25 Receive High School Diplomas at KJCC

Greeting KJCC Graduates, from right to left are: Steve Backman (KJCC, Lawrence Gardner High School, Principal); Chris Modtlemog (Smoky Hill Education Service Center, Executive Director); Joe Norwood (KJC, Secretary); Tim Williams (KDOC, Deputy Secretary); Shane Roehr (KJC, Superintendent); Megan Miller (KJC, Deputy Superintendent); Keith Braidsaw (KJC, Contract Programs & Finance Executive Director); Wendy Leiker (IJCF, Superintendent); Carolyn Campbell (KS State Board of Education) & Janet Waugh (KS State Board of Education)

In front of their family and friends, their peers and corrections staff, 25 young men received high school or GED diplomas, symbolizing both their hard work in school within KJCC and also the opportunities that lie ahead for them. Read more . . . .

Senate Confirms Joe Norwood as Corrections Secretary

Joe Norwood, nominee for the position of Secretary of the Kansas Department of Corrections, was confirmed unanimously by the Kansas Senate Tuesday, January 17. Read more . . .

Kansas Lawmakers May Lengthen Timeline for Juvenile Justice Reforms

As they gavel in for the 2017 session, Kansas lawmakers are considering delaying juvenile justice reforms enacted last year. Last year’s bill was intended to steer low-level juvenile offenders into diversion and treatment programs rather than group homes and detention facilities. It had broad bipartisan support, and Gov. Sam Brownback called it the premier legislation of the 2016 session Read more . . .

Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT) to All 31 Judicial Districts in Kansas

The Kansas Department of Corrections Division of Juvenile Services is in the process of finalizing a contract to partner with Correctional Counseling, Inc. to make Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT) available to all 31 judicial districts in Kansas, allowing for consistency between all judicial districts.

MRT consists of four phases: 1. Engagement (steps 1-3); 2. Creating Change (steps 4-8); 3. Reinforcing Permanent Change (steps 9-12); and Transitioning to the Future (steps 13-16). The program is designed to influence how offenders think about moral issues and make moral judgments. As opposed to many other cognitive-behavioral therapies aimed at juvenile offenders, MRT is an open-ended group (i.e., new youth can enter the group at any time and are incorporated into a group of peers who have already completed a number of steps). This structure allows new youth to better understand the MRT process as they progress through the group. Youth in phases 3 and 4 may become mentors for new members. In addition to group sessions, participants complete exercises and steps as homework and present their work to peers in the group setting.

The MRT Training for Group Facilitators is a 32-hour (4-day) training seminar. Anyone who completes the basic MRT training is authorized to facilitate MRT groups. More information and the MRT Training plan will be announced later as it becomes available.

Children in Need of Care: Problem Areas with Juvenile Justice Reform

A top Kansas lawmaker is now acknowledging that a sweeping program to get more kids out of juvenile detention centers and into foster care is falling behind schedule. Rep. Russ Jennings, R-Lakin, said a number of technical and outlier issues has caused the first implementation deadline of Read more . . .

Lawmaker: Kansas Juvenile Justice Reform Needs Refining

A Kansas lawmaker says a program focused on getting more children out of juvenile detention centers and into foster care is falling behind schedule. Republican Rep. Russ Jennings tells the Lawrence Journal World that the Juvenile Justice Reform Act misses its first implementation deadline due to technical and outlier issues. Jennings, who chairs the Read more . . .

At-Home Juvenile Treatment Program Expanding to Improve Outcomes for Juvenile Offenders

February marks one year of the implementation of an innovative approach to juvenile justice in Southeast Kansas, with efforts already improving the way the state addresses juvenile offenders. Read more . . .

State to Roll out Functional Family Therapy for At-Risk Juveniles

Families of young people adjudicated to the Kansas Department of Corrections’ Juvenile Services will soon have a new statewide option that would allow their children to remain in the home. Functional Family Therapy is a new program slated for rollout on Feb. 6 that would give juveniles and Read more . . .

Human Trafficking

Governor, Secretary Norwood Observe Human Trafficking Awareness Month

KANSAS GOVERNOR SAM BROWNBACK proclaims January to be Human Trafficking Awareness Month. Read more . . .

State Working to Combat Human Trafficking

Good for Gov. Sam Brownback, Attorney General Derek Schmidt and several state agencies for raising awareness about human trafficking and taking action to combat the crime. Brownback designated January as Human Trafficking Awareness Month. Schmidt plans to pursue legislation this coming session to increase penalties on those who buy sex. Secretary of Labor Lana Gordon vowed to keep fighting against labor exploitation, which accounts for nearly 20 percent of human trafficking. Read more . . .

Backpage.com Shuts Down Adult Services after Senate Report on Sex Trafficking

An online classified ad service shut down its adult content in the U.S. after a damning investigative report on the eve of a Senate hearing. Backpage.com is accused of facilitating sex trafficking and child prostitution. Read more . . .

Backpage’s Adult Sections Shuttered; Online Sex Traffickers Merely Blinded

Headlines blared when the global classified ad giant Backpage.com shut down its adult section on Monday. The move was a desperate attempt to head off a scathing U.S. Senate subcommittee report linking Backpage to the selling of underage girls for sex. Read more . . .

