

Kansas Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee

Minutes

Date and Time: Friday January 16th, 2026 10:00am

Recording:

https://kdoc.zoom.us/rec/share/GFw3_1ew8c0HBYfHQAcXPstv9la6YcA7oa7qjPtdq_BQuJmdFgUM68LVc5qAV78.57st67xnKZnekvIM

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1. Call to order @ 10:01 am
2. Rollcall: Christopher Esquibel, Judge Delia York, Jeff Butrick, Jeffrey Zmuda, Lara Blake Bors, Megan Milner, Rachel Bell, Randy Regehr, Representative Jarrod Ousley, Representative Bob Lewis, Rodney Smith, Stephanie Springer, Steven Stonehouse
3. Public Comment
4. KORA - Kansas Open Meetings Act statement by the Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee
5. Approval of meeting minutes – Blake Bors Moved, Regehr 2nd, Unanimously approved
6. Chair/Vice Chair Report-out –
 - a. Elections
 - i. Stonehouse Nominates Stephanie Springer as chair, Blake Bors Second
 1. Vote: Unanimous approval for Springer as chair
 - ii. Butrick Nominates Randy Regehr, vice chair, Zmuda second
 1. Vote: Unanimous approval for Regehr as vice chair
 - iii. EBPA – Springer discussed the Governor’s Budget including a lapse of \$23.6 for FY 2027 out of the Evidence Based Practice Account (EBPA). Discussed KDOC staff are continuing to review the impact and have concerns it could create a deficit in the account. Milner added that at this time, KDOC believes we will be able to fulfill all obligations this year. Senator Owens in Ways and Means has discussed EBPA and encouraging caution when discussing lapses of the account.
7. Legislative update –
 - a. Lewis – HB 2329 concerning with juvenile involved in juvenile justice system regarding placement and tweaks penalty provisions. The bill passed out of House and now in the Senate. Senator Warren will be having hearings on an amendment from Howerton on Wednesday, then hear the bill on Thursday 22nd.
 - b. Ousley – Howerton amendment, concerned how the funding with this amendment will work with the lapse previously mentioned.
8. Governor’s office update – Rachel Bell
 - a. Context to the lapse – the lapse is just recommendations, not a final budget. Legislators are working to make their own budget. They just chose to reappropriate

\$8 million, reducing the carryover. The recommendation came from actual spent dollars, and how much would be needed to sustain current spending. I would work under an assumption that there will be a lapse, possibly a portion of what has been recommended. Suggested to the JJOC to continue to express success and plans for funds, and inform legislators about the use of the EBPA.

- b. JAG-K – recommended total of 6 million for JAG-K.
- c. DCF plans to submit a bill to open funds for crisis centers and facilities like it.

9. KAG Update

- a. Danielle Howbert – FY 21 funds that were approved prior to shut down have been awarded to 3 subcontractors (KVC, One Heart, and PARS) and they received their allocation.

10. Subcommittee Updates

- a. Data Subcommittee - Judge York
 - i. We have been meeting with CJI for data collection, vetting, and hopefully to do some pre-reporting out on data in February.
 - ii. CJI shared with the subcommittee information on Utah, S. Dakota, and Georgia on their data reporting, how they display data and what they collect.
 - iii. Data Report Out – Sent out to members ahead of meeting and will be in the meeting supplementals.
 - 1. KDOC Intakes by Place Outcome - saw a spike in youth going to detention immediately after intake, with a drop in parent/guardian placements. The following quarter saw a return to normal trends. We have looked at this data, and attempted to find reason for this, but nothing currently. Will continue to follow and research the data.
 - 2. OJA Total Number of Youth whose probation violations was reported to court – graph reflects a spike in recent quarters; however, we want to note that this is a result of a change in data collection. The graph does not accurately reflect those numbers. The recent quarters and going forward will be a more accurate reflection of data.
- b. Legislative – Lara Blake Bors
 - i. Gave and update on the Legislative Workgroup, and their discussions on HB 2329. Shared some data that was put together and discussed. There was discussion among members regarding different recommendations and topics within the bill. There was a request to get more demographic information on the youth included in the data.
 - ii. Recommendations will be that discretion remain with local decision makers in regard to detention of juveniles.
- c. Reinvestment – Megan Milner
 - i. At our previous meeting Keys for Networking met with the subcommittee. They work with youth in Kansas to reach graduation and then help prepare them for future education or to help prepare them for the workforce. The

subcommittee approved to recommend KDOC to fund this program for youth in Kansas.

- ii. Discussed a new dashboard on the KDOC website that highlights the judicial district and what programs are funded through KDOC dollars.
- iii. Program updates were sent out to members prior to the meeting and will be included in the supplemental meeting materials.

d. Communications – Steve Stonehouse

- i. The subcommittee continues to put out information about what programs are being funded by the EBPA and like to work with our non-system members and legislative members to help create a narrative that reaches those outside the system and can be understood by those that are not working in the juvenile justice system.

11. Next meeting is scheduled for Friday April 17th, and has been done in person in the past few years. Steven Stonehouse volunteered to host the April JJOC meeting in Wichita. JJOC will tentatively plan on an in-person meeting in Wichita, KS on April 17th.

12. Megan Milner motioned to adjourn, Jeff Butrick second. Meeting adjourned at 11:07am.