

Kansas News

State KAG Holds Strategic Planning Meeting

On November 13 and 14, 2017, the Kansas Advisory Group on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (KAG) held a strategic planning meeting in the Kansas State Capitol to look at the needs of the state during the juvenile justice reform process, and refocus the use of the state's Title II funding to fill in potential gaps. Dr. Lisa Hutchinson from the Center for Coordinated Assistance to States was brought in to facilitate the meeting through a request to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP).

After educating the KAG members on juvenile justice initiatives and trends proving to be most effective around the country, Dr. Hutchinson then assisted the KAG in prioritizing areas to fund with the state's Title II allocation.

The KAG was established by the state as directed by the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJJPA), to determine, advocate for, and promote the best interests of juveniles in Kansas. The KAG reviews juvenile justice policy and advises policymakers on issues affecting the juvenile justice system and compliance with the federal JJJPA act.

The KAG is comprised of a broad range of community stakeholders in and around the juvenile justice field. It offers vital citizen input into the development of federal and state policy, and juvenile justice related programming. The KAG participates in the development and review of the Title II Formula three-year plan and annual updates, reviews and makes recommendations concerning all federal juvenile justice grant applications, and reviews compliance with the federal JJJPA Core Requirements.

Offender Workforce Development Specialist (OWDS) Graduation Held



32 OWDS Graduates received congratulations from Gov. Sam Brownback and DOC Secretary Joseph Norwood.

On November 8, 2017, 32 staff who work with juvenile and adult offenders graduated from the Offender Workforce Development Specialist course at the Kansas State Capitol. [See news release . . .](#) The graduates completed 160 hours of course-work over a four-month period that also involved 10 full-day class-room sessions. Of the 32 graduates, seven work with juveniles:

Rocadren Lee	3 rd JD	ISO-CCM
Jimmy Zirkle	3 rd JD	ISO-CCM
Rick West	7 th JD	Juvenile Services Officer
Christine Witt	12 th JD	Case Manager, Juv. Corrections
Brett Bruning	21 st JD	Care Coord. Riley Co. Com. Cor.
Rachael Clews	25 th JD	Youth Program Provider
Amber Perdue	KJCC	Corrections Counsellor II

In addition, the following staff who work with juveniles were part of a graduation OWDS class on June 14th, 2017 that had 23 total graduates.

Brooke Charland	18 th JD	Intensive Supervision Officer
Arika Williams	18 th JD	Intensive Supervision Officer II

KDOC offers opportunities each year for staff that work with juvenile or adult offenders to attend Offender Workforce Development Specialist (OWDS) training and become certified. You do not have to be an employee of the KDOC and there is no cost to attend. The next class is scheduled to start in late spring, 2018. For more information on OWDS training in Kansas, contact Jim Chastain at Jim.Chastain@ks.gov for more information on KDOC OWDS resources, [Click here . . .](#)

Reform of KS Juvenile Justice System Raising Concerns, But Immediate Action Unlikely

A massive reform of the Kansas juvenile justice system that lawmakers passed in 2016 has hit some bumps in the road, a legislative committee was told Wednesday, but it is unlikely the panel will recommend major changes, at least not in the upcoming session. [Read more . . .](#)

Want Safer Streets? Start with Smarter Schools

(Opinion) In the midst of local school board election season, Kansans are considering how to get the best outcomes in the classrooms. On the heels of recent youth justice reforms, candidates should demonstrate an understanding of how their work in the schools can reflect the values that led recent youth justice reforms. The leadership and practices of our schools decided in elections like this will make a big [Read more . . .](#)

The Juvenile Justice Corner

By Megan Milner, Director

DOC – Juvenile Community-Based Services

I recently had a conversation with someone about our juvenile justice work in the state. While our conversation ranged in topics, we both concluded that the work we are doing is really all about relationships. It's about people. We cannot make the changes we want or need in our system without genuine relationships and collaboration.

Now, I am well aware that we frequently use the word "collaboration" in association with juvenile justice. What does collaboration really mean? To find this answer, I did exactly what every other knowledgeable and intelligent professional does: I went to Wikipedia! Here, I read that collaboration is "where two or more people or organizations work together to realize or achieve something successfully". This definition sounds simple enough, right? But the reality is that collaboration is hard. It's hard to create shared visions between people, agencies, or groups who have very different philosophies and goals.

Collaboration takes leadership. Impartiality. Objectivity. Perspective. Compromise. I don't know about you, but these qualities do not always come easy to me. I must often work, deliberately, to exhibit these.

Whereas challenging times often produce decreased collaboration, the reality is that the current flux of our system requires *increased* cooperation between agencies and stakeholders. So how can we take practical steps to collaborate with each other?

