

Kansas News

KDOC Names New Superintendent for Juvenile Corrections Complex

The Kansas Department of Corrections has chosen a new superintendent for the Kansas Juvenile Corrections Complex. The Kansas Department of Corrections says Megan Milner has been chosen to be its new superintendent of the Kansas Juvenile Corrections Complex. It said Milner will start her new job on March 7. "This is an important time for juvenile justice in our state and nation," said Jeff Zmuda, KDOC Secretary. "Megan brings a wealth of experience and expertise to the role of KJCC superintendent, and we are confident we will continue to make great strides in providing positive outcomes for the young people who reside at the facility." [Read more . . .](#)

Update on Athena

The Kansas Department of Corrections has contracted with Microsoft to modernize and replace our core information systems (CASIMS, JJIAMS, TOADS and OMIS) into one web-based program, which is **Athena**. Athena can be accessed from any agency approved device that has internet access and will be available through the KDOC Application Portal (also where LMS is located) as well as through Office 365. Athena is set to go live on April 5, 2021 and at that time CASIMS, TOADS and JJIAMS will no longer be accessible for data entry. All the information in those databases will be migrated over to Athena. Athena is still in the testing phase but the plan is for testing to be complete by March 15 prior to the two training sessions scheduled to begin March 16. The required training plan is outlined below:

- **March 1 to March 15 – All staff** will be given this time to view a video tutorial overview of the Athena System. This video will include an introduction of Athena and some general navigation tools. The video will also illustrate to users how to admit an individual into the system as well as an overview of the individual and admissions modules.
- **March 16 to March 31 - All Community Corrections officers/staff except Intake staff** will sign up in LMS for one 4-hour block session to complete: Course Description 1 - "[Athena Part 2-Community Corrections Adult/Juvenile Live Training: Understanding Court Cases and Case Plans Navigation](#)"
- **March 16 to March 31 - All Intake and Assessment staff** (and staff required to complete Intake and Assessments) will sign up in LMS for one 4-hour block session to complete: Course Description 2-"[Intake and Assessment Live Training: Understanding Intake and Admissions](#)"

These trainings and the video tutorial will be required for all staff that utilize these KDOC data systems. Once Athena goes live, question and answer sessions will be scheduled to help address questions you may have. In addition, a FAQ sheet will be published along with additional desk references.

Be looking for informational emails on how to sign up for these trainings and how to access the video tutorial. In the meantime, if you utilize any of these KDOC data systems be sure you have access to the KDOC Application Portal/LMS site. If you do not have access to the KDOC Application Portal/LMS or if your password has expired, you will need to put in a Help Desk Ticket. This needs to be done ASAP. It is important that all KDOC systems users have access and be ready to go for training by March 1.

Governor Laura Kelly Announces KDADS Offering Youth Behavior Education Training to Communities

Governor Laura Kelly today announced that the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) is partnering with Paxis Institute to utilize funds from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Disaster Relief Grant Program and the Mental Health Block Technical Assistance Grant to offer training programs that will assist educators in providing a nurturing learning environment for children with behavioral issues. [Read more . . .](#)

2021 DOC-Juvenile Services Training Schedule

New Employee Kansas Detention Assessment Instrument (KDAI) Training

Zoom	Tuesday	March 16 th , 2021
Zoom	Wednesday	May 19 th , 2021
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. Due to COVID-19 precautions, KDAI trainings are being provided via the zoom platform. For more information on KDAI training or to register contact Steve Bonner at steven.bonner@ks.gov

The Crossover Youth Practice Model - Update Ashley Brown, CYPM Coordinator Kansas Department of Children and Families

Kansas is moving right along with the Crossover Youth Practice Model (CYPM). It is so encouraging to have a wide variety of stakeholders (at the state level and locally) on board with implementing the CYPM! Though the pandemic slowed our progress a bit, this group of individuals has embraced our new virtual normal!

The State Policy Teams current focus is developing policy and procedure regarding cross-county Crossover Youth cases and also overcoming identified challenges. Those challenges include:

1. The variance in how an intake is processed and decision-making within each jurisdiction,
2. Communication struggles between Juvenile Intake and Foster Care Providers,
3. Supervision of cross-county cases,
4. Placement changes and notifying all appropriate parties,
5. The ability of young people to acquire services if they have DCF and Juvenile Justice cases open in two different counties, and
6. Youth who reside on reservations and who will come into custody of the state due to an offense.

The Prevention workgroups current focus is cross-agency communication. The workgroup discussed the following challenges:

1. Lack of coordination among agencies and providers,
2. Communication especially missing among frontline staff, and
3. Combatting the myth that youth must be in a system to access resources.

