

Kansas News

Functional Family Therapy® to Expand Statewide

In February of 2017, Functional Family Therapy (FFT®) services will be available in all 105 counties and 31 judicial districts across the state of Kansas. KDOC-JS recently signed two contracts with vendors to provide FFT® services in the west-central and northeast regions of the state.

- In December 2015, KDOC-JS contracted with Eckerd Youth Alternatives to provide FFT® services to southeast region of Kansas (to include the 4th, 6th, 11th, 13th, 14th, 19th, and 31st judicial districts). In August 2016, the contract with Eckerd Youth Alternatives was amended to include the 3rd, 7th, 10th, and 18th judicial districts in the southeast region Eckerd contract.
- In December 2016, KDOC-JS contracted with EmberHope Inc, formerly known as United Methodist Youthville, Inc., to provide FFT® services in the west-central region of Kansas (to include the 15th/17th/23rd, 16th, 20th, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, and 30th judicial districts).
- In December 2016, KDOC-JS contracted with Cornerstones Inc. to provide FFT® services in the northeast region of Kansas (to include the 1st, 2nd, 5th, 8th, 9th, 12th, 21st, 22nd, 28th, and 29th judicial districts).

FFT® is an intensive therapy model program administered according to evidentiary-based practices to achieve sustainable outcomes that reduce individual recidivism and improve the quality of life for the family and the youth who completes the treatment. The FFT® model administers therapy in three major phases (engagement, behavior change, and generalization), all of which must be completed to finish treatment. The average time it takes to complete treatment is 12 weeks. By providing FFT® services within the community, high and moderate risk juvenile offenders (and their families) are able to receive treatment in their home where they are provided the skills and support they need to overcome delinquency, substance abuse, and violence. In the past, these same youth would likely have been removed from their home for an out-of-home placement or secure confinement in a juvenile correctional facility.

By making FFT® available statewide, the state of Kansas makes significant progress towards better meeting the needs of the youth, families, and communities in a consistent and comprehensive manner across the state with a reliable evidence-based community program.

How KS Can Raise the Bar on Juvenile Justice

Last April, our son was falsely accused of pulling the school fire alarm. As a parent, hearing that your child may have broken the law is terrifying. But when you've dedicated your life to understanding Kansas' justice system, only to learn that your son was taken into custody without [Read more . . .](#)

Alternatives to Placements: Functional Family Therapy and Multisystemic Therapy

Family Focused: Opposite of 'Scared Straight,' Intervention Helps Youth Connect and Feel Understood

"I thought my life was coming to an end. Oh my God, he's a good kid," said Geselle Colón, recounting the story of her son being sent into juvenile detention in Columbus, Georgia. Sixteen-year-old Esteban De Jesus-Colón is a stellar athlete, popular and a good student at school. But early into adolescence, his anger was spiraling out of [Read more . . .](#)

A Determined Grandmother Does Whatever it Takes to Help Her Grandson Succeed

Multisystemic Therapy (MST) therapists and supervisors engage all families and do whatever it takes to build a trusting relationship. They know how important it is to connect to families and their needs in a direct and efficient way from day one. This connection was made with a 68-year-old grandmother who referred to herself as "Guerrera,"—Spanish for warrior. [Read more . . .](#)

National News

The Future of Youth Justice: A Community-Based Alternative to the Youth Prison Model

For 170 years, since our first youth correctional institution opened, America's approach to youth incarceration has been built on the premise that a slightly modified version of the adult correctional model of incarceration, control, coercion, and punishment — with a little bit of programming sprinkled in — would rehabilitate young people. Sometimes the names attempt to camouflage the nature of the facility, but whether they are called "training schools" or "youth centers," nearly all of these facilities are youth prisons. [Read more . . .](#)

The Juvenile Justice Corner

By Joe Norwood, Secretary
Kansas Department of Corrections

Editor's note – The Senate Confirmation Oversight Committee met on December 13, 2016, and voted unanimously to approve Joe Norwood as the Kansas Secretary of Corrections. The full Senate will consider the nomination once the legislative session convenes January 9, 2017.

As a native Kansan who has lived many years outside of the state, I can honestly say I'm thankful for the cold wind and the snow that comes at this time of year. Having grown up in Leavenworth, this weather brings a familiarity that I associate with my home.

I am so thankful for the opportunity to return home after 32 years with the Federal Bureau of Prisons, spent in places like California, Texas, Colorado and Philadelphia, to work alongside fellow Kansans in service of our great state.

I can tell you from my years of experience that Kansas has a stellar reputation and has benefitted from excellent leadership. I could not be more excited for the chance to join in the work of so many great people and to build upon the work of recently retired Secretary Ray Roberts.

This is a very exciting time in Juvenile Justice. I look forward to working on the implementation of SB 367 and improving outcomes for the youth of Kansas. I'm proud of the great work we've begun in this area, and am optimistic for what the new year holds.

