Kansas News

Report: Kansas Juvenile Justice Funds Could Run Out by 2024

A Kansas fund intended to help keep young people out of prison could be out of money by 2024 if spending and projected funding remains the same, according to the non-partisan legislative research department.

The Evidence-based Programs Fund grew out of a 2016 law designed to shift the focus in juvenile justice from incarceration to rehabilitation. The effort has had some success, with participation at the Kansas Juvenile Correctional Complex dropping 40% in five years. Read more . . .

Kansas Fund Intended to Keep Young Out of Prison is Projected to be Empty By 2024

WPD Juvenile Intervention Unit Using YouTube to Build Connections

Wichita police officers Alex Avendano and DL Watson run the Wichita Police Department’s juvenile intervention unit. The unit launched last September with one main goal, help reduce juvenile crime in the city. Its something officer Watson has been passionate about for years saying “I noticed that we needed more positive interactions with the young kids, and basically a foundation to bring them up.” Read more and watch video . . .

DCF – Family First Updates

to access the April/May 2021 edition of the DCF Family First Prevention Services newsletter click here. . . .

Two Hays Students Among FHSU Criminal Justice Club Winners at Regionals

Members of the Lambda Alpha Epsilon chapter at Fort Hays State University represented their university well at the Region 3 Virtual Conference of the American Criminal Justice Association/Lambda Alpha Epsilon (ACJA/LAE) earlier this semester.

Fort Hays State won the Top Percent Award, which goes to the team that wins the most trophy points per member. It was the first time FHSU won the group award since re-chartering with ACJA/LAE in 2016. Read more...

Sunnyside Elementary Student Wins Justice Department’s National Missing Children’s Day Poster Contest

The votes are in and Sunnyside Elementary School student Heidy Jimenez Perez Veleta of Dodge City, was announced as the winner of the 2021 National Missing Children’s Day poster contest. According to the Justice Department’s Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, a component of the Office of Justice Programs, the poster contest was part of the 30th annual commemoration of National Missing Children’s Day. Read more . . .

2021 DOC-Juvenile Services Training Schedule

New Employee Kansas Detention Assessment Instrument (KDAI) Training

Zoom Tuesday June 22nd, 2021
Zoom Thursday July 22nd, 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.

Juvenile Justice Basics

Location – Class is online, offered through Zoom

Zoom – Ticday June 8, 8:30 am – 3:30 pm
To Enroll – Sign up using the Learning Management System (LMS)

For more information contact email KDOC_JB_Training@ks.gov

National Conference of State Legislatures

Principles of Effective Juvenile Justice Policy Update May, 2021

In 2018, NCSL published the Principals of Effective Juvenile Justice Policy. This publication, developed in partnership with the public safety performance project (PSPP) of The Pew Charitable Trusts, culminated in fall 2017 by the NCSL Juvenile Justice Principles Work Group.

The work of this group, and the report produced in 2018, capture fundamental principles for juvenile justice policy.

The principles are rooted in research, reflect bipartisan or nonpartisan values, and help states invest in proven methods to put justice-involved youth back on the right track while keeping communities safe. After developing the principles, the work group explained and illustrated them with examples of key issues and approaches. Read more . . .

The Juvenile Justice Corner

Jim Johnson, Program Consultant

DOC - Juvenile Community Based Services

“Ready or not – here I come.” The call given out with the popular children’s game Hide and seek. But this can also be applied to the experience of the immediate transition of a youth in state custody from leaving home after being incarcerated at the state’s juvenile correctional facility. Going through transitions in life can at times feel a bit overwhelming, not just for the youth returning home, but for other family members as well.

To help youth and families through this process the Kansas Juvenile Correctional Complex (KJCC) recently announced that they are now providing Family Therapy to assist KJCC youth in successfully reintegrating back into their family and the community. By supporting the youth and family in a way that may improve communications and relationships within the family, stressor involved with family reunification can be addressed and the family unit strengthened.

According to Megan Milner, KJCC Superintendent, “the focus areas of family therapy include improving communication, setting healthy boundaries, addressing family situations, strengthening family problem solving skills, and healing family trauma. Family therapy helps to prepare the family and resident to minimize the stress and anxiety commonly associated with residents returning home after incarceration.”

The plan is to start offering family therapy using the Zoom platform. Requests for a referral form can be made by contacting the youth’s designated Corrections Counselor at KJCC. If you are not sure who the counselor is you can contact the KJCC Program Director, Marissa Reinbold at Marissa.Reinbold@ks.gov.

So with the help of this program, “what was once before an ‘or not – here I come’” may soon become “Ready – here I come.”

