

# Kansas Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee

*April 17<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 AM*

Location: Sedgwick County Juvenile Field Services Building

538 N Main Street Wichita, KS 67203

<https://kdoc.zoom.us/rec/share/8ExlOVxtcxxMlt5r4qp2hDAYoFAk19Uvdd7prNXOxnC69e0HKjytqEWrcr mLLtY0.TWm8gibZiipsd-48?startTime=1776436950000>

Passcode: +182@P2J

1. Call to order (Chair): 10:01am
2. Roll-call (Chair) Present: Christopher Esquibel, Connie O'Brien, Don Hymer, Judge Delia York, Jeff Butrick, Lara Blake Bors, Mary Snipes, Megan Milner, Rachel Bell, Randy Regher, Rebecca Gerhardt, Rep. Ousley, Rodney Smith, Sen. Faust-Godeau, Stephanie Springer, Steven Stonehouse
3. KORA - Kansas Open Meetings Act statement by the Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee
4. Public Comment (Chair) – Chair gave the time for public comment; there were no public comments.
5. Approval of meeting minutes - Minutes from January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026, minutes were reviewed, and moved to be approved by Lara Blake Bors, and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Randy Regehr. Approved unanimously.
6. Chair/Vice Chair Report-out – Chair Stephanie Springer recognized Don Hymer for his 3 years as JJOC Chair, and his long history with the JJOC and work in the juvenile justice system. A plaque was presented and will be delivered to his office. Don Hymer thanked the JJOC and kind comments towards the JJOC.
7. Community program presentation – *Cherry Creek Treatment Center (Wichita, KS)*
  - a. *Heath Bechler, CEO and Nathan Magruder, LAC, Clinical Director*
  - b. *Presentation provided in the meeting supplementals*
  - c. *Cherry Creek Treatment Center is a drug and alcohol rehabilitation facility in Wichita, Kansas that provides treatment for people struggling with substance use and related mental health issues.*
  - d. *Engaged in conversations and responded to questions.*
8. Legislative update
  - a. Sen. Faust Goudeau – Discussed the recent passing of HB 2329, asked for information about topics to consider and information to bring for planning of the next legislative session.
  - b. Rep. Ousley echoed many of Sen. Faust-Goudeau's comments, added thoughts on finding if errors were made in judgement, and correcting them in the next session.
9. Governor's office update – Rachel Bell spoke to the Governor's veto of HB 2329 and now supporting KDOC with its implementation and tracking outcomes. In addition, related to

- youth was HB 2524 that allows foster families to keep licenses who have children that get involved in the juvenile justice system, that may have previously caused them to lose foster care licenses.
10. Crossover youth report-out – Ashley Brown spoke to the progress of CYPM in Kansas, both evaluating what has been in working in counties, and how to continue implementation in others. They recently moved to Atchison, Saline, and Franklin counties and made great progress in those counties.
  11. Kansas Advisory Group Update – Max Mendoza, KAG is preparing to solicit for FY 25 funding, and aligning with FY 26-28. The state Racial and Ethnic Disparity plan is currently under review. They are also sending representatives to the Coalition for Juvenile Justice Conference, focusing on system collaboration.
  12. Sub-Committee updates
    - a. Communications – Steve Stonehouse: In the past quarter the subcommittee has continued to explore ways to send out information about the use of funds in communities. Expressed concerns about directed funding, and how that is going to reduce funds available to community programs.
    - b. Data – Judge York: Data reports were sent out to members ahead of the meeting. Discussed data that represents adjudications and violation filings, child in need of care cases. Amy Raymond noted that some of the “decline” in the data could be a delay in reporting, but it is worth something to continue to track in the next quarter. Lara Blake Bors noted that there is a decrease in CINC cases, but Rep. Ousley noted that the report from child welfare reports an increase in higher level of needs in the youth coming to the child welfare system. Don Hymer also noted that his experience is that the youth are of older age coming being determined a CINC case. The subcommittee continues to work with CJI who is assisting in creating a plan to be more consistent and have improved data reporting.
    - c. Reinvestment – Matt Billinger: Melody Pappan, subcommittee chair, could not be here today. Subcommittee attentive to the activity in the legislation action. There has been discussion but nothing decisive, however they will meet next week to discuss the impact and future planning. We believe that what wants were already approved will be fully funded. However, in FY 28 there will not be as many available for community programs. A program update was provided to members prior to the meeting and will be attached in the meeting supplementals. The subcommittee heard from Stepping Up program, Juvenile Defense and KEYS for networking.
    - d. Legislative – Lara Blake Bors: Thanked the subcommittee for meeting almost every week. Discussed the topics that the subcommittee provided testimony on and discussed the major concerns and positives they testified on. Discussed the subcommittee approach on providing testimony and working with legislators.
  13. Recap action items

**Next meeting date: Friday July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026 10:00am via Zoom**

**Adjourn: Moved by Lara Blake Bors and Seconded by Steven Stonehouse.**