

Kansas News

State Juvenile Justice Reforms have Major Implications for Douglas County Facilities

Sweeping changes stemming from the state's 2016 reform of juvenile justice are calling into question the future of the Douglas County Juvenile Detention Center and the adjacent day school for at-risk students, said Pam Weigand, director of Douglas County Criminal Justice Services. The state in the 2016 legislative session enacted juvenile justice reforms that were meant to reduce the number of youths in [Read more . . .](#)

New Juvenile Justice Center to Open in Wyandotte County in 2020

A ground-breaking ceremony will take place 11 a.m. Friday for the new Juvenile Justice Center. Come 2020, a new 47,000 square-foot facility will be opened. The facility will also provide a safer environment for transporting inmates and a more secured area for Court Services employees. [Read more . . .](#)

2018 DOC-Juvenile Services Training Schedule

New Employee Kansas Detention Assessment Instrument (KDAI) Training:

Topeka	Wednesday	Nov. 14 th
Salina	Tuesday	Dec. 11 th
Times	10 am – 4:00 pm	

All intake workers, supervisors and anyone who approves intakes and placement decisions must be trained in administering the KDAI. These trainings are reserved for intake workers and supervisors. For more information on KDAI training or to register contact Crystal Trout at crystal.trout@ks.gov

Juvenile Justice Basics:

Location – KHP 2025 E Iron, Salina
Date Wednesday November 14 9 am – 5 pm
This Training is Full

Mental Health Training Curriculum – Juvenile Justice (MHTC-JJ)

KJCC - The Mental Health Training Curriculum – Juvenile Justice (MHTC-JJ) will be available for new employees from Judicial Districts to attend at Kansas Juvenile Correction Complex as a part of their new employee orientation.

To inquire about upcoming trainings or if you have questions please contact Lt. Johnathon Ashley at johnathon.ashley@ks.gov or 785-354-9820. KJCC will have MHTC-JJ training as a part of their basic training for new employees approximately every four weeks and it will take place on Thursdays.

Sedgwick County DOC does not have MHTC-JJ training scheduled at this time. But if you are interested in attending a future training at their location please contact Karla Seymore at karla.seymore@sedgwick.gov.

New Officer YLS/CMI Training:

Location – Topeka Parole Office, 2029 SW Western, Topeka			
Dates	Tuesday	Dec. 4	9 am – 5 pm
	Wednesday	Dec. 5	8 am – 5 pm
	Thursday	Dec. 6	8 am – 5 pm

This Training is Full

Community Legal Issues:

KDOC-JS Attorney Jeff Cowger will provide an overview on Legal Issues in Juvenile Justice in Kansas for Juvenile Community Corrections and Intake and Assessment staff. The class is primarily for newer staff but is open to staff wanting a refresher.

Friday January 18, 2019 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
KBI Laboratory Auditorium; 2001 SW Washburn, Topeka, KS
[To register click here . . .](#)

Annie E. Casey Foundation

Casey Seeks Applicants for 2019–21 Juvenile Justice Youth Advisory Council

This Youth Justice Awareness Month, the Casey Foundation seeks emerging youth justice leaders from around the country to join its 2019–21 Juvenile Justice Youth Advisory Council. Candidates have until Friday, Nov. 16, to apply. Council members support and contribute to a national juvenile justice reform movement. Ideal candidates are young adults, ages 18 to 25, who are interested in strengthening their leadership and advocacy skills as emerging leaders in juvenile justice reform. In addition, they will have current or past experience with the juvenile justice system themselves — such as [Read more . . .](#)

More Than 850 Juvenile Justice Professionals Take Equity Challenge

A defining characteristic of American juvenile justice is the overrepresentation of youth of color at every level of system involvement. When the Casey Foundation released [JDAI at 25](#) last year, it reported that racial and ethnic disparities had persisted or worsened in [Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative®](#) sites, even while those sites had achieved significant reductions in both juvenile incarceration [Read more . . .](#)

