Kansas Juvenile Justice Workgroup

Agenda

- Introductions (Chairs)
- Charge (Chairs)
- Process and timeline (Chairs)
- National juvenile justice landscape (Pew)
- Discussion and next steps (Chairs)
Charge to the Workgroup

“In developing proposals for reform, the group’s priorities will be to:

- Promote public safety and hold juvenile offenders accountable
- Control taxpayer costs
- Improve outcomes for youth, families, and communities in Kansas.

The Workgroup’s recommendations will be used as the foundation for statutory, budgetary and administrative changes during the 2016 legislative session.”

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<tr>
<th>Governor Brownback</th>
<th>Senate President Wagle</th>
<th>Senate Minority Leader Hensley</th>
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<td>Chief Justice Nuss</td>
<td>House Speaker Merrick</td>
<td>House Minority Leader Burroughs</td>
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Workgroup Process and Timeline

- **July-August**: Data Analysis, System Assessment
- **September**: Policy Development, Subgroups
- **October**: Subgroups, Policy Consensus
- **November**: Final Report

Stakeholder Engagement
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Individual or group meetings with:
- Youth and families
- Law enforcement
- Judges
- Crime victims, survivors, and advocates
- Faith leaders
- Prosecutors
- Defense attorneys
- Service providers
- Educators
- Youth advocates
- Others as requested
Who we are

The Pew Charitable Trusts is a nonprofit organization that applies a rigorous, analytical approach to improve public policy, inform the public, and stimulate civic life.

Pew’s public safety performance project works with states to advance data-driven, fiscally sound policies and practices in the criminal and juvenile justice systems to protect public safety, hold offenders accountable, and contain costs.

Less crime, less commitment

Juvenile commitment and violent crime index arrest rates in the United States, 1997-2011

[Graph showing trends in juvenile commitment and violent crime index arrest rates from 1997 to 2011]
But wide variation in commitment rates

U.S. juvenile commitment rate: 134 per 100,000 youth ages 10 to the upper age of juvenile court jurisdiction

States facing high annual costs per youth

- Georgia: $90,000
- Hawai‘i: $199,000
- Kentucky: $87,000
- South Dakota: $41,000 - $144,000
- West Virginia: $100,000
States experiencing poor (or unknown) outcomes

- **Georgia**
  - Recidivism: 65%

- **Hawaii**
  - Recidivism: 75%

- **Kentucky**
  - Recidivism: unknown

- **South Dakota**
  - Recidivism: 45%

- **West Virginia**
  - Recidivism: unknown

Note: Recidivism defined differently in different states.

Research: residential placement generally ineffective

Longer Stays Do Not Yield Consistent Reductions in Juvenile Recidivism

Rearrest rates in 2 counties remained steady for offenders with longer placements.

![Graph showing number of months in a facility vs. rearrest rates]

State analyses reveal systems out-of-step with research

Georgia 2011: Low-level, low-risk youth in non-secure placements

West Virginia 2013: Increasing lengths of stay out-of-home in DHHR

State policy solutions: tailored and reinforcing

Protect Public Safety and Improve Outcomes by Strengthening Community Options

Sustain Through Oversight and Reinvestment

Contain Costs by Reducing Out-of-Home Populations
Large projected impact on out-of-home populations

- Georgia: 30% OOH
- Hawaii: 60% OOH
- Kentucky: 37% OOH
- South Dakota: 50% OOH
- West Virginia: 16% OOH

Jumpstart reinvestment in effective community options

- Georgia: $6 million, Additional funding in subsequent years
- Hawaii: $1.26 million
- Kentucky: Fiscal incentive program authorized
- South Dakota: $6.5 million
- West Virginia: $4.5 million
Strong and widespread support

“We need to do a better job determining which youth offenders really need to enter an expensive Youth Detention Center and which ones can be effectively supervised in the community.”

Danny Porter, District Attorney, Gwinnett County
Scott Berry, Sheriff, Oconee County, Georgia

“Unless there is abuse, the family home is far and away the best place for a teen. The family has the greatest interest in the child. Systems can’t love children. Only people can.”

Newt Gingrich, former Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives

Strong public support

Voters Care Less About Whether or How Long Juvenile Offenders Are Incarcerated Than About Preventing Crime

“If does not matter whether a juvenile offender is sent to a juvenile corrections facility or supervised in the community. "What really matters is that the system does a better job of making sure that he or she is less likely to commit another crime.”

65% 74% 80% 88%

73% 89% 90% 91%

Source: Pew Charitable Trusts, Public Opinion on Juvenile Justice in America
Strong legislative support

- **Georgia**
  - Senate: 47-0
  - House: 173-0

- **Hawaii**
  - Senate: 24-0
  - House: 50-0

- **Kentucky**
  - Senate: 32-0
  - House: 64-15

- **South Dakota**
  - Senate: 35-0
  - House: 80-7

- **West Virginia**
  - Senate: 34-0
  - House: 100-0

Observable results: an example from Georgia

- Reduction in felony commitments from fiscal incentive counties*: 62%
- Reduction in population at secure state facilities*: 14%

*After the first nine months of implementation
Discussion

• Strengths of the Kansas juvenile justice system
• Areas for improvement

Future Meetings

• July 8
• August 19
• September 9
• October 21
• November 17
Next Steps

- Data analysis and system assessment
- Stakeholder outreach

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