

Kansas News

Update on Athena

The date that Athena is scheduled to go live has been delayed. It was scheduled to happen next week but is now pending, on a week to week basis. Athena is a web-based program being created to modernize and replace the core information systems utilized by the Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC) and local partners. It will be available through the KDOC Application Portal. After Athena goes live; CASIMS, TOADS and JJIAMS will no longer be accessible for data entry.

Once a new date is established for Athena to go live, to transition from the existing juvenile systems (JJAMS & CASIMS), users need to know the following:

- Athena will likely go live on a Monday.
- No information can be entered into JJAMS or CASIMS after 5:00 PM on the Friday before Athena goes live.
- As of 5:00 PM on the Friday before Athena goes live, local juvenile intake staff and supervisors will no longer be able to enter data into JJAMS. Local juvenile intake staff that conduct intakes after 5:00 PM on that Friday should use the pencil and paper version of the Athena Juvenile Intake Questionnaire provided in the Athena Juvenile Intake Training. On the following Monday that is announced as the date Athena goes live, KDOC will send out a notification that Athena is available for use. At that time, intake information can be entered from the pencil and paper version into Athena.
- Juvenile Intake Supervisors who approve and upload intakes into JJAMS need to ensure all intakes your local intake staff have entered into JJAMS are **approved and uploaded by 5:00 PM on the Friday before Athena goes live**. After that point, intakes entered into JJAMS will not be able to be approved and uploaded. *Intakes that are entered into JJAMS that are NOT approved and uploaded WILL NOT migrate to Athena.*
- Likewise, CASIMS notes will not be able to be entered after 5:00 PM on the Friday before Athena goes live. Any notes that need to be entered into CASIMS will need to be entered into Athena after KDOC sends out notification that Athena is available for use.
- After 5:00 PM the Friday before Athena goes live, information previously entered into JJAMS and CASIMS will be available to be viewed, but no new information can be entered.

DCF – Family First Updates

To access the February/March 2021 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

Zoom	Wednesday	May 19 th , 2021
Zoom	Tuesday	June 22 nd , 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 Conference of State Legislatures

Youth Homelessness Overview

Each year, an estimated **4.2 million youth and young adults** experience homelessness, of which 700,000 are unaccompanied minors, meaning they are not part of a family or accompanied by a parent or guardian. On any given night, approximately 41,000 unaccompanied youth ages 13-25 experience homelessness. [Read more . . .](#)

Bipartisan Efforts Help to Keep Homeless Kids off the Streets

Sometimes, the young Americans who've endured abuse, rejection, hunger, and homelessness beat the odds and go on to do great things. But that is not the norm, and too many homeless youth fall victim to violence, malnutrition, alcoholism, drug addiction, prostitution and trafficking. On any given night, approximately 41,000 young people will sleep on the streets, under bridges, in cars, on friends' couches or in other places, separated from their families. Often, they're hidden in the shadows, advocates say, because youth and young adult homelessness is [Read more . . .](#)

Addressing Youth Homelessness in Washington

Many factors increase a young person's odds of becoming homeless. Demographic risk factors include being Hispanic or Black, a single parent or LGBTQ. In fact LGBTQ youth are more than twice at risk of being homeless than their cisgender or heterosexual peers. In a **March 2019 report**, the Congressional Research Service identified family conflict and family dynamics, a youth's sexual orientation, sexual activity, school problems, pregnancy and substance use as primary risk factors for youth homelessness. [Read more . . .](#)

The Crossover Youth Practice Model - Update Michelle Montgomery, CYPM Coordinator Kansas Department of Corrections – Juvenile Services

January's edition of the Weblines highlighted the importance of including youth and families when making decisions about programs and services that affect their lives. This month, I would like to introduce you to Kristen Powell, who brings the "voice of youth" to the Kansas Crossover State Policy Team (SPT).

Kristen has been a member of the SPT since the team was created in October 2019. Her passion comes from personal life experience as well as her love and heart for people who have diverse backgrounds. Beginning at the age of 13 and throughout the rest of her childhood, Kristen experienced both the child welfare and the juvenile justice systems. She has used her lived experiences along with her education and knowledge to provide insight and bring about changes and improvements needed in the systems of care. Kristen served as the Prosperity Coach at the Center for Combating Human Trafficking (CCHT) from May 2016 to September 2020. While at CCHT, Kristen worked to create survivor informed, survivor-led services and was integral in developing programming that focused on holistic healing for victims and survivors of human trafficking. During the 2020 term, she served as a member of the Emerging Leaders Committee (ELC) with the Coalition for Juvenile Justice (CJJ) and currently serves as the CJJ's Administrative and Youth Partnership Assistant.

In addition to working with the SPT, Kristen has been appointed to serve on the Kansas Advisory Group (KAG) on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP). She serves as the Youth Chair for the KAG and is working to develop a Youth Committee that will include youth who are incarcerated or have lived experiences and with youth who simply have a passion for juvenile justice reform in the state of Kansas.

Kristen is a full-time student at Wichita State University, where she is working to obtain a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice.

