

Kansas News

Juvenile Justice Reform Can Help Young People 'Turn Their Lives Around'

Deputy Sheriff and former Kansas state Senator Greg Smith on why he champions new strategies



Former Kansas state Senator Greg Smith (R) was a leader on comprehensive juvenile justice reform efforts in his state. With the passage of S.B. 367 in 2016, the state prioritized out-of-home placements and intensive system responses for the highest-risk juveniles and shifted significant resources toward evidence-based alternatives that allow

youth to be supervised safely at home. Smith, now a deputy sheriff in Johnson County, chairs the Kansas Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee, which monitors implementation of [Read more . . .](#)

Nancee Torkelson Retires from KJCC

Nancee began her career as the assistant to the superintendent but soon accepted additional duties and responsibilities including serving as KJCC's PREA compliance manager and public information officer. Nancee also was instrumental in numerous projects throughout the facility and served as the project manager for several initiatives. Nancee plans to spend most of her time crafting and spending time with her husband. We wish her the best and thank her for her dedication and accomplishments at KJCC!

KDOC Announces Annual Staff Awards

Recipients of the 2018 KDOC-JS [annual awards](#) were:

- **Jeff Henry**, *Physical Plant Supervisor, KJCC 2018 Non-uniformed Employee of the Year (EOY)*
Jeff's dedication, skills and knowledge helps to keep KJCC running 24 hours, 7 days a week while saving thousands of dollars in deferred costs due to his ability to complete repairs in-house. As a leader, he does not ask his staff to give more than he is willing to give.
- **Brandon Lee**, *Corrections Specialist II, KJCC 2018 Uniformed EOY*
Brandon is always looking for ways to improve KJCC. Brandon developed and implemented a process at meal times to enhance safety for juveniles and staff. Recently named assistant commander to the SORT team, Brandon is helping to revamp the reactive use of force training. He displays an eagerness to learn and to help others, including using his time to help with recruitment efforts.
- **Mary McDonald**, *Teacher, Lawrence Gardner High School, KJCC 2018 Contract EOY*
Mary volunteered her personal time to translate a Spanish version of the KJCC parent handbook. The handbook is used by parents to help them understand their child's daily life at KJCC and reassure them. Because of Mary's work, the non-English speaking parents can now feel a little bit better about their child being at KJCC.
- **Jimmy Zirkle**, *ISO/Case Manager, Shawnee County Community Corrections, Kansas Juvenile Community Corrections Staff of the Year*
Jimmy consistently contributes to improving the operation of the agency in various ways. He has led MRT groups since August 2017, ensures that the program meets fidelity standards and was instrumental in implementing MRT group for juveniles detained in the Shawnee County Juvenile Detention Center. He communicates with his coworkers and administration about ideas he has to improve the agency such as training opportunities, morale boosters, security measures, and community outreach.

Dozens of Possible Child Trafficking Victims have been Jailed in Kansas

Dozens of possible child trafficking victims have been jailed in Kansas juvenile detention centers over the past few years. One in five possible child victims assessed by rapid response teams from 2014 to 2018 were in juvenile detention, according to Kansas Department for Children and Families data obtained by The Eagle. In eastern Kansas, juvenile detention was the most frequent housing option for possible trafficking victims. Data and interviews show a system that sometimes detains victims despite universal agreement that [Read more . . .](#)

National Conference of State Legislatures - NCSL

Juvenile Justice Reform: Focus of Cross-Branch Summit

Juvenile justice was the focus when legislators, senior executive branch staff and state budget officials from 15 states gathered in Chicago last month to exchange ideas for cross-collaboration and discuss current juvenile justice issues with national and local experts. Convened through a partnership with the Annie E. Casey Foundation, NCSL collaborated with the National Governor's Association and the National Association of State Budget Officers to bring together officials from Alabama, California, Colorado, Delaware, Kansas, Louisiana [Read more . . .](#)

The Juvenile Justice Corner

**Jim Johnson, Program Consultant
DOC - Juvenile Community Based Services**

Sex Offender Treatment Updates

The Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC) has contracted with Clinical Associates (CA) since July 2016 to provide Juvenile Sex Offender Evaluation and Treatment services throughout the state. To date, 180 youth have been evaluated by CA, and 76% of the youth who have been referred for treatment have successfully completed treatment.

As a part of the contract with KDOC, CA recently went through an on-site, external audit of the program. During the two-day audit which included staff interviews in addition to reviews of files, assessments, and group and individual treatment, the auditor concluded:

- CA implements best practices within the field.
- CA has established a treatment climate that is focused on the clients served.
- CA excels at identifying and incorporating risk, need, and responsibility in their treatment of sexual abusers.
- CA uses simple, concrete treatment plans that clients can understand and are based on a credible assessment of each client's functioning.
- CA works to ensure that treatment provisions with which they are involved are as scientifically based as possible.
- CA works to provide services that are meaningful and engaging to clients.

