

Kansas News

State to Shutter Larned Juvenile Correctional Facility, Citing Dropping Inmate Counts

Kansas will close a western Kansas juvenile correctional facility, leaving Topeka as the only location in the state for juveniles. The Kansas Department of Corrections said it will shutter its Larned juvenile facility during the next year, citing dropping inmate populations. The monthly average number of prisoners has fallen by 30 percent since 2010. [Read more . . .](#)

Functional Family Therapy Expanding

In December 2015, Kansas Department of Corrections – Juvenile Services (KDOC-JS) contracted with Eckerd Kids to provide Functional Family Therapy (FFT) services to eight southeastern judicial districts (4th, 6th, 11th CR, 11th LB/CK, 13th, 14th, 19th, and the 31st). FFT is an intensive therapy model program administered according to evidentiary-based practices to achieve sustainable outcomes that reduce individual recidivism and improve the quality of life for the family and the youth who completes the treatment. The FFT model administers therapy in three major phases (engagement, behavior change, and generalization), all of which must be completed to finish treatment. The average time it takes to complete treatment is 12 weeks. The Program's capacity is to serve between 35-41 families at any given time. The program is funded by the legislature's allocation of \$500,000 from reductions in group-home utilization to secure evidence-based programs. [Continued next page . . .](#)

MST Expanding into Johnson County

In 2013, the Kansas Department of Corrections – Juvenile Services (KDOC-JS) contracted with PACES Inc. of Wyandotte County and began piloting Multisystemic Therapy (MST) in the 29th JD (Wyandotte County of Kansas City, KS). MST is a family and community-based treatment program that focuses on addressing community and family issues that can impact juvenile offenders along with their homes and families, schools and teachers, neighbourhoods and friends. Goals of the program include having the juvenile remain in the home while services are provided, remain in school and/or employed, and having no new arrests. Referrals for MST in the 29th JD have been made by Court Services, Juvenile Community Corrections and the Court.

After three years of successful operation, reviews of the program indicated lower numbers of high and moderate risk youth were eligible for MST than had been projected. To increase the number of referrals, at the end of 2015 KDOC-JS began offering MST services to the 10th JD (Johnson County), Community Corrections Probation Office. In its first six months of operating in the 10th JD, the success of the program has led to an expansion of referrals to now be received from the 10th JD's Court Services Office. It is anticipated that Court Services of the 10th JD will begin making MST referrals no later than November 2016. By increasing the number of referrals for services to include both the 29th and 10th JDs, the program will hopefully operate at an optimum level and sustain a completion rate of over 75 %.

From The Council of State Governments

A Message - The Council of State Governments Justice Center's Executive Committee Chair and Vice-Chair

Friends and Colleagues,
The tragedies of the past week weigh heavily on us. As public safety officials in our respective states, we were outraged to see the very people working to protect the public murdered because of the uniform they wear. [Read more . . .](#)

Human Trafficking in Kansas

Human Trafficking Expert Shares Tips with Topeka YWCA for Identifying Potential Victims

Sex trafficking victims often display extremely inappropriate sexual behaviors, particularly for their age, expert Sharon Sullivan said. Other signs that someone might be a victim of such trafficking include their use of multiple cellphones; the presence of clothes, jewelry or handbags the person is unlikely to be able to afford; and the presence of tattoos that might "brand" the victim as belonging to a trafficker, Sullivan said at the Summer YWCA Network Luncheon. [Read more . . .](#)

Ex-Sex Industry Member Shares her Story

"When I was four I was sexually abused by a neighborhood teenage kid. Two years later, that's when it started with my dad inside the house," said a survivor of sex trafficking. At the 2016 Human Trafficking Conference in Manhattan, she shared her journey from child sexual abuse to working at a strip club to eventually becoming a heroin addict. [Read more and watch report . . .](#)

The Juvenile Justice Corner

By Randy Bowman, Director DOC – Juvenile Community-Based Services

The month of July brings many things to our lives, the warmth of the Kansas summer sun, the peak of summer activities before school begins again in mid-August, the ripening of a variety of Kansas grown fruits and vegetables (one person's opinion, there are few things which taste as good as a tomato ripened by the Kansas sun), and the beginning of a new year. Of course this is not the new calendar year celebrated by many across the world, rather the state fiscal year. Each July 1st this "new year" passes without the fanfare of the calendar new year, but none the less, it is an important day in our service to youth.

July of 2016 arrives with more significance for the youth, families, and public we serve than others in recent memory as the first policy changes of Senate Bill (SB) 367 became effective. These policies provide the juvenile justice system a framework to increase the use of the evidence based practices and programs which have been demonstrated to improve outcomes for youth and families to improve public safety. Within this evidence, an area of research that is too often overlooked is the implementation process for these evidence based practices and programs. Based upon the research, we are most likely to achieve our goals of improved outcomes for youth and public safety when we understand the stages of implementation and that if one or more stages are left incomplete, it can disrupt the fidelity of implementation negatively impacting long-term effectiveness and sustainability.