Kansas Juvenile Correctional Complex - Update

Marissa Reinbold, Program Director

DOC - Kansas Juvenile Correctional Complex

One of the predominate programs at Kansas Juvenile Correctional Complex (KJCC) is Thinking for a Change (T4C). T4C empowers interpersonal communication skill development and challenges the youth’s thought patterns that can lead to problematic behaviors. The program has three components: cognitive distortions, change, social skills, and problem solving skills. Lessons on cognitive self-change provide the youth with a thorough process for self-reflection aimed at uncovering antisocial thoughts, feelings, attitudes, and beliefs. Social skills instruction prepares youth to engage in pro-social interactions based on self-understanding and consideration of the impact of their actions on others. Finally, problem solving skills integrate the two previous interventions to provide youth with an explicit step-by-step process for addressing challenging and stressful real-life situations.

Prior to or upon admission to KJCC, youth are given a Youth Level of Services/Case Management Inventory assessment (YLS/CMI) to determine his or her major needs, strengths, and barriers.

The Crossover Youth Practice Model - Update

Michelle Montgomery, CYPM Coordinator

Kansas Department of Corrections – Juvenile Services

This month we would like to introduce a member of the Kansas Crossover State Policy Team (SPT). Brady Burdge, Sedgwick County Assistant District Attorney, has been one of the partners working to tackle various issues around crossover youth at the state level. His knowledge of Kansas statutes and the juvenile codes helps the SPT members to develop effective methods for cross-agency information sharing. As a prosecutor, Brady has involvement with youth in both the juvenile justice and child welfare systems. He recognizes that the SPT involves a lot of control or input in determining how cases are handled. Regarding his role on the SPT, Brady stated, “My role is to provide a voice and perspective from the prosecution.” He also added, “It is vital that we are a part of the process of coming up with solutions or processes for addressing the needs and complex nature of crossover youth.” While CYPM is currently focused on Sedgwick County and is being implemented in Montgomery and Shawnee Counties, plans are for statewide implementation. When asked how other attorneys can support CYPM in their counties, Brady suggested, ‘The best way to support crossover youth is to get educated about the services and programs available in your jurisdictions. There are a lot more resources available than people realize and we all need to be prepared in the way we approach our cases. It is also important to voice any concerns or suggestions to your local court or bar association so that each community can come together and work as a cohesive unit. There are a lot of different agencies and people involved with crossover youth and it is important to have support and cooperation from all of them.’

To learn more about the CYPM and information regarding past and upcoming webinars of the State Policy Team click here . . .
Exchanging the Relationship Between Childhood Trauma and Involvement in the Justice System

A dangerous or threatening experience may become a traumatic event for a child. The mind may see the event as an intense threat to his or her safety. A child is likely to respond to the event in a way that is consistent with his or her emotional development. However, the child may also experience a traumatic event in a way that is consistent with his or her emotional development. Trauma may result in a wide range of impacts, including accidents and natural disasters. From vast to those in the public safety and justice fields, traumatic experiences may be caused by exposure - as a victim or as a witness - to community violence, domestic violence, sexual abuse, or terrorist attacks. Trauma experienced during childhood may result in profound and long-lasting negative effects.

Youth Trauma Experiences and the Path from Child Welfare to Juvenile Justice

Youth involved in the child welfare system and the juvenile justice system experience high rates of trauma. In addition, children living in the child welfare system are likely to also be involved in the juvenile justice system. This study explores the ways trauma experiences can contribute to youth being involved in the juvenile justice system.

The idea that children would want to stay in jail rather than return to youth being involved in the juvenile justice system is hard to imagine, but Erin K. Maloney, the facility's superintendent, says that’s what they sometimes tell home or enter foster care is hard to imagine, but Erin K. Maloney.

Partnership Justice System

To address the root causes of behaviors that led them to the justice system, this study explores how trauma experiences can contribute to youth being involved in the juvenile justice system.

The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) announced an initiative aimed at addressing the root causes of behaviors that led them to the justice system.

The project is part of the Improving Outcomes for Youth (IOYouth) initiative, which helps states and local jurisdictions align their policies, practices, and resource allocations with what research shows works to reduce recidivism and help young people succeed.

The CSG Justice Center will perform the review, which will focus on the juvenile justice system from diversion through reentry.

President Biden's 2022 Budget Request Prioritizes Mental Health Services, Racial Equity Initiatives, and Workforce Development

On April 9, President Biden submitted his first discretionary budget request to Congress, which outlines his funding priorities for the 2022 fiscal year.

The budget request includes an array of policy areas and includes several important investments related to the criminal and juvenile justice systems - largely through increased funding to the Department of Justice (with an increase of $1.8 billion for a total of $35.2 billion) and the Department of Health and Human Services (with an increase of $25.1 billion for a total of $133.7 billion).