

News from Kansas – SB 367

Senate Bill 367, “Amendments to the juvenile justice system” was introduced by the Senate Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice on Jan. 26, 2016. Hearings were held by the Senate Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice Feb. 1 – 5, 2016. Amendments to the bill were proposed and the bill passed the Senate Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice as amended on Feb. 18, 2016. The bill was taken up by the full Senate on Feb. 23, 2016 and was passed as amended. To access the bill as amended, [click here](#) To access the supplemental note on SB367, [click here](#) To access testimony, meeting attendance and minutes for SB 367 for the Senate Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice:

Monday, 2/1/2016 (proponents)	Click here
Tuesday, 2/2/2016 (proponents)	Click here
Wednesday, 2/3/2016 (proponents)	Click here
Thursday, 2/4/2016 (opponents)	Click here
Friday, 2/5/2016 (neutral)	Click here

From The PEW Charitable Trusts Juvenile Justice in Kansas: Workgroup Unveils Solutions

In December 2015, the Kansas Juvenile Justice Workgroup issued a comprehensive set of [policy recommendations](#) to improve the state’s juvenile justice system. The following month, the Kansas Legislature introduced a bill that would advance the workgroup’s proposals. Senate Bill 367, which lawmakers will consider during the 2016 legislative session, would: [Read more](#)

A number of articles and editorials have been written in reference SB 367. Below are links to a number of those articles.

Newspaper articles on Wednesday, Feb. 24 after SB367 was passed by the full Senate

Kansas City Star – [Read](#)
Wichita Eagle Beacon – [Read](#)
Topeka Capital Journal – [Read](#)
Lawrence Journal World – [Read](#)
Salina World – [Read](#)

Newspaper articles after SB367 was passed by the Senate Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice but before it was taken up by the full Senate

Kansas Lawmakers Discuss Juvenile Justice System Overhaul

The Kansas juvenile justice system is set to undergo an overhaul by offering community-based services instead of incarceration to juvenile offenders. The Senate Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice voted on Wednesday to close group homes for juvenile offenders in July 2018. The bill also proposes to create a team to review cases with the input of families and educators to offer additional training [Read more](#)

Kansas Senate to Weigh Juvenile Justice Reforms

Kansas lawmakers are considering changes to the state’s juvenile justice system, including boosting services like anger management and counseling that would allow young offenders to stay at home instead of being sent to a detention facility. Senate Bill 367 would end the state’s use of youth residential facilities, or group homes, by mid-2018. [Read more](#)

Human Trafficking in Kansas

She felt "Invisible" | Topeka Human Traffic Victim Shares Her Story

"It does something to you that is invisible to everybody else. This time I'm going to be heroic. This time I'm going to say something." A Topeka woman, whom we will call "Jane", was trafficked for 22 years. We cannot reveal her true identity for security purposes. Jane says she was first trafficked from 16 to 36-years-old. She was traumatized by 5 pimps in Topeka and Kansas City. [Read more and watch video](#)

Females: Juvenile Justice Issues - updates . . .

Troubled Teens Blossom in Strength-based Program with Caring Adults

Oprah Winfrey’s book, “What I Know For Sure,” comes to my mind often when I look at what life has presented me with and what I face each day. I often ask myself what do I know for sure about girls involved in our juvenile justice system. What I know is that our girls today are scared and often lack the guidance of a caring adult. It is my experience that many girls who come into contact with the juvenile justice system have experienced some form of trauma, mental health diagnosis, substance abuse and the absence of a caring adult in their lives. [Read more](#)

National News

Paradigm shift: Fewer Utah juvenile offenders are being treated as adults

At 19 years old, Meagan Grunwald has been behind bars for two years, passing all but 17 days of her time in adult facilities. She keeps mostly to herself, and when her daydreams take her outside the walls of the Utah State Prison, the fantasy is simple: She walks up to the front door of the home where she grew up in Draper, goes inside and heads into the kitchen to make herself some food. Maybe a quesadilla. [Read more](#)

Kids Can Change: Stop Sending Juveniles to Adult Prisons and Jails

In a recent U.S. Supreme Court decision is a deceptively simple line that should affect, and in many cases, transform the way Americans think about juveniles who kill. At the heart of the 2012 groundbreaking case, Miller v. Alabama, said the Court, is the idea, proven by neuroscience and behavioral research, that "children who commit even heinous crimes are capable of change." [Read more](#)

Program Helps Keep Mentally Ill Youth Out of Jail

A simple suggestion helped save Donetta Foxx’s son. Foxx spent the first 13 years of her adopted son’s life cycling between the silos of school, hospitals and the juvenile justice system to get help for the boy’s unidentified mental illness. Dozens of professionals were involved in boy’s life but none knew, or took the time to learn, his full story. And then, one day in 2009, a juvenile justice worker suggested Foxx check out a program that has since become recognized nationwide as a model for delivering treatment to struggling youth and keeping them out of jail. [Read more](#)

