Wyandotte County Officials Unveil New $27 Million Juvenile Justice Center in KCK

Local leaders in Wyandotte County cut the ribbon on a new juvenile justice center Monday. The $27 million building is located right off 7th and Ann. Unlike the old facility, the new one will be able to house residential and nonresidential programs in the same building, an added bonus of the new $27 million facility.

The new facility is the result of the 2015 bond issue that provided $185 million for construction of the new jail and courthouse.

Governor Appoints Members to JOIC and KAG

On August 31st Governor Laura Kelly announced appointees to the Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee, read more... and on September 4th Governor Laura Kelly announced appointees to the Kansas Advisory Group on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, read more... and on September 18th Governor Laura Kelly announced appointees to the Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee and the Kansas Advisory Group on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, read more...

Protecting Girls of Color from the School-to-Prison Pipeline Report: Black Girls are Subject to Discriminatory School Disciplinary Action in Kansas, Massachusetts, and Alabama

Three members of the Appleseed Network, a non-profit network of independent organizations in Baltimore, Kansas, Massachusetts, and Mexico working towards social and legal justice, today announced the release of their comprehensive report, “Protecting Girls of Color from the School-to-Prison Pipeline,” the final product of a year-long research project examining disparities in school disciplinary treatment for Black girls in Kansas, Massachusetts, Alabama, and Kansas. Willie Farr & Gallagher LLP, an international law firm

Update – The Parent Project®

The Department of Corrections Juvenile Services (KDOC-JS) is hosting a third scheduled facilitator training session for the Parent Project® to be held out of town. The training will be from 10:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. on Thursday, November 10th.

The Parent Project® is an intensive therapy model program administered by the Kansas Department of Corrections – Juvenile Services (KDOC-JS) to provide FFT® services in JDs in northeast Kansas. Eckerd Youth Services, Inc. to provide FFT® services in JDs in southeast Kansas. Cornerstones for Children to provide FFT® services in JDs in southwest Kansas.

In December 2016, KDOC-JS contracted with Eckerd Youth Alternatives to provide FFT® services in JDs in southeast Kansas. Then in August 2016 they expanded to provide FFT® services in JDs in southwest Kansas.

As a result, FFT® services have been available statewide since early 2017.

The Parent Project® is an intensive therapy model program administered according to evidence-based practices to achieve sustainable outcomes that reduce individual recidivism and improve the quality of life for the family and the youth who complete the treatment. The FFT® model administrator therapy in three major phases (engagement, behavior change, and generalization), all of which must be completed to finish treatment. The average time it takes to complete treatment is 12 weeks. By providing FFT® services within the community, high and moderate risk juvenile offenders (and their families) are able to complete FFT® treatment in their home where they are provided the skills and support they need to overcome delinquency, substance abuse, and violence. In the past, these same youth would have most likely been removed from their home for an out-of-home placement or secure confinement in a juvenile correctional facility.

The Crossover Youth Practice Model - Update

Michael Montgomery, Chief Operating Officer, Kansas Department of Corrections – Juvenile Services

Recently a multidisciplinary team of representatives from child welfare, juvenile justice, and various service providers met via a virtual platform. The joint discussion brought professionals together to take on each agency's roles and responsibilities and to share perspectives. The group met to identify gaps and areas where the duplication of services may occur while brainstorming ways to jointly address the challenges and needs of one specific crossover youth. The use of multidisciplinary teams is not a new concept. Collaborating and coordinating with other professionals can be an effective and efficient use of resources. Using a multidisciplinary team creates enhanced opportunities to establish common goals for case plans, identify appropriate services, improve accountability, and efficient use of resources.

DCF – Family First Updates To access the August edition of the DCF Family First Prevention Services newsletter click here... 

Update – Functional Family Therapy®

The Kansas Department of Corrections – Juvenile Services continues to contract with three vendors to provide Functional Family Therapy (FFT®) services in all 105 counties throughout the state.

In December 2015, KDOC-JS contracted with Eckerd Youth Alternatives to provide FFT® services in juvenile detention facilities (JDs) in southeast Kansas. Then in August 2016 they expanded to provide FFT® services in JDs in southwest Kansas.