The auditor concluded: "In all, CA is producing very good results, often under difficult circumstances. Its best features are in its abilities to provide individualized and empirically grounded treatment within an agency culture that promotes professional growth and a commitment to client progress and community safety."

In response to the results of the audit, Seth Wescott, Director of Sex Offender Treatment for Clinical Associates stated "Clinical Associates is proud of the partnership with KDOC and the community agencies. We are pleased with the response throughout the state of our efforts to provide assessment-based treatment that targets the specific risk and needs of the clients. We look forward to expanding our services during the coming year."

Randy Bowman, KDOC Juvenile Services Deputy Secretary stated "Reinvestment of public funding into evidence based practice and programs (EBPs) is key to Kansas' ongoing efforts to improve public safety and outcomes for youth. Equally important is effective implementation of EBPs, and we are pleased to see the results of this external audit which is a strong indication that Clinical Associates is effectively implementing services to sex offenders in communities throughout the state." Bowman added "Clinical Associates 76% successful completion rate achieved in the first two years of this contract demonstrate that youth adjudicated for sexual offenses can be safely treated in the community."

Juvenile Justice Information Exchange

Homeboy Industries Helps Los Angeles Youth Exit Gang Life with Jobs, Therapy

Garry Powers stands on Alameda Street near the North Vignes Street overpass, across from a smoke shop and a Vietnamese restaurant. He's on the edge of Chinatown and a couple of miles north of Boyle Heights, a neighborhood once rife with gangs. The wall behind him is a glowing [Read more . . .](#)

Older Justice-involved Youth Have Unique Needs When Released, Report Says

A new report from a coalition of juvenile justice organizations is intended to help communities better serve people 18 to 24 who are involved in the juvenile justice system and in danger of becoming homeless. It comes a year after [a report](#) from the [Coalition for Juvenile Justice](#) that looked into the intersection between juvenile justice and homelessness for [Read more . . .](#)

Collaboration, Training, Diverse Programs Help Us Work against Racism Locally

As a passionate advocate for children and families to thrive and recognizing the barriers and violence created by racism, I'd like to share some reflections on the journey toward racial equity that we are taking in Broward County, Florida. The first thing we learned is the importance of making space to have these brave conversations about race and [Read more . . .](#)

Juvenile Justice Systems Need to Transform to Have Lasting Impact on Youth Outcomes

For juvenile court judges, correctional facility administrators and community supervision agency leaders throughout the country, the progress juvenile justice systems have made in recent years is clear. Nationwide, juvenile arrest rates are at historic lows, and incarceration rates have plummeted by more than half. Despite these tremendous strides, data and experience indicates that juvenile justice systems are still not operating as effectively as possible. In the face [Read more . . .](#)

2018 DOC-Juvenile Services Training Schedule

New Employee Kansas Detention Assessment Instrument (KDAI) Training:

Topeka	Thursday	July 19 th
Salina	Tuesday	August 14 th
Times	9 am – 3:00 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

Effective Practices in Correctional Settings II (EPICS II):

Location – Norton, KS			
Date	Wednesday	July 11	8 am – 5 pm
Date	Thursday	July 12	8 am – 5 pm

To Enroll Registrations are handled by the 4 Regional Trainers

Location – Topeka, KS			
Date	Tuesday	August 14	8 am – 5 pm
Date	Wednesday	August 15	8 am – 5 pm

To Enroll Registrations are handled by the 4 Regional Trainers

Graduated Responses as an Evidenced Based Practice:

Location – Topeka Correctional Facility, 815 Rice Rd, Topeka			
Date	Tuesday	July 17	9 am – 5 pm

To Enroll Registrations are handled by the 4 Regional Trainers

Juvenile Justice Basics:

Location – Reno Co. Sheriff's Office, 1800 S Severance, Hutchinson			
Date	Tuesday	August 7	9 am – 5 pm

To Enroll Registrations are handled by the 4 Regional Trainers

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.

Thursday	July 19, 2018	8:00 am – 12:00 pm
KBI Laboratory Auditorium; 2001 SW Washburn, Topeka, KS		

[To register click here](#)

Human Trafficking – National

Indiana Law Changes Soon to Help HT Survivors

A human trafficking victim could be right down the street from you right now, and you wouldn't even know it. It isn't always easy to spot, but it's happening right now across **Indiana**, according to human trafficking awareness experts. In less than two weeks state law will [Read more and watch video](#)

New Program Aims to Stop Human Trafficking Victims from Facing Charges

The Allegheny County District Attorney's Office and **Pittsburgh** Action Against Rape are developing a new program aimed at stopping human trafficking victims from facing criminal charges. The issue usually arises during prostitution arrests, which at times includes human trafficking victims. Experts say it can be traumatizing and time consuming for the charges to be dropped. "If somebody is being exploited then we're very open to that kind of resolution of the matter," said Allegheny Co. District Attorney Stephen Zappala. [Read more and watch video](#)

Labor Trafficking Victim Hidden 'in plain sight' in Ohio Restaurant

On a typical day, Kendra Ross **said she would work as many as 17 unpaid hours** in a **Dayton, OH** restaurant while under the control of what she later claimed in federal court was a cult, **according to Dayton Daily News**. That didn't [Read more](#)