The Juvenile Justice Corner

**Randy Bowman, Deputy Secretary
DOC – Division of Juvenile Services**

Reforms to Kansas' Juvenile Justice System Are Achieving Results

Two years after adoption of reforms in Senate Bill 367, Kansas is seeing results from the hard work of the dozens of organizations, and even greater number of individuals, who comprise our juvenile justice system. These results are rooted not only in the implementation work carried out since 2016, but also the years prior in which studies of were conducted, data was analyzed, and research was reviewed, to reach the conclusion that we should do better by both the children and families who come to the attention of the system, and the public. And now as the most recent results of our efforts are being compiled, we can see that we are making improvements.

On October 22nd, I had the opportunity to listen to the testimony presented to the Joint Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice Oversight by Greg Smith, Chairperson of the Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee (JJOC). In his testimony, Chairman Smith shared the following:

- ✓ The number of youth placed in the Juvenile Correctional Facility has dropped from 237 in FY15 to 164 in FY18 – a 31% reduction
- ✓ The number of misdemeanants placed in the Juvenile Correctional Facility has dropped from 34 in FY15 to 4 in FY18 – a reduction of almost 90%
- ✓ 3,266 youth received pre-file or post-file diversion in FY18 – we know from the research diversion is an effective practice for youth
- ✓ More than 80% of youth receiving a notice to appear at intake successfully appeared at their intake appointment – this change has reduced the need for intake staff to be called to their office in the middle of the night
- ✓ 447 youth in Community Corrections and 330 youth in Court Services have earned a total of 7,308 days off their probation through the Earned Discharge Credit – which comes when a youth is doing what they're supposed to do on probation
- ✓ Judges and attorneys who work with juveniles have reported more than 220 hours of continued legal education credit hours, showing increased breadth of knowledge of what works best for youth
- ✓ We have saved nearly 30 million dollars

As significant as these improvements are, there is more data that supports Kansas is on the right path in our efforts to build a stronger juvenile justice system. One that strengthens public safety and gets better outcomes for kids who experience the system.

Savings from our reforms are being reinvested in evidence-based programs and practices that have been demonstrated to get better results. And now, implementation has progressed to the point where we are beginning to see measurable results, affirming that research is transitioning into practice, and Kansas is safer.

A study directed by the 2014 Kansas Legislature and published in 2015 found that only 46% of youth removed from their community and family for placement in a Youth Residential Center II were successfully completing that intervention. And that 51% remained, or were back in, an out-of-home placement six months later. Then in 2015 the Juvenile Justice Workgroup found through analysis of Kansas data that roughly 2/3rds of youth in placements had been adjudicated for misdemeanor offenses and 90% of them had two or fewer prior adjudications.

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Human Trafficking – National

We're Blind to Human Trafficking — It's Still Alive

Slavery is alive and well. In fact, it's a growing industry that generates [about \\$150 billion](#) of profit each year, according to the International Labour Organization. People trafficked for profit are sometimes forced into dangerous manual labor and poor living conditions, but many are sexually exploited and prostituted out by traffickers. Of the \$150 billion [Read more . . .](#)

Officials Clear More than 120 Missing Children Cases after Human Trafficking Sweep

After investigating more than 300 missing children cases, officials have more information regarding the sweep and what has happened since finding 123 of those reported missing. [At least 301 missing children cases were given](#) another look recently, encompassed in an overall human trafficking operation to identify potential victims, but a small percentage of the children found were actually suspected of having been victims of trafficking. In their [Read more and watch video . . .](#)

Human Trafficking Happens 'Right Under Our Noses' in York. Here's How We Fight Back

She awoke in a room, in a house in New Jersey she had never seen before. In the room with her were two men. She recognized one of them as the one who, the day before, had "unexpectedly" bailed her out after she was picked up on a theft charge. She was at that point in her heroin addiction, stealing to support the habit. [Read more and watch video . . .](#)

