Kansas News

Kansas Continues to See Success of Juv. Justice Reforms

Following two years of vigorous study and debate, Kansas passed comprehensive juvenile justice reforms in 2016. More than two years later, the success of the state’s new system has been measured by years of success across the system, as the narrower use of out-of-home placements allows cost savings from bed reduction to be redirected toward evidence-based programs that reduce recidivism, accountability, and demonstrate better outcomes. Read more... 

Kansas Foster Care Agency Has New Rules for Dealing with Child-On-Child Sexual Assault

A new law standardizing Kansas’ response to child-on-child sexual assault could cost $126,000 and result in more than 3,200 training sessions for a year. Gov. Laura Kelly signed legislation Friday that directs the Department for Children and Families to immediately refer a minor to treatment if the agency receives a report that the child sexually abused another child. Read more... 

The Parent Project®: Mark Your Calendars

The Parent Project® is a parent training program specifically designed for parents raising children with difficult or out-of-control behaviors. Parent Project® Certification is obtained by attending a 5 day, 40-hour Parent Project® Facilitator Training. Trainers from the Parent Project® will be in Kansas to provide two training sessions in 2019. The first session will be in Topeka on August 5 – 9 and the second session will be in Salina on September 9 – 13. To become a certified facilitator, participants must attend the entire 40-hours of training. There will be more information coming soon.

New Members Join the Kansas Advisory Group

The Kansas Advisory Group on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (KAG) has its next meeting scheduled on October 15, 2019 in Room 150 of the Administration Building in Topeka from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm at the Department of Corrections in Topeka. Terri Williams is the new Chairperson for the KAG, and several new members were recently appointed.

Current KAG members are: Terri Williams (Chair), Max Mendosa, Lazo Gray, Susan Humphries, Beth Esrey, Dave McKune, Beryl New, Melody Pappan, Greg Smith, Janie Yannacito, Bruce Johnson, Preston Thomas, Elaine Johnbes, Bethany Roberts, Peggy Pratt, Rachel Beech, Kettle Hogan, Angela McHardie, and Traci Dotson.

The mission of the KAG is to review juvenile justice policy, advise policymakers on issues affecting the juvenile justice system and help keep Kansas in compliance with the federal JDPAct. For more information on the KAG contact Brock Landwehr at brock.landwehr@ks.gov.

"Enough is Enough" Video Hopes to Reach Youth Before they Commit Crimes

Several members of the Wichita community coming together to help prevent crime and target our youth from participating in it. A website, endviolence316.com, was designed to provide resources utilizing contacts from the city’s Youth Coalition. The links will benefit youth, parents, teachers, coaches, and mentors in our community. Read more and watch video... 

Dual Systems: Justice/Welfare System Youth

Our New Data on Dual System Youth Show Deep Collaboration, More Info Is Crucial

Across the country, child welfare and juvenile justice systems now recognize that youth involved in both systems (i.e., dual system youth) are a vulnerable population who go unrecognized because of challenges in information-sharing between cross-system collaboration. These challenges currently prevent estimating the number of dual system youth nationally and limit our understanding of best practices for dual system youth. Read more... 

Connection to the Crossover Youth Practice Model

The Center for Juvenile Justice Reform has created a variety of mechanisms to develop how jurisdictions can improve outcomes for youth through policy, practice, and enhancements in leadership capacity. Two of these programs are the Crossover Youth Practice Model and the Certificate Programs. CJJR developed the Crossover Youth Practice Model (CYPM) to assist jurisdictions in improving practices and policies related to youth known to both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. Read more... 

Locking Up Juvenile Trauma, Runaways Called ‘State-Sanctioned Trauma’

Tabitha was on the run from her foster family when she celebrated her 17th birthday. She had been on the streets for four weeks when she finally turned herself into Child Protective Services in Abilene, Kansas. "I had nowhere else to go," she said in an interview with The Appeal. Instead of being immediately placed in a new foster home, Tabitha was put in the back of a police car. Since she was in violation of a court order, the consequence for running away was juvenile detention. Read more... 

