New Library Established for Girls at KJCC

A little more than a year ago, the Kansas Juvenile Correctional Complex hired a corrections counselor, Ms. Dauna Herman, who questioned the girls on what they would like to do in their spare time. The response was overwhelmingly negative. She said she would see what she could do. Read more . . .

Bill Would Legalize Sex for Some Young Teens

Some younger teenagers who have sex would no longer be breaking Kansas law under a bill that supporters say is needed to change “draconian” penalties that they contend make children fall into felonies. One opponent fears the bill goes too far in loosening penalties for young adults who have sex with teens, however. Kansas prohibits sex with anyone younger than 16, even if both people are the same age. A proposal before a House committee would decriminalize sex among teens who are under 16 but close in age. Read more . . .

2018 DOC-Juvenile Services Training Schedule

New Employee Kansas Detention Assessment Instrument (KDAI) Training:

Topeka Thursday March 22nd
Salina Tuesday April 10th
Topeka Thursday 9 – 3:00 pm

All intake workers, supervisors and anyone who approves intakes and placement decisions must be trained in administering the KDAI. These trainings are reserved for intake workers and supervisors. For more information on KDAI training or to register contact Crystal Trout at crystal.trout@ks.gov

Mental Health Training Curriculum – Juvenile Justice (MHTC-JJ)

KJCC - The Mental Health Training Curriculum – Juvenile Justice (MHTC-JJ) will be available for new employees from Judicial Districts 1 through 3 at Kansas Juvenile Correction Complex as a part of their new employee orientation.

To inquire about upcoming trainings or if you have questions please contact Lt. Johnathon Ashley at johnathon.ashley@ks.gov or 785-334-9820. KJCC will have MHTC-JJ training as a part of their basic training for new employees approximately every four weeks and it will take place on Thursday.

Sedgwick County DOC and Johnson County DOC currently do not have MHTC-JJ training scheduled at this time. But if you are interested in attending a future training at their location please contact:

- For Sedgwick County DOC – contact Steve Stonehouse at Steven.Stonehouse@sedgwick.gov
- For Johnson County DOC – contact Rachel Mestad at Rachel.mestad@jocogov.org

Community Legal Issues Training Now Open

Early registration is now available for a half day presentation to be provided by KDOC-JS Attorney Jeff Cowger for juvenile Community Corrections and Intake and Adult Intake staff. Cowger will provide a legal overview of Legal issues in juvenile justice in Kansas. The class is primarily for new staff but is open to staff wanting a refresher.

Thursday July 19, 2018 8:00 am – 12:00 pm KBI Laboratory Auditorium, 2001 SW Washburn, Topeka, KS

To register click here . . .

Other Training Announcements

The New Officer YLS/CML Training, scheduled for March 13-15, 2018 in Topeka is full and there are no more available slots.

The dates and locations provided in the Training Calendar for: YLS/CML, Graduated Responses, Case Planning, EPICS-II and Juvenile Justice Basics are tentative dates. When one of these training sessions is being scheduled, announcements will be made via email, the Web site, or a staff meeting. Staff may be contacted directly by a Regional Trainer requesting RSVPs. There is no need to contact any of the trainers to reserve seats until a training announcement is made.

CASA Volunteers Can Mean Success for Kids, but More are Needed

Mercedes Anderson, 20, remembers when she first learned she would have a special advocate. At 15, she’d been in and out of foster care and didn’t want another stranger in her life. That changed as she got to know Ashley Thorne. “I built a real connection with her and really, truly felt like it was a family,” Anderson said. “She actually took a step forward, went the extra mile to show me she actually cared and just be there for me.” Thorne is now advocacy director for CASA of Sedgwick County, an organization that trains volunteers to walk along-side foster children during their time in care. Read more . . .
Transition Time for Teens in Trouble

Decreasing youth crime and squeezed state budgets have precipitated a transitional period for how Connecticut handles juvenile recurrents. Even though the state is moving to reduce its incarcerated youth population, legislators, academics and criminal justice reform advocates still need to be vocal about investing state resources in diversionary measures that keep people under the age of 18 out of the criminal justice system in the first place. Read more . . .

Locked Up: Seeking Changes in Juvenile Justice

Alabama lawmakers this session will consider an overhaul of the state’s juvenile justice system, which advocates contend locks up too many kids for low-level offenses. The bill, which seeks an emphasis on intervention and to limit which juvenile offenders get sent to lock-up or moved to adult court, is expected to get a joint hearing by the House and Senate judiciary committees later this month. Read more . . .

Long Creek’s New Leader Concedes Juvenile Facility’s at a Crossroads

Three months into her new job as superintendent of Long Creek Youth Development Center (Maine’s only juvenile detention facility), Caroline Raymond attended a basketball game between the center’s team and Old Orchard Beach High School. It was supposed to be a mismatch – Old Orchard plays in a more competitive class – so after Long Creek won by one basket in the final minute, Raymond found herself tearing up as she watched the players celebrate on the court. In that moment, it meant something to the kids, so it meant something to her, too. Read more . . .

Annie E. Casey Foundation

More Than One in Five U.S. Kids Has Had Multiple Adverse Experiences

Twenty-two percent of kids in the United States (more than 15.6 million kids total) have had two or more adverse experiences, according to the latest results from the National Survey of Children’s Health. The term adverse childhood experiences refers to a number of potentially traumatic events, including episodes of sexual, physical or emotional abuse as well as exposure to lifethreatening hardships like parental divorce or incarceration. Such events can have negative and lasting effects on a child’s well-being and have been linked to increased risks of obesity, alcoholism and . Read more . . .

