## Message from DYS Director Harvey Reed

Facility Developments

September 6, 2013

Dear Staff and Stakeholders:

Many efforts have been underway to improve safeguards in our facilities. The Interagency Task Force on Sexual Misconduct has made announced and unannounced visits to all DYS facilities. The Task Force has noted that all facilities have been conducting house meetings with all youth on every unit to discuss the desire to keep youth safe and to review the ways youth can report incidents of misconduct. All facilities have also held town hall meetings with staff and conducted labor-management meetings to discuss Task Force efforts and institutional strategies.

At all of the facilities, special attention has been given to vulnerable areas, which are those places identified as being at risk for violence, misconduct and/or sexual activity. In addition to random security rounds taking place in vulnerable areas between the hours 6:00 PM and 12:00 AM, DYS has also developed and implemented an Administrative Duty Officer policy which requires daily meaningful rounds be conducted by a member of the administration or management team. A meaningful round is an active review of a specific area that includes observation of conditions, conversation with staff and youth, and action to document, correct or refer issues and concerns when they are observed or communicated to the assessor. A meaningful round also includes positive reinforcement whenever applicable.

Additional highlights of facility developments follow:

### Cuyahoga Hills Juvenile Correctional Facility

- Currently installing locks to youth restrooms that are located in each classroom in order to eliminate the opportunity for youth to enter without staff knowledge
- Furniture was rearranged in offices and classrooms to improve visibility and safety
- Currently installing an additional 72 cameras in vulnerable areas
- New staff are being trained to avoid overfamiliarity and establish professional boundaries
- Completed a cultural assessment to ensure that the facility has an environment that supports reporting and prevents victimization

### Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility

- Held Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) training for all staff and contractors
- Currently installing an additional 44 cameras in vulnerable areas
- Now have a Youth Specialist posted in unit day rooms at all times
- Reviewing safety materials with youth more frequently

- Behavioral health staff have participated in an extensive review of sexual misconduct information including warning signs, behavioral indicators and reporting requirements
- Completed a cultural assessment to ensure that the facility has an environment that supports reporting and prevents victimization

#### Indian River Juvenile Correctional Facility

- Currently installing an additional 42 cameras in vulnerable areas
- Added locks to youth restrooms that are located in each classroom in order to eliminate the opportunity for youth to enter without staff knowledge
- Completing restroom and shower renovations in order to provide more privacy
- Completed a cultural assessment to ensure that the facility has an environment that supports reporting and prevents victimization

#### Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility

- Installed an additional 44 cameras in vulnerable areas
- Reviewing video surveillance more frequently
- Mental health staff provided PREA training to youth and staff
- Staff are now escorting youth taking out trash since trash detail was identified as a vulnerability
- All Interdisciplinary Teams were trained to avoid overfamiliarity and establish professional boundaries

I appreciate staff for carrying out these important tasks. Thank you for your commitment to improving facilities to better care for the youth in our custody.