- Share information – whether it's work-related or your weekend plans, trying sharing small pieces of information relevant to your relationship with someone.
- Find ways to get people in the same room. My mentor always told me "it's hard to hate up close", so try to get people together face-to-face, when possible.
- Listen.
- Listen more.
- Show concern for and efforts to understand the struggles and perspectives of others.

I am confident in my statement that KDOC is making intentional strides to increase collaboration. But it is not only KDOC who is working at this. We have regular meetings (about twice a month, depending on schedules) with the Office of Judicial Administration to work together towards common goals. We meet monthly with the Department of Children and Families to understand how we can better serve kids and families and ensure there are open channels of communication and information sharing. There are many more examples I could share at the state level and I know there are multiple examples of how communities are collaborating in real and necessary ways.

I will not tell you that this is perfect or that we have cornered the market on collaboration. Rather, we recognize that in order for us to succeed at improving juvenile justice in Kansas, there must be true and genuine collaboration at all levels of our system, because this is "the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results." (Andrew Carnegie).

Editor's note – To read more about how you can positively impact your working relationships, improve the efficiency of interagency processes and procedures, and enhance the level of collaboration with your working partners, go to the [Collaborative Justice Website](#).

Kansas News

Vote for Change Leaders – #Catalyst4Change

The #Catalyst4Change awards program was developed by [cFive Solutions, Inc.](#) to recognize and celebrate community supervision change makers who work to impact the lives of their clients and community. There are five finalists for this national award, and two are from Kansas. Voting for this award is open through December 15, 2017.

Jay Holmes – is Deputy Director for Adult Programs in Community Corrections in Sedgwick County DOC. Jay is nominated for his role is developing a local data-driven "justice reinvestment" approach to reduce spending on corrections and reinvest the savings in strategies to increase public safety. [To read more or to vote for Jay . . .](#)

Erin Rodriguez - is the Juvenile Probation Supervisor and Home Court Coordinator for the 5th Judicial District Community Corrections, in Emporia, KS. Erin has developed a variety of programs designed to enable youth on probation to stay in their community while helping them to grow and develop positive skills. The vision of Home Court is to transform the community, one family at a time, by providing an opportunity for every child to achieve their full potential, and to empower the family to guide and sustain their success. [To read more or to vote for Erin . . .](#)

The winners will be recognized at the American Parole and Probation Association's Winter Training Institute in January 2018. [To review the stories of all five finalists . . .](#)

Human Trafficking – Kansas

Wichita Gangs Turning to Human Trafficking

From selling drugs to selling girls, police say Wichita gangs are turning to human trafficking. It's a trend they started seeing within the past three years, likely motivated by money. Det. Brent Huhman with the Exploited and Missing Child Unit combs through a website called "Spotlight" almost daily. [Read more and watch video](#)

Kansas Receives "A" Grade from Human Trafficking Advocacy Group

Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt says Kansas is now one of eight states to receive an **"A" ranking** from **Shared Hope International**, a human trafficking victim's advocacy group. The group issues annual report cards for states on its effort to combat human trafficking, and Kansas has received 92 out of 100 points. Shared Hope says Kansas is the third most-improved state in the nation and one of only two states that increased four grade levels since the group's report card began in 2011. Schmidt says since he took office, Kansas' score has risen from an "F" to an "A." [Read more](#)

2018 DOC-Juvenile Services Training Schedule

Looking ahead to the 2018 calendar year, you can put these dates down for New Employee YLS/CMI training. Updates and other training information will be provided as it is established.

YLS/CMI	Location
March 13, 14, 15	Topeka Parole Office
June 12, 13, 14	Topeka Parole Office
September 11, 12, 13	TBD
December 4, 5, 6	Topeka Parole Office

CJI – The Crime and Justice Institute

Implementing Comprehensive Juvenile Justice Improvement in Kentucky

The population of Kentucky youth housed in juvenile detention centers and other out-of-home placements has fallen by 40 percent in two years, outpacing predictions following the passage of Senate Bill 200 (SB 200), a sweeping juvenile justice improvement bill. [Read more](#)

National News

Georgia Receives NCJA Outstanding Program Award for Juvenile Justice Incentive Grant

The Georgia Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) announced that Georgia has been awarded a National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA) Outstanding Program Award for the Juvenile Justice Incentive Grant Program (JJIG). Georgia's juvenile justice leaders accepted the award during the Criminal Justice Forum on behalf of Governor Nathan Deal. The JJIG is operated by CJCC and the JJIG Funding Committee, but derives its success from the many partnerships and the hard work of local governments, courts, service providers, the Georgia Council on Criminal Justice Reform, and the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice. [Read more](#)