Juvenile Justice Information Exchange

69% Less Recidivism in NY Community Mentoring Program, Report Finds

Youths on probation who participated in a community mentorship program run through the New York City Department of Probation had a lesser chance of recidivism than those who didn’t, according to a study published this week. Youths between the ages of 16 and 24 who went through the Archs Transformative Mentoring Program while on probation had a 69 percent lower recidivism rate within 12 months of starting their probation than youths who did not participate in the program, the study said. Read more . . .

We Saw Long-lasting Reforms from Models for Change in Our States

The work done during the Models for Change Initiative (funded by the John D. & Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation) has embedded structural and practice improvements that continue to influence policy change in juvenile justice toward a more developmentally oriented and responsive system Read more . . .

Provide Better Recentry, Don’t Just Close Rikers

In the first week that 16-year-old Vidal Guzman spent at Rikers Island, three of his fellow detainees hung themselves. All of them were teenagers. “Every single day felt like hell,” said Guzman, who now works as a community organizer for Just Leadership USA, of his time at Rikers. The remote jail complex, which is plagued by violence, currently holds 120 of these adolescents. Read more . . .

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE ARTICLES

Local Restorative Justice Could Be Best Kind of Diversion for Youth

School Eating Contest Leaves Bad Taste in Teachers’ Mouths

Senate Majority Leader Questions Timeline of Plan to Close Lincoln Hills Youth Prison

Lawmakers are rolling up their sleeves to begin transforming the Wisconsin juvenile justice system by 2020. A bipartisan group of lawmakers announced their plan to close Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake by July 1, 2020. However, Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald called the proposal a “big lift” to get done this session. Democratic Read more and watch video . . .

The Juvenile Justice Corner continued from page 1

The correctional groups is 13.21 percent, which is the same rate for the KPERS State Group. Under the bill, the rate would increase to 18.82 percent in the second half of FY 2019. For service time earned prior to January 1, 2019, security officers would be entitled to receive the KPERS benefits they had earned. Security officers would be able to use their prior years of service for purposes of vesting and retirement eligibility in both plans. At retirement, employees would receive a monthly benefit for their KPERS service and a monthly benefit for their KP&P service.” (Legislative Research Supplemental Note). Passed as amended by the House 113-9. Referred to Senate Financial Institutions and Insurance.

HB 2453 (Allow a fee to be assessed for application to immediate intervention programs) - Provides that a fee not to exceed $100 may be assessed as part of the application to participate in an immediate intervention program. This bill did not get out of the House Corrections and Juvenile Justice Committee.

HB 2454 (Allowing a juvenile’s attorney to waive appearance at the 14-day detention review hearing) - “HB 2454, as amended, would amend the statute in the Revised Kansas Juvenile Justice Code governing detention hearings to expand the permitted use of two-way electronic audio-visual communication between the juvenile and the judge from detention hearings only . . . including the detention review hearings required every 14 days while the juvenile is in detention. The bill would further amend law related to detention review hearings by adding a provision stating such hearings are not required for a juvenile offender held in detention awaiting case disposition. The bill would amend the . . . state governing post-adjudication orders and dispositional hearings to require, if a juvenile offender is being held in detention, that a dispositional hearing for sentencing take place within 45 days after the juvenile has been adjudicated.” (Legislative Research Supplemental Note). Passed as amended by the House 121-1. Referred to Senate Judiciary.

HB 2455 (Require the juvenile justice overview committee to monitor instead of calculate state expenditures avoided as a result of reductions in out-of-home placement of juvenile offenders) - Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee to monitor expenditures avoided through reduction of out of home placements rather than calculate those savings. Passed by the House 114-2. Set for hearing in Senate Judiciary March 1st.

HB 2456 (Tolling case length limits for certain juvenile offenders) - “HB 2456, as amended, would amend the statute governing probationation term limits and overall case disposition limits in the Kansas Revised Juvenile Justice Code to clarify that when such limits are tolled due to the offender abstancing from supervision while on probation, the limits shall not begin to run again until the offender is located and brought back to the jurisdiction. The bill also would clarify that, if the juvenile fails to appear for the dispositional or sentencing hearing, such limits shall not apply until the juvenile is brought before the court for disposition.” (Legislative Research Supplemental Note). Passed by the House 120-0. Set for Hearing in Senate Judiciary March 1st.

HB 2728 (Changing criminal penalties for sexual conduct between minors) - Criminal sentences for Romeo and Juliet instances of otherwise voluntary but underage sexual relations. This bill is exempt from the turn-around deadline and is still pending in House Corrections and Juvenile Justice Committee.

HB 2739 (Changing the requirements for juvenile offenders required to register for sex offenses to match the requirement for adult sex offenders) - The Kansas juvenile offender registration provisions to mirror the requirements for adult offenders. Set for hearing in House Corrections and Juvenile Justice Committee Wednesday February 28.

• Repeals registration exemption for juveniles committing sex offense wherein victim at least 14 years of age, defendant not more than 4 years older than victim and no force was used.
• Repeals limited registration or the registration exemption for juvenile sex offenders under the age of 14.
• Repeals limited registration or the registration exemption for juvenile sex offenses 14 years of age or older.

This bill is exempt from the turn-around deadline and is still pending in a Hearing in the House Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice set for February 28th.

If you have specific questions regarding any of these bills you can contact Samir Arif at Samir.Arif@ks.gov.