Kansas News

A Place of Safety: Finney County Children’s Shelter Holds Open House

An open house was held Monday for the new Finney County Children’s Shelter, an option aside from foster care for placement of minors who are removed from a bad situation. Katrina Pollet, executive director of the Finney County Department of Correction and Juvenile Detention Center, said the process to refurbish and reopen part of the existing Finney County JDC over the past year was necessary to help minors. After a children’s shelter was closed last year in Hays, children were being sent across the state to Wichita or Kansas City, Pollet said. Read more...

Has The Kansas Juvenile Justice Reform Law Helped Push Kids Into Foster Care?

Advocates say a two-year-old juvenile justice law that is helping keep children who commit low-level crimes out of jail may be pushing kids with mental illnesses and behavioral issues into the already strained foster care system. Listen to audio ...

DCF – Family First Updates

To access the February edition of the DCF Family First Prevention Services newsletter click here ...

Human Trafficking – Kansas

The arrest of a 54-year-old Topeka man accused of human trafficking last week was concerning, but also the kind of story that be misunderstood. In the wake of such news, rumors can spread on social media, stereotypes can be trotted out, and ultimately, many of us can miss the point altogether. Undergoing those rumors at the heart of the myth that human trafficking always involves the abduction of children for use as sex slaves. Read more...

2020 DOC-Juvenile Services Training Schedule

New Employee Kansas Detention Assessment Instrument (KDA) Training
Topeka (KJCC) Tuesday March 17th Dates Tuesday March 31
April 1
April 7
April 14
April 21
April 28
May 5
May 12
May 19
May 26
Times 8:30 am – 5 pm 8:30 am – 5 pm 8:30 am – 5 pm 8:30 am – 5 pm 8:30 am – 5 pm 8:30 am – 5 pm 8:30 am – 5 pm 8:30 am – 5 pm 8:30 am – 5 pm

To Enroll - Email KDOC_JS_Training@ks.gov

Effective Practices in Correctional Settings II/Graduated Response Programs (EPCIS II/GR) Location – Sedgwick County Juvenile Field Services, 3801 E. Harry, Suite 125, Wichita Dates - Tuesday March 31 8:30 am – 5 pm Wednesday April 1 8:30 am – 5 pm Wednesday April 8 8:30 am – 12 pm

To Enroll - Email KDOC_JS_Training@ks.gov

Mental Health Training Curriculum – Juvenile Justice (MHTC-JJ)
KDOC Children’s Mental Health Training Curriculum – Juvenile Justice (MHTC-JJ) will be available for new employees from Judicial Districts 2 and 18 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 Liz Johnson at liz.johnson@ks.gov. Effective trainings are reserved for intake workers and supervisors. For more information on KDAI training or to register Steve Bonner at steven.bonner@ks.gov.

For more information contact KDOC_JS_Training@ks.gov

Mental Health Training Curriculum – Juvenile Justice (MHTC-JJ) KDOC Children’s Mental Health Training Curriculum – Juvenile Justice (MHTC-JJ) will be available for new employees from Judicial Districts 2 and 18 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 Liz Johnson at liz.johnson@ks.gov or 785-354-9660. KDOC will have MHTC-JJ training as a part of their basic training for new employees approximately every four weeks.

Moral Reconation Therapy Training Location - Youth & Family Services Center, 900 W Spruce, Olathe, KS Dates Tuesday May 19 8:30 am – 5 pm

To Enroll - Email KDOC_CO_MRT@ks.gov

Parent Project Facilitator Training Location - Salina Dates Monday, March 30 – Friday, April 3 8 am – 5 pm To inquire or enroll - Email KDOC_CO_ParentProject@ks.gov

KDOC-JS Community Legal Issues Training Location - KDOCAudit and Training Center 2021 SW Washington Street Topeka Dates Friday, April 3 9 am – 12 noon To Enroll - Click here ...

