

Kansas News

Governor Kelly Announces Reorganization Creating Kansas Department of Human Services

Governor Laura Kelly today announced her intent to submit an executive reorganization order to the Kansas Legislature creating the Kansas Department of Human Services (KDHS). The new agency will include the current programs at the Department for Children and Families (DCF), Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) and the juvenile services division of the Department of Corrections. Current Secretary of DCF and KDADS, Laura Howard, will lead the new KDHS. [Read more](#)

To read Executive Reorganization Order No. 44 [Click here](#)
To read Secretary Laura Howard's testimony to the House Social Service Budget Committee for ERO no. 44 [Click here](#)

THE HUTCHINSON NEWS

Gov. Laura Kelly Calls for New Kansas Agency to Oversee Social Services

[Read more](#)

KSHB TV 41 – KANSAS CITY

Gov. Kelly Announces Plans to Merge Departments into Kansas Department of Human Services

[Read more](#)

WIBW TV 13 – TOPEKA

Gov. Kelly Announces Reorganization Creating Kansas Department of Human Services

[Read more](#)

THE WICHITA EAGLE

Kelly Plans Massive Kansas Social Service Agency to Replace DCF, Other Departments

[Read more](#)

KQAM – WICHITA

Kansas Hopes One Agency Can Better Help Kids and Families than a Buffet of Departments

[Read more](#)

THE LEAVENWORTH TIMES

These Measures will Help Kansas Children

By *Christie Appelhans, Executive Director, Children's Alliance of KS*

You measure, what matters, as the saying goes. But when it comes to Kansas' juvenile justice reform efforts, we're using the wrong yardstick. Until we consider the whole picture, we'll never address what really matters: improving the lives of Kansas children. It is encouraging that the Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee found that juvenile incarceration rates are down under reform. But as the committee acknowledged, it did not consider what happens to children [Read more](#)

Program Helps Young Offenders Dress for Success upon Release

On a rainy Friday morning, Mia Hidalgo took her first steps free in 193 days. "It broke my heart," Mia's mother Annette said through tears. "You never want to be away from your child or have them in this type of environment, but they make mistakes, and you just got to love them through it." Mia says bad decisions landed her behind bars. "I had to sit and reflect and think about what I had done," Mia said. "It was very eye-opening for me, and I took this experience very serious. I try to take what I need and leave the rest with every situation I'm in, but this one was defining for me." [Read more](#)

Human Trafficking Awareness Month – Kansas

AG Derek Schmidt: January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month in Kansas

Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt is launching a radio public service announcement (PSA) in January in conjunction with Human Trafficking Awareness Month. "Human trafficking is a crime of exploitation that thrives in the shadows or, sometimes, hides in plain sight," Schmidt said. "Continuing to raise awareness and promote a collaborative approach to identifying trafficking and to knowing how to respond is a key to combating [Read more](#)

National News – Juvenile Diversion Programs

Juveniles Meet With Victims through Jail Diversion

Dozens of **Nashvillians** are making the choice to meet with juveniles who have harmed them, in order to keep the kids from being charged. Ty Perkins is [Read more and watch video](#)

South Dakota Sees Increased Juvenile Diversion Success

More at-risk **South Dakota** youth successfully completed diversion programs in 2019 than in any other year since juvenile justice reforms went into effect, according to a report issued last week. The report is the fourth issued since the formation of the [South Dakota Juvenile Justice Oversight Council](#) in [Read more](#)

Kansas News

LPA Releases Results of Audit on Juvenile Justice Reform

The Legislative Division of Post Audit, which is supervised by the joint Legislative Post Audit Committee, released the results of the audit on **Juvenile Justice Reforms: Evaluating the Effects of Senate Bill 367**. The report includes an introduction, summaries and measurements of reforms implemented as a part of SB 367, summaries of reports from stakeholders involved in the juvenile justice system, a summary of activities of the Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee, a conclusion, recommendations and responses from KDOC and the Office of Judicial Administration. To access the report [click here](#)

The Juvenile Justice Corner

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

For many of us, January and a new year marks an opportunity to make a change, set new goals, get started at something we may have been thinking about doing, targeting an area to make improvements in or to identify something specific we can do to improve our quality of life. With significant steps being taken over the last few years to make improvements in the Kansas juvenile justice system, more remains to be done. That being said, there are several areas to highlight to bring you up to date.

The Crossover Youth Practice Model state policy team held their first meeting, with representatives across multiple fields and disciplines. Staff from Georgetown University's [Center for Juvenile Justice Reform](#) were on site to lead the team through the day, discussing the model and evidence supporting the model, as well as definitions of crossover youth and Kansas data. As this work progresses we will provide updates.

