



**August 2013**  
**Juvenile Branch of the Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition**

DYS is a proud member of the Ohio Ex-Offender Reentry Coalition (OERC). The mission of OERC is to ensure successful offender reentry, reduce recidivism and enhance public safety. The Coalition strives to achieve these goals through collaborative partnerships with government entities, faith and community-based organizations and other stakeholders. It uses a holistic evidence-based approach that starts at the point of contact with the criminal justice system and includes an emphasis on education, families, mental and medical health services, alcohol and other drug treatment, employment, mentorship and housing.

In Ohio and across the country, the consensus seems to be ensuring that juvenile offenders are treated differently than adults. We value our young people and want to make sure that they receive the chance to turn their lives around. I am pleased that the OERC has recognized the uniqueness of the youth population by adopting a juvenile branch.

OERC formally adopted the Juvenile Branch in September 2012 to bring about more visibility of Ohio-adjudicated youth and specifically address the needs and issues that these young people face after entering the juvenile justice system and returning to their home communities. Members of the Branch share information and resources to eliminate barriers to successful reentry for youth.

Membership with the Juvenile Branch is free and open to anyone with a passion to help youth. It offers the benefits of face-to-face and online professional networking, discussion of best practices, streamlined access to local and state policymakers, and regular updates on reentry progress. Members of the Branch collaboratively address significant juvenile reentry issues that might otherwise be insurmountable. You can read more about the Juvenile Branch on the OERC website at [http://www.reentrycoalition.ohio.gov/pages/juvenile/juvenile\\_services.html](http://www.reentrycoalition.ohio.gov/pages/juvenile/juvenile_services.html).

The next OERC meeting will take place on September 18, 2013 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Veterans Memorial Civic and Convention Center of Lima/Allen County, 7 Town Square, Lima, OH 45801. I would like to extend an open invitation to our stakeholders to join the Juvenile Branch, which will convene immediately following the end of the OERC forum. For more information, please contact Kim Humphrey, Reentry Administrator for DYS at [Kim.Humphrey@dys.ohio.gov](mailto:Kim.Humphrey@dys.ohio.gov) or at (614) 644-5179.