

Kansas News

Staffing Changes Announced at KDOC

A new unit, focused on research and behavior analytics, will be one of the key features of several staffing changes at the Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC) effective June 16.

KDOC Reentry Director Margie Phelps will serve as Executive Director of Programs and Risk Reduction. In addition to managing the Central Office Reentry team and various specialists throughout KDOC's correctional facilities and parole offices, she also will work with contract academic and vocational education programs, substance abuse programs and sex offender treatment. Her division also will manage staff training to bring a greater focus to the role all employees have in the risk reduction effort and in modeling and working toward changes in offender behavior.

Phelps also will manage a new position, Case Management Director, to advance risk reduction case management throughout the corrections system, for adults and juveniles, during incarceration and in the community.

A new Research and Behavior Analytics team will work with the KDOC Information Technology and management team to advance research, including using data analytics and augmented intelligence while also increasing data literacy within the department. [Read more](#)

The Parent Project® to be Available Statewide

The Kansas Department of Corrections will be hosting two sessions of facilitator training for the **Parent Project®** to be used statewide. The **Parent Project®** is a curriculum to empower parents of difficult to manage adolescents with skills and "concrete, no-nonsense solutions to even the most destructive of adolescent behaviors". The **Parent Project®** is now the largest court mandated juvenile diversion program in the country and for agencies, the least expensive intervention program available today.

The curriculum provided will be **Changing Destructive Adolescent Behavior** and is a 10 to 16 week program designed for parents raising difficult or out-of-control adolescent children, ages 10 and up. The benefits of the **Parent Project®** are well documented and include improving school attendance and performance and providing a behavioral model that effectively addresses the critical issues parents face today while offering specific, step-by-step, solutions, not just theories. It is need-based, easy to teach, and is an activity-based curriculum built on cooperative learning norms.

The **Parent Project®** is designed to:

- Reduce Family Conflict
- Reduce Juvenile Crime
- Reduce Recidivism
- Improve School Attendance and Performance

It address issues such as:

- Arguing and Family Conflict
- Poor School Performance
- Truancy and Dropouts
- Media Influences
- Early Teen Sexuality
- Teen Drug Use
- Youth Gangs
- Teen Violence and Bullying
- Runaways

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2019 DOC-Juvenile Services Training Schedule

New Employee Kansas Detention Assessment Instrument (KDAI) Training:

Topeka	Thursday	July 11 th
Salina	Wednesday	August 14 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 Steve Bonner at steven.bonner@ks.gov

Juvenile Justice Basics:

Location – Sedgwick County Juvenile Field Services,
3803 E Harry, Suite 125, Wichita
Date Wednesday August 7 9 am – 5 pm
To Enroll Email michelle.montgomery@ks.gov
Participants name, agency, position, phone #,
email address and supervisor's name.

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 KJCC's 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.

The Juvenile Justice Corner

**Hope Cooper, Deputy Secretary
DOC - Juvenile and Adult Community-Based Services**

Joining the juvenile system is exciting on so many levels. Advocacy for youth is rewarding and such needed work and the people that work in this field are so passionate about their work. You all know this already. What you don't know is who I am. My educational background is psychology and criminal justice, with my Master's Degree in Community Counseling. I started my career as a counselor in a residential treatment center for adolescent girls in Colorado. For the last 17 years I have been in Kansas in various roles in adult corrections- non-profit, state, community and facility. A lot of you know that prior to adding the responsibility for Juvenile Services, I was responsible for adult community corrections, parole/post-release, and interstate compact supervision.

I am excited to be a part of Juvenile Services and to assist in moving the mission forward. The vision remains unchanged "to lead the nation in juvenile justice by strengthening families, empowering youth, and making communities safer". I couldn't be more proud to be a part of that vision.

Kansas News

Johnson County Employee Uses Talent to Infuse Hope into the Lives of Youth

County employee David Judd was recognized by the Johnson County Manager's Office and Board of County Commissioners for his impact on improving the environment at three local corrections facilities. Judd used his artistic talent to paint doors, walls and murals with uplifting colors, messages and artwork that adorns the walls of the county's corrections facilities. His projects were so successful and had such a positive impact on youth and staff alike that he was asked to take on additional projects such as other living units, program areas, and the school. In all, David has painted 18 murals including some at an adult residential center. [Read more and watch video](#)

KJCC Holds Graduation Ceremony

On June 28, 2019, with parents, peers and guests watching, nine proud seniors graduated from the **Lawrence Gardner High School** (LGHS) at the **Kansas Juvenile Correctional Complex**. After being welcomed by LGHS Principal Steve Backman, the audience was entertained with a song from the LGHS Choir.

