

Kansas News

Juvenile Sex Offender Evaluation and Treatment Services Expansion Announced

The Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC) has contracted with Clinical Associates (CA) since July 2016 to provide Juvenile Sex Offender Evaluation and Treatment services throughout the state. Effective July 1, 2019, Clinical Associates will have the ability to conduct psychosexual evaluations pre-adjudication as part of its contract with KDOC. Previously, all referrals for evaluations or treatment were for post-adjudicated youth. Clinical Associates will continue to perform psychosexual evaluations at the post-adjudication (pre-disposition) stage.

According to Seth Wescott, Director of Sex Offender Treatment for Clinical Associates, pre-adjudication evaluations are somewhat different, and more difficult to conduct than those at the pre-disposition stage. The Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (ATSA) has developed a set of strict guidelines for its members to follow with regard to pre-adjudication assessment. ATSA proposes three different scenarios where pre-adjudication evaluations may be appropriate. They are situations in which:

- ✓ the legal professionals involved in the case are seeking information to inform moving forward with a plea agreement or shaping a plea agreement;
- ✓ the judge is seeking additional information prior to agreeing to a proposed plea bargain; or
- ✓ the court is withholding or delaying action on the charge while providing the adolescent an opportunity for treatment and possible dismissal of the charge.

The objective of the pre-adjudication evaluation is not to determine or substantiate guilt or innocence, rather it is to provide the court with more information upon which to base its decision. It is anticipated that most of the referrals will come directly from the courts (by way of Court Order or an assigned Court Services Officer), although some may come from County/District Attorneys and Defense Attorneys. In situations where the youth's defense attorney is requesting a pre-adjudication evaluation, Clinical Associates will ask that the court provide the order for the evaluation and state that the report will be submitted to the court, or in the alternative, that the defense attorney and client agrees that the report can be submitted to both the defense and prosecuting attorneys. This will ensure that the evaluation and reports are objective and non-biased.

Wescott states that "it is our belief that all evaluations, especially pre-adjudication evaluations are based on sound research and appear impartial regardless of referral source. Individuals wishing to obtain a pre-adjudication evaluation are encouraged to provide the court order for the evaluation in the referral documents. We appreciate our continued partnership with the various stakeholders throughout the state, and are pleased to offer this new service under our contract."

If you have questions regarding procedure or referral information, please feel free to contact Seth Wescott at (913) 449-3106 or wescott@clinical-assoc.com. Megan Bradshaw is the KDOC-JS liaison with Clinical Associates, you can contact Megan at (785) 296-0897 or megan.bradshaw@ks.gov.

Openings Still Available for Parent Project® Training

Several openings are still available to attend [facilitator training](#) for the [Parent Project®](#) to be held in Salina, KS on September 9 - 13. The training will be from 8am - 5 pm each day and offered at no cost for attendees. It is available for professionals who work with youth and/or families involved in or at risk to come into contact with the juvenile justice system such as:

- ✓ Community Corrections Staff
- ✓ Youth Detention Staff
- ✓ Juvenile Court Service Staff
- ✓ Juvenile Intake Staff
- ✓ Immediate Intervention Staff
- ✓ Law Enforcement Staff
- ✓ Department of Children and Families Staff
- ✓ DCF Contract Agency Staff
- ✓ Family Preservation Staff
- ✓ Child Advocacy Center Staff
- ✓ High School/Jr. High Teachers, Counselors and Administrators
- ✓ Mental Health Providers
- ✓ Social Workers
- ✓ Churches
- ✓ Community-Based Organizations

Professionals that have contact with families and/or children or youth in the juvenile justice or child welfare systems are encouraged to attend. *Continued next page . . .*

Mental Health - Kansas

New Wichita Hospital Providing Mental-Health Services for Children, Teens

A new hospital opened in Wichita for children and teens suffering from mental health issues. Wichita and Sedgwick County leaders were among those on hand Wednesday for the ribbon cutting ceremony at the KVC Hospital, just east of the Twin Lakes shopping center near 21st and Amidon. The facility will provide mental health [Read more and watch video . . .](#)