"I love doing this work and creating a platform for those directly impacted (whether it be by human trafficking, the juvenile justice system, homelessness, foster care, etc.) has always been something that I see value in and that I love being able to do. It makes the most sense in any field to let those who are directly impacted, be the ones who are leading the fight for change and justice. In my career that is something that I want to always be able to do. No matter what capacity or field of work that I am in I want to always be a person who sees value in bringing those with lived experience to the table." Kristen Powell

Questions regarding the CYPM can be addressed to Ashley Brown, CYPM Coordinator for DCF at Ashley.brown@ks.gov or Michelle Montgomery, CYPM Coordinator for KDOC-JS at Michelle.montgomery@ks.gov. To learn more about the CCYPM and information regarding past and upcoming meetings of the State Policy Team [click here . . .](#)

Annie E. Casey Foundation

Ready for Juvenile Probation Transformation?

The Annie E. Casey Foundation has developed a tool that will help jurisdictions assess whether their juvenile probation practices are ready to undergo a transformation that would promote youth development instead of pulling young people deeper into the system. The tool's 25-statement format is based on the Foundation's vision for transforming juvenile probation, which requires decision makers and other practitioners to think and act differently so they provide opportunity for young people.

With this tool and other resources, the Foundation hopes to encourage local learning, action, research and innovation that will move juvenile probation toward its full potential for improving the entire juvenile justice system. [Read more and access tool . . .](#)

The Juvenile Justice Corner Jim Johnson, Program Consultant DOC - Juvenile Community Based Services

I recently visited with Ken Davis, Director of the Kansas Department of Corrections-Juvenile Services Mentoring-4-Success (M4S) program. When asked about impacts and restrictions resulting from COVID-19 protocols, Davis quickly responded that it created an opportunity to do a better job of "thinking ahead and planning". Davis added "the needs of the kids we work with have not changed. We still need to keep connections open and create supportive relationships. It's just a challenge when you are mostly limited to zoom and facetime".

Youth at KJCC or under KDOC supervision still need guidance, direction, and support; but recruiting new members from across the state has been significantly curtailed. Davis' focus has been to identify those youth needing and wanting the support, then finding the mentor who is best equipped to establish and maintain a productive and supportive relationship.

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Human Trafficking - National

'Not Forgotten': 150 Missing Tennessee Children Recovered in Operation Volunteer Strong, Officials Say

A coordinated effort led to the **recovery of 150 missing children across Tennessee**, the state's Bureau of Investigation announced Wednesday. Planning for "Operation Volunteer Strong" began in fall 2020, when 240 children were identified statewide. The operation launched on Jan. 4 with series of "two-week blitzes" in East Tennessee, Middle Tennessee and West Tennessee. Those led to the recovery of 150 of those children, the TBI said in a news release. At least five of the children were potential victims of human trafficking, according to the release. Cases are still [Read more and watch video](#)

COVID-19, the Commercial Sex Industry and Sex Trafficking

At this point, the coronavirus pandemic has affected nearly every aspect of American life, from how we work and educate, to how we socialize and shop. As such, it is no surprise that it has also affected our illicit commercial sex industry, from supply and demand to the number of victims at risk of sex trafficking and how we combat this scourge. What Americans don't realize is that the prevalence of sex trafficking has been exacerbated by the pandemic. Our war to [Read more](#)

Council of State Governments – Justice Center

How States Can Reduce Structural Barriers to School and Work for People with Juvenile Records

There is an assumption that juvenile records do not have the same impact on employment or educational attainment as adult criminal convictions—that they are automatically sealed or expunged. But the collateral consequences of involvement with the juvenile justice system can be significant and long-lasting. These restrictions also disproportionately affect people of color due to persistent racial and ethnic disparities in rates of juvenile justice involvement. And given the negative impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on economic opportunities for young adults, it is crucial that state policies don't unnecessarily prevent people with juvenile records from taking part in an inclusive economic recovery. A first-of-its-kind analysis from The Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center, **Reducing Structural Barriers to School and Work for People with Juvenile Records**, examines education [Read more](#)

Juvenile Justice Information Exchange

Diverting Youth from Justice Systems Is Key to Racial Equity

An often overlooked but major injustice is how our juvenile justice system impacts Black and Hispanic youth and their families, limiting their ability to reach their full potential and thrive in their communities. In fact, the disparities are so bad that a recent Marshall Project article **noted** that "though the racial inequality in youth detention has long been stark [Read more](#)

Suicide Is Not an Option, No Matter How Bad It Gets

Let me start by saying I am a triracial human being with a dark complexion. That was my funny way of saying I'm Black. I embrace my Mexican side. I embrace my Indian side and my Black side but for a while no one else embraced it. I was bullied a lot growing up. I'm 33 years young, and it was because I didn't fit the mold the world created for me. Because of my skin I was too Black for white people and because of the way I acted I was not Black enough for Black people. This wouldn't have affected me if I knew my self [Read more](#)

