Kansas News

KICC Hosts Open House

On March 15, 2019 the Kansas Juvenile Correctional Complex (KJCC) hosted an open house of three newly renovated areas of the correctional complex. The three buildings that were renovated were previously used as living units prior to KJCC occupying the new complex in 2005. Kanza living unit was converted into a community activity center. Pawnee living unit was converted into behavioral health offices and Shawnee living unit was converted into re-entry planning offices. All three buildings have staff for programing with youth.

Tours were provided by two KICC youth. According to Wendy Leiker, KICC Superintendent the two tour guides “did a fantastic job giving the tours today. It was also the first time they have ever worn suits. I wish everyone could have seen the looks of pride they had on their faces being able to do something that they have never done before and giving someone(s) a take on the hard. I hope to believe one of these JOs was spending quality time in RH (restricted housing) just a few short months ago. It truly takes a village and you are making a difference with them.”

Youth Commentary: We Must Invest in Kansas’ Youth

Youth justice in Kansas is at a crossroads. As young people who have directly experienced our broken justice system, we know its problems firsthand — which is why we were relieved when the state passed a comprehensive juvenile justice reform package in Senate Bill 367. But unfortunately, this law might never be realized by the youth who have directly experienced our broken youth justice system, who have directly experienced our broken youth justice system, who have directly experienced our broken youth justice system.

As he reflected on the past several months and this team, LGHS Principal Steve Backman noted, “I cannot champion enough the efforts and support of everyone at KJCC for our inaugural LGHS basketball games.” For a couple of months, there was quite a difference in student attitudes and excitement in the school. Staff and students alike bartered throughout in good fun. Several students made positive remarks — even the student body as a whole seemed to enjoy watching the games as much as those participating. Ultimately, however, this could not have been possible without the vision and effort of Coach Matt Sinnott and Coach Josh Wise. Their tireless efforts and passion for the students was exemplary. They set a standard that the students respected and enjoyed meeting. This was a wonderful accomplishment for all of us.”

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Youth in the entryway of Van Go Inc. at 715 New Jersey St. . . . Now, Joe lives in Shawnee and works at Johnson County Juvenile Services as a youth care adviser, connecting with teens who are going through some of the same struggles he experienced, including moving in and out of foster care. He contributes. Read more . . . .

Community Partners List

The KDOC-JS Partner Contact List has been recently updated and is now available on the KDOC website. The contact list includes Administrative Contacts and contacts for Supervision, the Juvenile Services Training Schedule and Juvenile Intake and Assessment. Click here . . . .

2019 Training Catalog Now Available Online

The 2019 KDOC-JS Training Catalog is now available online for staff who work in the juvenile justice field. The catalog includes a schedule of training offerings along with information for each training available to include a brief description, the target audience, delivery method, the dates/times/locations and any required prerequisites. Several trainings have unique requirements to pre-register in advance, so it is suggested to contact the KDOC staff listed for that training you are interested in. To access the Training Catalog, Click here . . . . As additional trainings are made available, KDOC-JS will provide updated information. In some cases, regional trainings will be in contact with supervisors of officers to provide registration instructions.

Human Trafficking - Kansas

Survivor Shares the Warning Signs of HT Victims

A local survivor is on a mission to spread awareness about human trafficking and the role we all have in doing something to stop it. Read more and watch video . . . .

The Juvenile Justice Corner

By Dustin Karr, Deputy Superintendent

KICC Juvenile Correctional Complex

It may not yet have been March, but basketball fever has been in full force at KICC this winter!

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*Kansas News* is a regularly published section of the Kansas State Board of Education Learn About HT.

KANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION LEARNS ABOUT HT

At a monthly meeting of the Kansas State Board of Education on Tuesday, members were brought face to face with facts surrounding human trafficking in the state. Jennifer Montgomery, director for human trafficking education and outreach with the Read more . . . .

KS Juvenile Justice Web-Line

March 2019

The Juvenile Justice Corner

By Dustin Karr, Deputy Superintendent

KICC Juvenile Correctional Complex

It may not yet have been March, but basketball fever has been in full force at KICC this winter!