National News

Louisiana Reserved \$8.5M of Criminal Justice Reform Savings for Improvements; Here's Where it Will Go

Louisiana leaders announced Wednesday their plans for spending much of the \$8.54 million earmarked from criminal justice reform savings, with the largest portions headed to Baton Rouge and New Orleans. The money — reserved for programs aimed at reducing recidivism, supporting victims and improving public safety — is the reinvestment [Read more . . .](#)

County OKs Juvenile Justice Program for San Diego

The San Diego County Board of Supervisors Tuesday gave final approval to a program aimed at preventing young criminal offenders from falling deeper into the juvenile justice system. The board voted 3-0, with Supervisors Dianne Jacob and Ron Roberts absent, to set up as many as two youth [Read more . . .](#)

Governor Signs New Juvenile Justice Reforms into Law

One of the measures, sponsored by (Delaware) State Rep. Debra Heffernan, expands the civil citation program, which diverts teens from the criminal justice system. Her bill opens the program to most misdemeanors and reduces the time a juvenile must wait to be referred to [Read more and listen . . .](#)

He's 12 – Has ADHD – And His Family Is Fighting to Keep Him Out of the Juvenile Court System

Early one morning in April when most other children were in school, 12-year-old Cesar Gaspar leaned against his mom's shoulder as they sat on a hard bench in a barren corridor at the Lamoreaux (CA) Justice Center. Cesar [Read more . . .](#)

County Receives \$250K to Reduce Juvenile Recidivism

The Racine County Human Services Department is attempting to help youths in the juvenile justice system, and now has more money to work with. The department was awarded a \$250,000 Innovation Grant from the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families to help troubled youths build their skills and become successful school and community members, through a mentorship program. [Read more . . .](#)

California Governor Signs Major Juvenile Justice Reform Legislation

California became the first state to bar the transfer of 14 and 15 years olds to adult court and established a minimum age of jurisdiction for the juvenile system when two NCYL sponsored bills, Senate Bill 439 and 1391, were signed into law by California Governor Jerry Brown on September [Read more . . .](#)

Our Hard Work to Reform the Juvenile Justice System in Utah is Not Yet Complete

"Do you know what a defense attorney does?" This question is often asked by Utah juvenile court judges to determine whether a youth appearing in their courtroom is knowingly and voluntarily waiving their right to counsel. Youth often respond with a "Yes", but when asked to explain the function of a defense attorney, they have nothing to say. We are concerned that [Read more . . .](#)

As Juvenile Youth Offender Population Falls, Shuttered Facilities will Follow

On a gray and rainy day, the high gates of the Union County (New Jersey) Juvenile Detention Center reaffirm the notion of separateness, juveniles on the inside, families and the rest of the community – outside. But as Union County prepares to close the facility, hope for a different approach to juvenile justice is rising as the juvenile detention population continues to fall. Since 2011, the number of young people incarcerated dropped from 546 to 274, a 50% [Read more and watch video . . .](#)

San Diego Has Two Half-Empty Juvenile Jails and No Plans to Close Either

The county plans to spend \$240 million to renovate its juvenile hall facility in Kearny Mesa and to keep open another facility near Otay Mesa, though both sit half empty amid an unprecedented drop in juvenile incarceration. County officials don't have a clear explanation why. California's juvenile jails [have emptied out at a shocking rate](#) over the past decade, because of declining crime rates and more funding for alternative-to-detention programs. The declines [Read more . . .](#)

Madison Police Chief Says Juvenile Justice System is Failing; DA Disagrees

Madison, WI police chief and Dane County's district attorney are disagreeing on the state of the juvenile justice system. In a [blog post](#) Tuesday, Chief Mike Koval said he believes the juvenile justice system is "failing" the community. [Read more . . .](#)

Restorative Justice Pilot Aims to Help Youth

For the past two years, a Kalispell, (MT) collective of public school, restorative justice, law enforcement and juvenile probation representatives have been contributing their areas of expertise to come up with a comprehensive approach to behavior and discipline of at-risk youth. One of the outcomes has been a restorative justice pilot program at Flathead High [Read more . . .](#)

Juvenile Justice Information Exchange

With Cotton Support, JJDA Reauthorization Seen As Possible This Year

Key juvenile justice legislation may be on the brink of reauthorization after years of disagreement and inaction in Congress. The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDA) sets the core safety standards for juveniles that states must follow in order to qualify for federal [Read more . . .](#)

California's Latest Adult Transfer Law Models Pathways for Reform for Rest of U.S.

