

## Kansas News

### Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee Appointments

The **Kansas Supreme Court** reappointed five people to two-year terms on the Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee. The committee, formed in 2016 at the direction of the Kansas Legislature, reviews and oversees improvements to the juvenile justice system. Membership includes representation from all three branches of government.

The appointees are:

- District Judge **Delia York**, serving in the 29th Judicial District, composed of Wyandotte County.
- District Magistrate **Judge Paula Hofaker**, serving in Phillips County of the 17th District, also composed of Decatur, Graham, Norton, Osborne, and Smith counties.
- **Kevin Emerson**, chief court services officer for the 28th Judicial District, composed of Ottawa and Saline counties.
- **Lara Blake Bors**, Garden City, a juvenile defense attorney.
- **Amy Raymond**, director of trial courts programs, Office of Judicial Administration, Kansas judicial branch.

## 2018 DOC-Juvenile Services Training Schedule

### New Employee Kansas Detention Assessment Instrument (KDAI) Training:

Salina                      Tuesday                      Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>  
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](mailto:crystal.trout@ks.gov)

### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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*

## 2019 DOC-Juvenile Services Training Schedule

### 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 . . . .](#)

## National News

### Juvenile Justice System to Benefit from State Grant

Greene County's overtaxed juvenile justice system will benefit from a \$4 million grant recently awarded to Frontier Health and five other agencies by the **Tennessee** Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. The Juvenile Justice Reform Local Diversion Grants will work "toward the overarching goal providing evidence-based treatment options that reduce out of home placements and help to better serve youth in their community," according to a news release from the state Department of Mental Health and Substance [Read more . . . .](#)

### State: Reforms have Reduced Juvenile Delinquency

De-institutionalization, individualized treatment and greater family engagement are reducing recidivism among juvenile offenders, according to the state Department of Juvenile Justice. From 2015 through June 30, the average daily population of youths in **Virginia** juvenile detention facilities dropped from 466 to 216, a 53% decrease, according to an updated "transformation plan" released by the department on Monday. Probation cases decreased 30%, detentions dropped 20% and juvenile intake cases dropped nearly 11%. Total juvenile complaints decreased about 5%, from 57,662 to 54,421. Violence among imprisoned offenders and use of force by staff also declined. [Read more . . . .](#)

## The Juvenile Justice Corner

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

November is National Homeless Youth Awareness Month. An unaccompanied homeless youth is defined in the **Runaway and Homeless Youth Act** as an individual who is "not more than 21 years of age...for whom it is not possible to live in a safe environment with a relative and who have no other safe alternative living arrangement." This definition includes only those youth who are unaccompanied by families or caregivers. This may include youth that sleep on the streets, stay in shelters, have run away, been kicked out, or are couch surfing. **Research conducted by Chaplin Hall at the University of Chicago** indicates that urban and rural youth experience homelessness at similar rates and particular subpopulations are at higher risk for homelessness, including black and Hispanic youth; lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender youth (LGBT); youth who do not complete high school; and youth who are parents. Unaccompanied youth under 18 years of age make up 6% of the homeless population in the United States.

According to the **National Alliance to End Homelessness**, "Youth homelessness is often rooted in family conflict . . . economic circumstances like poverty and housing insecurity, racial disparities, and mental health and substance use disorders. Young people who have had involvement with the child welfare and juvenile justice systems are also more likely to become homeless. Many homeless youth and young adults have experienced significant trauma before and after becoming homeless and are particularly vulnerable."

The **Coalition for Juvenile Justice** reports that youth who lack safe and stable housing may often become involved with law enforcement and the justice system. Some communities have municipal laws and ordinances make it an offense simply to be in public spaces at certain times, despite the fact that homeless youth may have no alternative. This may include status offense laws, youth curfews or other public ordinances that prohibit panhandling, eating, sleeping, or even sitting in certain places and/or at certain times. [Continued next page . . .](#)

## Homeless Youth-Kansas and National News

KAKE TV - WICHITA

### El Dorado Voices Homeless Concerns

[Watch video . . . .](#)

KSNT TV - TOPEKA

### Topeka Public Schools Working to Stop Youth Homelessness

[Watch video . . . .](#)

FOX 4 TV - KANSAS CITY

### Number of Homeless Youth Surges in Four Midwestern States – Including Kansas & Missouri

[Watch video . . . .](#)

NEW YORK TIMES

### Baby Antonio: 5 Pounds, 12 Ounces and Homeless from Birth

[Read more . . . .](#)