Racial Disparities in the Kansas Juvenile Justice System

Racial inequity is unfortunately a pervasive problem in the United States' criminal justice system. In 2016, African American and Latino persons represented 56% of the total inmate population in the country while representing only 28% of the United States' adult population. Racial disparity is particularly present in the juvenile justice system. While the total population of youth contributed to detention facilities fell by 7% between 2003 and 2013, the gap between white youth and youth of color in these facilities increased by 15%. The rates of disparity are much higher in Kansas than the national average. Read the publication... 

The Juvenile Justice Corner

Jim Johnson, Program Consultant

DOC - Juvenile Community Based Services

Finally, it feels like spring! We knew it was coming, we just needed to work through the winter. Along with the spring comes a sense of new opportunities as we work towards potential improvements in our Kansas juvenile justice system.

The Kansas Advisory Group (KAG) has awarded two grants to support expanding and supporting a continuum of community-based care connections and impact.

- Our Town Our Kids (OTOK) is a pilot project with the goal of reducing the number of youth at risk to become involved in the juvenile justice system. OTOK will be piloted in the 25th and 15th judicial districts. The OTOK is being led by the K-State Juvenile Justice Collaborative (KJJC) which is a multi-disciplinary team from Kansas State University, Fort Hays State University and K-State Extension.

- Together Helping Youth Reduce Youth Violence for Equality (THRIVE) is a state initiative that is designed to bring the Thrive® Youth Justice Community Engagement Initiative (YCEI), in the 29th judicial district (Wyandotte County). Their goal is to “improve outcomes for youth and families in the juvenile justice system by working to enhance community capacity to access, plan and support systems change and improvements in the juvenile justice and related systems”. Thrive® is affiliated with the KCK Youth Violence Prevention Project and the University of Kansas Center for Community Health and Development.

The Parenting Project will be brought to Kansas for community facilitators to attend week-long training. Training participants will become certified to provide the program to families in their local community that should benefit from this program.

The KDOC is working with National Crittention to bring the National Girls Initiative to Kansas. Advancing a Continuum of Care: Engagement, Supports, and Services for Girls (ACCESS) is designed to reduce reliance on incarceration for girls while building, expanding, and supporting a continuum of community-based supports and services. National Crittention collaborates with states that have demonstrated a commitment to improve systems for girls in and at risk of entering the juvenile justice system.

The Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee (JJOC) is evaluating a program designed to address the needs of youth who become involved in both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. The JJOC communications with the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform at Georgetown University to explore utilizing the Crossover Youth Practice Model in Kansas. Details still need to be worked out, but the JJOC will make a decision toward the latter half of the year. However, this program in Kansas provides new opportunities to improve the lives of youth and families involved in both systems by reducing the demand for out of home care placements for both child welfare and juvenile justice.

The National Juvenile Defense Center continues to work in Kansas in support of enhancing the abilities of juvenile defense attorneys to assist youth and their families by improving "the quality of juvenile defense by simultaneously building the capacity of the juvenile defense bar and engaging in concrete systemic reform—slinking at both the practice and policy levels."

There will be more details to come on each of these initiatives. As revenues are saved from avoidable incarcerations of youth, investments can be made in programs like those listed above creating evidence-based interventions and improvements in the Kansas juvenile justice system. By staying the course we can achieve a more effective justice system that promotes public safety, holds juvenile offenders accountable, and improves outcomes for youth, families and communities across Kansas.

Girls in the Juvenile Justice System

Understanding Girls and the Juvenile Justice System – A Review of Recent National Data

CJJDP, in collaboration with the National Girls Initiative, presented “Understanding Girls and the Juvenile Justice System – A Review of Recent National Data.” In this 90-minute webinar, participants learned about available data resources relating to victimization and offending of girls, and the juvenile justice system’s response to law-violating behavior by girls. The presenters shared resources using online data analysis and dissemination tools, with examples of their application for policy and practice. Watch webinar...
Human Trafficking  -  National

More than 1,000 Juveniles Sex Trafficked Between 2016-2017: Ohio Study
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National News

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The ACLU of Kentucky is hoping to debunk myths and educate the community on juvenile justice reform. “The main point of entry thing is to figure out what policies we are creating and how they impact youth of color,” Ketubah Herron, the ACLU of Kentucky Field Coordinator, said. Read more and watch video . . .