Legislation Would Require Prosecutors to Track Data on Race, Gender

A new bill aims to increase transparency in Utah's criminal justice system by requiring that prosecutors keep track of who is being arrested and tried in the state. The bill, which was introduced last Friday by Rep. Marsh Jenkins, R-Provo, would require county prosecutors, jails and courts in Utah to keep data on the race, ethnicity and gender, among other data points. Read more...

The Juvenile Justice Corner

Jim Johnson, Program Consultant DOC - Juvenile Community Based Services

It is hard to believe we are already moving into March Madness season. With some of the issues currently, being addressed related to juvenile justice, child welfare, mental health and education among others, it would be easy to get so caught up in all the potential changes that we get distracted from the here and now. However, part of what we do is focus on what needs to be done today. As we start to wrap up the last few months, we look forward to upcoming training opportunities both in the Web-line and in the email. Every month the email contains information and links to webinars provided by Justice Clearinghouse (JC) that are relative to our work. Because JC continues to provide quality and pertinent webinars, KDOC-JS purchases subscriptions for each Judicial District to use locally with their staff. Through these subscriptions, you can access webinars that were previously recorded and are available through the JC website.

In addition, if you are aware of training opportunities that could be beneficial for your colleagues across the state, please let me know what information so others can benefit. Just forward that information to james.johnson2@ks.gov.

So moving forward, lets take advantage of those opportunities that are available to us and keep our personal professional development. That being said, make sure you take a little time to embrace the madness of March.

Kansas News

Legislative Update

At the end of February, the 2020 Legislature was at mid-session. Below is a brief summary and status report of several bills that are of interest to individuals involved in the juvenile justice. To help you keep current with a bills status, a link is provided for each.

HB 2505 (A greater use of detention for juvenile offenders who violate probation.) HB 2505 would allow courts to remand juvenile offenders to a juvenile detention center for no more than 48 hours if the offender is found to have violated the condition of their sentence for the fourth time. The bill would allow courts to remand juvenile offenders to a juvenile detention center for no more than five days upon the violation of the condition of their sentence. A hearing was held February 18th in the House Committee on Corrections and Justice. No action was taken and this bill did not get out of the House Committee on Corrections and Justice.

HB 2699 (Requiring court services officers to assist with child in need of care cases when directed by a judge). HB 2699 would amend a statute in the Revised Kansas Code for Care of Children governing authorized dispositions by the court to allow the court to order supervision of a case by a court services officer (CSO) when a child is in the custody of the Secretary for Children and Families (Secretary). A hearing was held February 17th in the House Committee on Judiciary and passed out of committee. HB 2699 was passed by the House 105-20 on Feb. 26th. Supplemental Note of HB 2699.

HB 2950 (Allowing law enforcement to have access to certain data from the department for children and families). HB 2950 would amend the Kansas Code for Care of Children by expanding the sharing of information with law enforcement agencies concerning children and minors who are subject to the Child in Need of Care law. Additionally, HB 2950 would allow law enforcement agencies to access DCF systems that contain information related to children for the purpose of ensuring the safety of any child and their family. This bill did not get out of the hearing and did not get out of the House Committee on Judiciary.

HB 2445 (Allowing children who run away to be placed in a juvenile detention facility for 24 hours). HB 2445 would amend the Child in Need of Care Code by expanding the definition of the “secure facility” to include county operated juvenile detention centers. The bill did allow the court to enter an order directing a child, who has run away, to be held in a juvenile detention center for 24 hours with no extensions allowed. A hearing was held January 28th in the House Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice. No action was taken and this bill did not get out of the House Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice.

ER0 44 (An Executive Order renaming the Kansas department for children and families the Kansas department of human services; abolishing the Kansas department for aging and disability services and transferring the functions to the Kansas department of human services; abolishing the Kansas department for aging and disability services and transferring the functions to the Kansas department of human services; abolishing the Kansas department for aging and disability services and transferring the functions to the Kansas department of human services; abolishing the Kansas department for aging and disability services and transferring the functions to the Kansas department of human services.) The House referred ER0 44 to the House Committee on Appropriations who held a hearing on Feb 11. The House Committee on Appropriations then approved House Resolution 603 to disapprove ER0 44. The House has not yet taken action on HR 6032.