## Homeless Youth-Additional Resources

**University of Missouri – Kansas City: L.P. Cookingham Institute of Urban Affairs** [Click here . . . .](#)

**Impact KCK: Toolkit** [Click here . . . .](#)

**Addressing the Intersection of Juvenile Justice Involvement and Youth Homelessness** [Click here . . . .](#)

**Juvenile Justice and Homelessness** [Click here . . . .](#)

**Homeless and Runaway Youth** [Click here . . . .](#)

**Preventing Homelessness among Children and Youth in Juvenile Justice System** [Click here . . . .](#)

**NCJFCJ Resolves to Address Homeless Youth and Families** [Click here . . . .](#)

**Shelter (Documentary)** [Click here . . . .](#)

**Criteria for Ending Youth and Young Adult Homelessness** [Click here . . . .](#)

**Responding to Youth Homelessness: A Key Strategy for Preventing Human Trafficking** [Click here . . . .](#)

**Homeless Youth at 13, Rule is Now 22 and Still Homeless** [Watch video. . . .](#)

## Juvenile Justice Information Exchange

### How to Overcome Staff, Stakeholder Resistance to Actuarial Tools in Juvenile Justice

Over the last decade, jurisdictions across the country have increasingly implemented actuarial tools to aid decision making in the juvenile justice system. Simply put, these research-based instruments systematically collect and combine information about a youth to predict a certain outcome, like recidivism, failing to appear in court or misconduct while placed in a residential facility. Tools such as risk and need assessments, disposition matrices, detention risk assessment instruments and risk of institutional violence tools assist professionals to determine which youth are most at risk for the outcome in question and the optimal interventions to minimize [Read more . . .](#)

### Diversion Can Help Us Reduce Youth Violence by Aligning Caseloads with Risk Factors

Juvenile probation professionals know better than most the multitude and complexity of issues our justice-involved youth are facing, and what puts these young men and women at risk for violence. [Get IN Chicago](#), as a youth violence prevention funder working to support the most effective and promising interventions in Chicago, wanted to better understand the youth probation population to inform quality [Read more . . .](#)

### Assessing Noncompliance Among Justice-involved Youth? Examine Their Trauma

For many young people, adolescence can be a trying time. Over the course of a human life, adolescence marks the period of the [most significant](#) cognitive, emotional and physical change. According to the [World Health Organization](#), adolescents are roughly defined as falling between the ages of 10 to 19 years old, with [some researchers](#) noting changes may begin as early as 8 years old and extend as late as 24 years old. While each adolescent's experience is unique, researchers have identified key cognitive, emotional and physical features [Read more . . .](#)

### Most Juvenile Justice Reforms Happened at State Level This Election

This year's midterm elections were among the most closely watched in recent memory, in large part because of its potential implications at the national level. And there was certainly plenty of news there, but perhaps the bigger, untold story is what happened in the states. Some of the results may indicate a more progressive and comprehensive approach to justice and related [Read more . . .](#)

### Newly Elected Democrats Could Hold Federal Agencies Accountable for Youth Protections, Advocates Say

As the dust settles after the midterm elections, youth advocates are looking at the impact on young people. While Republicans have cemented control of the Senate, Democrats gained a majority in the House of Representatives. That will make a difference in the oversight of Trump administration policies, said Kisha Bird, director of youth policy at [CLASP](#), the Center for Law and Social Policy, a nonprofit organization that focuses on policies [Read more . . .](#)

### Some Friends Circle Back to You, Despite Everything

A friend is a foundation, a mainstay, a confidante. They are the mail and armor you don before charging valiantly into battle on your steed. Your favorite blanket enveloping you, insulating you from the cold. Friends are the incomparable beauty of all four seasons. They can also be the fickle, fluctuant [Read more . . .](#)

### My Sad, Bad Past No Longer Defines Me, Thanks to Recovery

When I took my first breath in this world, it was while being placed into the arms of a child herself. A drug-addicted and alcoholic mother at the age of just 16 and, needless to say, my mother was a very reckless, sad, incapable parent. It took a lot of years for me to be able to look back and begin to truly accept my childhood and learn from it. [Read more . . .](#)

### Dear Restorative Justice: Our Student Isn't Responding

What do you do when someone is obdurate and has no interest in taking responsibility or admitting any guilt at all? This is a fairly common question and one that is quite broad. This concern highlights the frustration people can often experience when trying to impose a restorative justice system onto a school or institution instantaneously, without doing the necessary foundational legwork that supports the space and language of accountability. [Read more . . .](#)

