KJCC Holds Unique Graduation Ceremony

July 10, 2020 was Graduation Day at Lawrence Gardner High School (LGHS) at the Kansas Juvenile Correctional Complex (KJCC) with 15 males received their high school diplomas. Graduation had originally been scheduled in June, but COVID-19 required some changes. Since the graduation could not take place in the gym with family and friends in attendance, KJCC and LGHS staff got creative and created a plan to have the graduation held in an outdoor recreation area. Family members of the graduates were able to attend as they were allowed to drive their cars to a designated area on the outside of the perimeter fence so they could watch the ceremony. After the ceremony, graduates were able to greet their family members and get a picture with them. The entire event was held using social distancing protocols with no physical contact and all the graduates and LGHS/KJCC staff wearing masks for the entire ceremony.

OJJDPs Juveniles in Residential Placement, 2017

The 2017 Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement (CJRP) shows that the number of youth in placement continues to decline. Between 1997 and 2017, the number of youth in residential placement decreased 59% to 43,580, its lowest level since the data collection began in 1997 when 105,055 youth were held in out-of-home placement. The number of public facilities decreased 12% between 1997 and 2017, compared with 58% for private facilities. Despite this, the decrease in the number of juvenile offenders held at public facilities was slightly greater than the decrease in the number held in private facilities during the same period (decreased 59% and 57%, respectively). Read the National Report.

Kansas has made progress in reducing the number of juveniles incarcerated. In 2013, Kansas was ranked 6th in the nation for how frequently we incarcerated youth (incarcerating 278 out of 100,000 youth); in 2015, Kansas was ranked 17th in the nation, (incarcerating 177 out of 100,000 youth) and in 2017 Kansas was ranked 27th in the nation (incarcerating 132 out of 100,000 youth). From 2013 to 2017, the number of youth incarcerated in Kansas was reduced by 47.2%.

The Crossover Youth Practice Model

By Michelle Montgomery, CYPM Practice & Policy Coordinator

Members from the Crossover Youth Practice Model (CYPM) State Policy Team met via Zoom on June 28th with Duane Powell, Administrative Contact for the 14th Judicial District and other stakeholders from Montgomery County. The two CYPM pilot sites, Montgomery and Shawnee counties, are taking the next step which is to identify individuals and organizations to participate on their local implementation teams. These local teams will be involved in the day-to-day implementation of the CYPM and are made up of individuals and organizations including judges, court personnel, juvenile justice and child welfare workers, education, mental health and substance abuse treatment providers, youth, parents, law enforcement, attorneys, and CASA. Once members from each pilot site have been identified, they will be invited to participate in a virtual orientation tentatively scheduled for August.

We are very excited and looking forward to working with the implementation Teams. The next State Policy Team Meeting will be held via Zoom on August 28th, 10 am – 12 noon. For more information on the CYPM visit the CYPM page on the KDOC website. click here.

The Juvenile Justice Corner

Jim Johnson, Program Consultant

DOC – Juvenile Community Based Services

While the implementation of social distancing standards due to the COVID-19 pandemic has changed how we conduct our daily routines, some adaptations require a little creativity and ingenuity. Greg Artis, who filled the role as the Kansas State Compliance Monitor for the Kansas Department of Corrections – Juvenile Services newsletter DCF – Family First Updates.

Training Updates from Central Offices

Due to precautions initiated as a result of the COVID-19, the Kansas Department of Corrections-Juvenile Services has temporarily suspended all in-person training sessions. As a result, critical training offerings are being converted so that they can be offered using the zoom platform. In July KDOC-JS hosted two sessions of KDAI trainings over zoom with 33 participants attending. Steve Bonner, KDOC-JS Program Consultant stated “I think the training went well. The participants were all great. We look forward to getting better as we do this more and make adjustments to future trainings as we begin getting good feedback from our evaluations.” Other trainings currently being developed for the virtual classroom include Juvenile Justice Basics and YLS-Screener Version trainings. Announcements regarding training opportunities via zoom will be coming soon.