The Senate referred ER0 44 to the Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare who held hearings on Feb 18 and 19. The House Committee on Public Health and Welfare then approved Senate Resolution 1781 to disapprove ER0 44. The Senate has not yet taken action on HR 1761.
Policy Center uncovers ‘crisis’ status of Florida girls “There are cohorts of girls who are at greater risk for trauma, mental health challenges, exploitation, and/or system involvement than their peers,” according to a new report from Jacksonville’s Delores Barr Weaver Policy Center. Girls in Florida are “in crisis:” One in three contemplated suicide or experienced depression. Johnny was 10 was raped and one girl thought she could ask a parent for help, according to a new report from Jacksonville’s Delores Barr Weaver Policy Center. Read more . . .

Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC)

Recommendations for Addressing Racial Bias in Risk and Needs Assessment in the Juvenile Justice System Research indicates that justice interventions and heightened levels of supervision can increase the likelihood of future offending for low-risk populations and reduce the likelihood of offending for high-risk youth. Therefore, identifying who is low-risk—and then limiting the types of justice interventions used for this population, is critical for keeping the public safe while minimizing the level of harm associated with state involvement in a youth’s life. Risk and needs assessments are implemented to assist with Read more . . .

Annie E. Casey Foundation

JDAI’s Expanded Focus Sees Results in Transforming Juvenile Probation A Journal article recently published in Youth Violence and Juvenile Justice reported promising changes in organizational culture among probation staff in Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) sites participating in an effort to reduce the placement of young people in residential institutions. The deep-end initiative focuses specifically on reducing placement of youth of color, who are disproportionately represented in young offender facilities and on Read more . . .

Leadership Approach Contributes to Juvenile Justice Gains Could gains for young people involved in the juvenile justice system in one New York County be replicated throughout the region? Since 2014, Onondaga County (home to Syracuse) has been implementing Results Count, a leadership approach developed by the Annie E. Casey Foundation to improve outcomes for children, families and communities. According to local juvenile leaders, an unwavering focus on results, which includes having the right stakeholders at the table, with a shared sense of what it takes to achieve specific, measurable change on behalf of Read more . . .

Prosecutor-Led Juvenile Justice Reforms A new webinar explores prosecutor-led efforts to reform the juvenile justice system by implementing measures that are less adversarial and more focused on reducing the use of detention. Prosecutors use a Leaders of Reform features three prosecutors from JDAI (jurisdictions (Hanns County, Texas; King County, Washington; and Philadelphia) who are using their own office resources to advance rehabilitation efforts, equity and accountability. Read more and watch webinar . . .

Juvenile Justice Information Exchange

Plea Bargaining Hurts Both Guilty and Innocent Kids By Judge Steven Teske It is a case of mistaken identity, and unfortunately you happen to be in the wrong place at the wrong time, which circumstantially lends credence to the eyewitness account that implicated the crime. Pause - yes, this could really happen to you. It happens more than you think. One study showed that 99.5% Read more . . .

To Use Evidence-based Programs for Kids, Get the Lawyers Out of Here! By Judge Steven Teske Neglecting dispositions have no place in our juvenile courtrooms. Let’s examine this assertion using Johnny as a case study. He is 15 years old and before the juvenile court for battery on a teacher, affray, disrupting public school, disorderly conduct and criminal disfigurement government property. The battery and disorderly conduct government offenses are felonies, which make Johnny eligible in most states for probation or commitment to the state’s department of juvenile justice for placement. Read more . . .

How Juvenile Justice Systems Must Balance Risk Assessment with Racial Equity As the juvenile justice system has evolved, the use of statistics and data to inform decision-making have become commonplace. Risk assessment in the juvenile justice system is widely used across the United States to predict whether a youth is likely to recidivate. Typically, risk assessments are structured interviews conducted by court personnel (e.g. probation officers) that provide a score to indicate a youth’s risk of reoffending. Risk assessments are generally grounded in the Risk Needs Responsivity model of offender rehabilitation, Read more . . .