As juvenile justice reforms take hold in California and youth arrests rates plunge, far fewer youth are being placed into the criminal justice system and prosecuted as adults. Beginning in 2019, [a new state law](#) will halt criminal [Read more . . .](#)

Raise the Age Legislation Goes Into Effect in New York with Under-18s Moved From Rikers

As the first step in New York's raise the age law, all 16- and 17-year-olds were moved off New York City's notorious Rikers Island and into more appropriate juvenile facilities by the Monday deadline, according to an announcement by Mayor Bill de Blasio. "Beginning today, no one under 18 will go to Rikers Island. Kids will be treated like kids [Read more . . .](#)

Mothers of Those Slain in NY Gun Violence Remember, Work to Help Others

The sun had just set as Monica Cassaberry let a white balloon fly into the air. She craned her neck and stared into the Brooklyn sky, her face wracked with a mix of emotions, and thought about the last time she saw her second-born child, Jamal. "Before I walked into that hospital they [Read more . . .](#)

SRO Programs Can Actually Divert Youth from Pipeline

Like it or not, cops in schools are here to stay. The question is: How do we do it right? An important principle for doing it right is driven by this key question: How can we help make sure that law enforcement actually works to keep youth in school and out of justice involvement? This question is [Read more . . .](#)

We Must Encourage Self-belief, Self-determination for Youth to Experience Post-traumatic Growth

The intriguing thing about human nature is that there is no one way to exist. Just recently, I was speaking with a colleague who struggled to understand why some people cannot handle a heavy workload or stressful situations. Because she can. Ironically, in that very same conversation, I [Read more . . .](#)

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Today, we have invested in new and reformed community-based programs that are producing improved completion rates. All while serving these kids in their home and community. In fiscal year (FY) 2018 Kansas experienced successful completion rates of:

- ✓ 88.6% for youth provided an opportunity to participate in an immediate intervention program (IIP)
- ✓ 65% for families who get a full dose of Functional Family Therapy (FFT®)
- ✓ 63% for youth supervised on probation by local juvenile community corrections agencies, while serving a population that have been assessed to be 26.7% high risk to reoffend compared to 6.4% in July of 2015
- ✓ And, 82% of youth who received community-based sex offender treatment did not experience a court revocation or termination of treatment

In total, Kansas is seeing from 17 to 42.6 percentage point improvements when compared to the past. And there is more data to support that we are getting better results for the safety of our communities.

- ✓ 2017 juvenile arrest (n=7,169) data published by the Kansas Bureau of Investigation declined again compared to 2016 (n=7,632)
- ✓ One year follow up data for the first cohort of FFT completers shows that 78% remain in the home, 95% are in school or working, and 80% have no new arrest
- ✓ Analysis of data collected by local juvenile intake and assessment services (JIAS) programs shows that comparing the number of youth with a subsequent arrest or allegation of abuse or neglect in FY12 to FY18 declined at the 180-day (12.5% to 11.2%) and 1-year mark (19.2% to 16.6%)

While the data affirms that Kansas's reformed approach to juvenile justice is beginning to produce the intended results, our work is not complete. We understand from the research that implementation is a multi-year process, and that programs can get better results with time as experience is gained. We also recognize that these results become more meaningful when they are replicated from year to year across a period of years.

So, as we enter the last months of 2018, we have the data to show that Kansas is on the right track and producing improved results for the public and our youth. I hope we all are doing our part to ensure that we stay on course.