The commencement address was delivered by **Jermaine Wilson**, Mayor of Leavenworth, Kansas. Mayor Wilson shared his experience with the Kansas juvenile justice system as a youth. Having previously been a resident of the Topeka Juvenile Correctional Facility, Mayor Wilson was able to connect with the graduates. He shared stories of his youth and his desire to simply fit in. He reminded the graduates that, "as long as you have breath in your body you've got another chance". Mayor Wilson further advised, "When you get out, don't look at the past, look forward to the future". Mayor Wilson's talk was inspirational to all in attendance.

The graduates were called to the front to be introduced to the audience and receive their diploma. Special recognition was given to graduate MP, who received the Marge Page Merit Scholarship. Having received their diplomas, the graduates cheered and threw their mortarboards in the air. The graduation ceremony concluded with family visits and photographs.

Dual Systems: Justice/Welfare System Youth

Cross Over Youth Model: Helping Minors Detour from the Juvenile System

Cross Over Youth Program (AZ) is a new program that prevents foster care children from ending up in the juvenile justice system (juvie). 22-year-old Destiny Harbor bounced around 23 foster care homes in the course of 7-years and landed in juvie for one week. "I was picked on while I was in the group home, people would get into fights for little things, I pretty much felt like a lion trying to survive," said Destiny [Read more and watch video](#)

Statewide Council Aims to Improve Services to Youth

Children with intensive needs who are at risk of out-of-home placement will have new hope for services, with the passage Saturday of Senate Bill 1, supporters said. **Senate Bill 1 (OR)**, which passed on the Senate floor, establishes a System of Care Advisory Council that will coordinate the development of services that can be delivered to kids at home and in residential [Readmore](#)

Doing More with Less: ND's Juvenile Justice System Looks Ahead amid Budget Cuts, Increasing Referrals

Zach Roller's a phenomenal golfer. He was on Legacy High School's varsity golf team as a freshman. He's bright in chemistry, and his dad, Dean, said a teacher even nominated him for governor's school. He's been jailed since January in Bismarck, charged with 12 felonies and misdemeanors in a handful of criminal cases since late last year. He's 18. [Read more](#)

KS News – The Parent Project continued from page 1

To become certified, a facilitator must attend a 40-hour **Parent Project® Facilitator Training Course**. Facilitators may include representatives from:

- Law Enforcement
- Schools
- Juvenile Courts and Probation
- Mental Health Organizations
- Churches
- Community-Based Organizations

There are two opportunities scheduled for facilitator training:

- August 5 – 9 in Topeka
- September 9 – 13 in Salina

Requests for facilitators can be coordinated through local Court Services or Community Corrections offices. Each Judicial District can have up to three facilitators trained at one of these two week-long events. Additional training slots may be available as space allows and additional opportunities for this facilitator training will be available in the future.

Conducting the training will be authors and trainers for the **Parent Project®** will be:

- **Ralph “Bud” Fry** is a retired supervisor with 18 years of law enforcement experience and 22 years’ experience as a parent educator.
- **Dr. Roger Morgan** is a practicing licensed psychologist who specializes in the treatment of children and adolescents with behavioral disorders. Dr. Morgan has over 30 years’ experience with high-risk youth and their families. Dr. Morgan continues to pioneer the use of psychoeducational programming to improve the accessibility of mental health care.

Megan Milner, KDOC Director of Community-Based Services stated “The Parent Project training is piece that fits into the larger picture of family engagement. This will provide one more “tool” for communities to use to provide support for families justice-involved youth.”

For more information or to inquire about registration for one of the facilitator trainings contact KDOC_CO_ParentProject@ks.gov.

National News

Restorative Approach to Youth Justice Contributes to 60% Drop in Incarceration

Prison Fellowship, the nation’s largest outreach to prisoners, former prisoners, and their families, and a leading advocate for criminal justice reform, is encouraged by new statistics released by the Department of Justice on the significant drop in the number of juveniles that are incarcerated. **Newly released figures** from the **Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Program** reveal:

- The number of youths incarcerated around the nation fell to 43,580, which is a 60 percent decrease since 2000;
- Of those incarcerated, Latino youths in juvenile facilities fell by 13 percent, African-American youths dropped by 11 percent, and Native American youths decreased by 10 percent; and
- All age groups continue to see declines, including a substantial 11 percent drop for 17-year-olds. [Read more](#)

Yolo Juvenile Hall should be Repurposed

It is time to rethink juvenile justice in Yolo County and repurpose our underused juvenile hall. The Yolo County (Cali.) Board of Supervisors is currently considering a proposal to re-purpose our juvenile hall for 18 to 24 months. The proposal would include a contract with a nearby county to provide secure [Read more](#)

Task Force Begins Review of Juvenile Justice System with Goal of Reducing Recidivism

