

Kansas News

Crossover Youth Practice Model Coordinators Named at DCF and KDOC-JS

Ashley Brown has accepted the position of the Crossover Youth Practice Model Practice and Policy Coordinator for the Department for Children and Families. Ashley started at DCF in 2016 as the Group Home Program Manager. Her duties included providing oversight to the group home program, updating standards, participating in policy work group, providing technical assistance to stakeholders and DCF regional staff. At times she would travel to the various group homes in Kansas to assist the regions with site visits. Ashley was also the tribal liaison for the 4 federally recognized tribes in Kansas. Her duties included maintaining proper grant paperwork, processing quarterly reports, holding quarterly Resident Tribe meetings, editing the tribal section of the DCF State Plan and conducting annual site visits to each tribe. Ashley dabbled in Grants and Contracts but quickly discovered her passion was with program services for Kansas Children. Ashley can be reached by email at ashley.brown@ks.gov or by phone at 785-296-3867.

Michelle Montgomery has accepted the position of the Crossover Youth Practice Model Practice and Policy Coordinator for the KDOC-JS. Michelle has worked in Central Offices for ten years, the first seven years as a Program Consultant II during which she became the YLS/CMI Statewide Coordinator. Then three years ago she was again promoted to her most recent position as a Public Service Executive I, where she worked with a team of four Program Consultant II's to provide training and coaching on evidence-based practices statewide. Prior to coming to Central Offices, Michelle worked for two years as an intake supervisor with the Farm Inc., and six years in adult corrections at Shawnee County Re-entry and the Topeka Day Reporting Center. Michelle stated "There are so many things about this position that I am excited and looking forward to. Most exciting is the opportunity to be involved with the implementation of a new practice that will have a positive impact on youth and their families. I'm also excited about being involved in helping to develop a collaboration between systems." Michelle can be reached by email at michelle.montgomery@ks.gov or by phone at (785) 296-1965.

Additional Staffing Changes at KDOC-JS

Greg Artis joined the Juvenile Services team in March as the Compliance Monitor. Greg worked at Kansas Juvenile Correctional Complex for 1 ½ years first as a Corrections Counselor II and then as a Unit Team Manager. He began his career working with at-risk youth with seven years in Johnson County as a Juvenile Corrections Officer and Trainer and then seven years with Wyandotte County as an Intensive Supervision Officer and as a Case Manager. Greg is a military Veteran serving eight years in the US Army as an active duty Infantry Officer. Greg stated "I am looking forward to working with all people in the state of Kansas, who are willing to work with high risk youth to better our communities." Greg can be reached by email at gregory.artis@ks.gov or by phone at (785) 940-1164.

Laura Parker is transitioning into the role of the YLS/CMI Statewide Coordinator to replace Michelle Montgomery. Laura has been part of KDOC for 20 years and has been with Central Office assisting in the administration of the YLS/CMI for the past 6 years. Laura stated "I look forward to continuing to work with all our community partners just as I did as a co-facilitator and don't expect much to change. I have really enjoyed training with Michelle all these years and will miss our impromptu jokes and what we always called our comedy show to help break the ice with our class participants, but as they say the 'show must go on' and while they are big shoes to fill I am up to the task." Please send your YLS/CMI questions to the group email KDOC_JS_YLSCMI@ks.gov.

Kelly Rodriguez has been named the Interim Supervisor of the KDOC-JS Regional Program Consultants. Kelly started at KDOC-JS as a Regional Program Consultant II three years ago providing training and coaching on evidence-based practices. Prior to that, Kelly worked for three years as a Court Services Officer for the 25th Judicial District, as a Corrections Counselor II at Kansas Juvenile Correctional Complex for one year and as another eight years for the 25th Judicial District Youth Services in Immediate Intervention Programs, Juvenile Intake, as a Day Treatment Center Case Manager, as a Gang Resource Officer, and as a Juvenile Intensive Supervision Officer Supervisor.

Topeka Public Schools Using Zoom for Students at Local Juvenile Center

Topeka Public Schools is making sure all of its students continue their education during the coronavirus pandemic, even those at the Shawnee County Juvenile Detention Center. Topeka Public Schools has always had teachers inside of the center to make sure the teens there are still learning. But since classes have been online, the teachers haven't been able to teach inside the facility. However, they're now turning to online classes by using Zoom, computers and tablets to continue their education [Read more . . .](#)

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Update on KDOC-JS Operations

On March 21st, KDOC Central Office was closed to the public. Since April 6th, the KDOC-JS staff have been working remotely (i.e., teleworking). At the time of the publication of this newsletter, there has not been any indications as to when this might change. All KDOC-JS staff can be reached by email or phone during regular business hours.

The KDOC-JS Regional Program Consultants are working on strategies to provide training remotely if a decision is made to suspend in-person trainings for an extended period of time. There are no training sessions scheduled for May or June. If you have questions, please contact your Regional Program Consultant.