## National News

### How Does Education in the Juvenile Justice System Measure Up? It Doesn't.

Imagine a school system where some of our country's most underserved students have limited access to grade-level math and science courses, pass rates for those classes are significantly lower than those of their peers in nearby schools, and accurate enrollment information is only available for a fraction of eligible youths. And in that system, [44% of youths are black](#). [Read more . . .](#)

## National News

### Negative Events in Childhood Tied to Juvenile Crime

Many young people in Florida's juvenile justice system had previously experienced adverse childhood events (ACEs), according to a study. However, what exactly constitutes parental neglect or abuse may be less clear in some cases and varies from state to state, according to a report presented at a poster session here at the [American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law's](#) annual meeting. [Read more . . .](#)

### County's New Approach Working

It can be daring and difficult to embark on a new direction as an organization, particularly in the Ohio criminal justice system. Enacting reforms isn't always easy, and requires buy-in from many interested parties — including those holding the purse strings. If it fails to get the desired results, those pushing for change open themselves up to criticism and second guessing. So we want to give a lot of credit to all those who have helped push the shift in focus [Read more . . .](#)

### The Juvenile Justice Corner continued from page 1

In addition to unaccompanied homeless youth, there are even more homeless youth that are accompanied by a parent or caregiver. Adults along with their dependent children make up 35% of the homeless population in the United States. Whether a youth is accompanied by an adult or unaccompanied, the impact of being homeless may be similar. A youth's health, sense of safety and overall development are often impacted and can result in higher levels of emotional, mental health and behavioral problems while the youth becomes more prone to family separations. A youth's education can be negatively impacted by increased school mobility, repeating grades, being expelled, dropping out or having lower academic performance.

Whether they are accompanied or unaccompanied, youth who are homeless may also commit "survival crimes". These can include acts such as theft or robbery in order to obtain food, trespassing to be in a safer or warmer place, or engaging in physical altercations to protect themselves while on the streets. Young people experiencing homelessness may also be victims of commercial sexual exploitation or labor trafficking, and enter the juvenile justice system through charges related to that victimization. Youth who run away from home and cross state lines may also fall under the jurisdiction of the Interstate Compact on Juveniles, which can lead to them being held in juvenile detention facilities.

Kansas is not immune. According to the [Continuum of Care](#), in 2017 on any given night, Johnson County has 130 homeless people, Shawnee County has 356 homeless people, Sedgwick County has 575 homeless people, and Wyandotte and Jackson County MO have a combined 1671 homeless people. According to the [Kansas State Department of Education](#), in the 2016-17 school year Johnson County schools had 1092 homeless students, Shawnee County schools had 554 homeless students, Sedgwick County schools had 2526 homeless students, and Wyandotte County schools had 982 homeless students.

One very promising strategy to address homeless youth has been started in Wyandotte County. In 2015, when there were 1400 homeless youth identified in Wyandotte County, a number of community organizations collaborated and formed [Impact KCK](#) and set a five year goal to eliminate youth homelessness by 2020. Within the first year, youth homelessness was reduced by 19%. As homeless families and individuals from other communities started hearing about the program in Wyandotte County, many started migrating there. Even with that influx of homeless people, by the end of year two youth homelessness had been reduced by 43%.

Impact KCK uses a [collective impact program model](#) that goes beyond collaboration in addressing complex social problems by coordinating the roles and activities of participating community organizations. [Avenue of Life](#) is the lead organization that coordinates the efforts of community partners. By working through the local school district [USD 500](#), youth that are identified as homeless are provided the support needed to ensure they attend school, advance grade levels on schedule, graduate on schedule and be able to pursue a post-secondary education. As the youth receives services through the school, the entire family receives wrap-around services from numerous agencies.

In the 2½ years that Impact KCK has been active, over 1000 families have been served while over 300 families have been permanently housed and are no longer homeless. Student homelessness in USD 500 is down 50% and unaccompanied homeless youth is down 65%. It is difficult to quantify the number of homeless youth that were on a trajectory to be involved in a survival crime that was prevented as well as the number of youth that were diverted from the justice system after they had contact with law enforcement because of a survival crime. Because of the success of Impact KCK, similar programs are currently being developed in Shawnee and Sedgwick counties.

Whether we work in juvenile justice, child welfare, juvenile intake, mental health, substance abuse, education, law enforcement or the practice of law, we all need a heightened awareness of youth homelessness within our communities. By working with community partners in a coordinated and collaborative manner, we can improve our ability to better identify homeless youth and provide the supports they need while diverting them from the juvenile justice and adult corrections systems.