Too Many Students Are Being Diverted from School into the Criminal Justice System, Report Says

Key segments of the U.S. student population that are most in need of support from schools instead are being siphoned off into the criminal justice system, says a report that was issued in preliminary form Friday in conjunction with a program at the 2016 ABA Midyear Meeting San Diego. *The School-to-Prison Pipeline Preliminary Report* was produced by the ABA Joint Task Force on Reversing the School-to-Prison Pipeline. [Read more](#)

How a Diversion Program in South L.A. Hopes to Break the Cradle-to-Prison Pipeline

When Karina Cabrera first sat down with Angelica, a 15-year-old enrolled in a juvenile diversion program at Centinela Youth Services (CYS), the case manager remembers the youth’s icy stare and clipped answers. Just weeks before, Angelica had been hauled in by members of the Los Angeles Police Department after she was caught trying to steal a shirt at Target. This was Angelica’s first offense, but the teenager from South L.A. was quickly heading down a problematic path. [Read more](#)

Los Angeles County Juvenile Probation Outcomes Study

[Read more](#)

Annie E Casey Foundation

Progress Check: Youth Confinement in America Today

The research is clear. Youth prisons and correctional facilities are dangerous, ineffective and unnecessary. But here’s some good news: America’s youth confinement rate dropped across all racial and ethnic groups during the last decade — and by 40% overall. [Read more](#)

The Juvenile Justice Corner By Megan Milner, Deputy Superintendent Kansas Juvenile Correctional Complex

It has been a while since we’ve had the opportunity to update our community partners on the latest goings-on at KJCC. Here is a brief description of the many things going on here:

Since we started delivering Aggression Replacement Training® at KJCC, we have been tracking certain outcomes measures. Here is what we’re finding so far for youth who successfully complete ART:

- 24% reduction in the number of disciplinary convictions
- 37.5% reduction in violent/aggressive disciplinary reports
- 42% reduction in incidents that result in restricted housing placements

KJCC has created a Reducing Isolation Workgroup. This cross-section of staff meets at least monthly to identify how to assist the facility in reducing our use of isolation. We have some very qualified staff that are part of this workgroup and are helping us to identify alternative techniques staff can use to manage difficult behaviors.

We recently implemented a Crisis Resolution Team. This multi-disciplinary team has received training from the National Alliance of the Mentally Ill in crisis resolution and hostage negotiation tactics. One of the primary

From The Council of State Governments Justice Center Updates . . .

Closer to Home: An Analysis of the State and Local Impact of the Texas Juvenile Justice Reforms

A first-of-its-kind study of Texas youth involved with the juvenile justice system shows that juveniles under community-based supervision are far less likely to reoffend than youth with very similar profiles who are confined in state correctional facilities, the Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center announced last week. [Read more . . .](#)

Not a Lock: Youth Who Stay Closer to Home Do Better than Those in Detention, Texas Study Shows

A broad study of reforms in the Texas Juvenile Justice Department "puts a nail in the coffin" of the strategy of youth prisons as a public safety option, said the director of the Juvenile Justice Strategy Group of the Annie E. Casey Foundation, which funded the report. Most strikingly, said Nate Balis of Casey, the report shows that youth released from a juvenile correction facility were 21 percent more likely to be rearrested than a youth under supervision of a [local](#) juvenile probation department. [Read more . . .](#)

North Dakota Launches Justice Reinvestment Initiative

Leaders from both political parties and all three branches of government gathered on Jan. 26th in Memorial Hall at the State Capitol to launch a review of North Dakota's criminal justice system to address pressures on the system and avert costly future expansions of the state's [Read more . . .](#)

Campaign for Youth Justice

Momentum for Youth Justice in 2016

The year 2016 has started off very well for youth justice issues, as actions and movements throughout the country have raised hopes of a positive evolution towards reforming and ending the adultification of youth. On the national level, the most important step at the beginning of this year was [taken by President Obama](#), who used his executive authority to end the use of solitary confinement for youth in the federal prison system. Almost at the same time, the [U.S. Supreme Court ruled](#) that its *Miller v. Alabama* decision, which found that a mandatory sentence of life without parole for juveniles is unconstitutional under the 8th Amendment, was retroactive. [Read more . . .](#)

The Detriments of Direct File

Direct File occurs when a state has given the prosecutor power to file charges against a juvenile directly in adult criminal court. When a prosecutor exercises their discretion by choosing to file directly to adult criminal court they effectively override any juvenile or family court jurisdiction over a case. Direct file allows the prosecutor to hold all of the power in determining where to bring charges and what type of sentence a youth may receive if convicted. Allowing the prosecutor to direct file is problematic because many prosecutors want to go for the most severe punishment and do not fully take into account important considerations for unique to each youth in the same way that a judge who could allow a transfer would consider. [Read more . . .](#)

