KJC To Welcome New Superintendent

The Kansas Department of Corrections has appointed a new superintendent to the Kansas Juvenile Corrections Complex. The Kansas Department of Corrections says Secretary Jeff Zmuda has chosen Angela McHardie to be the superintendent of the Kansas Juvenile Corrections Complex. It said McHardie will start her role on Dec. 14, 2020. “KJC provides a safe and secure environment for young people to address personal issues and gain the skills they need to go on to live successful and productive lives,” Secretary Zmuda said. “Angela’s experience working at various levels in the juvenile justice system makes her a great fit to assume the responsibilities of the superintendent.”

Read more . . .

Hearings Held for Interim Legislative Session

On November 13, 2020, Shannelle Dupree, Chair of the Kansas Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee (JJOC) presented testimony to the Legislative Budget Committee on behalf of JJOC. Read testimony . . .

On November 17, 2020, Shannelle Dupree, Chair of the Kansas Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee (JJOC) presented testimony to the Joint Committee on Juvenile and Criminal Justice on behalf of JJOC. Read testimony . . .

Tyler Williams Advocates for Youth in Kansas Community

The big reason why I really got into youth justice advocacy is because I was one of the youth who was in the facility. I spent close to six years and eight months from the age of 13 to 19 in the Kansas Juvenile Correctional Complex (KJCC). I wanted to use my experience to look into alternatives for incarceration throughout the state so that youth don’t have to go through the struggle and hardships of being in jail. Read more . . .

WPD and Sedgwick County Juvenile Services Collaboration: Juvenile Intervention Unit

The Wichita Police Department (WPD), in collaboration with Sedgwick County Juvenile Services, has created a WPD Juvenile Intervention Unit (JIU). The announcement was made Monday. In a news release, WPD said this newly created unit consists of a WPD sergeant, two WPD detectives, and two juvenile intervention officers. Youth who offend at a young age are more likely to become chronic and violent offenders as they age, and the best opportunity to intervene is as early as possible. Read more . . .

WPD Juvenile Intervention Unit - Watch video . . .

FLOTUS Gives Shoutout to Student Group from Newton

First Lady Melania Trump on Thursday gave a shoutout to Twitter to a group of high school students in Harvey County. The group is getting the recognition is the STAND Coalition at Newton High School. STAND is a youth leadership program in Harvey County that focuses on preventing substance abuse and encourages positive choices. “STAND offers high school students from all backgrounds the opportunity to be active participants in their communities and schools to create positive change,” the organization explains on its website. “Youth gain valuable leadership skills, are empowered to design service projects that meet a community need, network with community leaders, and carry out peer to peer prevention messages as well as positive social norms campaigns. Each leader involved with STAND on watch video . . .

DCF – Family First Updates

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

2021 DOC-Juvenile Services Training Schedule

New Employee Kansas Detention Assessment Instrument (KDAI) Training

Zionsville Wednesday January 13th, 2021
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

National News

Expanding Restorative Justice Program Eyed as Way to Reduce School-to-Prison Pipeline

Lincoln Public Schools and Lincoln (NE) police are looking at ways to expand a restorative justice program so students who get in trouble can participate before they get a ticket - and avoid the juvenile justice system entirely. The Lincoln School District has chosen Angela McHardie to be the superintendent of the Kansas Juvenile Corrections Complex. It said McHardie will start her role on Dec. 14, 2020. “KJC provides a safe and secure environment for young people to address personal issues and gain the skills they need to go on to live successful and productive lives,” Secretary Zmuda said. “Angela’s experience working at various levels in the juvenile justice system makes her a great fit to assume the responsibilities of the superintendent.”

Read more . . .
Urban Institute

Kentucky Is Succeeding in Keeping Youth Out of the Juvenile Justice System

Juvenile justice systems have come under Increased scrutiny this year as states and localities confronted the direct connection between youth incarceration and the COVID-19 public health crisis. But we have long known that juvenile justice system involvement is harmful. In September, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges issued a new bench card for judges (PDF) explaining how court involvement negatively affects young people. It summarizes how justice system involvement can jeopardize education, employment, housing, and access to public benefits. Justice system involvement can also cause additional trauma and stress, interfere with peer and family relationships, and disrupt educational continuity and progress. Research indicates that incarceration is an ineffective and costly strategy, but more evidence is proving how detrimental it just is to be in the system at all. Read more . . .

Juvenile Justice Information Exchange

It’s Time to Protect Child Sex Crime Victims in Justice System

Some of the worst government-sanctioned human rights abuses committed against children are happening right here in the United States. Earlier this year, a child sex crime survivor in Ohio had her life sentence commuted by Gov. Mike DeWine. At the age of 15, Alexis was sentenced to life in prison for participating in a robbery where the man who had been raping and sex trafficking her was killed. Read more . . .

New Report Rates Each State on its Juvenile Justice System

Since 2016, Elder Yusef Qualls has been on a tireless campaign to have officials in Michigan revisit a criminal case that has kept his son incarcerated for over two decades. A so-called “juvenile lifer,” Qualls’ son, also named Yusef Qualls, has lived within Michigan’s adult correctional system since 1997. At 17 Qualls was sentenced to life without parole after police linked him as an accomplice to the murder of a woman in Detroit. Read more . . .

