

Kansas News

Juvenile Sex Offender Assessment and Treatment

KDOC-JS is pleased to announce a new state-wide sex offender assessment and treatment program in collaboration with Clinical Associates. Improving outcomes for youth, families, and communities while also protecting public safety are top priorities for DOC. In tandem with the passage of SB 367, this contract will provide necessary services for youth on a statewide level while also keeping youth in their home communities whenever possible.

Clinical Associates was established in 1992 and the company has continued to grow and expand the services provided both in terms of the types of services and the populations served. Clinical Associates currently contracts with the State of Kansas to offer sex offender treatment services as well as sexual predator transition program services and sex predator evaluation services for the adult population. Clinical Associates has provided evaluation and treatment services to sex offenders for over two decades and has experience contracting with the State of Kansas, Federal Probation and Parole, and the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

The DOC contract with Clinical Associates is effective on July 1, 2016 and Clinical Associates will begin accepting referrals for assessments immediately. Additional services provided under this contract include: reassessments (to occur every six months); individual and group treatment; family therapy; parent support groups (optional for parents); and booster sessions for youth who have successfully completed treatment while in a juvenile correctional facility. Clinical Associates will be scheduling education sessions across the state as part of its effort to partner with each community.

KDOC-JS will disseminate additional information for your reference. Questions regarding this contract can be directed to Seth Wescott, Director, Sex Offender Treatment Program, Clinical Associates, at 913-677-3553 (office), 913-449-3106 (cell), or wescott@clinical-assoc.com or Megan Bradshaw, KDOC-JS, at 785-296-0897 or megan.bradshaw@doc.ks.gov.

Reentry Services Making its Mark in Juvenile Services

In contrast to adult corrections, 100 percent of juvenile offenders in Kansas will be returning home, making reentry services a critical component of the juvenile correctional facilities. With reentry services, the Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC) is able to address domains that directly affect recidivism. [Read more](#)

A Diploma Creates Hope for Juvenile Correctional Youth Resident

As a former high school student in Abilene, 18-year-old Dylan, whose real name is being withheld for privacy issues, had never considered graduating a goal or even relevant. But Thursday, earning a diploma had new meaning for the Larned Juvenile Correctional Facility (LJCF) resident whose expected release is in 2018. [Read more](#)

Working Both Sides of the Fence

At Kansas Juvenile Correctional Complex (KJCC), the mentoring coordinator Ken Davis has matched 165 in just a short 1.5 years. [Read more](#)

Juvenile Justice gets half its budget for now

Admittedly, it makes planning difficult, but the 20th Judicial District Juvenile Services will only have the first half of its 2017 budget to work with for now. The Barton County Commission Monday morning approved the request for the department's 2017 Half Budget as prepared by Director Laurie White. The budget was prepared based on new regulations from the Kansas Department of Corrections – Juvenile Services, which funds many of the programs the department offers, said Juvenile Intake and Assessment Coordinator Marissa Woodmansee. [Read more](#)

Training Opportunities – Webinars - SAMHSA

JJ Learning Community: Addressing Trauma

This meeting of the learning community will focus on the core components of a trauma-informed juvenile diversion system. It will address all the critical elements contained in the NCMHJJ recent publication, Key Elements to Developing a Trauma-Informed Juvenile Justice Diversion Program for Youth with Behavioral Health Conditions. Participants will learn about the following eight key implementation domains: leadership, environment, engagement and involvement, cross sector collaboration, intervention continuum, funding strategies, workforce development, and quality assurance and evaluation. [To register](#)

The Juvenile Justice Corner

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

The month of May has been active across the Kansas juvenile justice system as each part of the system begins the important work of implementing Senate Bill 367. With staggered implementation dates beginning in July 2016 and then crossing through calendar years 2017 through 2019, there is important work to be done immediately, and work that will not commence for some time. In addition to this timeframe, SB367 also defined implementation responsibilities to specific organizations representing the many components of a comprehensive juvenile justice system.

Defining roles for each organization in implementation of SB367 is reflective of the structure of juvenile justice. Like most jurisdictions in the United States, our juvenile justice system is a shared responsibility of law enforcement, schools, courts, and juvenile corrections to name but a few examples, as well as all the three branches of State government and local government. Coordination and information sharing across the many parts of the system is always important to achieving outcomes for juvenile justice involved children and providing for public safety, and will be a key to achieving the full potential of this legislation. [Continued next page . . .](#)

National News

Mental Health Awareness Must be More Than One-Month-a-Year Issue

43.8 million. That's how many people deal with mental health illness in a year in America. Put another way, that's one out of every five people. One out of every 25 people experience serious mental illness. Thirteen percent of children aged 8-15 will have to cope with a mental disorder at some point, and within the juvenile justice system, seven out of 10 youths have at least one mental condition they are dealing with. In addition, more than a quarter of homeless adults struggle with serious mental illness. [Read more](#)