Human Trafficking - National

Advocates Say Human Trafficking Hard to Stop, Often Starts at Home Human trafficking is an ongoing epidemic in the United States. It doesn't just happen in movies. It happens in small towns, big cities, and everywhere in between. In the Tennessee Valley, Channel 3 sat down with law enforcement and advocates to talk about the state of human trafficking in Tennessee. Mimi Nikkel with Love’s Arm outreach says that the biggest challenge is the human trafficking victims who experience both human trafficking and sexual abuse. Their pasts make them targets. Read more . . .

Human Trafficking: Who is Really Targeted? Rumors spread around social media about victims being stalked through Walmart, or reading a note placed on their windshield just before they're abducted, are rarely the case when it comes to human trafficking. “Most human traffickers are not wiring people’s keyboards, or grooming process and know the person,” said Tricia Knoles, the public information officer for Kent State University PD. Ohio has the 4th highest rate of reported human trafficking Read more . . .

National News

A Complete Juvenile Justice System Matters to N.M. In the past 10 years, the number of youth detained in New Mexico county detention facilities has gone down by 39 percent, from 4,096 in 2010 to 1,597 in 2019. As more and more juvenile detainees beds stayed empty, county juvenile detention facilities closed. Today only 11 of the 14 facilities that were opened remain and at least two of these are considering closure. Cost of operation is a significant factor in the decision to close. Read more . . .

Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice Task Force Holds First Public Meeting “My thanks to the members of the Task Force for sharing their time and expertise to begin the process of designing a juvenile justice system that works for all Pennsylvania youth,” Governor Wolf said. “I look forward to seeing the progress of the Task Force – what they learn, gather and share during this process.” Gov. Wolf, judicial and legislative leaders announced the Task Force in January as part of a larger effort in partnership with Pub Charitable Trust to deliver a report with data-driven findings and policy recommendations to strengthen Pennsylvania’s juvenile justice system to Read more . . .

Marion Police Hope to Use Mentors, Diversion to Reduce Youth Crime Marion (Ohio) police want to focus on more than arrests in criminal cases committed by Marion youth. This year, the Marion Police Department hopes to win a federal grant to hire three more police officers with the aim of driving down juvenile crime through mentoring of at-risk youth and through a diversion program to steer low-level or first-time juvenile offenders out of the criminal justice system, Marion Police Major Jon Shaffer told the Star. “It’s probably the most effective re-entry program that we could possibly do,” he said, referring to the police department’s community Read more . . .

Group Advises Investments to Reduce Juvenile Incarcerations Working to keep the youth of Maine on a positive track and away from incarceration is the goal of the Juvenile Justice System Assessment and Reinvestment Task Force. “This goal is the same as it has been all along: to reduce our reliance on incarceration in the state of Maine,” said Randall Liberty, Commissioner of Corrections. They’re working on the root causes of incarceration. “It’s important because we find issues with those in the system directly dealing with mental health, substance abuse, poverty, neglect, and learning disabilities,” said Liberty. Read more and watch video . . .

Adult and Juvenile Judicial Systems: What’s the Difference? The differences between the adult and juvenile justice systems come down to nuances in language and focus on rehabilitation. We talked with local justice system officials to learn more about the differences in the two systems. In language, juveniles are detained and arrested, and the process to figure out consequences is disposition, not punishment. Juveniles are not Read more . . .

Law Firm Establishes Program to Help At-Risk Youth in Houston I’m always looking for good stories on criminal justice reform. Reform is such an uphill battle, so when I recently spoke to Joel Androphy on a trip to New York, he told me about how his firm has worked to establish a pro bono program in Houston that truly gives inner-city youth a second chance. In October 2012, the law firm Berg & Androphy brought Michelle Alexander to Houston to speak at the inaugural Forum. The New, Juxtaposition: A Examination of the National and International State of Mass Incarceration. Her powerful speech inspired Joel Androphy, a nationally recognized white-collar defense attorney, to search for a location to establish a pro bono program to provide zealous representation in criminal cases for young minorities in Houston. That vision came to reality when Read more . . .