Kansas News

KICC Holds Graduation Ceremony

Lawrence Gardner High School (LGHS) at the Kansas Juvenile Correctional Complex (KJCC) held its semi-annual graduation ceremony on April 29, 2018 with 37 juveniles participating in the ceremony in front of a gymnasium filled with family members of the graduates, juveniles at the facility, LGHS teachers/staff and KJCC staff.

One of the graduates, T.K. from Wichita, KS shared with all those in attendance some of his personal experiences and challenges. T.K. stated that the most important characteristic that he has as a successful student is that helping him achieve graduation was “a desire to succeed and resilience.” T.K. stated “no matter how many times you get knocked down, you need to get back up. You dictate your future. Choose your dreams. You have what it takes. Sleep, eat and drink success.”

A commencement address was provided by Trey Walker, a motivational speaker who previously had played football at Kansas State University for Coach Bill Snyder. Walker started his address by having everyone stand and collectively sing “Lean on me.” Walker congratulated the graduates for taking advantage of the second chance they have been given. He explained that everyone has obstacles they need to overcome and for him, one of his biggest obstacles was to learn to trust others. Walker told the assembly that although he was a very hard working football player that was blessed with talent, he lost his starting position at Kansas State. When he met individually with Coach Snyder in his office to find out why he lost his starting job, “Coach Snyder told me I needed to learn how to trust people.” Walker stated that Coach Snyder told him “I’m just the coaches, I didn’t trust my teammates, I didn’t trust the system and I didn’t even trust myself. It was the hardest lesson I ever had to learn”. Snyder told Walker a story about a young man who fell into a hole and could not climb out. The young man asked an old man who was passing by for help to get out of the hole, and the old man jumped into the hole with him. The young man was surprised and asked the old man why he jumped into the hole, as now he could not help the young man get out of the hole. The old man replied “I’ve been here before . . . you can put your foot on that branch, then there’s that hole, then grab that branch over there . . .” Walker told the juveniles they “need to learn to trust someone here . . . to ask for forgiveness and move on . . . trust someone and focus your energy on what matters the most in life.” Walker finished by reciting the poem “It” by Richard Kipling.

2018 DOC-Juvenile Services Training Schedule

New Employee Kansas Detention Assessment Instrument (KDAI) Training:

Salina Tuesday August 14
Topeka Wednesday August 15

Registrations are handled by the 4 Regional Trainers

Location – Ottawa, KS
Date Tuesday Sept. 18
Date Wednesday Sept. 19

Graduated Responses as an Evidenced Based Practice:

Location – Topeka, KS
Date Tuesday Aug. 28

Registrations are handled by the 4 Regional Trainers

Juvenile Justice Basics:

Location - Reno Co. Sheriff’s Office, 1800 S Severance, Hutchinson
Date Tuesday August 7

Enroll Email michelle.montgomery@ks.gov
Participants name, agency, position, phone #, email address and supervisor’s name.

New Officer YLS/CM Training:

Location - Topeka Workforce Ctr, 1430 SW Topeka Blvd, Topeka
Dates Tuesday Sept. 11

Registrations are handled by the 4 Regional Trainers

Human Trafficking – Kansas

Kansas AG Launches ‘Demand an End’ Campaign to Combat Sex Trafficking

Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt today announced a new statewide public awareness campaign targeting the demand for commercial sex in Kansas. Schmidt and representatives from partnering organizations in the state held a news conference this morning announcing the Demand an End initiative. The initial partners include more than 60 representatives from law enforcement, state government and organizations that serve human trafficking victims in Kansas.

Demand an End is a sex trafficking-specific .

