KS Juvenile Justice Web-Line
June 2019

Staffing Changes Announced at KDOC
A new unit, focused on research and behavior analytics, will be one of the key features of several staffing changes at the Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC) effective June 16. KDOC Reentry Director Margie Phelps will serve as Executive Director of Programs and Risk Reduction. In addition to managing the Central Office Reentry team and various special programs, without KDOC’s correctional facilities and parole offices, she also will work with contract academic and vocational education programs, substance abuse programs and sex offender treatment. Her division also will manage staff training to bring a greater focus to the role all employees have in the risk reduction effort and in modeling and working toward changes in offender behavior.
Phelps also will manage a new position, Case Management Director, to advance risk reduction case management throughout the corrections system, for adults and juveniles, during incarceration and in the community.
A new Research and Behavior Analytics unit will work with the KDOC Information Technology and management team to advance research, including using data analytics and augmented intelligence while also increasing data literacy within the department. Read more . . . .

The Parent Project® to be Available Statewide
The Kansas Department of Corrections will be hosting two sessions of facilitator training for the Parent Project® to be used statewide. The Parent Project® is a curriculum to engage parents of difficult children ages 7 to 14 and the Parent Project® is designed for parents raising 10 to 16 year-old children with serious, persistent or chronic behavior problems.

2019 DOC-Juvenile Services Training Schedule
New Employee Kansas Detention Assessment Instrument (KDAI) Training:
Topeka - July 11th
Salina Tuesday August 14th
Times: 9:00 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.

Juvenile Justice Basics:
Location - Sedgwick County Juvenile Field Services, 3805 S. Harry, Suite 125, Wichita.
Date: Wednesday, August 7
Time: 9 am – 5 pm
To Enroll: Email m.hall@ks.gov

The Juvenile Justice Corner - Justice/Welfare System Youth
Cross Over Youth Model: Helping Minors Detour from the Juvenile System
Cross Over Youth Program (AZ) is a new program that prevents foster care children from ending up in the juvenile justice system (juvie). 22-year-old Destiny Harbor bounced around 23 foster care homes in the course of 7 years and landed in juvenile for one week. “I was picked on while I was in the group home, people would get into fights for little things, I pretty much felt like a lion trying to survive,” said Destiny. Read more and watch video . . . .

Statewide Council Aims to Improve Services to Youth
Children with intensive needs who are at risk of out-of-home placement will have new hope for services, with the passage of Senate Bill 1, supporters said. Children with intensive needs who are at risk of out-of-home placement will have new hope for services, with the passage of Senate Bill 1, supporters said. Senate Bill 1, supporters said. Senate Bill 1, supporters said.

Dual Systems: Justice/Welfare System Youth
Doing More with Less: ND’s Juvenile Justice System Looks Ahead amid Budget Cuts, Increasing Referrals
Zach Rollera’s phenomenal golfer. He was on Legacy High School’s varsity golf team as a freshman. He’s bright in chemistry, and his dad, Dean, said a teacher even nominated him for governor’s school. He’s been jailed since January in Bismarck, charged with 12 felonies and misdemeanors in a handful of criminal cases since late last year. He’s 18. Read more . . . .
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To become certified, a facilitator must attend a 40-hour Parent Project Facilitator Training Course. Facilitators may include representatives from:

- Law Enforcement
- Schools
- Juvenile Courts and Probation
- Mental Health Organizations
- Churches
- Community-Based Organizations

There are two opportunities scheduled for facilitator training:

- August 5 – 9 in Topeka
- September 9 – 13 in Salina

Requests for facilitators can be coordinated through local Court Services or Community Corrections offices. Each Judicial District can have up to three facilitators trained at one of these two week-long events. Additional training slots may be added, and additional opportunities for this facilitator training will be available in the future.

Conducting the training will be authors and trainers for the Parent Project® will be:

- Ralph “Bud” Frye is a retired supervisor with 18 years of law enforcement experience and 22 years’ experience as a parent educator.
- Dr. Roger Morgan is a practicing licensed psychologist who specializes in the treatment of children and adolescents with behavioral disorders. Dr. Morgan has over 30 years’ experience with at-risk youth and their families. Dr. Morgan continues to pioneer the use of psychoeducational programming to improve the accessibility of mental health care.

Megan Milner, KDOC Director of Community-Based Services stated “The Parent Project training is piece that fits into the larger picture of family engagement. This will provide one more ‘tool’ for communities to use to provide support for families justice-involved youth.”

For more information or to inquire about registration for one of the facilitator trainings contact KDDC_CO_ParentProject@ks.gov.

National News

Restorative Approach to Justice Youth Contributes to 60% Drop in Incarceration

Prison Fellowship, the nation’s largest outreach to prisoners, former prisoners, and their families, and a leading advocate for criminal justice reform, is encouraged by new statistics released by the Department of Justice on the significant drop in the number of juveniles that are incarcerated. Newly released figures from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention reveal:

- The number of juveniles incarcerated around the nation fell to 43,580, which is a 60 percent decrease since 2000.
- Of those incarcerated, Latino youths in juvenile facilities fell by 13 percent, African-American youths dropped by 11 percent, and Native American youths decreased by 10 percent; and
- All age groups continue to see declines, including a substantial 11 percent drop for 17-year-olds.