Steve Bonner and Candice Byrd are working on strategies to provide KDAI training remotely. Judicial District Administrative Contacts and Juvenile Intake Directors will be contacted when KDAI trainings are scheduled.

The Juvenile Justice Corner

Jim Johnson, Program Consultant
DOC - Juvenile Community Based Services

The impact of the Coronavirus and COVID-19 has changed many aspects of both our work and personal lives. Change seems to be constant. Every week, and sometimes even daily, we adjust to a cycle of continuous evolution. We are all going through this for the first time in our lives.

It would be nice to be able to provide a blueprint for steps to follow over the course of the upcoming days and weeks. But change is ongoing. Today's best practices maybe outdated tomorrow. So, the best we can do is provide recommendations and access to resources and guidance. The Department of Corrections is working in concert with the Governor's office, the Kansas Department of Administration and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to provide information and guidance to state employees and community partners.

Below are links to some of the guidance provided that is applicable to our field. The work that many of you do whether your role is juvenile intake, juvenile community corrections, court services, a local contract agency or partner, mental health, law enforcement, with the local school system, child welfare, juvenile detention or at KJCC; the services and support you provide for youth, families and your community continues.

The Kansas Department of Corrections has created an email address for anyone that has a COVID-19 related question or concern - KDOC_COVID19@KS.GOV. If you have question regarding what is going on within a KDOC facility you can call the KDOC COVID-19 hotline at (785) 746-7640.

Finally, we appreciate all that you do to help us persevere towards meeting the vision of the juvenile services division of KDOC, "to lead the nation in juvenile justice by strengthening families, empowering youth, and making communities safer".

Kansas - COVID-19 Guidance

KDOC Response to COVID-19

[Kansas Department of Corrections](#) [Access guidance . . .](#)

Talking with Children and Adolescents About COVID-19

[Kansas Department of Health & Environment](#) [Access guidance . . .](#)

Prevention and Control of COVID-19 in Correctional and Detention Facilities

[Kansas Department of Health & Environment](#) [Access guidance . . .](#)

Maintaining Positive Mental Health During COVID-19

[Kansas Department of Health & Environment](#) [Access guidance . . .](#)

Mandated Reporting Guidance during COVID-19

[Kansas Department of Health & Environment](#) [Access guidance . . .](#)

Interim Guidance for Child Care Facilities Licensed by the KDHE

[Kansas Department of Health & Environment](#) [Access guidance . . .](#)

National - COVID-19 Guidance

Disaster Distress Helpline

[Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services](#) [Access guidance . . .](#)

Emergency Responders: Tips for taking care of yourself

[Centers for Disease Control & Prevention](#) [Access guidance . . .](#)

Successful Video Visits with Young Children

[National Council on Crime & Delinquency](#) [Access guidance . . .](#)

Community Supervision COVID-19 Guidance and Tips

[National Council on Crime & Delinquency](#) [Access guidance . . .](#)

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

[Centers for Disease Control & Prevention](#) [Access guidance . . .](#)

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FHSU'S DR. APRIL TERRY INDUCTED INTO KAG

Dr. April Terry, an assistant professor in Fort Hays State University's Department of Criminal Justice, was recently appointed to the Kansas Advisory Group on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Terry was appointed to a four-year term. Her place on the committee gives Terry a voice in the governing and policy decisions in the state on issues of juvenile justice and delinquency. [Read more](#)

DCF – Family First Updates

To access the March/April edition of the DCF [Family First Prevention](#) Services newsletter [click here](#)

National News

Davidson County's Juvenile Court Advances Unparalleled System Changes

Davidson County's Juvenile Court (DCJC) is in the midst of an exciting transformation, as they incorporate best practices into all aspects of their court system and include staff at every level. Following the passage of [Tennessee's](#) Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 2018, DCJC leaders shifted their focus to implementing evidence-based practices proven to reduce recidivism. They knew they would need certain components to succeed: collaboration (especially interagency), a shared message across [Read more](#)

Advocates Say Youth Falling Through the Cracks in Efforts to Curb Homelessness

Javier seems like a well-adjusted teenager on the surface. He's gregarious, funny, sometimes brutally blunt and also a bit awkward. When the 18-year-old struggles to find words, he gazes toward his shoes and retreats inside a brown hoodie. But Javier has suffered unspeakable damage. He agreed to talk only if key details of his life, including his name, were changed. The Santa Fe youth has been in and out of state systems for most of [Read more](#)

Annie E. Casey Foundation

At Onset of the COVID-19 Pandemic, Dramatic and Rapid Reductions in Youth Detention

A survey of juvenile justice agencies in 30 states funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation finds that the number of young people in local secure detention centers fell by 24% in March 2020, a sign that the coronavirus pandemic is dramatically altering the juvenile justice system. The percentage reduction in youth detention across these jurisdictions in [Read more](#)

How Child Welfare Leaders Can Help Older Youth During COVID-19 Pandemic

As the nation grapples with the public health crisis of COVID-19, child welfare systems must prioritize the urgent and unique needs of older youth in foster care and those who have left (or aged out of) foster care without permanent family connections. These young people, who are especially vulnerable, rely on foster care systems for their safety, health and well-being. [Read more](#)