What It Feels Like to Be a Teen in Solitary Confinement

Jaki Murillo was 12 years old when she first entered the juvenile justice system in California. When she was 9, she tells *Teen Vogue*, she was arrested for making "terrorist threats" after telling a teacher that she was going to send her uncles to hurt the teacher; she was then put on probation. A few years later, Jaki started running away from home and skipping school, a violation of her probation. At 12, she was sent to a juvenile detention hall in Los Angeles. [Read more](#)

Campaign for Youth Justice, National Congress of American Indians

November 1 marked the beginning of Native American Heritage Month, which recognizes the 567 American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments and their histories, cultures, and traditions. The U.S. Census Bureau **reports** that 6.6 million people identify as American Indian or Alaska Native, and a little over 40 percent of that population is under the age of 25. [Read more](#)

The National Child Traumatic Stress Network

Fall/Winter 2017 edition

IMPACT is a publication of the National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN). It is produced quarterly by the National Center for Child Traumatic Stress (NCCTS), co-located at UCLA and Duke University. The NCCTS serves as the coordinating body for NCTSN member sites, providing ongoing technical assistance and support. [Read the newsletter](#)

Juvenile Justice Information Exchange

Jackson, Mississippi, Native Working to Change Culture of Suspension in Its Public Schools

Juan Cloy remembers being suspended when he was at Provine High School in the 1980s. He and several friends got in a fight with some kids from the neighborhood at school. Everyone involved got suspended. Of course, the idea of suspension is for kids to stay home, but none of the boys did. He and his friends went outside and walked around the corner to find the boys they got into a fight with in a car. [Read more](#)

Girls Need Safety, Opportunity, Not More Policing

Bad news about girls just seems to keep coming, particularly if you pay attention to popular media. Girls are going "wild," girls are *mean* (and certainly meaner than boys), and girls are even getting as violent as boys. Current media coverage of modern girlhood, at least in the United States, is virtually all grim. It is also clear as to the source of the problem, girls are getting more like boys, and that is bad news for girls. [Read more](#)

Racial Disparities Persist After Years of Juvenile Justice Reform, Models for Change Leaders Say

James Bell, founder and president of the **W. Haywood Burns Institute**, told a gathering of juvenile justice reformers earlier this month that it was time to begin "an uncomfortable" conversation about racial disparities in the youth justice system. He made the comments to Models for Change stakeholders gathered here to discuss the **John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation's** final evaluations of the \$121 million juvenile justice reform initiative, which began in 2004. It ended as MacArthur changed its emphasis from reforming youth justice to jail reform. [Read more](#)

Are Youth of Color Benefiting From Juvenile Justice Reform?

Within the scope of juvenile justice literature, studies highlight the need for both immediate and long-term reform measures. This is clearly pertinent given the existence of racial disparity in terms of treatment and confinement among youth in the United States. In fact, federal and state-level funding has been provided to address this dilemma during the past 10 to 15 years. [Read more](#)

New Juvenile Mental Health Court in Texas Helps Youth Recover as They Are Held Accountable

Over two decades ago, as a favor to a friend, I walked into the very juvenile courtroom that I now have the privilege of presiding over on a daily basis. A racquetball buddy of mine found himself in need of a defense attorney for his son. When I walked into the juvenile courtroom to familiarize myself with the process prior to taking the youngster's case, I knew right then and there that I had found my home away from home. [Read more](#)

Los Angeles Board of Supervisors Votes to Launch 'Historic' Juvenile Diversion Plan

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously Tuesday to adopt an ambitious plan to divert thousands of the county's youth away from the juvenile and criminal justice systems, connecting them instead to a comprehensive array of supportive services. Speakers stepped to the microphones to declare their ardent support for the 78-page report, "**A Roadmap for Advancing Youth Diversion in LA County**," which provided the framework for the sweeping strategy proposed. [Read more](#)

Millions of Youth Are Homeless for More than Month at a Time, New Study Finds

Nearly 1 in 30 teens and one in 10 young adults experienced homelessness in the past year, a groundbreaking **new study** has found. Researchers at the University of Chicago's **Chapin Hall** interviewed more than 26,000 people from all over the country over the past year. They found that 4.3 percent of youths 13 to 17 years old reported at least one instance of homelessness; nearly 10 percent of young adults 18 to 25 years old had experienced homelessness. [Read more](#)

These Approaches Help Young Fathers Leaving the Criminal Justice System

Becoming a father for the first time can be difficult for anyone, but when you do so in your teens or early 20s and have been incarcerated, it can be overwhelming. The right supports — stable housing, reliable networks, ties to employment, knowing how to build skills in fatherhood and healthy relationships — are essential. This was certainly true for 22-year-old James and 20-year-old Marcus. Both became fathers [Read more](#)