RAKE TV – WICHITA
KCUR – KANSAS CITY
THE LAWRENCE JOURNAL WORLD
THE TOPEKA CAPITAL-JOURNAL
WIBW TV – TOPEKA

Thoufalc Talk - US Attorney: Let’s End Sex Trafficking

Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt said Tuesday that demanding an end to human sex trafficking is just the start of solving the problem. Schmidt spoke on the first day of the Human Trafficking Conference at the Manhattan Conference Center. At least 200 people, including law enforcement officers and medical professionals, attended. U.S. Attorney Stephen McAllister opened the conference, saying that the state’s commitment to human trafficking exists all over the country, Pflant says, and he’s hopeful that more truck drivers will learn how to address the Read more . . .
Homelessness is New Reality for Thousands of Kansas City area Teens
Advocates in Kansas City are asking the community to look for the homeless, where they are
Homeless among us. The most recent count, conducted in January of each year, shows thousands of
homeless teenagers in the (Kansas City) 5-county metro. “Ninety-nine
percent of the time, they didn’t make a decision that led them to homelessness. There’s more. Read more and watch video . . . .

Every Wichita High School has an Armed Police Officer. Should their Roles Change?
Wichita won’t be pulling its police officers out of Wichita high schools, but plans to reboot the program to make it less about security and more about mentoring and counseling, the city manager said Tuesday. City Manager Robert Layton told the Wichita City Council he’s not going to recommend ending the program, an idea that had been floated in a series of possible cuts to close a $1.7 million budget gap. The idea of eliminating school resource officers was not popular during a social media town hall last week, particularly amid ongoing concerns over school shootings. "As a result Read more and watch video . . . .

These Kids in Juvenile Detention are Making a Difference, One Stuffed Animal at a Time
Single file, a group of kids in the Sedgwick County Juvenile Delinquent Facility walked into a small classroom in the heart of the jail. Boxes of stuffing, children’s books and plush animal shells awaited them. These books and stuffed animals aren’t for them, though. Becky Springer, volunteer coordinator at Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Plains, asked them if they’d like to volunteer. A few said they’ve “mowed neighbors’ yards,” or done community service as part of previous

Juvenile Justice Information Exchange
OJJDP is Simplifying Title II Work to Focus on DMC Reduction, Not Process
By Caren Harp, OJJDP Administrator
The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) is taking a new approach to Title II (the portion of the Juvenile Justice Delinquency and Prevention Act authorizing state and local government grants to improve juvenile justice systems and ensure the fair treatment of youth) that will facilitate better communication and increase trust between OJJDP (Read more . . . .) OJJDP’s New Definition of DMC Raises Many Questions for Harp on Confluence
Read article . . . .
OJJDP Administrator’s Words on Racial Disparities
Shock Us
Standing before a room packed with youth, juvenile justice advocates, system practitioners, law enforcement officials and judges last week, Caren Harp, Administrator of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), made an announcement: OJJDP would be "simplifying" the implementation and compliance of the core protections of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDPA). As her remarks continued it became clear that Harp’s simplification prioritizes public safety over racial justice. Read more . . . .

Sessions’ Withdrawal of Justice Department Manuals on DMC Leaves States ‘Directionless’
Seven documents juvenile justice agencies used to track disproportionate arrests of minority youth and compliance with other rules were among the two dozen federal guidance documents the Justice Department recently downsized, sparking questions and concern across the field. Read more . . . .

Large Gaps in Educational Opportunity Confirmed for Youth in Juvenile Justice Facilities
Access to courses is the first step toward meaningful educational opportunity for students who are removed from their homes and communities and placed in secure facilities. Under federal and state laws, students attending schools in juvenile justice facilities are entitled to educational opportunities comparable to those they would have if they were attending their neighborhood high school or college. First-of-its-kind review of the available data reveals Read more . . . .

New Zealand Shows Power of Limiting Arrests While Lowering Crime
Every day in the United States, nearly 53,000 youth are confined in facilities away from home by the juvenile or criminal justice system. Thousands of these youth have not yet even had their day in court and many are there for nonviolent, minor offenses — some for misbehavior like truancy that would not even be an offense if they were an adult. Read more . . . .