Welcome to the world of Zoom & Microsoft Talks. Candice Byrd and Steve Bonner hosted two KDAI training sessions on July 23rd and 29th.

2020 DOC-Juvenile Services Training Schedule

New Employee Kansas Detention Assessment Instrument (KDAI) Training

Zoom Wednesday August 19th
Zoom Saturday September 26th
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. Due to COVID-19 precautions, KDAI trainings are being provided via the zoom platform. For more information on KDAI training or to register contact Steve Bonner at steven.bonner@ks.gov

Juvenile Justice Basics

Location Zoom
Date September - TBD
To Inquire Email KDOC_JS_Training@ks.gov
Participants name, agency, position, phone #, email address and supervisor’s name.

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Racial & Ethnic Disparities

Florida Officials Launch Race Equity Challenge

Florida's race equity challenge is a web-based experience that will provide collaborative groups with the education and tools to identify and tackle issues related to race, equity, and inclusion (REI) within the juvenile justice system. We will combine passion with action and challenge participants to affect meaningful change. Teams will learn, participate, and complete state-specific course materials.

Click here to view informational session webinar . . .

National News

Dismantling the Myth of Tough Love

The United States is currently experiencing unprecedented protests in reaction to police brutality. Jenna Wortham characterized it as "the biggest collective demonstration of civil unrest around state violence in our generation’s memory." This had led to several outcomes including police reform, dismantling statues with histories of racism, and increasing conversations about African American history, mental health, and the effectiveness of our prison system. The urgent plea for change begs basic questions relating to the criminal justice system. How do we change someone's behavior? Is it through rewards? Punishment? Do you in fact catch more flies with honey rather than vinegar, as the saying goes? Is it better to be harsh and unyielding to ensure we’re not "spoiling" children? Is it better to drop the hammer hard to discourage crime? Read more . . .

How Hard is the LNP Willing to Go on Jailing Kids?

It's a familiar catchphrase for politicians beating the law and order drum — "three strikes and you're out". And it was one of the main tenets of the LNP's self-styled "comprehensive plan to crack down on youth crime" released in Townsville this week as part of the Queensland Opposition's 2020 state election campaign platform. "The Youth Justice Act will be amended to force the courts to sentence a youth to detention if convicted of a third offence," the policy said. But what exactly does this mean? Read more . . .

Youth Corrections Chiefs, Prosecutors Call for Shutting 'Inhumane' Youth Prisons

More than 40 youth correctional administrators joined prosecutors from over 30 jurisdictions in a call for the closure of youth detention facilities across the country. A report accompanying their statement Thursday said the over-incarceration of young people increases their likelihood of recidivism, damages their health, and stunts their ability to find employment. Read more .

Gov. Pritzker Announces Community-based Juvenile Justice Program

Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker and Lt. Gov. Juliana Stratton announced a plan to transform the state's juvenile justice system over the next four years. "An essential tenet of good governance is recognizing the need to change the laws that have failed the people they serve — some by design. It means doing everything in our power to reverse the tide," Gov. Pritzker said. Read more . . .

Cafe Momentum in Dallas is Giving Teens from the Juvenile Justice System a Second Chance

Cafe Momentum is more than just a great Since 2015, Chad Houser has worked toward a recipe for change. The owner (TX) man started Cafe Momentum as a way to catch the young people who so many called "throw-aways" and give them a shot at doing something great. He has worked with more than 900 young men and women, teaching them culinary skills and requiring them to get back into school after they are released from the juvenile justice system. "So often people talk about Cafe Momentum as a restaurant of second chances and I think that's a popular meme. If you spend any time with them, you see it's truly a first chance. That for the first time in their life, they have a chance to make it," Houser said. "These are opportunities I have seen over and over and over. I have been allowed to fail and I have been loved through my failures through my entire life. These young men and women are prescribed a life of failure and never given an opportunity to succeed."

What is Cafe Momentum

Cafe Momentum's Class of 2020

Teens at Dallas Cafe Make Meal Kits

For Needy Amid COVID-19

Ted Talks - Cafe Momentum's Founder

Chad Houser

Watch video . . .