Over the course of the past several months, and for the first time in recent memory, Lawrence Gardner High School (LGHS) staff and students have purchased the opportunity to be a part of the school-sponsored basketball team inside the Kansas Juvenile Correctional Complex (KJCC). Just like their peers in the community, youth participants attended tryout sessions, learned team practices, and learned about the importance of maintaining eligibility requirements based on their academic performance and meeting standards of appropriate behavior both inside and outside of the classroom. For weeks of team practices, the kids had the opportunity to play in three (3校区) inter-squad scrimmages. At each of these games, KJC/KGCC staff along with general population youth of the LGHS basketball team turned out to watch the competition and to support the players. Each of these three scrimmages were nail-biters and with each game, more and more excitement could be felt.

Rather than inter-scrimmage, this game saw the LGHS Lions take on the KJCC Graduates (current KJCC youth who have already graduated from the LGHS program) and the LGHS team was able to pull out a win.

Throughout this season, the team was able to work together toward meeting all of the goals set for them by LGHS advisor Jim Davis.

Editor’s Note – Below is a sample of some of the many success stories of Kansas juvenile involved youth. If you have a story to share, contact Jim at james.johnson2@ks.gov.

A few months ago a youth at the Kansas Juvenile Correctional Complex (KJCC) approached Mentoring-4 Success Coordinator Ken Davis and told him he wanted a mentor. According to Davis, the youth “had a lot of issues at KJCC, was involved in fights, disturbances and verbal abuse”. When Davis asked the youth why he wanted a mentor he replied “I need someone to talk to.” Davis assigned two Washburn University football players to mentor the youth. They started meeting. The mentors shared their stories with the youth and the youth began to listen. They established a good line of communications and trust. As their relationship developed, the youth showed continuous improvement. When the time came for the youth to leave the facility, he was able to meet with boy who he had been living in the same home town of Kansas City. At first, things in the community and with his family were not going well. But the mentors kept meeting with the youth. After a home meeting with the youth and his mom that did not go very well, the mentors took the youth to the local junior college. The mentors again told them stories of how they transitioned from their adversities to each establishing a college career. They shared their personal hopes and dreams for the future. Davis stated that he was a “magnificent” youth.” The youth and began creating his vision of success. About a month later, the youth reached out to Davis. Davis went to Kansas City to meet with the youth and his mom, not knowing what may have gone wrong. The youth’s mom was in tears. The youth had signed up for GED and Vocational classes at that same junior college he had visited with his mentors. Davis states that the youth’s “attitude and demeanor had made a remarkable change”. The mom’s tears were tears of joy. The mom told Davis “Thank You – I finally get a win!” After all the frustrations and feeling like she had failed, the mom repeated “I finally get a win!” I was just so glad losing my boy!”. Davis summarized this youth’s situation with his mom and their mentors as "a measurement of success, one kid at a time."
A Dramatic Shift in Arkansas’s Juvenile Justice System
By Governor Asa Hutchinson

The (Arkansas) General Assembly passed a comprehensive bill this year that is a step forward in reforming our juvenile justice system. The bill provides for better assessment of our troubled youth and allows for sentencing guidelines that are more appropriate to each person.

Arkansas Takes on New Law
Gov. Asa Hutchinson signed several bills with a variety of focuses into law this week but specifically, the Arkansas leader enacted a policy that is a giant step forward in reforming our juvenile justice system. He signed Act 152, sponsored by several members of the Arkansas General Assembly, focuses on improving outcomes for youth and their families through utilizing “valued assessment tools,” creating a plan for “diversion Read more and watch video . . . .”

Youth Agency Fills Position of Top Deputy
A new deputy director started work this week at the Arkansas Youth Services Division as part of a larger effort to overhaul the state’s troubled juvenile justice system, an agency spokesman said Thursday. Kimbria Newsom was named to the newly created $91,200-a-year position. She has decades of experience working with at-risk youth and juvenile justice programs in Read more . . . .

Next for Louisiana Juvenile Justice Reform?
Improve Safety and Oversight at State’s Outdated Facilities
Since Louisiana moved 15 years ago to overhaul a juvenile justice system notorious for its brutal treatment of youth, legislative victories and policy changes have transformed the system—significantly reducing the number locked up and providing a more therapeutic environment for those in custody. Read more . . . .

Columbia University Researchers Present Findings That Could Impact Juvenile Justice in Wisconsin
For the past year, a team of Columbia University researchers has been looking at a landmark juvenile justice initiative in New York City called Close to Home. The researchers presented their findings to law enforcement, youth justice advocacy groups and others in Milwaukee, WI on Wednesday. Read more and listen to report . . . .