Coalition Helps Push Big Reforms in Massachusetts
Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker, a Republican, signed into law a criminal justice reform package representing significant progress for our state, including many progressive youth justice reforms in Apri. Here’s how we helped engineer that. Read more . . . .

CJJ – Crime and Justice Institute
CJI Hosts Conference on Juvenile Justice Reforms Around the Country
Over the last six years, states across the country have implemented data-driven, evidence-based reforms that are sending thousands of juveniles to secure facility and many others to reduce recidivism among young people involved in the juvenile justice system. Now those states are drawing on their experiences to help others do the same. Stakeholders who helped develop and implement those reforms in Georgia, Hawaii, Kansas, Kentucky, South Dakota, Read more . . . .

Annie E. Casey Foundation
Improving Juvenile Probation for Girls in New Mexico
Motivated by data, the probation department in Bernalillo County, New Mexico, is embracing a fundamental culture change looking to girls and young women as deeply rooted community organizations as the best sources for information about what they need. Although Bernalillo County, which is home to Albuquerque and is a longtime participant in the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative, created a girls probation unit in 2003 with the express purpose Read more . . . .

The Juvenile Justice Corner continued from page 1
Steve Backman, Principal at LGHS, believes it is the shared commitment from the agencies and organizations that makes this program possible. Backman stated “The collaboration of Smoky Hill Technical High School, KDOC, and the Kansas Department of Commerce was derived from one source…passion for our youth at KJCC. The work is extensive but our students have proven the benefits far outweigh the obstacles put in front of them. These numbers are a direct correlation to a system that believes in them.”

William Howard added “The partnerships have been tremendous for the students. High school students earn high school elective credits and college credit for completing courses through Washburn Tech. Post-secondary students earn college credit by completing courses. Both high school and post-secondary students earn industry recognized credentials. The partnership with the Department of Commerce provides for the OJJD program, and job placement assistance for post-secondary students. The partnership with the Department of Corrections allows for a stable funding stream for post-secondary students. This partnership has allowed us to increase the number of post-secondary students we serve. Smoky Hill has been very accommodating by promoting the Washbum Tech program, and arranging high school student schedules so they can participate in the programs.”

As a result, the impact on the juveniles can be life changing. According to Williams “One of the biggest impacts we provide students is the opportunity to change their situation and live. We provide them with the opportunity to learn skills that will provide them with the means to support themselves and their families when they leave KJCC.”

National News
Texas Juvenile Justice Department Publishes Strategic Plan
The Board of Directors of the Texas Juvenile Department unanimously approved the agency’s Strategic Plan for Fiscal Year 2019-2023. Read strategic plan here . . . .

Colorado Launches Comprehensive Review of Juvenile Justice System
Gov. John Hickenlooper announced a comprehensive review of Colorado’s juvenile justice system. The Governor was joined by Sen. Bob Gardner (R), Rep. Pete Lee (D), and Justice Brian Boeart of the Colorado Supreme Court in the effort to ensure that youth who find themselves in corrections at an early age can have a second chance to build successful futures. The task force furthered the efforts to keep youth out of the criminal justice system, bolster 2-Generation approaches, and get the best outcomes for Colorado youth. Read more . . . .

What’s a Shuttered Youth Prison Good For?
The number of youth incarcerated in the United States has been cut in half over the past two decades. The reasons for this are mixed and include a decline in youth committing crimes in the first place. But this reduction also reflects a fundamental shift in the way that juvenile justice systems manage youth who break the law. Bolstered by both research and public support, states and localities are embracing community-based alternatives that are often Read more . . . .

Can Parents of Juvenile Offenders Still Dream?
Mothers want the best for their sons, but what happens to a mother’s hopes and dreams when her son is charged as a juvenile offender? A new study from Michigan State University published in the Journal of Research on Adolescence reveals that mothers don’t lose hope for their sons’ futures Read more . . . .