



Department of
Youth Services

**Message from DYS Director Harvey Reed
National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day**

May 7, 2015

Today is National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day, as recognized by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). With about half of the youth in our care on the mental health caseload, treating the behavioral health needs of these young people is among our most important work.



The Caring for Every Child's Mental Health Campaign seeks to raise awareness about the importance of children's mental health and that positive mental health is essential to a child's healthy development from birth. At DYS, we also recognize that positive mental health is a critical key to a youth's successful reentry back into the community.

We provide youth with mental health and substance use challenges the services and supports they need to meet their goals. Whether a youth is served in a community-based program or in one of our facilities, as well as on parole, we are committed to strengthening a youth's mental health. As a result, we are seeing young people achieve positive outcomes in behavioral and emotional health, daily life skills, relationships, employment, and education.

I appreciate the work of DYS staff, other agencies, and other stakeholders to help youth get the mental health services and supports they need to live healthy, productive lives.