Why Teenage Christian Piccolini Joined, Then Quit White Power Movement

Christian Piccolini, 14, was hanging out one day in an alley near the intersection of Union and Division streets in Chicago (IL). An older man with cropped hair and big shiny boots drove up. He was warm and friendly, and he offered fatherly advice: Don't smoke marijuana, he told Piccolini. "That's what the Communists and Jews want you to do," he said. He told Piccolini to be proud of his Roman warrior ancestors: They were a superior race, he said. The man was Clark Martell, a violent neo-Nazi who was later **sentenced to prison** for assault and robbery. [Read more](#)

When Hate Groups Recruit Youth: Teacher, Former White Nationalist Tell How to Counter It

Nora Flanagan's first brush with hate group recruiting took place when she was 15 and living in Beverly, a southwest Chicago (IL) neighborhood. Her older brother brought home a couple of his friends. To Flanagan's dismay, they'd shaved their heads and wore Confederate flags on their jackets. It signaled they were part of the burgeoning skinhead movement in Chicago in the late 1980s and early 1990s, led by a teen named Christian Piccolini. "And they had been recruited and they were running around with this guy terrorizing [Read more](#)

National News

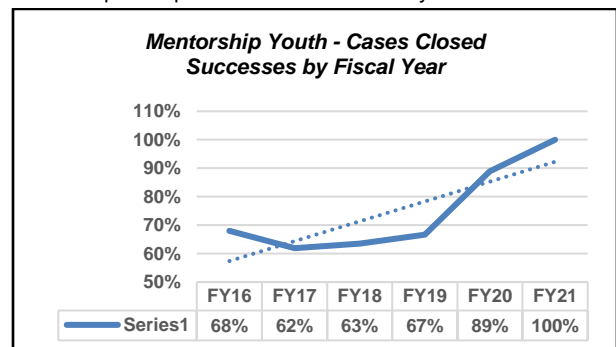
Mitigating Youth Crime: Clark County Leader Says Harbor Centers are Proving Effective

The Las Vegas Valley (NV) will soon welcome its fifth Harbor center for struggling kids and teens in Henderson. This will happen likely "by the end of the year," according to Brigid Duffy, chief of the juvenile division at the Clark County's District Attorney Office. Since they opened their first location in 2016, the Harbor locations have seen about 14,000 children, and have had a 94% success rate, according to Duffy's most recent provided data from last May. "Six percent of those kids that saw us, ended up in the juvenile justice system," said Duffy. "I do get emotional about it, because I think it's made an incredible impact." [Read more and watch video](#)

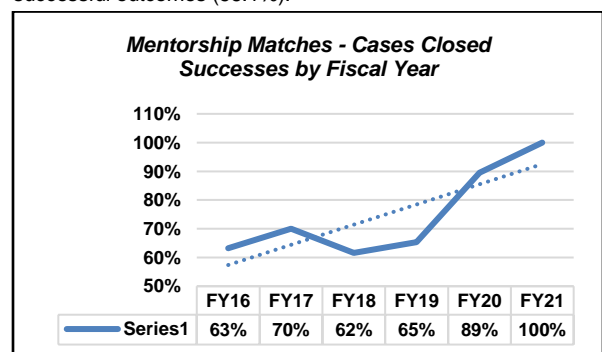
The Juvenile Justice Corner *continued from page 1*

In strategizing on how to best move forward, Davis spent some time reviewing what has been accomplished over the first five years of the program. Davis has reviewed all the mentorship matches that have closed since M4S began. Mentorship cases are closed when they have exceeded the required amount of time given, usually six months to a year.

Over the first five years, 157 youth have been matched with a mentor. 104 of those youth have had successful mentorship outcomes (66.2%). Davis advises "a successful match takes place when the mentors and mentees are invested in each other while building their relationship with transparency, productivity, and trust. An unsuccessful match results when one or the other is not committed to the relationship. Instead of building the relationship either the mentor or mentee distance themselves resulting in a lack of commitment. More often than not, the relationship is not productive and almost always lacks trust."



Several of the youth provided mentors in the first five years of M4S have been assigned more than one adult mentor to help address unique domains (specific areas of need) that a youth has while an adult mentor may have a strength or expertise in that area. As a result, of the 157 youth who participated in M4S over the first five years, there have been 307 total mentorship matches created. 203 of those matches resulted in successful outcomes (66.1%).



Davis also points out that when successful mentoring relationships take place, the relationship seldom ends when the M4S case is closed. Rather, although Davis does not officially track the results of closed cases, in most situations mentors and/or mentees contact Davis with positive reports of continued successful outcomes months or years after the M4S case has closed.

Davis knows that there are lessons to be learned. Whether you look at results with the youth served by the program or the number of relationships created, both show improvement over the first five years. Davis reflects "we are not yet where we need to be, but I am pleased with what we have been able to do so far". Davis is exploring options to expand the targeted population of youth served by M4S in Kansas. Davis states "We are in a great position to expand the program. There is a great opportunity to learn from past efforts while applying our successes to help support more kids that are in need or are at-risk kids on the edge of falling into (juvenile corrections) system involvement. Really it's about finding a way to use Mentoring-4-Success across the broad spectrum of everything related to at-risk youth."

For more information on the M4S program or to contact Ken Davis call 785-249-6341 or email Kenneth.Davis@ks.gov.