The Juvenile Justice Corner

By Jim Johnson, Program Consultant DOC - Juvenile Community Based Services

The KDOC-JS Mentoring 4 Success Program

If you ask Ken Davis, director of the Kansas Department of Corrections-Juvenile Services Mentoring 4 Success program, what he likes most about his job, you will likely get a quick response – “It’s about the relationships!” Davis goes on to explain, “Every time you get a match it’s exciting. You see a smile on both party’s faces. It gives you a boost of encouragement.” Every single time it validates the program: Mentoring 4 Success is a program designed to match trained and supervised mentors who volunteer their time to focus on providing juvenile participants with support in developing life and job skills that help the youth be successful in the community.

Davis started matching mentors with mentees three years ago. His first match was on February 1, 2014. Davis has finalized 261 matches to date. During his first six months of establishing the mentoring program in juvenile corrections, Davis focused primarily on finding mentors for juveniles at Kansas Juvenile Correctional Complex. As he developed and grew the program, he has invested more time across the state in local communities and area offices. Davis stated he is willing to go anywhere to meet with staff within a community corrections agency or with a group of potential mentors. He also appreciates the support he has received through a partnership with adult mentorship coordinators statewide as they have helped provide support in areas when he could not be there. Continued next page . . .
Better Still For Our Convicted Youth

Colorado’s most at-risk kids, those being held for convictions on the basis of serious crimes in state-run juvenile detention facilities, are getting some much needed attention. These kids, between the ages of 10 and 21, will all someday be released from state custody. It’s important for society that roughly 330 kids currently held in state facilities become productive citizens who don’t get caught in the revolving door of incarceration. Read more . . .

Study: Juveniles More Likely to Re-Offend if Mother Doesn’t Understand Legal Process

Juvenile first-time offenders whose mother’s involvement in their legal proceedings are much more likely to commit another crime, according to a new study. The study from Michigan State University looked at the cases of more than 300 male juvenile first-time offenders aged 13 to 17. Since juvenile offenders often don’t have a present father in their lives, researchers chose to focus on offenders with female primary guardians. Read more . . .

Tennessee Task Force Seeks Juvenile Justice Overhaul

As the state legislature reconvenes in Nashville this week, a bipartisan group of lawmakers, juvenile court officials, judges, district attorneys and academics are pushing for a major overhaul in Tennessee’s approach to kids who get in trouble with the law. The Juvenile Justice Realignment Task Force on Monday finalized recommendations Read more . . .

Staunton Program to Reduce Youth Re-Incarceration Reports Success

The Shenandoah Valley Juvenile Center is reporting a program launched to help stabilize re-incarceration rates in youth has seen success so far. The Community Placement Program, or CPP, allows for qualifying juveniles convicted of crimes to spend their time close to home, as opposed to being sent to a facility in another part of the state. Read more and watch video . . .

OOJDJP – The Future of Youth Justice

Community Based Approaches to Juvenile Justice

To watch video . . .

The Council of State Governments

School Discipline Consensus Report

The School Discipline Consensus Report presents a comprehensive set of consensus-based and field driven recommendations to improve conditions for learning for all students and educators, better support students with behavioral needs, improve police-school partnerships, and keep students out of the juvenile justice system for minor offenses. Read more and watch video . . .

To read the report . . .

New Hampshire Bills Aim to Tackle Disparities in School Discipline

As elsewhere in the nation, research shows that New Hampshire students who are poor, male, have disabilities or are minorities are more likely to be kicked out of school than their peers are. New legislation hopes to help the Granite State tackle this problem. Read more . . .

Justice Clearinghouse - Training

Autism Awareness for Justice Personnel

Free Webinar, Tuesday, February 7, 2017 12:00 – 1:00 PM

Read more and register . . .

Juvenile Justice Information Exchange

Bridging the Research-to-Practice Gap in Juvenile Justice

Across the past decade, the juvenile justice community has been shifting its thinking from being “tough on crime” to being “smart on crime.” This change has been largely driven by an enhanced understanding of both youth development and the effectiveness of interventions to reduce recidivism and promote positive outcomes for youth. Read more . . .

FFT Alternatives for Adolescent Offenders Should Be Institutionalized Within System

As the state legislature reconvenes in Nashville this week, a bipartisan group of lawmakers, juvenile court officials, judges, district attorneys and academics are pushing for a major overhaul in Tennessee’s approach to kids who get in trouble with the law. The Juvenile Justice Realignment Task Force on Monday finalized recommendations Read more . . .

Trusting the Process

In 2010, reformed drug dealer Thomas Cotton created the faith-based nonprofit Redemption and Advancement Alliance, which encourages men and women to lead healthy, constructive lives free of crime and negativity. Cotton spent 6 1/2 years in prison and understands firsthand the external factors and Read more and watch video . . .

States Must Move Funding from Correctional Facilities to Community-Based Treatment

Across the United States, juvenile arrest rates have reached 40-year lows, dropping precipitously over the past 20 years. As the national juvenile arrest rates have fallen in recent decades, the rate of youth incarceration in the United States has improved as a choice: they can continue to invest in the detrimental and ineffective incarceration of youth, or reinvest in community-based alternatives that address the underlying . Read more . . .

Violent Beginnings: The Hot Dog Story

Every story whether it be fiction, nonfiction, dramatic, happy or sad, all have the same structure, they all have a beginning, a middle and an end. The same goes for people’s lives. The story you are about to read, I can assure you Read more . . .

The Juvenile Justice Corner continued from page 1

The story you are about to read, I can assure you Read more . . .

The Juvenile Justice Corner continued from page 1

GSU Law Cuts School Discipline

As elsewhere in the nation, research shows that New Hampshire students who are poor, male, have disabilities or are minorities are more likely to be kicked out of school than their peers are. New legislation hopes to help the Granite State tackle this problem. Read more . . .