But in the meantime, I wish each of you a happy holiday and a blessed time with family and friends. And don't forget to appreciate our wonderful state, even when the wind gusts and the snow blows. It's great to be back home!

Human Trafficking in Kansas

Woman Makes Plea in Topeka-Based Sex-Trafficking Operation

A Topeka woman, who was a member of a Topeka-based prostitution business operating in three states, made a plea on Monday in U.S. District Court in Topeka to trafficking a female minor for sex. [Read more . . .](#)

New Home, Sharpened Focus for Agency Battling Human Trafficking

Jennifer White would be thrilled if her grassroots organization shut down one day because it wasn't needed anymore. But she knows that's unlikely. A half-decade after she started ICT S.O.S. to help combat human trafficking, the need is greater than ever. "If you had asked me five years ago if we would be where we are right now, I would have told you you're crazy," White said. "It has grown so fast." [Read more . . .](#)

HT Victims to Receive Assistance

Authorities at Saint Francis Community Services should be commended for taking the initiative and opening Clover House, the first facility in Kansas and one of the first in the nation for victims of human trafficking. [Read more . . .](#)

Advocacy Group: Kansas Doing More to Fight Human Trafficking

An advocacy group that works to combat sex trafficking says Kansas has made significant improvements when it comes to fighting human trafficking. **Shared Hope International** gives Kansas a letter grade of B after making changes in recent years. In 2011, Kansas received a grade of F. Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt says the state has created new tools to prosecute people involved in human trafficking and added better support for victims. [Read more and listen to report . . .](#)

Federal Juvenile Justice Legislation

THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

President Obama Signs 21st Century Cures Act

President Barack Obama signed the 21st Century Cures Act today after it passed the House and Senate with bipartisan support, signaling an effort to address the nation's challenges with mental health in the criminal justice system, among other medical priorities. [Read more and watch video . . .](#)

THE NATIONAL JUVENILE JUSTICE NETWORK

Federal Juvenile Justice Update: December 2016

Juvenile Justice Delinquency and Prevention Act (JJDP) Did Not Pass - Although the House did pass **H.R. 5963**, a bill reauthorizing the JJDP, on Sept. 22, 2016, the bill did not make it through the Senate before it adjourned. Significant progress was made in terms of educating Congressional members on the importance of improving the JJDP — in fact, the House bill had a whopping 382 votes in favor of the bill, and there were many bi-partisan Senate [Read more . . .](#)

Education Commission of the States

State and Federal Policy: Incarcerated youth

This policy analysis provides descriptive information about incarcerated youth populations, explores their educational challenges, reviews currently enacted state and federal policies designed to address their needs, and provides policy considerations for state governments. [Read more . . .](#)

National Council of Juvenile & Family Court Judges

Creating a Trauma-Informed System: Important Collaboration Between CACs and the Courts

The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges partnered with the National Children's Advocacy Center to create this webinar highlighting the importance of collaboration between children's advocacy centers (CACs) and the courts. Participants can expect to learn: what judges should know about the CAC model; how CACs can help minimize additional trauma for children who are victims of crimes; how to evaluate your local CAC and other community resources; and steps towards implementing trauma-informed practices and a victim-centered approach in your court & community. [Watch webinar . . .](#)

Center on Juvenile Justice Reform

Moving from Research to Policy and Practice to Improve the Lives of Youth

Georgetown University April 6 & 7, 2017

Join with a national group of policymakers, practitioners, researchers, educators, judicial officials, community leaders, family members, foundation representatives and others to explore cutting-edge innovations in child-serving fields. The Center for Juvenile Justice Reform is hosting the event in celebration of its 10-year anniversary. Over the course of two days the conference will examine current research across systems of care and how to best apply it to develop and implement sound policies and practices that meet the needs of at-risk youth/families. [For more information and to register . . .](#)

The National Survey of Teen Relationships and Intimate Violence (STRiV)

The purpose of this project, the national Survey of Teen Relationships and Intimate Violence (STRiV), was to build the field's understanding of adolescent dating relationships, particularly those marked by adolescent relationship abuse (ARA). While definitions vary across the literature, for the purposes of this study we define ARA as physical, emotional, verbal, psychological, or sexual abuse perpetrated by an adolescent against another adolescent with whom they are in a dating/romantic relationship. [Read more . . .](#)

Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice

Adult Earnings of Juvenile Delinquents: The Interaction of Race/Ethnicity, Gender, and Juvenile Justice Status on Future Earnings

Whites and males tend to have higher incomes than non-Whites and females. A recent study by the U.S. Census Bureau compared earnings of individuals with Bachelor's degrees and found that White males had the highest earnings followed by Asian males. While Black and Hispanic males earned much less than their other male counterparts, both groups earned more than all female groups. [Read more . . .](#)