Watch video . . .

Watch video . . .

Watch video . . .

The National Child Trauma Stress Network: Working Together in the Pandemic

Tips for Front-Line Juvenile Justice Staff

Offers front-line juvenile justice staff ways to effectively support one another during the pandemic. This fact sheet provides information on how to deal with disagreements, fluctuations in critical incidents, and other challenges front-line workers have at work. It includes ways to keep the work team strong as well as do’s and don’ts for being a team in a time of crisis. Read more . . .

Tips for Juvenile Justice Administrators & Supervisors in Preparing for the Future

Read more . . .

Tips for Supporting Youth and Families in a Time of Crisis

Read more . . .

Strengthening Your Resilience: Take Care of Yourself as You Care for Others

Read more . . .

Council of State Governments – Justice Center

Five Ways States Can Prep Youth in the Justice System for Employment

Youth and young adults in the juvenile justice system are older than they used to be. Approximately 75 percent of incarcerated youth were age 16 and over. Therefore, states are likely to seek employment upon release. Yet, most state juvenile correctional agencies aren’t adequately preparing them to enter the workforce. In fact, a recent study showed that only eight states provide comprehensive workforce development services to these young people. Read more . . .

Connecticut, Sonoma County Launch Efforts to Improve Juvenile Justice Systems

Connecticut and Sonoma County, California, became the latest jurisdictions to adopt a national initiative and launch a data-driven effort to improve public safety and help create better futures for the young people involved with their juvenile justice systems. The endeavors are part of the Improving Outcomes for Youth (JOY) initiative, an effort by the National Reentry Resource Center to answer the call of state and local jurisdictions struggling to ensure that resources are being efficiently used to help young people who Read more . . .

Colorado Launches Comprehensive Review of Juvenile Justice System

Gov. Jared Polis today announced a comprehensive review of Colorado’s juvenile justice system. The Governor was joined by Sen. Ben Gardner (R), Rep. Pete Lee (D), and Justice Brian Boatright of the Colorado Supreme Court in the effort to ensure that youth who find themselves in corrections at an early age can have a second chance to build successful futures. The task force furthers our efforts to keep youth out of the criminal justice system. A major Step Two Generation approach is to increase the amount of resources and support available to affected youth. Read more . . .

Nevada Passes Juvenile Justice System Reform Act

Nevada Gov. Brian Sandoval signed legislation on June 16 in Carson City that seeks to strengthen public safety and improve outcomes for youth in that state’s juvenile justice system. The Juvenile Justice Reform Act calls for Nevada to adopt a statewide validated risk and needs assessment tool, requires state funding be used for evidence-based practices, establishes better data collection, and creates a single juvenile justice oversight body to guide and oversee these reforms, among other things. Read more . . .

The Juvenile Justice Corner continued from page 1

➢ Removal of juveniles from adult jails and lockups
➢ Reduction of disproportionate minority contact (DMC), where it exists.

Regardless of all the restrictions in place (including the operating procedures of law enforcement and detention facilities), these inspections need to be completed by October 1, 2020. Greg believes one possible way to accomplish this task is to partner with facility administrators, chiefs of police and county sheriffs to conduct “Virtual” walk-throughs of their facilities. Those facilities not able to accommodate a virtual walk through will be visited once state and facility restrictions are lifted.

To initiate the process of conducting a Virtual walk through, facilities will receive a COVID-19 Facility Survey. The completed survey will help determine the facility classification as well as the feasibility of a virtual walk through with that particular facility. The Compliance Monitor will then send a Compliance letter and schedule the Virtual Walk through date and time. Prior to the scheduled walk through, the site administrator is asked to provide a facility layout, or a fire evacuation plan with the full layout of the facility.

Using this strategy, Greg is confident that he can start connecting with partners across the state and building relationships while keeping everyone safe, healthy and positive during this trying time. You can contact Greg at (785) 940-1164 or gregory.arts@ks.gov.