This evidence identifies four stages of implementation. The Exploration phase (months 1-6), identifies the policy areas for attention and then selects specific policies for development and implementation. In the Installation phase (months 6-12), policy details are identified. [Continued next page . . .](#)

Disproportionate Minority Contact Eliminating Racial and Ethnic Disparities

Prosecuting Youth as Adults Creates Racial Disparities and 'Justice-By-Geography'

Each year, California prosecutors charge hundreds of youth in the adult criminal justice system through a power called "[direct file](#)." Prosecutors make the decision to direct file behind closed doors without considering a youth's background, mental health, trauma history, degree of participation in the offense or potential for rehabilitation. Direct file also does not allow for many due process protections — for example, no hearing before a judge and no right to appeal. [Read more . . .](#)

In California, Race Gap Widens to Race Crater on Juvenile Transfer Policy

A true measure of racial disparity in the juvenile justice system compares the outcomes, at any or many points, for youths of a different race who've been accused of the same offense. That is not a data depth-level that *Youth Services Insider* has seen much information about. The Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice released a [slew of information](#) about "direct file," the process through which prosecutors can originate a juvenile's case in adult court for certain offenses. The reports do not chase the connection between race and outcome to that apples-to-apples offense level. But combined with data from the state's Department of Juvenile Justice, CJCJ brings into specific relief a disturbing trend in the state. [Read more . . .](#)

Juvenile Justice Information Exchange

New York Art Exhibit Hopes to Spark Conversation on Female Incarceration

A self-portrait by artist Brittany Knapp appears to call out in agony, begging onlookers to help. The life-sized image of a nearly-naked young woman is tethered at the wrist, a wooden three-dimensional cutout, hauntingly realistic against a darker plywood background. "They strapped me down with the leather restraints like you see in the movies," said Knapp, now 27. She was 16, incarcerated and suffering from mental illness when she was given an antipsychotic drug that caused hallucinations. [Read more . . .](#)

Reading Difficulty in Young Children Linked to Later Trouble with the Law

Every young life starts out with promise, and the adults who love a child yearn for that child to have a bright future. But what if a simple barrier at an early age sets a child up for failure? Difficulty in reading is such a barrier. Poor reading skill is a predictor of, among other things, involvement in the juvenile justice system. "The literature shows a clear correlation between a grade-level reading problem and, later on, incarceration in the juvenile justice system" [Read more . . .](#)

National News

House Judiciary Committee Reauthorizes Federal Juvenile Justice Block Grants

WASHINGTON — House lawmakers say the reauthorization of a major grant program could encourage more federal funding for juvenile justice programs. The House Judiciary Committee approved legislation ([HR 68](#)) to reauthorize the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant program, which lapsed in 2009 and has received no funding since 2013. The [program](#) provides grants for [state and local initiatives](#) that hold youth accountable for their behavior in ways that are appropriate for their age and development, such as graduated sanctions [Read more](#)

A New Season For Youth Justice Reform

Summer has begun, and while some kids will be enjoying their first taste of freedom, others will be doing anything but. On any given day, more than 54,000 youth in the U.S. are being held under lock and key in residential placement facilities. In New York alone, over 1,600 youth are in confinement. And in this current moment, a kid in prison in almost any other State would also be hundreds of miles away from their home. We have essentially taken the structure of the [Read more](#)

NC prison system to focus on getting inmates ready for re-entry

North Carolina's prison and juvenile justice system has had many recent notable accomplishments. Our juvenile crime rate has decreased for six consecutive years while the number of juveniles housed in youth development and juvenile detention centers also decreased significantly. Offenders under the age of 18 who were adjudicated and sentenced to prison as adults are no longer placed in solitary confinement. Instead, we have implemented a program that takes into account the developmental needs of this particular age [Read more](#)

Report looks at ways to change juvenile justice system in Virginia

A [new report](#) outlines steps the Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice, the Task Force on Juvenile Correction Centers and the community across the Commonwealth can take to keep families intact and communities safe. The Reinvest in Supportive Environments for Youth Campaign Coalition, or RISE for Youth, released a report Tuesday advocating for the implementation of an improved model, replacing outdated prisons with smaller [Read more](#)

Several States Look to Keep Teenagers Out of Criminal Court

This year, several states have passed or are considering reforms that aim to reduce the number of teenagers charged in adult criminal court. Some of the most aggressive changes focus on limiting prosecutors' authority to charge juveniles in adult court without a judicial hearing — a process known as direct file. [Read more](#)