During the 2019 legislative session, [House Substitute for Senate Bill 25](#) was passed and signed by the Governor. It required DCF to "study the impact of 2016 Senate Bill No. 367 on 'crossover youth,' specifically youth at risk of being placed in foster care due in whole or in part to conduct that has resulted or could result in juvenile offender allegations, and youth placed in foster care engaging in [Continued next page . . .](#)

Kansas News – Upcoming Training

Third Parent Project® Facilitator Training Scheduled

The Kansas Department of Corrections-Juvenile Services (KDOC-JS) is hosting a third [facilitator training](#) session for the [Parent Project®](#) from March 30 – April 3 in Salina. The training will be from 8 am – 5 pm each day and is offered at no cost. It is open to professionals that have contact with families and/or children or youth in the juvenile justice or child welfare systems. The Parent Project® is paid for using juvenile justice reinvestment funds. [Continued next page . . .](#)

Clinical Associates to Provide Training

Seth Wescott, Director of Sex Offender Treatment for [Clinical Associates](#), will provide a presentation [Sexually Harmful Behavior of Youth](#) on Wednesday, February 12 from 9 am to 4 pm at the KBI Auditorium, 2001 SW Washburn Ave. in Topeka. Topics to be addressed include normal vs. unhealthy sexual development, legal issues, impacts of social media and technology, using a trauma informed approach and family engagement.

The Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC) has contracted with Clinical Associates since July 2016 to provide Juvenile Sex Offender Evaluation and Treatment services throughout the state. In 3 ½ years Clinical Associates has provided evaluations or treatment for over 300 youth as part of the KDOC contract. In July 2019 [Clinical Associates added providing psychosexual evaluations pre-adjudication](#) as part of its contract with KDOC in addition to the referrals for evaluations for treatment for post-adjudicated youth they had provided since 2016. If you have questions regarding this training or to register contact Megan Bradshaw who is the KDOC-JS liaison with Clinical Associates, you can contact Megan at (785) 296-0897 or megan.bradshaw@ks.gov.

Moral Reconciliation Therapy Training

The next Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT) training, facilitated by the Correctional Counseling, Inc. is scheduled for Tuesday, May 12 through Friday, May 15 at Johnson County Youth and Family Service's Center, 920 W Spruce in Olathe, KS. MRT is a four-day training. The first three days of the training run from 8:30 to 5:00 pm with an earlier dismissal time on the final day of training. It is open to professionals that have contact with families and/or children or youth in the juvenile justice or child welfare systems. To inquire or register for the next MRT session in Olathe contact KDOC_CO_MRT@ks.gov.

Community Legal Issues Training

KDOC-JS Attorney Libby Snider will provide an overview on Legal Issues in Juvenile Justice in Kansas for stakeholders from Juvenile Community Corrections, Intake and Assessment and Immediate Intervention Programs. It will be held Friday, April 3rd at 9 am in the KBI Auditorium at Washburn University in Topeka. The class is primarily for newer staff but is open to staff wanting a refresher. To register [click here](#) If you have issues you want to have covered or to inquire about the training contact KDOC_JS_LegalTraining@ks.gov.

KS News – The Parent Project continued from page 1

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.

Participants will learn about the Parent Project® and how to present the curriculum back in their home community. The Parent Project® is designed to provide parents with guidance, skills and techniques to manage children and youth that may be more challenging and difficult. Issues such as arguing, family conflict, school attendance and poor school performance, teenage sexuality and drug use, runaways, teen violence, bullying and dealing with gang activity will be addressed.

During the first two sessions offered this past August and September, there were 94 professionals in attendance certified as instructors. Among those in attendance were staff from court services, community corrections, juvenile detention and juvenile correctional facilities, juvenile intake and assessment, juvenile justice programming/management, immediate intervention, high school intervention, mental health, child welfare and other community based organizations. Comments received at the conclusion of the facilitator training included:

“The training had a lot of really useful information and is definitely a needed resource. A lot of programming is geared towards the youth – if you want changes in the home you need to help the parents.”

“We have some programs that help with basic family skills, but this program offers specifics for this is what you do if your kid is in a gang, or uses drugs”.

“Very useful and easy information to present.”

“Before I came I was told it was the best training you’ll ever attend and they were right.”

“You all love this program so much and it helps me want to teach it. I love helping people and cannot wait to start teaching this course.”

“This is one of the best conferences I have been to. All communities need this. We have been looking for a (parent) piece and this is it.”

“This will be used for families of runaways with children in foster care. Gave me confidence in dealing with these families through therapy.”

Jordan Schmeidler, a Family Engagement Officer with NWK Juvenile Services became a certified facilitator in September and recently completed a Parent Project® cohort with five parents of teenagers. **Schmeidler** stated “I helped facilitate this class and allowed the program to do the work at home and it was so great to watch these small changes take place not only with the kids, but with the moms as well as they found this confidence and love for parenting again. As one mom said on her last day, ‘At the end of 10 weeks you all here don’t just feel like friends to me but like my family.’ This is what happens when parents are intimately vulnerable about their struggles and accept change in their lives, true progress occurs.”

Heather Murphy with the 22nd J.D. became a certified facilitator in August and recently completed a Parent Project® cohort stated “The one thing I have really noticed is the class gives them permission to parent their children. It empowers them to take charge of the situation.”

Teresa Harkins, a Court Services Officer in Wyandotte County who also became a certified facilitator in August stated “the program was restorative for parents. The curriculum is structured in such a way that the parents / caregivers become uplifted to restore the peace in their home or relationships. It’s neat to see that level of ownership and empowerment from a group that is walking in feeling already somewhat defeated.”

