

**To: Matthew Billinger, Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee, Coordinator
Kansas Department of Corrections**

From: Mary Ann Scali, Executive Director, The Gault Center

Re: Update JJOC grant funding: October 1, 2023-December 31, 2023

Date: 1.12.24

Accomplishments & Current Initiatives:

Goal 1: Develop Kansas-Specific Youth Defense Standards

In this reporting period, the Gault Center wrapped up its contract with Kansas Appleseed to conceptualize the path forward for establishing youth defense standards in Kansas. The standards, once drafted, will need to be reviewed by Kansas practitioners and the Gault Center, presented to the Kansas Supreme Court, and then implemented through training and outreach. Also in this period, we created a contract with KU professor and youth defense attorney Meredith Schnug to continue the process of developing the standards. We anticipate the contract to be finalized in the new year. Meredith will be building upon the framework developed by Appleseed and she will finalize the drafting of Kansas Youth Defense Standards with the goal of the standards being completed by the end of 2024.

Goal 2: Provide Youth Defense-specific Training to Improve the Quality of Youth Defense

In this reporting period, the Gault Center hosted its annual national Youth Defender Leadership Summit. This year, eight defenders from across Kansas participated in Summit with support from this contract, including four from the Board of Indigent Defense Services (BIDS). The defenders gained valuable skills learning from experts all around the country, embraced the importance of youth defense specialization, and appreciated being a part of the national youth defense community. Feedback provided about the training included the following comments:

- “Incredible. Positively overwhelming. Flood of learning. Informative and impactful way. Thoroughly enjoyable.”
- “Impressed with how the information was presented. Gave good insight as to why BIDS should be covering youth defense as opposed to contract attorneys. The materials available to take home were really fantastic. Much better perspective on the juvenile justice system for youth.”
- “Wonderful. Opportunity to meet people who are so passionate was incredible. The materials were great.”

TGC continued planning for 2024 additional training opportunities in Kansas. Programming under this agreement for 2024 includes a virtual lunch-and-learn with BIDS attorneys in January, and the in-person Youth Justice Summit slated for April of 2024.

Goal 3: Create youth defense-specific tools and resources and improve data collection

In this reporting period, TGC met with the Director of BIDS to discuss supporting future youth defense data collection efforts in BIDS, training opportunities, and youth defense in Kansas. Additionally, TGC talked through a plan to collect data from system-impacted young people to inform the future development of a youth defense system. In gathering this data, TGC hopes to provide compelling evidence on the importance of a state-wide youth defense system that is adequately funded, supported, and trained.



Pictured: Kansas Ambassador Bridget Schell (left), Katherine Haggard (right), and TGC Sr. Youth Defense Counsel Sarah Johnson at the October Youth Defender Leadership Summit



Pictured: Bids Attorney Kyle Snyder (left), Jorge Dehoyos (right), Eli Duncan (second from right) and TGC Sr. Youth Defense Counsel Sarah Johnson (second from left) at the October Youth Defender Leadership Summit



Pictured: Kansas Ambassador Ben Long (left) and Katherine Haggard (right) at the at the October Youth Leadership Summit