Human Trafficking Task Force Takes Step Forward

Vermont's attorney general and U.S. attorney announced an agreement Tuesday to implement a multi-disciplinary approach to fighting human trafficking in **Vermont**. Their statement said the Vermont Human Trafficking Task Force had been working on a collaborative effort since 2013. [Read more](#)

Juvenile Justice Information Exchange

Arts-centered New York Diversion Program for Youth Displays High Success Rate

The program is short: two counseling sessions, two hours each. But for teens and adults who have been arrested for the first time, it can save them from a lifetime with a criminal record. **Project Reset** is a diversion program that was started in 2015 by the Manhattan District Attorney's office [Read more](#)

Big Picture Learning Could Help Disrupt the Foster-care-to-prison Pipeline

I had never visited a prison before. As we approached Monroe Correctional Complex, I was surprised to see a beautiful brick building, with windows full of potted plants and artwork. That is not what I had expected. As it turned out, this was [Read more](#)

PEW Charitable Trusts

Giving Group Homes a 21st-Century Makeover

Back in the day, they called them orphanages, a place for kids who had nowhere else to go. Today, they're called "group homes," and while their use has decreased over the years, they're still very much a part of the child welfare [Read more](#)

National News

Howard Co. Juvenile Court Receives High-profile Nod

The Howard Circuit Court Juvenile Court received recognition recently for programs in place to reduce the number of local kids in detention, specifically a "catch and release" program that keeps low-risk juveniles out of detention facilities. The recognition came from **Indiana** Supreme Court [Read more](#)

Juvenile Justice Reform Taking Shape in Washington

The state of **Washington** took significant steps this year to reform the criminal justice system for children and teens convicted of crimes. Those changes take effect today and are due, in part, to the participation of incarcerated [Read more](#)

STL County Shows Reduction of Racial Disparity in Juvenile Justice, Compliance with Federal Court Order

A report released by the St. Louis County, **Missouri** Family Court shows that the court is making progress in addressing racial disparities for young people in the justice system, complying with a court order by the U.S. Department of [Read more](#)

Juvenile Justice Gains Flexibility

Here's proof politics is not everything in Jefferson City, **Missouri**: In the closing days of the General Assembly an important change to our system of criminal justice was approved by overwhelming margins - 32-1 in the Senate and 139-4 in the House. The measure changes [Read more](#)

Restorative Justice Program Works to Build Trust, Lower Disciplinary Problems in Troubled Students

Jackson readily admits he was a "troublemaker" in middle school. In the seventh grade, he was written up for disciplinary actions 183 times. In the eighth grade, he was expelled. "I came here from **Chicago IL** in the sixth grade. [Read more](#)

State to End Pepper Spray, Solitary at Youth Prison

Wisconsin prison officials reached a legal settlement Friday that calls for broad changes at the state's troubled youth prison, including banning guards from using pepper spray, ending solitary confinement for rule-breakers and limiting mechanical restraints and strip searches. [Read more](#)

Hawai'i Juvenile Justice Working Together for Children

The Hawai'i Juvenile Justice Information Committee is working to help as many underage offenders as possible to become productive citizens. As HPR's Wayne Yoshioka reports, this collaborative effort appears to be producing noteworthy results. The Juvenile Justice Information [Read more and listen](#)

Illinois House Weighs Bill to Allow Young Adult Misdemeanor Cases to be Heard in Juvenile Court

Young adults charged with misdemeanor crimes could have their cases transferred to juvenile court under legislation being considered by the **Illinois** House. A bill would give judges the authority to decide whether 18, 19 and 20-year-old defendants should have their cases heard in juvenile court. [Read more](#)

Juvenile Services Committee: Disproportionate Amount of Minority Youth in the System

During the Lancaster County Board of Commissioners meeting, officials talked about the Lancaster County **Nebraska** Juvenile Services Comprehensive Plan, which aims to evaluate and improve the juvenile system and identify areas of needed improvement. The plan is developed by a subcommittee of the Lancaster County Juvenile Detention Alternatives [Read more](#)

Maine Chief Justice sees Failings in State's Handling of Troubled Juveniles

The chief justice of the state's highest court asked Wednesday whether the state's juvenile justice system is failing **Maine's** troubled kids. The comments came during oral arguments in an appeal by a Skowhegan teenager, referred to only as J.R., **who is challenging his commitment** to Long Creek Youth Development Center for up to 18 months for a string of property crimes. The teen was committed there after he racked up multiple charges in a short period, resisted following rules and participating in counseling, and failed to [Read more](#)

Progress in Juvenile Justice: 2017

There has been no shortage of issues facing advocates of juvenile justice reform, the age at which offenders are tried as there has been no shortage of issues facing advocates of juvenile justice reform, the age at which offenders are tried as adults, the use of juvenile life without parole, racial disparities, and failures to provide adequate rehabilitation, [Read more](#)