For One Memphis Baker, Juvenile Justice Is Part of the Recipe

Lauren Wilson Young has been baking cookies for more than 30 years, starting from when she was just a little girl. She started Sweet LaLa's Bakery with her high school sweetheart husband Tommy out of their home back in 2001. The company is named for the nickname given to her by her nieces and nephews, Aunt LaLa. She initially began baking for family and friends, but the orders soon increased beyond familial bonds. At the same time, Young served on the board for Juvenile Intervention and Faith-Based Follow-up, where she now serves as board chair. [Read more](#)

Bill would lighten burden for juvenile offenders

The state Senate recently passed legislation to promote transparency, best practices and better outcomes for children involved in the juvenile justice system in Massachusetts, according to Brian A. Joyce, D-Milton. The bill updates various areas of the law relating to juvenile justice to encourage rehabilitation and positive future outcomes for youth, reduce recidivism and ensure fair treatment of children. [Read more](#)

Priorities Check: Education vs. Incarceration

"Don't tell me your values," Vice President Joe Biden has said. "Show me your budget and I will tell you your values." If this is true, and I believe it is, then, as a nation, we have to ask some hard questions about how we value education versus incarceration. [A first-of-its-kind analysis released today by the Department of Education](#) found that, over the past three decades, state and local budgets for prisons and jails, adjusted for inflation, grew more than twice as fast as did spending on public elementary and secondary education. [Read more](#)

Females: Juvenile Justice Issues - updates . . .

Females Account for a Larger Proportion of Juvenile Drug Cases

In a data brief released by Reclaiming Futures, an overview of recent trends in the relative rates of drug-related arrest among female and male juveniles is provided. It is widely known that arrest rates for adolescents have steadily declined over the past two decades. During this time, we've also seen a gradual shift in the nation's juvenile justice practices away from the use of out-of-home placement for minor, non-violent offenses and toward more treatment-oriented, trauma-sensitive and community-based responses. [Read more](#)

Human Trafficking

Spotting the Signs of Human Trafficking

Catherine Pisha has a legitimate safety concern. What will her pimp do if she tells a doctor she's in danger? "Feeling like I screw up and if I say too much or give the wrong answer, who knows what is going to happen to me?" Pisha said. [Read more and watch report](#)

Why Human Trafficking is a Public Health Problem

You might think that when a trafficking victim escapes, their life is saved. In reality, though, survival is much more complicated. My journey of survival began nearly 20 years ago, and continues to this day. It is marked by hurdles, as well as by surprising gifts like losing my sight, discovering art and receiving life-changing, holistic, trauma-informed care. It has also been marked by our nation's failure to call trafficking what it is: a public health problem. [Read and watch report](#)

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Functional Family Therapy Expanding continued

On January 29, 2016, an Eckerd Kid's FFT Team of three therapists, one supervising therapist, and a program director, began providing Functional Family Therapy services to juvenile offenders, ages 11 through 18, reporting moderate or high-risk levels with a recommended disposition of out-of-home placement (for the first-time as to the case at hand) by either the court or probation (Community Corrections and Court Services). Referrals remained low from its inception through March.

With the passage of SB367, on April 12, 2016 the target population was expanded to include youth who had been previously removed from the home and were in jeopardy of another removal. Additionally, the population was expanded to include the youth who had been housed in YRCII's to transition them home. Notwithstanding, all referrals must still otherwise meet the established target population criteria (juvenile offense, risk to reoffend, age). Long term outcomes, measured at one year post FFT completion, are not yet available, however as of June 30, 2016, 26 families are receiving services as a family unit in the community instead of their youth being removed from the home.

The goal is to offer FFT statewide. KDOC-JS is in the process of working with Eckerd Kids to amend Eckerd's contract to service four additional judicial districts and of requesting a bid proposal for the remaining districts. We hope to see FFT services being provided statewide by January 2017.

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finalized and approved, followed by the establishment of a training plan and conducting the training. The Initial Implementation phase (months 12-24) piloting of assessments, testing and monitoring of data collection, going live with policies, and regular and wide reporting of progress becomes the primary focus. And then the Sustaining Full Implementation phase (24+ months) begins the initial evaluation and program assessments, modification of policies and programs as needed, continued capacity-building and ongoing training.

SB367 recognized this body of research in two primary ways. First the phased implementation dates (ex. July 2016, January 2017, etc.) give authority to, and time for, the many state and local organizations that make up our juvenile justice system to develop the policies, training, risk assessment, and program standards specified in the bill. Second, the establishment of the juvenile justice oversight committee for the purpose of overseeing the implementation of these reform measures intended to improve the state's juvenile justice system over the long term.

Here in July of 2016, for the first effective dates of SB367, the Installation phase most accurately describes the current progress. It is my hope that our many Kansas juvenile justice stakeholders will view implementation through this research lens, and with each contribution to this work recognizes the importance of implementation and the time required to do it correctly.