The Information Sharing workgroup is focusing on a toolkit for staff. The toolkit will contain active statutes and/or codes regarding information sharing. This will ensure staff understand what is already in place and what information can be shared and with whom. The data sharing MOU between OJA, DCF and KDOC is in the final stages of completion. The education subcommittee's current focus is addressing concerns seemingly due to the COVID 19 Pandemic. There far fewer students enrolled this year and it is uncertain if the students moved or if they are not attending and there has been an increase in the suicide rate.

Two Kansas counties, Montgomery (pilot) and Sedgwick counties have completed systems assessments and are in the beginning phases of implementation planning. Shawnee County (pilot) will complete their systems assessment at their March meeting. Both Montgomery and Shawnee counties have identified funding to compensate youth and family engagement for listening sessions and for participation on the local implementation team. Both counties are compiling a list of youth and families who are willing to participate.

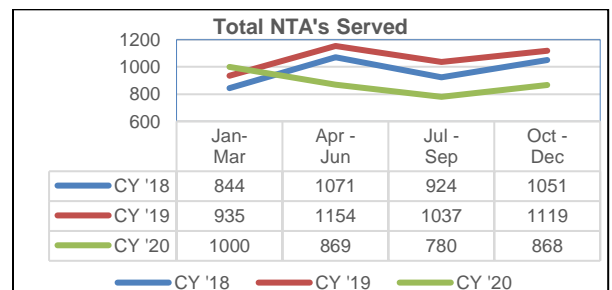
Questions regarding the CYPM can be addressed to Ashley Brown, CYPM Coordinator for DCF at Ashley.brown@ks.gov or Michelle Montgomery, CYPM Coordinator for KDOC-JS at Michelle.montgomery@ks.gov. To learn more about the CCYPM and information regarding past and upcoming meetings of the State Policy Team [click here . . .](#)

The Juvenile Justice Corner Jim Johnson, Program Consultant DOC - Juvenile Community Based Services

Number of NTA's Served to JO's Drops in 2020

The number of Notice to Appear (NTA) citations served to alleged juvenile offenders by law enforcement in Kansas dropped in calendar year (CY) 2020 compared to the previous two calendar years. The reductions in NTA's served appear to correspond with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- In the first quarter from CY '18 to CY '19 there was an increase of 10.8 % NTA's served. CY '19 to CY '20 saw an increase of an additional 6.95 % of NTA's served.
- In the second quarter, from CY '18 to CY '19 there was again an increase of 7.5 % in the number of NTA's served. However, from CY '19 to CY '20 there was a decrease of 24.7 % in the number NTA's served.



- In the third quarter from CY '18 to CY '19 there was an increase of 12.2 % NTA's served. The third quarter of CY '19 to CY '20 also saw a decrease of 24.8 % in the number of NTA's served.
- Finally, the fourth quarter of CY '18 to CY '19 also had an increase, this time NTA's served were up 6.5 %. Then again, the fourth quarter from CY '19 to CY '20's saw a similar decrease of 22.4 % in the number of NTA's served.

National Institute of Justice

Dual System Youth: At the Intersection of Child Maltreatment and Delinquency

Across the country, child welfare and juvenile justice systems now recognize that youth involved in both systems (i.e., dual system youth) are a vulnerable population who often go unrecognized because of challenges in information-sharing and cross system collaboration. In light of these challenges, national incidence rates of dual system youth are not known. To address this gap in knowledge, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention awarded the presenters a grant to: (1) propose a methodology to generate a national estimate of dual system youth, their trajectories leading to multiple system involvement, and the key characteristics/trajectories of this population; and (2) identify the successes and challenges associated with cross-system collaboration and information sharing in jurisdictions. [Read more and watch video](#)

Annie E. Casey Foundation

What Is Juvenile Justice?

Juvenile justice in the United States is a collection of state and local court-based systems whose purpose is to respond to young people who come into contact with law enforcement and are accused of breaking the law. As part of the legal process, juvenile courts hear those cases to determine whether the youth violated the law and, if so, decide on a proper response. State and local juvenile corrections agencies (including probation and residential custody) manage the rehabilitative programs, services and sanctions provided to [help young people](#) stop further delinquent behavior. [Read more](#)

Youth Justice Community Collaborative Launches in Albuquerque

More than 20 community-based organizations in Albuquerque (NM) are joining forces in a multi-year effort to support healthy and thriving futures for all young people, especially those in trouble with the law. The Albuquerque Justice for Youth Community Collaborative, supported by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, will engage local youth-serving organizations and families who have been affected by the juvenile justice system in efforts to shape promising futures for young people — even after they've made mistakes. [Read more](#)

Thrive by 25: Young People and Elected Leaders Talk About Working Together

Three lieutenant governors listened to young people before speaking at an event where the Annie E. Casey Foundation announced it is [dedicating at least half of its investments over the next decade](#) to improving the well-being and prospects of youth and young adults ages 14–24. Expanding on the importance of this work, and what it will require of those involved, was the focus of a virtual Youth Voice and Power Summit hosted by the Foundation on Jan. 28. The summit gave five young people [Read more and watch video](#)