According to **Ralph “Bud” Fry**, Parent Project® President and presenter “Nationally, 96% of the parents who complete the course would recommend the class to a friend. That is a big number considering that roughly half are court ordered to attend. The classes are successful because the Parent Project was built from the input of over 500,000 parent questions and comments. A parent’s success can be linked directly to the heart and skills of the facilitator/s teaching the class.”

If you work with a family that you would like to refer the parent(s) to attend an upcoming Parent Project® [click here](#) To inquire or register for the next Parent Project® session in Salina contact KDOC_CO_ParentProject@ks.gov.

The Juvenile Justice Corner continued from page 1

conduct that has resulted or could result in juvenile offender allegations”. The Crossover Youth Working Group met from July 2019 through January 2020. To access their final report [click here](#)

KDOC-JS and the [Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee](#) have created a process for local organizations and agencies to request funds from the Evidence-based Programs Account. To access the instructions and application [click here](#)

As DCF continues to work with partners and stakeholders across the state to provide [Family First Prevention](#) Services programs. To support this process DCF has created a newsletter. To access the January edition [click here](#)

It promises to be a very busy year. As we progress forward on these and other issues, we will do our best to keep you informed. We appreciate what you do for the youth and families in Kansas.

2020 DOC-Juvenile Services Training Schedule

New Employee Kansas Detention Assessment Instrument (KDAI) Training

Salina	Thursday	February 13 th
Topeka (KJCC)	Tuesday	March 17 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	Tuesday	February 4	9 am – 5 pm
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To Enroll - Email KDOC_JS_Training@ks.gov
Participants name, agency, position, phone #, email address and supervisor’s name.

Effective Practices in Correctional Settings II/Graduated Responses (EPICS II/GR)

Location – Sedgwick County Juvenile Field Services, 3803 E Harry, Suite 125, Wichita

Dates -	Tuesday	March 31	8:30 am – 5 pm
	Wednesday	April 1	8:30 am – 5 pm
	Thursday	April 2	8:30 am – 12 pm

To Enroll - Email KDOC_JS_Training@ks.gov
Participants name, agency, position, phone #, email address and supervisor’s name.

For more information contact KDOC_JS_Training@ks.gov

New Officer YLS/CMI Training (includes Case Planning):

Note - Prior to attending YLS/CMI training, you must complete the Juvenile Justice Basics class

Location – Topeka Parole Office, 2029 SW Western, Topeka

Dates	Tuesday	Feb. 11	8:30 am – 5 pm
	Wednesday	Feb. 12	8:30 am – 5 pm
	Thursday	Feb. 13	8:30 am – 5 pm

To Enroll - Email KDOC_JS_YLSCMI@ks.gov
Participants name, agency, position, phone #, email address and supervisor’s name.

For more information contact KDOC_JS_YLSCMI@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 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.

Sexually Harmful Behavior of Youth

Location – KBI Auditorium, 2001 SW Washburn, Topeka

Date	Wednesday	Feb. 12	9 am – 4 pm
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To Enroll - Email megan.bradshaw@ks.gov

Moral Reconciliation Therapy Training

Location – Youth & Family Services Center; 920 W Spruce, Olathe, KS

Dates	Tuesday	May 12	8:30 am – 5 pm
	Wednesday	May 13	8:30 am – 5 pm
	Thursday	May 14	8:30 am – 5 pm
	Friday	May 15	8:30 am – 5 pm

To Enroll - Email KDOC_CO_MRT@ks.gov

Parent Project Facilitator Training

Location – Salina

Dates	Monday, March 30 – Friday, April 3	8 am – 5 pm
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To inquire or enroll - Email KDOC_CO_ParentProject@ks.gov

KDOC-JS Community Legal Issues Training

Location – KBI Auditorium, 2001 SW Washburn, Topeka

Dates	Friday, April 3	9 am – 12 noon
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To enroll – [Click here](#)

National News

Ending PUSHOUT Act, Girls in Secure Detention, and Gender-Based Violence

The [Ending PUSHOUT Act](#), introduced by Representative Ayana Pressley and co-sponsored by Representative Ilhan Omar, seeks to address the [punitive and exclusionary school discipline policies](#) that disproportionately affect girls of color—often funneling them into the [criminal justice system](#). The bill would: establish \$2.5 billion in new federal grants to states and schools [Read more](#)

Youth Arrests Plummet in Wake of Reforms

Arrests and jail sentences for young offenders have plummeted since an overhaul of the state’s (Mass.) juvenile justice laws two years ago, but advocates say minority youth are still more likely to be caught in the system. A new report by a state [Read more](#)

I Was in Juvenile Detention, So I Know that Locking up Kids Doesn’t Work

Two years ago this week, former Gov. Chris Christie announced the closure of two of New Jersey’s youth prisons. Two years later, they remain open. Based on my personal experience, this is unacceptable. I was what they call a dual-system kid. In the world of youth justice, that means I spent time in both a youth detention center and foster care. As you can [Read more](#)