In December 2016, KDOC-JS contracted with Eckerd Youth Alternatives to provide FFT® services in JDs in west-central Kansas.

In December 2016, KDOC-JS contracted with Eckerd Youth Alternatives to provide FFT® services in JDs in northeast Kansas.

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The year 2020. Enough said. As this newsletter comes out, we are beginning to round the home stretch of a year that seems like its lasted a decade or two. As of September 30th, we are all frustrated. Three months from now, are we changed and adjusted so much; in a way it’s difficult to define what our new normal is. And all this is on top of an already difficult (and for some) a sometimes-dangerous job.

Working with youth involved in the juvenile justice system can be challenging, complex, require high levels of commitment and professionalism while demonstrating creativity and flexibility. Sometimes it takes a little extra energy to be professional and courteous to someone that doesn’t seem to show the same level of respect in return. And still, there are times that you know you’re making a positive difference. And so, we move forward.

With all this in mind, my suggestion to you is to take some time this fall, this coming month of seasonal change and often friendly weather. Take time to get away from the stress or whatever may seem a bit overwhelming and do something for yourself. Do it safely, following socially distancing guidelines, ideally choose something that’s healthy, but choose it because it’s positive and feels good to you. Celebrate that October is National Emotional Wellness Month. If you get the opportunity, I suggest you jump on it – as there are still three months left in the year 2020.
Human Trafficking - Kansas

Local Victim of Sextortion Speaks Out as Experts Say Number of Cases Climbs Higher and Higher

It's called sextortion: the use of nude photos of someone to manipulate them into sex trafficking. The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children says online enticement of children is up 93% from January 2019 to January 2020. Experts say that once children are involved, they don't know how to get out and are often afraid to tell their parents. Many of them go on to perpetrate the same, such as cutting, and start committing crimes. One young woman who was groomed and enticed through sextortion shared her story Read more and watch video ...

Council of Juvenile Justice Administrators


This year's CJA Summer Business meeting provided another opportunity to bring together Directors from across the country to talk about their Juvenile Justice Systems' adaptations to living in a world with COVID-19. In partnership with Pew Charitable Trusts, this panel was moderated by CJA's transitioning President, Lisa Bjergaard, and featured Directors from ten states who highlighted what kind of impact the virus will have on the long-term practices. Directors discussed changes to facility operations, challenges, and new practices that may be worth sustaining that would increase long-term positive outcomes for youth. Admissions and releases, the use of technology to allow virtual family visits, the nature of delivery of academics, and staff wellness were all Read more ...

Juvenile Law Center

Transforming Juvenile Justice During the COVID Pandemic

Juvenile Law Center and many of our partner agencies from the Delivery of Legal Services Committee have been actively involved in a variety of long-term strategies to transform the juvenile justice system in Philadelphia and throughout Pennsylvania. The number of incarcerated youth in the Commonwealth has steadily decreased every year since 2016, but the COVID pandemic brings added urgency to our local and statewide demands for reform. At the August public meeting of the Child Welfare Oversight Board, Philadelphia's Department of Human Services shared data that 52% of the city’s popula and releases, the use of technology to allow virtual family visits, the nature of delivery of academics, and staff wellness were all Read more ...

National News

Kentucky’s Youth Justice Overhaul Gets Mixed Review

It has been about six years since Kentucky “fundamentally overhauled” its juvenile justice system with the enactment of a law mandating that diversion programs be offered for all youth following their first misdemeanor or first-time felony complaint. It was an effort to put an emphasis on behavioral rehabilitation instead of punishment. According to an Urban Institute study of the reforms, the law has “significantly increased” the portion of Kentucky youth diverted from formal court involvement. Nearly nine out of 10 youth completed diversion and avoided formal court involvement, according to their report Read more ...

“Justice by Geography:” The Importance of Location for Young Offenders

According to data from the federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, of the 750,000 cases processed across the United States in 2018, about 200,000 involved detention. The state of Kansas in 2018, about 200,000 involved detention. Delinquency Prevention Location for Young Offenders

Another indicator KDOC-JS is monitoring is any new arrests within the first year after a youth successfully completes the FFT® program. In FY18, 80% of the youth that had completed the program a year earlier had no new arrests during that entire year. In both FY19 and FY20, 84% of the youth were arrest free for the entire year.