Restorative Justice in the States: An Analysis of Statutory Legislation and Policy

A paradigm-shift has occurred in the past two decades as punitive models no longer avail in present-day justice systems. Such a paradigm-shift challenges traditional methods which hinder the possibility of solutions that articulate new values and goals in an effort to challenge, rethink, and refocus current systems, policies, and practices. [Read more . . .](#)

National News

Harnessing Data and Information Can Lead to a Better Youth Justice System

A bipartisan consensus has emerged in Congress and state legislatures on the need to focus on finding ways to reduce the over 2 million people in our prisons and jails and make our communities safer. With 18 to 24-year-olds [Read more . . .](#)

Stand Up Against Failed Policies: The Youth Prison

We often hear of the exceptional nature of the justice system in the United States. Indeed, our Constitution is meant to ensure that the rule of law holds sway above all else. As such, we are committed to treating our people fairly – without consideration of their age, gender, race, or religion. While our founding document has not always protected the most vulnerable among us, it has – over time – come to be the safeguard against the worst forms of abuse by government. [Read more . . .](#)

Juvenile Justice Information Exchange

Report: Communities Must Switch to Local Care, Not Prisons, for Young Offenders

Many policymakers and advocates know they want to close youth prisons, where they say young offenders are often isolated, unsafe and go without the services they need to thrive when they return to their communities. But what would the alternative look like? A [new report](#) released by [The National Collaboration for Youth](#) lays out the case for investment in a community-based continuum. [Read more . . .](#)

Calif. Wraparound Program Reduces Juvenile Recidivism by Focusing on Mental Health

Manuel Dircio, 20, a business administration student at Fullerton College boasts a 4.0 GPA. He is also a recovering alcoholic with a history of arrest and incarceration in juvenile detention — not quite what you'd expect from a seemingly model college student with a stellar grade point. Dircio credits the [Youthful Offender Wraparound](#) program (YOW), which he says "helped [him] grow successfully." [Read more . . .](#)

Substance Use, Mental Health & the Road to Recovery: 'Like Juggling Explosives Blindfolded'

When Corey Roberts came out of prison, he hit the ground running. In short order, he found a job at a chicken joint. He found a girlfriend. And at 21, after an 18-month stretch in Georgia correctional facilities, including nine months in a drug-rehabilitation program, he began the process of rebuilding a life within the legally constrained horizons of an ex-convict. But like a lot of people who struggle with drugs, depression and a criminal record, Roberts soon hit some setbacks. He went through several jobs in the year after his [Read more . . .](#)

Compassionate Enough to Help Peers Outside Their Walls

"Tell me about a time you made a mistake." Every young person has been asked this question in a job interview. After all, what better way to assess someone's work ethic, perseverance and self-reflection than hearing how they learn from failure or just life's challenges? [Read more . . .](#)

National News

Why the U.S. Juvenile Justice System Needs Reform

In A&E's infamous show, *Beyond Scared Straight*, "at-risk" kids with major behavioral problems are thrust into adult prisons for a day to literally scare them into never wanting to see the inside of a jail cell again. – The juvenile justice system needs a serious reform, and the biggest change must be preventative. It needs to take place in the communities the system caters to the most; poor, impoverished neighborhoods where the youth are susceptible to crime. [Read more . . .](#)

Is Juvenile Justice Beyond Repair?

The Youth First Initiative wants to help end the use of youth prisons. The justice-advocacy group works from the premise that detaining minors—whether in youth facilities or in prisons—is not just a poorly executed practice; it is simply beyond repair. "This model of incarceration is broken—it does not work," says Liz Ryan, the president and CEO of the [Youth First Initiative](#). "It actually has never worked." [Read more . . .](#)

Editorial: Ending the Juvenile Crime Spiral

When a 13-year-old shoplifts candy or a group of 16-year-olds creates such a ruckus that cops are called, they may well find themselves on a conveyor belt that eventually drops them into real prison doing real time for hurting real people. The juvenile justice system doesn't do well the job of keeping kids like that away from the influence of serious offenders. [Read more . . .](#)

Task Force Begins Weighing Overhaul of Nevada's Juvenile Justice System

A task force of judges, prosecutors, legislators, youth advocates and juvenile probation officials on Tuesday began considering options to improve Nevada's juvenile justice system and break a cycle of recidivism. [Read more . . .](#)

Human Trafficking

High Hopes for Farm for HT Survivors

Pecan trees rustled in the wind as Leanna Cox, a 22-year-old survivor of sex trafficking, discussed the importance of the place around her. "You're coming into a community; you're coming into a personal kind of relationship and family," she said. "Deep down that's what a survivor wants." [Read more and watch video . . .](#)

Discussion on Combatting Child Trafficking

The Center for Strategic and International Studies hosted a discussion examining policy and law enforcement strategies to combat child *trafficking* in the U.S. and abroad. [Watch video . . .](#)