Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities
Ted Strickland, Governor **John Martin, Director**

January 23, 2009

To: Deborah Delisle, Director

From: John L. Martin, Director JLM

Subject: Restraint Policy

In response to the urgent concerns raised by the Governor's Office regarding the danger of using physical restraints across our systems, ODMRDD has been asked to coordinate a meeting of representatives from each state department in order to consider the important task of creating a statewide policy on the use of restraints. As you know, ODMRDD recently issued a ban on the use of prone restraints based on the research and recommendations of our Statewide Behavior Support Advisory Committee. This committee already has representation from many of your departments. It seems practical to use the work of this existing statewide committee and establish a new sub-committee from this group to focus on the immediate task of crafting a statewide policy. Due to the urgent nature of this work, especially in light of the recent tragic death of a 17-year-old girl in Ohio following the use of a prone restraint, it is our hope to gather this interdepartmental group for an initial meeting on the afternoon of January 29, 2009.

Please notify us as soon as possible with the name and contact information for the person that you would like to represent your department at this meeting. For those of you who already have representatives on the Statewide Behavior Support Advisory Committee, we are open to including your current representative in this group if you so choose. If you prefer to assign someone else to the policy sub-group this will not affect the membership of the original committee.

Thank you for your quick response to this urgent need. Please send your representative's information to Pam Berry, Senior Policy Advisor overseeing the Positive Intervention Culture Initiative here at ODMRDD. You can send the information to her at (614) 208-6393 or Pam.Berry@dmr.state.oh.us

Cc: Robin Harris, Governor's Office, Executive Assistant
Amy McGee, Governor's Office, Executive Assistant