Lower Costs & Less Crime: Criminal & Juvenile Justice Reform Options for Florida

"Tough on crime" policies of the 1980s and 90s were meant to improve public safety, but recently crime has continued to decline across the nation, even in the face of "softer" approaches to punishment. Florida's crime rate is no different, but the Sunshine State continues to have one of the largest prison populations in the nation, despite dwindling corrections budgets and diminishing returns to public safety. Florida can no longer rely on the outdated and inefficient policies of the past, and must begin to consider policies and practices that not only keep Floridians safe, but also address the two primary drivers of growth in the criminal justice system: over-incarceration and recidivism. [Read more](#)

Better Collaboration Key to Helping Crossover Youth, Panelists Say

Youth workers and researchers urged better collaboration between child welfare and juvenile justice to help young people who end up in both systems at a Capitol Hill hearing on Tuesday. The Senate Judiciary hearing, held as part of [National Foster Care Month](#), looked at how jurisdictions across the country are finding ways to help "dual status" or "crossover" youth by sharing information, staff and responsibility for outcomes. [Read more](#)

Information Technology Update

By Denise Herrman, Business Analyst
DOC - Information Technology

As we get closer to implementing KIDS, the new **Kansas Information Data System**, please be sure all users have a TRAIN account. This is imperative as users will be granted sign on permission only after appropriate system training has been completed.

As previously mentioned, there are no major changes to the screen appearances from the initial training. However, you made a few suggestions for improvements and we listened. Mozilla Firefox is no longer the only ISP host that allows system access. The application has been modified for accessibility via any of the three major browsers. Also, the module previously referred to as the Relationship module is now known as the Affiliations module. In this program, users will not only have the ability to recognize a youth's family member, but also be able to make the affiliation to a person associated to a youth in the capacity of a friend, or professional role (both inside and outside of the agency).

Reminder: that current Supervision Plans and Placements will not be migrated to the new application. As a result, it will be the responsibility of the end users to close these programs out of the old system (using Regulatory Removal). You will then be responsible for opening these programs electronically once the application goes live.

Annie E Casey Foundation

Report Highlights Family Leaders' Fight for Change in Juvenile Justice

Families are emerging as savvy and determined leaders in a movement to transform juvenile justice, according to a new report by the Institute for Policy Studies. Parents and family members of justice-involved youth who began by fighting for their own kids are forming organizations and supporting and rallying other parents and family members. They are passing on lessons in everything from how to rein in the school-to-prison pipeline to how to initiate a federal civil rights investigation. [Read more . . .](#)

PEW Charitable Trusts

West Virginia's 2015 Juvenile Justice Reform

In 2015, West Virginia enacted S.B. 393, a bill to improve juvenile justice policies based on recommendations from a bipartisan state task force. The law will reduce the placement of low-level youth offenders in state-funded facilities and steer resources toward community-based sanctions and services that cost less and are more effective at reducing recidivism. The changes are projected to cut the number of committed youth by at least 16 percent over five years, saving an estimated \$20 million, which will be invested in evidence-based community interventions for juvenile [Read more . . .](#)

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

Georgia Gov. Deal Aims to Cut 'Extraordinarily High' Number of Offenders on Probation

Fresh off another round of changes to **Georgia's criminal justice system**, Gov. Nathan Deal said he'll urge lawmakers next year to tackle the stubborn problem of the "extraordinarily high" number of offenders on probation in Georgia. He wants to target the rise of "split sentencing" in Georgia – a practice in which a defendant serves part of the sentence behind bars, and then often a greater time outside prison. He called it an "unusual phenomenon, and we don't know why it's happening." [Read more . . .](#)

R.I. Falls Short in Meeting Treatment Needs as Alternative to Courts, Prison

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — One of the main goals of proposed legislation aimed at changing the state's probation system is diverting people who need mental health or drug counseling out of the courts and into treatment, but some observers said the bills, introduced last week, won't do much good if there aren't enough programs to accommodate the diverted suspects. Megan N. Clingham, the state's mental health advocate, lauded the goal of getting the mentally ill out of the courts and prison systems, but said she was concerned that the state's mental-health-treatment infrastructure, as it stands today, isn't up to the job. [Read more . . .](#)

A Slew of Bills at the General Assembly Aims to Fix a Probation System 'In Crisis'

