

Amy L. Ast

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Governor Mike DeWine appointed Amy L. Ast director of the Ohio Department of Youth Services in December 2021, returning the veteran youth services professional to the agency she served from 1996 through 2017.

In her prior roles with DYS, Director Ast served as Bureau Chief of Facility Operations from 2008 to 2017. Earlier roles included superintendent and management positions at DYS facilities and in policy positions in DYS's central office. In the private sector, Director Ast worked from 2018 through 2021 for Rite of Passage, a nationwide company that provides evidenced-based, trauma-responsive, and innovative services to youth and families. She most recently served as regional director of compliance.

Director Ast's goals at DYS include investing in relationships, best practices, and innovative programming "to ensure our youth leave DYS healthier physically, mentally, and emotionally than when they arrived." She is also committed to investing in staff so they come to work energized, engaged, and committed to DYS's core mission – improving the lives of youth, families, and communities, protecting the public, and creating a safer, more prosperous Ohio.

Director Ast holds a master's degree in management from Ohio Dominican University and a bachelor's degree in communications from Ohio University.