Promoting Equity in Youth Diversion Programs Must Be Conscious, Detailed Plan

Juvenile justice reforms, including the growing use of youth diversion programs that offer alternatives to youth arrest and incarceration, have helped contribute to a substantial decrease in the number of young people who are involved in the justice system in recent years. Despite this overall decrease, such reforms have also corresponded with a troubling increase in the juvenile justice system’s inequitable burden on youth of color and Black youth in particular. Read more . . .

Bring Back Black Girls Before They’re Herded into Foster Care, Justice System

The #SayHerName movement that was launched in 2014 by the African American Policy Forum and the Center for Intersectionality and Social Policy Studies has gained immense momentum amid a number of nationally recognized murders of Black women at the hands of police. A goal of the campaign is to bring to light the oft-overlooked stories of Black women and girls who have needlessly and unjustifiably perished in their encounters with law enforcement. Read more . . .

KS Juvenile Justice Web-Line

November 2020

Front-line Workers Face Challenges Recognizing Human Trafficking Warning Signs

Human trafficking elicits stereotypes of captive women subjugged by their oppressors. Because of that, it’s often difficult to recognize all victims of trafficking when they don’t fit in with such entrenched ideas. According to a new article by a team of researchers from the University of Kansas, human trafficking “crosses categories of race, class, gender, sexuality, citizenship and ability — no one is immune from the potential of exploitation.” Read more . . .

Jolin’s Fight Against Human Trafficking Continues

Jolin’s battle in fighting against human trafficking coincides directly with the nation’s battle, as professionals from the local area spoke out on the issue. Whether it’s sex trafficking or labor trafficking, both are found in the four states of Michigan, and in Detroit, Jolin Police Department Sergeant, has worked alongside detectives in a human trafficking cases and since has gotten involved with Jolin’s local RISE Coalition. Blair said that human trafficking is a prevalent issue found in Jolin. “It’s not uncommon, I’ll tell you, I mean trafficking—crime-wise—it’s one of the biggest crimes that you see, whether it be internationally or nationally,” Blair said. “It’s, money-wise, it’s Read more and watch video . . .

Human Trafficking - Kansas

Child Sex Trafficking: It’s Probably Not What You Think It Is

“You just have to dance, we can make a little money like that.” That’s what Shandel, then 13, said her boyfriend told her at a party he learned she was running away 12 years ago. And that’s how it all began, Shandel, now 25, recalled. Gradually, the man she thought of as the only person who loved her or even cared for her, demanded more. Much more – and she said she would physically abuse her if she refused. Read more . . .

Local Organization Expanding Resources for Child Survivors of Sex Trafficking

Many people often think human trafficking is not happening in their neighborhood or city, but the hard truth is it can happen anywhere at any time. Now, a local organization that helps survivors of sex trafficking is looking to expand resources for children who have become victims. Sarah’s Home, in Colorado Springs, is home to eight teenage girls who have been exploited to sex trafficking, but soon staff want to help starting teenage boys. Jacqueline Staples, a board member for the organization says more than 300,000 children are victims of sex trafficking every year, and 138,000 of them are teenage boys. However there’s only one boys home in the county, which has Read more . . .

National News

Will Squeeze on State Budgets Drive More Youth Justice Reforms?

Growing financial pressures are likely to bring about more changes in youth justice systems across the country, despite elected officials that left statehouse leadership in recent years unchanged, according to an official with the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL). Addressing a webinar on youth justice reforms as final votes for the 2020 races were still being tallied, Anne Teigen, director of the criminal justice program at the NCSL, said it appeared there was little change in the “status quo” in part control over state legislatures. Read more . . .

L.A. County Moves to Create New Juvenile Justice System Focused on ‘Care,’ Not Punishment

After years of incremental reform, Los Angeles County (CA) is moving to dismantle the largest youth justice system in the country in favor of a “care-first” model that would look less like prison and would emphasize emotional support, counseling and treatment. The plan calls for children and young adults who have committed crimes to be served in home-like settings, and includes 24/7 youth centers and support teams that establish relationships with young people who might otherwise be locked in facilities far from home. Read more . . .

Juvenile Arrests Hit Record Low ... Again

Juvenile arrests in Florida are at the lowest level in 45 years. The number of juvenile arrests continued to decline in Fiscal Year 2019-2020, according to the latest delinquency report released this week by the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ). Overall juvenile arrests statewide declined 17 percent from 2003. Juvenile arrests also declined 35 percent. These declines continue the multi-year trend of fewer arrests, with a five-year decline of 35 percent, resulting in the lowest number of juvenile arrests in 45 years. Read more . . .

King County Bypasses Jail with New Effort to Help Teens in Trouble

King County (WA) is taking a chance on a new way to keep young people from committing crimes. Instead of pursuing punishment when youth get into legal trouble, community groups will offer these children the promise of a fresh start through a new program called Restorative Community Pathways. Research shows youth who commit a crime and go through the legal system are more likely to drop out of school, not find employment or become homeless, as well as face potentially higher rates of recidivism. Read more . . .

County Aims to End Incarceration of Youth with New Facility, and New Philosophy

Racine County (WI) wants to drop its number of imprisoned juveniles to zero. In the effort to do that, it’s planning to build a new $45 million facility that is nearly 90% funded by a state grant. Sen. Steve K临Supervisor Robert Miller of Mount Pleasant called it “a very advantageous funding relationship with the State of Wisconsin.” The plan and the goal seem contradictory. But the Racine County Board and other county leaders say a state-supported plan will result for rehabilitation, and not for punishment like the current Racine County Juvenile Detention Center, will do better for Wisconsin’s most troubled youths. Read more . . .