Mental Health and Juvenile Justice

Mental Illness and Juvenile Offenders

Abstract: Within the past decade, reliance on the juvenile justice system to meet the needs of juvenile offenders with mental health concerns has increased. Due to this tendency, research has been conducted on the effectiveness of various intervention and treatment programs/approaches with varied success. Recent literature suggests that because of interrelated problems involved for youth in the juvenile justice system with mental health issues, a dynamic system of care that extends beyond mere treatment within the juvenile justice system is the most promising. [Read more . . .](#)

Commentary: A Progressive Policy on Solitary

Curtailing the use of seclusion, or solitary confinement, is a priority across the nation and one that Colorado's Division of Youth Corrections (DYC) has had success in addressing. The state's progressive seclusion policy, crafted in conjunction with the Colorado American Civil Liberties Union, has resulted in only four instances since October in which youth seclusion has exceeded four hours. The single longest stretch a youth was in seclusion was six hours. [Read more . . .](#)

The Juvenile Justice Corner continued from page 1

goals of this team is to help facility operations with resolving escalating incidents prior to any physical intervention. So far, we have used the CRT about 8 times, with each time resulting in a successful outcome.

We currently have 130 matches with Mentoring4Success! This includes both youth who have been in the correctional facilities, as well as youth who are on probation in the community.

KJCC is finishing up the 2015-2016 year of annual training, where all of our staff was trained in the Mental Health Training Curriculum for Juvenile Justice (MHTC-JJ).

We have started a new clothing process at KJCC. If you've been to the facility to visit one of the juveniles, you may have noticed they are now in blue scrubs and grey t-shirts/sweatshirts. This has been a really positive change for many different reasons.

Several of our staff recently assisted a young man who was trying to obtain his crime prevention badge for the Boy Scouts! He visited with several of our staff and even had a photo shoot with our Investigator's gear! It is one of the ways that our staff are giving back to the community.

A group of students from the University of Kansas volunteer at KJCC, donating their time and knowledge to tutor our students. Rock Chalk!!

KJCC has polycom capability! We will soon be able to facilitate the video visitation/contact with our community partners.

We will soon be painting our facility and are excited about our "makeover". You should start to see some of the changes over the next few months when you come to visit.

In partnership with our medical contractor, Corizon, we will soon provide family therapy for youth and their families who wish to partake. This is an exciting opportunity that we are embarking on and we are thrilled to have yet one more way to help families build stronger relationships.

There are so many more things happening and on our horizon, as we continue to improve what we do in order to better assist the youth and their families. Please feel free to contact us or come by to visit in person!

Human Trafficking

Here's What We Actually Know About Human Trafficking In America

Earlier this month, the U.S. Department of Justice quietly released [a report](#) they had commissioned on "legislative, legal and public opinions strategies that work" to combat human trafficking in America. What emerges from it is an interesting portrait of a solution in search of a crisis. [Read more . . .](#)

Hotline, FBI Report Different Stats on HT Reports

There were 365 calls to the National Human Trafficking Resource Center hotline placed from Missouri in 2015, which identified 67 cases of forced labor or sex trafficking in the state, according to the center's annual report. The hotline reported 55 cases in Missouri in 2014. Fifty-eight of the 2015 cases in Missouri were sex-trafficking, [Read more . . .](#)

North Dakota agencies putting state funding to work to combat human trafficking

North Dakota will soon have more staff fighting human trafficking and victims will have better access to emergency housing, legal help and other services using new state grants. The state recently awarded about \$1.15 million in human trafficking grants that were set aside during last year's legislative session. Those dollars, along with [Read more . . .](#)

Florida Sees Rise in Human Trafficking Cases

National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) recently released 2015 data from its hotline. In 2015, 407 cases of human trafficking were reported to the NHTRC from Florida, which is up from the 364 human trafficking cases reported the previous year. Since 2007, [Read more . . .](#)

Sex Slaves in SoCal: LAPD Shifts Approach to Help Human Trafficking Victims

"They could be your daughter and you may not even know it," Dr. Stephany Powell stated as she described victims of human trafficking. Powell first got to know victims while working for the Los Angeles Police Department's VICE squad. Currently, she runs a non-profit called [Journey Out](#) that helps sex trafficking victims recover. Powell said if someone engaged in prostitution is being "pimped," that person is considered a victim of human trafficking. According to [Read more and watch video . . .](#)

Colorado College Professor Wants to Aim Reliable Data at Human-Trafficking Policies

How effective are human-trafficking laws? That's essentially the question Colorado College Political Science Assistant Professor Dana Wittmer, along with professors at Texas Christian University and Northeastern University, wanted to answer when they began researching their [Read more . . .](#)

Ending human trafficking and modern-day slavery ought to be every American's concern: editorial

It's hard to believe that real slaves, people forced to work long hours through threats of violence or coercion, are living in our midst. Yet they are, [Read more and watch video . . .](#)