



A Vision to Serve Youth

## Arkansas Division of Youth Services' Vision for Reform<sup>1</sup>

<u>Indicators</u>	<u>Our Past</u>	<u>Our Future</u>
Concept of public safety	Incarcerating and committing offenders	Creating and restoring healthy families
Role of DYS	Responding to juvenile crime	Preventing juvenile delinquency
Response to system youth	Many in secure confinement	More in community-based services
Primary focus	Youth in trouble	Strength-based family systems
Budgets	Spiraling costs of incarceration	Money re-allocated to treatment
Method of operation	Independent bureaucracy	Responsive and agile network
Basis for decision-making	Tradition and precedent	Practices proven effective and evidence-based
System employees	High stress and turnover	Highly trained and professional
Data system on youth	Fragmented and incomplete	Interactive, integrated and useful
Evaluation of providers	Compliance with contracts	Positive outcomes for youth
Relationship with schools and courts	Independent efforts	Partners in prevention
Relationship with corrections	Feeder for adult prisons	Reverses path toward crime
National reputation	Behind national progress	Leader in reform

<sup>1</sup> "Comprehensive Juvenile Justice Reform Plan 2009-2014," Arkansas Division of Youth Services (2009), 5, <http://www.state.ar.us/dhs/dys/DYS%20Comprehensive%20Plan%20Single%20Page%20Continuous%20Layout2.pdf> (accessed July 28, 2010).