How States Treat Kids in the Juvenile Justice System

A JDAI Community Presentation

[Watch video](#)

NCSL - National Conference of State Legislatures

Juvenile Justice 2020 Year-End Report

Although many state legislative sessions were cut short due to the COVID-19 pandemic, some states did enact juvenile justice legislation. The focus of 2020 legislation was on enacting laws diverting young people from formal court processing, providing alternatives to detention, amending ages of juvenile court jurisdiction, addressing due process rights, sealing and expunging records and improving conditions of confinement. Many of the laws enacted in 2020 reflected the policies and principles laid out in NCSL's publication [Principles of Effective Juvenile Justice Policy](#) and in the [Principles of Effective Juvenile Justice Policy Update](#) released in 2020. [Read more](#)

National News

Pendleton School Board Opposes Bill that would End School Resource Officer Program

A bill introduced in the Oregon Legislature is seeking to end police contracts with schools, but the Pendleton School Board is taking action to preserve its relationship with the local police department. The board unanimously voted on Monday, Feb. 8, to send a letter to the Legislature supporting its school resource officer program after hearing a presentation from Police Chief Chuck Byram and Lance Zaugg, the officer assigned to the district. School board chair Debbie McBee said the district and police department have avoided the controversies that have plagued other districts. [Read more](#)

National News – Restorative Justice

What It Is and Is Not

In schools today, educators still respond to what they perceive as student misbehavior with punishment. However, schools and school districts appear to be abandoning the language of zero tolerance and in many places are introducing what is often called "restorative justice." This represents an enormous victory for the activists and organizations that for years have fought the school-to-prison pipeline. Zero tolerance puts school resources toward policing and push-out instead of toward teaching and support. The number of youth - overwhelmingly youth of color - out of school and incarcerated has skyrocketed; LGBTQ and disabled youth are also targeted. [Read more](#)

Restorative Justice Provides Accountability, Healing, and Justice

It demands honest acknowledgement of wrongs done and meaningful accountability - prerequisites for healing both the victim and the wrongdoer. By Leo T. Sorokin, a US district judge in Mass.

Fifteen years as a judge have shown me that healing, humanity, and hope are in short supply in the criminal justice system. Restorative justice principles address this shortage by asking often ignored questions: Who has been harmed? How? Who is responsible? What can be done to repair the harms? Several years ago, anticipating that the retrial of a [Read more](#)

Goleta OKs Restorative Justice-Based Pilot Program to Divert Low-Level Offenders from Court

With \$154,500 grant, city to implement process promoting accountability and community involvement for many misdemeanor offenses

The **Goleta City (CA) Council** has approved a pilot program that will direct individuals accused of certain low-level offenses to counseling and community service rather than sending them on a path to jail time and criminal records. The Goleta Valley Neighborhood Court is a restorative justice program, a hands-on alternative to the traditional court system that instead helps offenders take responsibility for their actions and understand the impact on their victims. "Over the past year [Read more](#)

Racial Disparities & Restorative Justice

These two articles are part of a special report on the juvenile justice system in Berkeley and beyond.

Racial Disparities Persist in California's Juvenile Justice System

When Juvenile Public Defender Beth Chance's client took a P.E. uniform from a local junior high school, he intended to give it to his neighbor who he knew couldn't afford one. The client, an undocumented 16-year-old, had no idea that within months, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) would begin the process of his "removal," or deportation. These removal proceedings would happen after a rapid series of events. First, the student was pulled over and charged with commercial burglary and possession of stolen property. He was then interrogated by ICE at a juvenile detention center, where he was incorrectly told by the ICE officer that he did not have the right to remain silent. Though he had no strong gang affiliations, he was alleged to be a gang member [Read more](#)

Is Restorative Justice the Future of the Juvenile Justice System?

Thousands of hours of research have been devoted to understanding the school-to-prison pipeline. Many now recognize that harsh disciplinary actions such as zero-tolerance policies, as well as high levels of suspension and expulsions in schools, lead students directly into the criminal justice system - especially students of color. Gradual recognition of this issue has led to an increase in the use of restorative justice practices in both schools and the juvenile justice system. [Read more](#)

Juvenile Justice Information Exchange

Restorative Justice Is Used to Legitimize Oppressive Systems

Imagine building a house on unstable ground and then only working to address the cracks in the walls, uneven floors and leaking roof, all symptoms of a faulty foundation. Many contractors would find this unreasonable, if not dangerous. [Read more](#)

Reforming Juvenile System for Girls Requires Stories, Three Experts Say

A pregnant teenager stands alone in a cinder-block cell in one image. In another, a young body shivers, curled up in an oversized T-shirt huddled in the far corner of a cold cement room. The pictures are just a few of the thousands in a collection by Richard Ross, who uses his photography as a vehicle to highlight the needs of the estimated **48,000 children in custody** each day. [Read more](#)