The Juvenile Justice Corner

Jim Johnson, Program Consultant
DOC - Juvenile Community Based Services

Five individuals who work with juveniles in the state of Kansas were recognized recently for their outstanding work on the part of the Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC). A [recognition ceremony](#) was held at the state Capital with Governor Laura Kelly and KDOC Interim Secretary Jefferey Zmuda followed by a luncheon at KDOC. There were a total of 47 top employees recognized from across the state. The categories for nominations were facility uniformed staff, facility non-uniformed staff, facility contract staff, facility volunteer and community corrections staff.

Clover Kinney (*Juvenile Community Corrections Staff*) is the Supervisor for Santa Fe Trail Community Corrections-Juvenile Services (SFTCC-JS) in Dodge City, KS.

- ✓ Clover was nominated for using her leadership skills to help the 16th Judicial District correct areas of non-compliance with Kansas statutes and KDOC standards. She met with community partners regarding Senate Bill 367 and collaborated with the local County Attorney in setting up a regional training; inviting law enforcement, judges, attorneys and schools throughout the 16th Judicial District. Through this process community partners better understood the changes in the juvenile system and how SFTCC-JS could get into compliance while ensuring youth in the 16th JD are treated lawfully from point of contact to the completion of their case.
- ✓ Clover worked with several county attorneys to initiate the use of the Intermediate Intervention Program (IIP) and improve usage of the Kansas Detention Assessment Instrument (KDAI).
- ✓ Clover developed community partnerships that have opened up juvenile services to the schools throughout the 16th Judicial District. Through her hard work and consistent follow through, she worked with school officials and SFTCC-JS staff to develop a good working relationship that has increased use of our services and is reaching the high risk youth in their districts.
- ✓ With Clover's leadership, significant increases were achieved in the local truancy, Juvenile Intake and Assessment and Case Management programs.

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2019 DOC-Juvenile Services Training Schedule

New Employee Kansas Detention Assessment Instrument (KDAI) Training

Salina	Wednesday	August 14 th
Topeka	Saturday	September 14 th
Times	10 am - 4:00 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 Steve Bonner at steven.bonner@ks.gov.

Juvenile Justice Basics

Location - Sedgwick County Juvenile Field Services, 3803 E Harry, Suite 125, Wichita			
Date	Wednesday	August 7	9 am - 5 pm
To Enroll	Email	michelle.montgomery@ks.gov	
Participants name, agency, position, phone #, email address and supervisor's name.			

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 to attend at Kansas Juvenile Correction Complex as a part of KJCC's new employee orientation.

To inquire about upcoming trainings or if you have questions please contact Lt. Johnathon Ashley at johnathon.ashley@ks.gov or 785-354-9820. KJCC will have MHTC-JJ training as a part of their basic training for new employees approximately every four weeks.

Effective Practices in Correctional Settings II/Graduated Responses (EPICS II/GR)

Location - TBD			
Date	Tuesday	Sept. 24	9 am - 5 pm
Date	Wednesday	Sept. 25	9 am - 5 pm
Date	Thursday	Sept. 26	9 am - 1 pm
To Enroll	Registrations are handled by the Regional Program Consultants		

Location - Sedgwick County Juvenile Field Services, 3803 E Harry, Suite 125, Wichita			
Date	Wednesday	August 7	9 am - 5 pm
To Enroll	Email	michelle.montgomery@ks.gov	
Participants name, agency, position, phone #, email address and supervisor's name.			

Case Planning

The curriculum includes targeting criminogenic needs, identifying objectives, incorporating strengths for achieving goals and case planning for improved youth outcomes.

Enrollment - The Regional Program Consultants will inform districts when the training will be held in their area.

The Parent Project®

A week-long curriculum that prepares facilitators to empower parents of difficult to manage adolescents with skills and "concrete, no-nonsense solutions to even the most destructive of adolescent behaviors".

