

Community Advisory Committee FY2020 Report
Jeff Zmuda, Secretary
Hope Cooper, Deputy Secretary
Kansas Department of Corrections

Community Advisory Committee Members

Venice Sloan - Director, 22nd Judicial District Community Corrections
Graduated Sanctions Appointee, Northern Region

Peggy Pratt - Director, Northwest Kansas Juvenile Services
Prevention Appointee, Western Region

Randy Regehr - Director, Reno County Community Corrections
Graduated Sanctions Appointee, Western Region

Melody Pappan - Director, Cowley County Youth Services
Prevention Appointee, South Eastern Region

Steve Willis - Director, 5th Judicial District Community Corrections
Graduated Sanctions Appointee, South Eastern Region

Chrysann Phipps – Director, 8th Judicial District
Graduated Sanctions Appointee, Central Region

Angie Hadley – Director, Restorative Justice Authority
At-Large Appointee

Marissa Woodmansee- Director 20th JD Juvenile Services
Prevention Appointee, Central Region

Open (1)
Prevention Appointee, Northern Region

Submitted
May 13, 2020

Introduction

Pursuant to K.S.A. 75-7056, the Juvenile Justice Authority (JJA) established the Community Advisory Committee (CAC), which is comprised of eight members representing four Kansas regions and two at-large appointments. This statute creates an avenue for the CAC to participate in the JJA annual budgetary process, as well as a mechanism to provide input regarding prevention services and graduated sanctions programming throughout the 31 judicial districts.

The CAC is charged with the task of submitting an annual report to the JJA Commissioner on or before July 15th of each year. The components of this annual report consist of the following:

- A. Efficiencies in the delivery of community supervision services including prevention and graduated sanction programs;
- B. Effectiveness and enhancement of existing prevention, interventions and graduated sanctions;
- C. Identification of new interventions; and
- D. Effectiveness of juvenile justice prevention, intervention and graduated sanctions programs in reducing racial, geographic and other biases that may exist in the juvenile justice system.

Typically, the CAC membership meets routinely throughout the year to address topics of interest related to juvenile programming and to prepare the annual report to the Secretary. The following report represents the consensus findings and recommendations of the CAC. The ERO and Coronavirus have significantly disrupted the functions of this committee.

Efficiencies in the delivery of community supervision services including prevention and graduated sanctions programs:

Throughout the past year the Governor's Executive Reorganization Order (ERO) moving KDOC Juvenile Services under the proposed Department of Human Services has been a primary focus. The CAC along with other Community Corrections and Juvenile Services groups had many meetings and conversations as well as provided testimony on the ERO. Overall, the Directors believe and have expressed that Juvenile Services is more efficient and effective as it currently operates under KDOC. Agencies supervising both adults and juveniles have expressed significant efficiencies through the sharing of staff, training, auditing, and overhead expenses such as rent and utilities. The CAC recommends that Juvenile Services remain under KDOC.

Members of the CAC expressed concerns of the vast number of projects Juvenile Services has undertaken. While these projects may be beneficial, too many programs cause agencies and the department to lose focus and become less efficient in the core correctional practices with youth. For example, officers need to understand the dosage principle and apply it effectively, but the task of tracking program hours lessens the time that officers have to work directly with youth.

The Youth Advocate Program (YAP) may not be the most efficient use of KDOC money. Current data showing the effectiveness or lack thereof is not available. Directors have expressed concerns of the consistency of inaccurate billing and the lack of fidelity to the program guidelines.

Immediate Intervention Programs (IIP) have proven effective for keeping youth out of the juvenile court system. The CAC feels that for its use in Kansas to be effective there is a need for an evidence-based assessment tool so that officers are able to make referrals and decisions based on the youth's risk and needs.

Research has shown that the relationship between a probationer and their supervising officer is a primary factor in the probationer's success rather than simply the programming they receive. The CAC recommends that KDOC focus primarily on this work and provide training to supervisory staff in EPICS and Motivational Interviewing. Building this coaching resource within agencies would increase the quality of time spent with youth and reduce the agencies' reliance on KDOC as well. Partnerships between agencies for Quality Assurance auditing and coaching should be encouraged.

Efficiencies could also be gained through the use of technology in training staff statewide. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have learned technology can be effectively used to communicate without the need for travel. The use of web-based trainings would allow KDOC to provide trainings more often and with greater flexibility while saving KDOC and agencies travel and per diem costs.

Effectiveness in enhancement of existing prevention and intervention and graduated sanctions:

- Immediate Intervention Programs have been established in most districts and KDOC-JS has implemented an IIP Data Base.
- The CAC recommends, per best practices, the implementation of a pre-screen tool to determine the level of supervision and programming needs for IIP.
- The CAC recommends that a list of graduated responses be compiled so that Community Supervision Officers will have a list of options.
- Good time credit for youth supervised on JISP is somewhat subjective. The CAC recommends standardized guidelines be established for earned good time credit.

Identification of new interventions:

- The CAC supports providing FFT, Functional Family Therapy, to Immediate Intervention Youth.
- Reinvestment and Regional grants have enhanced services provided to youth and families on probation. The JCAB Evidence-based Program funds will further enhance these services. The CAC supports the continual use of reinvestment and regional grants to enhance community services.
- The CAC support Family Engagement and The Parent Project along with the ongoing work with Georgetown and the State Policy Team on the Crossover Youth Model in Kansas. It is supportive of the implementation of the Crossover Youth Model into the two pilot districts.
- The CAC feels that districts should work together in order to become more efficient and consistent across the state in their focus on Quality Assurance.
- While supporting the above listed interventions, the CAC asks that in FY21 KDOC focus efforts and dollars on identified interventions, programs and software systems and not introduce new endeavors.

Effectiveness of juvenile justice prevention, intervention and graduated sanctions programs in reducing racial, geographic and other biases that may exist in the juvenile justice system:

- Data has recently been made available; however, technical assistance continues to be a need regarding Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC). DMC is addressed by each agency during the grant application process, with no real guidance from KDOC-JS.
- Technical assistance should consist of site visits, and analyzing how the data is applicable to respective communities.
- The CAC further recommends that KDOC make adjustments to CASIMS which will allow local districts to track demographics including race and ethnicity.

CAC members appreciate this opportunity address the Secretary and Deputy Secretary. We value Megan Milner's willingness to listen to the point of view of the community partners and feel that she and her staff work hard to put into practice proven processes to better serve Kansas youth. We look forward to working with her through this continued partnership.