

Jeff Zmuda, Secretary

Laura Kelly, Governor

To: Juvenile and Adult Facility Residents and Family Members

From: Jeff Zmuda, Secretary

Date: October 13, 2021

Re: Coronavirus and KDOC updates

I was honored to represent Governor Kelly last Friday at the Kansas Law Enforcement Memorial Ceremony on the grounds of our State Capitol. The service and beautiful memorial are in honor of Kansas uniformed officers lost in the line of duty. Two of our own are among those officers whose names are now inscribed on the memorial: Olufela A. Adebisi and George B. Robare, both Lansing Correctional Facility corrections supervisors who lost their lives in the line of duty to COVID-19.

KDOC lost other staff to this terrible virus over the past eighteen months: Richard Rose, Topeka Correctional Facility maintenance supervisor; Gabe Morales, El Dorado Correctional Facility unit team supervisor; Duane Denton, Hutchinson Correctional Facility medical staff; David Warner, Winfield Correctional Facility pre-release instructor; John Thomas, Lansing Correctional Facility corrections supervisor; and Roland Barden, a maintenance supervisor serving at the Hutchinson Correctional Facility. We have also lost residents over the past two years to COVID-19, and I hope it is of some comfort to families and friends to know these losses are not forgotten.

A couple of weeks ago I shared with you the news that our adult recidivism rate had improved. Our 36-month recidivism for adult offenders released in 2017 is 32.27%, and this equates to a 7% improvement. Looking at this another way, this means 68% of returning citizens were living successfully in our communities three years after release.

Today I am happy to report improvement regarding the success of our juvenile offenders. The 36-month recidivism for juvenile offenders is 27.52% for those released in 2017 and this equates to a 29% improvement. This means 72.48% have not returned to KJCC within the three-year measurement period. There are many circumstances that impact recidivism, and this overall improvement is likely not the result of one single program or intervention. However, for each individual represented in these percentages there might very well have been a single event, a program or one special staff interaction that made the difference. The same is true on the adult side. Another indicator that the work you all do is making a difference!

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, an opportunity to raise awareness and support survivors of this devastating concern. If you or someone you know is experiencing abuse in a relationship, there is

help available. For a complete listing of resources in Kansas, visit the Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence (KCSDV) at <http://kcsdv.org/find-help/in-kansas/dv-sa-services.html> or call the Kansas Crisis Hotline at 888.END.ABUSE (888.363.2287). Please also feel free to contact the KDOC Office of Victim Services for more information and resources.

We sent information yesterday to residents about the upcoming flu vaccination clinics. We recognize that not everyone is comfortable with getting a flu shot. If you have questions or concerns, please talk contact your facility's medical staff.