YWCA Justice Circle – Breaking the School to Prison Pipeline
Race plays a role in the school-to-prison pipeline. The school-to-prison pipeline describes a pattern of criminalization of K-12 students linked to decreased graduation rates and increased likelihood of future involvement with the criminal justice system. The YWCA of La Crosse WI uses restorative justice to address the issue. According to data released in 2016, black students were nearly four times more likely to be Read more and watch video . . .

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Catalyst Endowment Fund Begins Exploration on “Breaking the Cycle: Juvenile Justice”
Approximately 80 members and guests attended the first meeting of the 2019 Catalyst Endowment Fund at the Chrysalis Center in Hartford, CT on March 21 to begin exploring this year’s theme, “Breaking the Cycle: Juvenile Justice.” Hartford Foundation president Jay Williams welcomed those in attendance and discussed the Foundation’s own work on juvenile Read more . . .

Juvenile Justice Information Exchange
Fight against Youth Homelessness Includes Host Homes, 100-day Challenges
Read article . . .

Homelessness Advocates Tell of New Successes via State Legislation
Read article . . .

Homeless Youth Don’t Realize How Much Legal Aid Can Help Them
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Homeless LGBT Youth: How We Can Fight Their Invisibility, Including Youth of Color
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Collaborating for Reentry: A Guide to Support Justice-Involved Young People Returning to the Community
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Education Permits Growth during Long Prison Sentence and Makes Us Free
Read article . . .

From Restorative Justice Skeptic to Advocate in 2 Weeks
Read article . . .

Reforming Probation Culture from Control to Assistance
Read article . . .

2019 DOC-Juvenile Services Training Schedule
New Employee Kansas Detention Assessment Instrument (KDAI) Training:
Topeka Wednesday May 15th
Salina Saturday June 15th
Times 10 am – 4:00 pm
All sea, workers, supervisors and anyone who approves intake 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 to register contact Steve Bonner at steven.bonner@ks.gov

Effective Practices in Correctional Settings II (EPICS II):
Location - Topeka Workforce Ctr, 1430 SW Topeka Blvd, Topeka
Date Tuesday May 14 9 am – 5 pm
Date Wednesday May 15 9 am – 5 pm
To Enroll Registrations are handled by the Regional Trainers

Graduated Responses as an Evidenced Based Practice:
Location - Topeka Workforce Ctr, 1430 SW Topeka Blvd, Topeka
Date Thursday May 16 8:30 am – 12 pm
To Enroll Registrations are handled by the Regional Trainers

New Officer YLS/CMI Training:
Location - TBD
Dates Tuesday June 18 9 am – 5 pm
Wednesday June 19 8 am – 5 pm
Thursday June 20 8 am – 5 pm
To Enroll email michelle.montgomery@ks.gov

Participates name, agency, position, phone #, email address and supervisor’s name.

Health Mental Training Curriculum – Juvenile Justice (MHTC-JJ)
KJCC - The Mental Health Training Curriculum – Juvenile Justice (MHTC-JJ) will be available for new employees from Criminal Justice Districts to attend at Kansas Juvenile Correction Complex as a part of KJCC’s new employee orientation.
To Enroll about upcoming trainings or if you have questions please contact Lt. Johnathon Ashley at johnathon.ashley@ks.gov or 785-354-9680. KJCC will have MHTC-JJ training as a part of their basic training for new employees approximately every four weeks.

Orange Cops Relying More on Citations, Not Arrests, for Juveniles — But Still Lag Other Urban Counties
Police and deputies in Orange County are giving teenagers in trouble more civil citations instead of arresting them for misdemeanors, but other urban counties in Florida still give citations instead of arresting minors in a far higher share of cases, according to the League of Women Voters of Orange County. A civil citation is an alternative to arresting or criminally charging minors who are first-time offenders accused of misdemeanors, such as shoplifting, getting into a Read more . . .

QJA Works to Develop Juv. Prevention/Discision Services
Community leaders, partners and members of the community are making progress to identify the unique needs in our community. A plan to meet those needs and serve young people involved in or at risk of involvement in the juvenile justice system is currently being developed for youth and families in Stephens County (MIA) and the immediate surrounding area. I am happy to see folks in the community joining in the effort and contributing to Read more . . .

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