Yolo Juvenile Hall should be Repurposed

It is time to rethink juvenile justice in Yolo County and repurpose our overcrowded juvenile hall. The Yolo County (Calif.) Board of Supervisors is currently considering a proposal to re-purpose our juvenile hall for 18 to 24 months. The proposal would include a near by county to provide secure. Read more...

Task Force Begins Review of Juvenile Justice System with Goal of Reducing Recidivism

Juvenile recidivism decreased 57% from 2009 to 2017. But (Connecticut) state leaders including juvenile justice advocates, legislators, and Judicial Branch officials are looking to find more ways to cut recidivism and keep kids out of the system through a comprehensive review launched Tuesday. The Improving Outcomes for Youth Statewide Read more . . .

‘Historic’ Bill that Changes Oregon’s Juvenile Justice System Heads to Governor’s Desk

Lawmakers late Thursday approved a series of significant changes to Oregon’s juvenile justice system that mean the end of a decades-old practice of automatically sending youths accused of serious crimes to adult court. Senate Bill 1008 passed the Oregon House by a 40-to-18 vote. Read more . . .

$1 Million State Grant Will Expand Juvenile Diversion Program

The Contra Costa County (CA) District Attorney’s Office has received a $1 million state grant to establish a countywide juvenile diversion pre-filing program focusing on “restorative justice,” in which young people who have committed crimes work with their victims to atone for damages made. This will be the first countywide juvenile diversion program for Contra Costa County. Read more . . .

National News

A drop in numbers: Average daily population decreases at Northwest Minnesota Juvenile Center

Although there may not be any one reason to explain the decrease, there are fewer youth at the Northwest Minnesota Juvenile Center on any given day than there once were.

Officials at the juvenile center released the facility’s annual report earlier this spring. The report details information about the youth in houses, such as what ethnicities they are, which state and what political jurisdictions they come from, as Read more . . .

Maine Voices: Restitution Bill Shows Progress in Juvenile Justice Reform

On Wednesday, Gov. Mills (ME) signed into law LD 1904: An Act to Ease Financial Burdens for Juveniles Involved in the Justice System. The bill, sponsored by Rep. Donna Bailey, establishes additional protections for juveniles when a judge determines that they can pay restitution as part of their sentence. This law, which will go into effect in September, will help ensure that financial obligations will not continue to haunt juveniles well beyond their time in custody.

Juvenile Justice Information Exchange

Reducing Room Confinement of Youth in Custody: A Roadmap

In recent years, juvenile justice practitioners, researchers and advocates have raised awareness of the harms of room confinement or isolation of youth in detention and residential facilities. Research and empirical knowledge teach us that the practice can negatively impact youth’s developing brains and emotional health, impair youth’s relationships with staff, limit youth’s access to important programming and Read more . . .

Washington State Tries Host Homes, Permanency Navigators for Homeless Teens

Natyana Foss remembers being told that she would soon have to leave the shelter. She had been staying in one of Washington state’s few shelters for unaccompanied homeless minors, but because of restrictions that come with government funding, the shelter could house her for only three weeks. Her time was almost up. “Definitely it was scary,” said Foss. Read more . . .

Ideas for State Advisory Groups in New Report from CJ

Best practices for state advisory groups as federal grant money has diminished is the focus of a new report from the Coalition for Juvenile Justice. The report examines the ways in which different state advisory groups (SAGs) have adapted over the years. Established to ensure states are in compliance with the four core requirements of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDPA), many SAGs originally took on the role of grant givers and have had to Read more . . .

Activists Must Take ‘Macro’ Approach, Address Fundamental Inequalities, NJJN’s Bryer Says

Sarah Bryer is planning to step down as executive director of the National Juvenile Justice Network when her successor is chosen. The organization, which she led since its founding in 2005, works for a fairer juvenile justice system through a network of state-based reform organizations and with the alumni of its Youth Justice Leadership Institute. Here, Bryer talks with reporter Stell Simorton Read more . . .

Youth Show Ways to Reshape Homeless Policy, Chapin Hall Researchers Say

When Abrea Ponce, 25, looks back on her childhood, she realizes things could have been different. The San Diego (CA) mother and staff member at the San Diego Regional Task Force on the Homeless spent her critical teen years moving from couch to youth hotel to hotel to avoid sleeping on the street. The events that led her to become homeless began long before she was a teenager, she believes. Read more . . .

As California Youth Crime Plummet, Need For Innovative Re-engagement Strategies Rises

I’ve argued that notions demeaning the “teenage brain,” “adolescent risk,” and “crime-prone youth” are just simplistic adult projections with no scientific basis that hamstring understanding of the root conditions and individual situations that drive challenges affecting youth. However, youths do deserve singular considerations in the justice system. In Miller v. Alabama, which limited life without parole sentences for crimes committed before age 18, the U.S. Supreme Court cited three crucial points that remain largely ignored Read more . . .