Teams from Kansas, Missouri and Texas Join New Class of Child Health Advocates

The Annie E. Casey Foundation, the David and Lucile Packard Foundation and The Atlantic Philanthropies are pleased to announce the 2020–21 class selected to participate in the Children's Health Leadership Network, a rigorous [Results Count@](#) leadership development initiative. The 17-month program helps participants build their skills as policy advocates to improve health and well-being for all children in the United States and, most specifically, children at greatest [Read more](#)

National Council on Crime and Delinquency

Girls in Secure Juvenile Detention in Florida

NCCD released a four-part series late last year that provides insight on keeping girls who don't pose a public safety risk out of Florida's juvenile justice system. With support from the Jessie Ball duPont Fund, the Delores Barr Weaver Policy Center partnered with NCCD to produce the series of research briefs, which are listed here.

Girls in Secure Juvenile Detention in Florida

[Read brief](#)

Addressing Barriers to Using Respite Beds for Girls Charged With Domestic Violence

[Read brief](#)

Juvenile Justice Staff Perspectives on Girls in Secure Detention

[Read brief](#)

Notes to the Field: Girls and Secure Juvenile Detention Barriers, Opportunities, and Recommendations

[Read brief](#)

Kansas Judiciary Branch – COVID-19 Guidance

New Administrative Orders for the Courts

[Kansas Supreme Court News Release](#) [Access orders](#)

Kansas Courts Response to Coronavirus (COVID-19)

[Kansas Office of Judicial Administration](#) [Access guidance](#)

Pew Charitable Trusts

Where to Search for Evidence of Effective Programs

The Results First Clearinghouse Database contains information from nine clearinghouses that rate programs in social policy areas such as behavioral health, criminal justice, education, and public health, based on the findings of rigorous evaluations. Beyond the sources included in this database, many additional publicly available resources provide information on the effectiveness of programs and practices in different formats and based on a variety of research types. Some of them are updated on a regular basis like the Clearinghouse Database; others are static publications about specific programs or topics. The following is a compilation of national and international resources that highlight the efficacy of programs and practices. They are organized under broad themes based on their primary area of focus. [Read more](#)

Juvenile Justice Information Exchange

How to Plan Now to Keep Juvenile Justice Ahead of the Curve

Over the course of the COVID-19 crisis, we've heard a lot about curves. Graphs show terrifying projections of how infection rates will spike and strain our health care system if we don't take dramatic steps to slow the virus' spread. While corrections leaders struggle to socially distance people in confined quarters, juvenile justice leaders' success over the past two decades puts them in a better position than their adult counterparts to stay ahead of that curve. [Read more](#)

Collaborating with Juvenile Probation Officers will Further Advance Reforms

Almost all youth who interact with the juvenile justice system have contact with juvenile probation staff. Juvenile probation officers (POs) often conduct intake interviews with youth and [make recommendations](#) to judges about diversion, case processing and out-of-home placement. Typically, POs play a big role in the lives of youth placed on probation following adjudication. They [meet with youth](#) regularly, [reconnect](#) them to school if necessary, and ensure youth meet the conditions of their probation agreement. [Read more](#)

Therapists Urge Seeking Help Immediately After Suicidal Thoughts

The best time to seek help for anyone who finds themselves contemplating suicide is now, according to mental health professionals. Some advocates for those struggling with mental health say Alabama's infrastructure needs improvement, but that doesn't mean there's no help available. Local therapists and counselors say anyone experiencing a mental health crisis should seek help immediately, whether it be by calling a loved one, a therapist or even 911. [Read more](#)

Recidivism Is Not Enough to Track How Juveniles Are Doing, Multistate Project Shows

In December, President Donald Trump signed the bipartisan [Juvenile Justice Reform Act](#) (JJRA) of 2018, which reauthorized the landmark Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act for the first time since 2002. Passage of the JJRA, which followed more than a decade of debate, will strengthen protections for youth in the justice system. Media coverage highlighted some of the law's most consequential and newsworthy provisions, including requirements that youth charged in the adult system must be housed in juvenile facilities while awaiting trial and that states must limit to seven days detention of youth charged with status offenses, such as underage drinking and truancy, that wouldn't be a crime if committed by an adult. But beyond [Read more](#)

Effects of Gun Violence Can Be Reduced in Youth, Chicago Program Shows

Concentrated gun violence results in lost population and economic power, increases trauma throughout communities and depresses school outcomes among students exposed to violence. Interventions deliberately designed to empower youth who are frequently exposed to community trauma are an important tool to break the cycle of violence that repeats far too frequently. According to the [Chicago Police Department](#), from 2015 through 2019, 278 children and youth were murdered in Chicago — usually through gun violence. While Chicago has a population of about 2.7 million people, gun violence is concentrated in a handful of Chicago's [77 community areas](#) — primarily on the South and West sides. [Read more](#)