KS Juvenile Justice Web-Line

September 2020

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Program to Help Youth Involved in Justice System

"It just seemed as the years passed in the last 10 years that I've been here in Vermilion County (IL), more and more kids are getting involved in the justice system," said Vermilion County State’s Attorney, Jacqueline Lacy. Lacy said she wanted to do something about that. Earlier this year, she and several others formed a Juvenile Justice Council. They discussed ways to help young people at risk. "We wanted to find one specific thing we believed we could tackle as a group," said Lacy. Read more and watch video ...

Pittsburgh Public Schools Looks to Commission School Police Data Analysis

The Pittsburgh (PA) Public Schools plans to hire a research organization to conduct an analysis that will match district police statistics with educational data. The district said Wednesday night it selected RMC Research Corporation to prepare an analysis that should help the district not only understand the number of police calls, arrests and citations but also the characteristics and location of students facing those actions over the past couple of years. Read more ...

The results of FFT® are encouraging. With three years of data involving youth that are adjudicated as Juvenile Offenders but remain at home while successfully completing FFT®, positive outcome trends are noticeable.

- In FY18, the first full fiscal year of FFT®, 100% of the youth who completed the FFT® program were able to stay at home while receiving services. In FY19 93% of the youth were able to remain at home and in FY20 99% of the youth were able to remain at home.
- Similarly, in FY19, all of the youth who completed the FFT® program were able to stay in school (or maintain employment if they had completed high school) while receiving services. Again, FY19 saw a small drop to 94% and in FY20 it again increased to 98%.
- In FY18, 99% of youth who completed the FFT® program did not have a new arrest while they received services. In FY19 87% of youth did not have a new arrest while in FY20 that improved to 96%.

Early indications over the last three fiscal years indicate optimistic outcomes for those youth that complete the FFT® program. However, not every youth referred to FFT® completes the program. Youth who do not complete the program are categorized as either Non-Complete/Fail or Non-Complete/Non-Fail. Non-Complete/Fail may involve situations such as the youth or family quitting the program, the youth being arrested on a new charge, the youth is removed from home by the court or the youth runs away after starting the program. Non-Complete/Non-Fail are circumstances such as the youth/family moving away, the youth was admitted to a treatment facility, the youth never attended FFT® to begin with or the youth was discharged from probation. Each successive year the per centage of youth that have completed the program has increased while the percentage of Non-Complete/Fail has remained stable or declined.

Another indicator KDOC-JS is monitoring is any new arrests within the first year after a youth successfully completes the FFT® program. In FY18, 80% of the youth that had completed the program a year earlier had no new arrests during that entire year. In both FY19 and FY20, 84% of the youth were arrest free for the entire year.

One of the goals of the FFT® program is to keep the family intact while the youth begins a process of making positive behavioral changes and both the family unit and larger community can be strengthened. By providing effective FFT® services statewide, the state of Kansas continues to meet the needs of the youth, families, and communities in a consistent and comprehensive manner across the state with a reliable evidence-based community program. Over the first three years early indications are that with FFT® programing in place statewide, reoffending can be reduced with the right interventions and supports in place while providing treatment and holding the youth accountable.

The district said that district data shows that 84% of the youth who completed the FFT® program in FY18 to FY20 did not have a new arrest while they received services. In FY19 of youth completed the FFT® program did not have a new arrest while they received services. In FY19 87% of youth did not have a new arrest while in FY20 that improved to 96%.

Updated - FFT® continued from page 1

Completed FFT - Outcomes at Completion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Stayed Home</th>
<th>In School/Work</th>
<th>No New Arrests</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY 18</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>99%</td>
<td>99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 19</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 20</td>
<td>99%</td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FFT Completion Rate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Competition Rate</th>
<th>Falls</th>
<th>Non-Fails</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY 18</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 19</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 20</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Completed FFT - No New Arrests after 1 year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY 18</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 19</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 20</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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