PROVIDENCE — Ten months after Governor Raimondo commissioned a panel to study the state's probation system, a cluster of legislative proposals have been introduced in the General Assembly that would enact many of its recommendations. The Justice Reinvestment Working Group described Rhode Island's probation system as "in crisis." The state overuses probation, it found, doesn't do a good job of tracking the people on it, and overloads the prisons by making it too easy to send probationers back to the Adult Correctional Institutions. [Read more . . .](#)

National News

Bill Would Let State Share Juvenile Data

The Administrative office of the courts, under the direction of an Arkansas Supreme Court commission, has been working on an assessment to better treat offenders that enter the juvenile justice system. [Read more . . .](#)

These kids needed help, not a prison sentence

If there's one thing I've learned in my five years working with incarcerated youth and their families, it's that there is always more to a case than what's on paper. As a lead facilitator with the **Albert Cobarrubias Justice Project**, I help families in my hometown of San Jose, Calif. participate in the legal defense of their loved ones. We do this in court by presenting a more complete picture of the person on trial—one that includes their relationship to community, their family background, their hopes and dreams. [Read more . . .](#)

Human Trafficking

Human Trafficking and Opioid Abuse

Dr. Hanni Stoklosa is an emergency physician at Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School, and Executive Director of HEAL Trafficking. She recently joined a panel of experts to brief the **HHS Task Force to Prevent and End Human Trafficking**. OTIP interviewed Dr. Stoklosa to learn more about the links between opioid abuse and human trafficking. [Read more . . .](#)

Ending the Data Desert: Successful Strategies Against Human Trafficking

Polaris hosted an event with Google in Washington D.C. exploring the latest research on human trafficking in the U.S. In conversation with Polaris CEO Brad Myles, attorney Dan Roisman and academics Amy Farrell, Vanessa Bouché, and Sarah Godoy discussed everything from public perceptions of human trafficking to effective enforcement against it. Over the course of the panel discussion, they sought to answer one question: how successful has the U.S. been in fighting human trafficking, and how can it improve? [Read and watch more . . .](#)

Human Trafficking Case Connected to Charlotte Area

Children are targeted and taken advantage of right here in our own backyard. Police are investigating a human trafficking ring that may have ties to Charlotte. "The coach and the family had taken what he thought was his cash cow," said Terry Johnson, Alamance County Sheriff. [Read and watch more . . .](#)

Five myths Color the Crime of Human Trafficking

NEW YORK (Thomson Reuters Foundation) – Human trafficking can be found in any country, and its victims can be nearly anyone, experts say. Here are five myths about trafficking: [Read more . . .](#)

State, Federal Officials Track an Increase in Human Trafficking Cases Across Indiana

INDIANAPOLIS – The U.S. Attorney's office is tracking an increased number of human trafficking cases across Indiana, as law enforcement increases efforts ahead of the Indianapolis 500. In the past three weeks, four large arrests involving human trafficking have been made statewide including in Lafayette, Terre Haute, Fort Wayne and Muncie. "I don't think it's unique," an undercover officer said who works on human trafficking cases. [Read and watch more . . .](#)

Missouri Grapples with Human Trafficking

The descent into slavery began with a friendship. Jessica Luebbert, a Jefferson City native, worked as a bartender and dancer in Columbia. Sean, a regular customer at the bar where Luebbert worked, would tell her he simply wanted to talk with her, she said. That's something not many customers desired. "Sean paid me about \$100 an hour just to sit and talk with him," said Luebbert. "It was regular conversation. Nothing perverted. He was a friend." [Read more . . .](#)

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Across the system, many local Juvenile Corrections Advisory Boards (JCAB) are meeting to discuss implementation needs, community stakeholder have convened to assess needs and opportunities, neighboring juvenile community corrections directors are meeting to exchange ideas, and service providers are planning to capitalize on the opportunity to offer services in new places and new ways. While these efforts are essential, they must also be supported from each branch of State government.

Toward that purpose, the Supreme Court with the Office of Judicial Administration (OJA) and the Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC) have individual, and several shared, responsibilities for implementation of SB367. To accomplish these responsibilities, each agency has formed the initial teams who will lead and coordinate efforts to develop standards, training, regulations, and distribution methodologies for state resources. Our responsibilities are in addition to those of law enforcement, education, child welfare and others who will make incredibly important contributions to implementation. All of these efforts will be enhanced later this summer as the Governor, Legislative leadership, Chief Justice, Attorney General, and specific state agencies make their appointments to the Kansas Juvenile Oversight Committee who is tasked with overseeing the implementation of the reform measures intended to improve the state's juvenile justice system.

Understandably, with this legislation having just been signed into law a few weeks ago, and an implementation schedule that will span more than three years, there is much more ahead than in the completed column at this time. I look forward to working with everyone as we begin to move more and more items into the completed column.