Juvenile arrests decreased 57% from 2009 to 2017. But (Connecticut) state leaders including juvenile justice advocates, legislators, and Judicial Branch officials are looking to find more ways to cut recidivism and keep kids out of the system through a comprehensive review launched Tuesday morning. The Improving Outcomes for Youth Statewide [Read more](#)

‘Historic’ Bill that Changes Oregon’s Juvenile Justice System Heads to Governor’s Desk

Lawmakers late Thursday approved a series of significant changes to Oregon’s juvenile justice system that mean the end of a decades-old practice of automatically sending youths accused of serious crimes to adult court. Senate Bill 1008 passed the Oregon House by a 40-to-18 vote [Read more](#)

\$1 Million State Grant Will Expand Juvenile Diversion Program

The Contra Costa County (CA) District Attorney’s Office has received a \$1 million state grant to establish a countywide juvenile diversion pre-filing program focusing on “restorative justice,” in which young people who have committed crimes work with their victims to atone for damages made. This will be the first countywide juvenile diversion program for Contra Costa County [Read more](#)

National News

A drop in numbers: Average daily population decreases at Northwest Minnesota Juvenile Center

Although there may not be any one reason to explain the decrease, there are fewer youth at the Northwest Minnesota Juvenile Center on any given day than there once were. Officials at the juvenile center released the facility’s annual report earlier this spring. The report details information about the youth it houses, such as what ethnicities they belong to, what political jurisdictions they come from, as [Read more](#)

Maine Voices: Restitution Bill Shows Progress in Juvenile Justice Reform

On Wednesday, Gov. Mills (ME) signed into law **L.D. 1304**: An Act to Ease Financial Burdens for Juveniles Involved in the Justice System. The bill, sponsored by Rep. Donna Bailey, establishes additional protections for juveniles when a judge orders them to pay restitution as part of their sentence. This law, which will go into effect in September, will help ensure that financial obligations will not continue to haunt juveniles well beyond their [Read more](#)

Juvenile Justice Committee Calls for Children’s Service Tax to Support Diversion Changes

Major changes could be coming to how our area (FL) handles youth in the juvenile justice system, but getting that done in a lasting and sustainable way will require new funding, according to a special committee that has been studying [Read more](#)

Juvenile Justice Information Exchange

Reducing Room Confinement of Youth in Custody: A Roadmap

In recent years, juvenile justice practitioners, researchers and advocates have raised awareness of the harms of room confinement or isolation of youth in detention and residential facilities. Research and empirical knowledge teach us that the practice can negatively impact youth’s developing brains and emotional health, impair youth’s relationships with staff, limit youth’s access to important programming and [Read more](#)

Washington State Tries Host Homes, Permanency Navigators for Homeless Teens

Nataya Foss remembers being told that she would soon have to leave the shelter. She had been staying in one of Washington state’s few shelters for unaccompanied homeless minors, but because of restrictions that come with government funding, the shelter could house her for only three weeks. Her time was almost up. “Definitely it was scary,” said Foss, [Read more](#)

Ideas for State Advisory Groups in New Report from CJJ

Best practices for state advisory groups as federal grant money has diminished is the focus of a **new report** from the **Coalition for Juvenile Justice**. The report examines the ways in which different state advisory groups (SAGs) have adapted over the years. Established to ensure states are in compliance with the four core requirements of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP), many SAGs originally took on the role of grant givers and have had to [Read more](#)

Activists Must Take ‘Macro’ Approach, Address Fundamental Inequalities, NJJN’s Bryer Says

Sarah Bryer is planning to step down from her position as executive director of the **National Juvenile Justice Network** when her successor is chosen. The organization, which she led since its founding in 2005, works for a fairer juvenile justice system through a network of state-based reform organizations and with the alumni of its **Youth Justice Leadership Institute**. Here, Bryer talks with reporter Stell Simonton [Read more](#)

Youth Show Ways to Reshape Homeless Policy, Chapin Hall Researchers Say

When Abrea Ponce, 25, looks back on her childhood, she realizes things could have been different. The San Diego (CA) mother and staff member at the **San Diego Regional Task Force on the Homeless** spent her critical teen years moving from couch to couch, hotel to hotel to avoid sleeping on the street. The events that led her to become homeless began long before she was a teenager, she believes. [Read more](#)

As California Youth Crime Plummet, Need For Innovative Re-engagement Strategies Rises

I’ve argued that notions demeaning the “teenage brain,” “adolescent risk,” and “crime-prone youth” are just simplistic adult prejudices with **no scientific basis** that hamper understanding of the root conditions and individual situations that drive challenges affecting youth. However, youths do deserve singular considerations in the justice system. In **Miller v Alabama**, which limited life without parole sentences for crimes committed before age 18, the U.S. Supreme Court cited three crucial points that remain largely ignored [Read more](#)