

# Kansas Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee

## Reinvestment Subcommittee

January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026

### Program Updates

**Mental Health First Aid (MHFA):** During the first half of FY 2026, the state had 29 staff completed MHFA training. Two additional training courses are scheduled for the second half of the fiscal year.

**Gender Responsivity Training:** During the first half of FY 2026, the state had 26 staff complete training. Five additional trainings are scheduled for the second half of fiscal year.

**Family Engagement:** KDOC and PCG are currently securing locations and dates for a Child and Family Team (CFT) training. The training will be open to community staff to become certified to be a facilitator of CFT's. KDOC, PCG, and Judge representation will be presenting at the OJA Judge's Conference in January 2026.

**Moral Recognition Therapy:** (no new update) We do not have enough staff need in order to host this training. It is a very intense training but not enough new officers with the need. Virtual options for training have been relayed to staff.

**Parent Project:** (no new update) We currently do not have enough staff that are in need of this training to host another training. We are continuing to look at virtual options, but in order to host an in person training we would need more officers that have a need for the training.

**Juvenile Defense:** Gault Center has finalized the content for the Kansas Youth Defense Standards, a high-level overview of best practices for youth defenders and a separate manual for structured, skill-based tools including action seps and resources for youth defenders. Moving forward Gault Cener will work with BIDS in Kansas for adoption and implementation of those standards. In addition, Gault Center is working with BIDS to build and sustain the Statewide Youth Defense Workgroup, in exploring topics such as a youth defense system in Kansas. They have promising meetings with funding and will continue this work in 2026. More updates and information will be in supplementals of the meeting materials.

**Stepping Up:** The Council of State Governments (CSG) began working in the state of Kansas in 2023 to craft the Stepping Up Initiative into the juvenile justice system. One of the initial steps in CSG's work was to complete a landscape analysis of the juvenile justice system in Kansas. They

used that landscape analysis to write several recommendations to the state on improvements that could be made. One of those recommendations was that Kansas should draft and implement minimum best-practice detention standards. These standards would look to craft the basic dos and don'ts around all the different areas within detention such as admission, isolation, education, health care, use of force, etc. At the agreement of the detention centers, KDOC has requested CSG to lead this project and provide technical assistance to the state. CSG is in the process of building a project plan for this work and the project will kick off in early 2026.

**Crossover Youth Practice Model (CYPM):** Staff have started working in the pilot counties (Atchison, Franklin, Saline) where they are working towards orientation with the model, creating protocols, SharePoint databases, and data sharing. With a goal of total implementation by the beginning of 2027. They have had promising conversations with data analysts at DCF and hoping to be able to pull more information together to assist with reporting.

#### ***JJOC Vision Statement***

*Improve the lives and well-being of all youth in Kansas.*

#### ***JJOC Mission Statement***

*The Kansas Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee (JJOC) is a statutorily defined, multidisciplinary team of stakeholders of youth-serving systems. The JJOC is responsible for regularly reviewing information and data on progress and outcomes across all parts of those systems. The JJOC provides policy and funding recommendations and influences stakeholders across agencies and branches of government, on sound, data-driven, evidence-based implementation, and sustainability of juvenile justice reforms.*