

Ohio Department of Youth Services ~ Settlement Agreement for *S.H. v. Stickrath*

Highlights include plans to:

Clinical Services

- Increase clinical positions including psychologists, social workers and psychology supervisors
- Increase access to psychiatry services
- Increase training for clinical staff
- Redesign and restructure mental health screening, assessment, and referral processes
- Provide youth who are not on the mental health caseload with frequent, regular access to social workers or other staff trained in the detection of depression and anxiety disorders
- Develop and implement structured programming at each facility from the end of the school day until youth go to bed, and on weekends
- Revise sex offender programming

Medical

- Increase physician hours at Scioto JCF
- Expand chronic care clinics for youth with chronic diseases
- Increase medical positions including nurses, mental health nurses, clerical support and dental hygienists
- Increase training for medical staff

Education:

- Increase staffing for teachers, guidance counselors, substitutes and clerical support
- Increase professional educational development for teachers
- Install cameras in various common areas and classrooms
- Contract with education consultants skilled in instructional practices and classroom management in juvenile correctional settings
- Expand career-technical education
- Expand educational services for 12 and 13-year-old students
- Provide guidance counselors with electronic access to students' full IEPs

Investigations

- Increase investigators
- Shorten investigation timelines for investigators

Juvenile Correctional Officers

- Hire up to 115 additional JCOs
- Upgrade & expand JCO training
- Encourage JCO involvement and participation in youth programming and activities

Discipline / Seclusion

- Increase the program opportunities on the special management units
- Work with local courts and law enforcement to expedite prosecution of youth who commit crimes within DYS facilities
- Improve youth accountability through increased emphasis on unit management and interdisciplinary team involvement
- Provide an advocate for disciplinary hearings to youth who are currently on the mental health caseload or otherwise appears in need of assistance

Release & Aftercare

- Support the reduction in population efforts through use of community options and Regional Cognitive Behavioral Centers
- Establish a review process to evaluate the parole and release reform underway