Topeka	August 5 - 9
Salina	September 9 - 13
To Enroll	Email KDOC_CO_ParentProject@ks.gov

Pew Charitable Trusts

Kansas Reduces Youth Confinement, Expands Evidence-Based Programs

Kansas enacted juvenile justice reform legislation, S.B. 367, in 2016. Out-of-home confinement decreased by 63% between 2015 and 2018. Placements in group homes declined 87% and confinement in the state's youth prison fell 31%. [Read more . . .](#)

A Growing Number of American Teenagers – Particularly Girls – Are Facing Depression

Depression has become increasingly common among American teenagers – especially teen girls, who are now almost three times as likely as teen boys to have had recent experiences with depression. In 2017, 13% of U.S. teens ages 12 to 17 (or 3.2 million) said they had experienced at least one major depressive episode in the past year, up from 8% (or 2 million) in 2007, according to a Pew Research Center analysis of data from the [2017 National Survey on Drug Use and Health](#). One-in-five teenage girls, or nearly 2.4 million, had experienced [Read more . . .](#)

Girls in the Juvenile Justice System

Girls Court Program Pilot Begins in Kitsap County as First in the State

Kitsap County just became the home of Washington's first girl's court, a therapeutic setting designed with the specific needs of young women ages 13-17 in mind. While juveniles involved with court systems have been declining overall in most places, according to research by the [Center for Children and Youth Justice \(CCYJ\)](#), crime among youth has been increasing in some geographic areas and within certain demographics. The number of girls involved with the juvenile court systems in Washington state has increased over the past two decades, according [Read more . . .](#)

National News

Kids Who Get in Trouble Need Discipline Not Jail, Youth Advocate Says

In a discussion on criminal justice reform, Camden County (NJ) Police Chief Scott Thomson said that jailing a child is ["one of the most damaging things you can do."](#) No surprise there. Longitudinal [studies consistently show](#) that young people entering the juvenile justice system [end up with lapses in education](#), poorer job prospects, [worse mental health, and much higher rates of incarceration as adults](#). [Read more . . .](#)

Restorative Justice: A Different Path to Accountability for Young Offenders

How can Marti Gras beads help kids in trouble with the law make better choices? A lot, if you ask Sean Goode, executive director of Choose 180, a non-profit that runs a diversion program in King County (Washington). Goode uses the beads in his four-hour workshops for kids busted for misdemeanors. They agree to attend the workshop to avoid having charges filed. Goode says the beads provide connections that open the door to [Read more . . .](#)

D.C.-Based Policy Group Hired to Help Reform Maine's Juvenile Justice System

State corrections officials have hired a Washington, D.C.-based juvenile justice policy group to spend the next seven months evaluating Maine's juvenile justice system with a goal of delivering recommendations early next year that could lead to sweeping reform. The Center for Children's Law and Policy was hired in June by the Department of [Read more . . .](#)

This County Criminalized Students for Bad Grades – Until Now

Since 2001, the Riverside County, California probation department has been needlessly funneling young people struggling with grades, behavior, trauma, and mental health into the criminal justice system. This direct line to the criminal system is the product of a partnership between local school [Read more . . .](#)

KS News – The Parent Project continued from page 1

The benefits of the Parent Project® are well documented and include improving school attendance and performance and providing a behavioral model that effectively addresses the critical issues parents face today while offering specific, step-by-step, solutions, not just theories. It is need-based, easy to teach, and is an activity-based curriculum built on cooperative learning norms.

Participants will learn about the Parent Project® and how to present the curriculum back in their home community. The Parent Project® is designed to provide parents with guidance, skills and techniques to manage children and youth that may be more challenging and difficult. Issues such as arguing, family conflict, school attendance and poor school performance, teenage sexuality and drug use, runaways, teen violence, bullying and dealing with gang activity will be addressed.

To inquire or register contact KDOC_CO.ParentProject@ks.gov.

Dual Systems: Justice/Welfare System Youth

The Harris County Youth Collective

The Center for Juvenile Justice Reform recently announced the release of its latest [Crossover Youth Practice Model Spotlight Report](#), featuring the Harris County Youth Collective's youth partnership initiative. Through support from the Houston (TX) Endowment, CJJR has partnered with the Harris County Youth Collective (HCYC) to support their Dual Status Youth Initiative. A crucial component of this work is to create true partnerships with youth and young adults that have systems experience. Through meaningful collaboration, HCYC and its youth partners help shift the trajectory of their lives in a positive way and influence broader systems change. The report highlights the challenges and successes of HCYC's effort and provides jurisdictions in pursuit of real youth partnership lessons to build upon.

A webinar will be available on August 8th 2:30 – 2:00 pm that will feature youth involved in the effort and the HCYC staff that developed and fostered this work. [To register for the webinar . . .](#)

'This Cannot Be My Life': The 'Nightmare' of Foster Care in Indian Country

Brian Melendez's life was about to change forever. In the winter of 1987, a domestic dispute erupted in a house on the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony in Reno, Nevada. As law enforcement and social workers descended on the scene, an already bad situation turned into chaos. "I didn't understand what was happening. All I knew was that there was arguing and fighting, and that my mother was all bloody and people were in handcuffs," says Melendez. [Read more . . .](#)

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- ✓ Clover helped establish quality programs through the Reinvestment Funds. These funds brought Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT), Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT), Drug and Alcohol Awareness Program, and Stronger Kids in our community.

Kevin and Rhonda Han (*Facility Volunteer*) are mentors at the [Kansas Juvenile Correctional Complex \(KJCC\)](#). The Han's have been in the Mentoring4Success program since it began at KJCC in 2014. They have mentored four different young men and have gone above and beyond the expectations of mentoring with their generosity, honesty, integrity, passion, and commitment for each youth they have mentored. They are always the first to jump in when there is a need, from clothing, food, helping kids navigate difficult systems, and offering relationship advice. The Han's have had a tremendous impact on the success of the Mentoring4Success program at KJCC. In addition, they volunteer in Kairos Torch at KJCC and provide the youth ongoing support both at KJCC and after release.

Steve Winn (*Non-Uniformed Staff*) is the Hearing Officer at KJCC. As the Hearing Officer, Mr. Winn meets with youth throughout each day that received Disciplinary Reports for alleged offenses. Every decision Mr. Winn makes has the potential to leave someone angry at him. "If he sanctions a youth for a DR, the youth is almost always unhappy because he/she thinks they should have 'beat the DR'. If he dismisses or throws out (or amends) the DR the officer or staff is upset because the facility is 'soft' on the youth or that KJCC isn't holding the youth as accountable as it should." Everyday Mr. Winn deals with people that are unhappy with him. However, Mr. Winn is kind, compassionate, "fair minded and many times merciful . . . he does his job without complaint and with integrity".

Officer Gene Hayes (*Uniformed Staff*) is a Juvenile Corrections Officer I at KJCC. Officer Hayes assists with visitations on weekends and has regular contact with both youth and their family. Parent of youth have made numerous comments about Officer Hayes pleasant demeanor, his kindness, the smile on his face and that "he is always the consummate professional". While working the front desk and conducting security screens on staff entering and leaving the facility, "he is always friendly and has a great sense of humor. He does his job well and is a good point of contact for those who are visitors." Fellow Officers refer to him as dependable, not easily rattled, that he "shoulders his responsibilities well" and that "he is great with youth when working a unit." In closing, "Gene Hayes is an attribute to KJCC. He deserves to be recognized for what he does around here. He represents the facility well."

Thank You to our honorees. And Thank You to all of you who help us meet our mission "to lead the nation in juvenile justice by strengthening families, empowering youth, and making communities safer".

National News

Juvenile Diversion May Transfer to the Kids Hope Alliance

Jacksonville (FL) may be changing the way it handles troubled children. The Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee has recommended the transfer of Juvenile Diversion to the Kids Hope Alliance, but the two groups would still work together. Right now, parts of the country are turning to diversion programs to deal with children who have committed crimes. Methods that focus on rehabilitating the child [Read more and watch video . . .](#)