

News from Kansas – SB 367

SB 367 has worked its way through the Kansas Legislature and is being sent to the Governor for his review and signature. SB 367 was amended and passed the Senate Committee on Corrections & Juvenile Justice on 2/18/2016; further amended and passed the full Senate on 2/23/2016; amended and passed the House Committee on Corrections & Juvenile Justice on 3/17/2016 and the full House on 3/21/2016. SB 367 was then assigned to a House/Senate Conference Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice. The Conference Committee reached an agreement and the Conference Committee Report was adopted by the full House (118-5) and full Senate (40-0) on 3/24/2016.

For a link to SB 367 (Enrolled) – as approved by the full House and full Senate on 3/24/2016 [Click here](#) Summary of SB 367 [Click here](#)

Below are articles after SB 367 was approved by the House Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice on 3/17/2016

TOPEKA CAPITAL JOURNAL

Kansas House Gives Early Approval to Juvenile Justice Reform Package

[Read more](#)

GARDEN CITY TELEGRAM

Bill Calls for a Shift in Focus for Juvenile Justice

[Read more](#)

Below are articles after the House and Senate approved the SB 367 Conference Committee Report on 3/24/2016

WICHITA EAGLE-BEACON

Kansas Juvenile Justice Reform Bill Advances to Governor's Desk

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LAWRENCE JOURNAL WORLD

Bill for Juvenile Justice Reform Goes to Gov. Brownback's Desk

[Read more](#)

KANSAS CITY STAR

Kansas Senate Passes Bill for Juvenile Justice Reform

[Read more](#)

OSAGE COUNTY HERALD-CHRONICLE

State Passes Juvenile Justice Reform Bill

[Read more](#)

SALINA POST

Far Reaching Kansas Juvenile Justice Bill Ready for the Governor

[Read more](#)

Other News from Kansas

Salina Initiative for Restorative Justice Gives Juvenile Offenders a Chance to Avoid a Criminal Record

There was the girl who shoplifted a tube of mascara and a lollipop. There were two girls who got in a fight at school. There was a boy who hit a police officer. Criminal charges were dropped against all of those young people after they successfully completed a diversion program called the Salina Initiative for Restorative Justice. [Read more](#)

Human Trafficking in Kansas City

Approximately 14,500 to 17,500 people are trafficked into the United States each year. The average age of a victim of human trafficking is 12 to 14 years old, and 80 percent of victims end up being sold for sexual exploitation. According to the Missouri School Counselor Association, the US Attorney in Western Missouri has prosecuted more cases involving human trafficking than any other US district. [Read more](#)

Wichita Advocacy Group Rallying for Human Trafficking Victims

A Wichita advocacy group says the community has failed victims of human trafficking. The Wichita State University Center for Combating Human Trafficking will hold a rally outside the Sedgwick County Courthouse Friday afternoon. The center believes some victims of human trafficking are receiving unfair criminal punishment. The center is calling the rally "Justice for Kristen." [Read more and watch video](#)

National News – Diversion Programing

Diversion Programs Help Kids Avoid Criminal Records While Saving Taxpayers Money

Every year in Duval County, police arrest more than 2,000 kids under the age of 18. Nearly half of them are 15 or younger. And while some of their offenses are undoubtedly serious, many are the result of immaturity, bad influences or lapses in judgment. For many of these children, [Read more](#)

Community Response Team (CRT): A Strategy for Early Diversion in Colorado

The Community Response Team is comprised of three community agencies to include the community mental health center, police department and fire department of Colorado Springs. In response to the governor's crisis response grant funding and increased need in the community [Read more](#)

Center for Juvenile Justice Reform – Georgetown University Training Opportunity

The program provides participants with the knowledge and tools needed to implement or improve juvenile diversion programming in their jurisdiction, thereby reducing the use of formal processing and incarceration, improving public safety, avoiding wasteful spending, limiting the collateral consequences youth encounter from exposure to the juvenile justice system, reducing racial and ethnic disparities in the justice system and improving outcomes for youth and families. [Read more](#)

Trauma and Juvenile Justice

The Importance of Treating for Trauma in Juvenile Justice-Involved Youth

Research over the past several decades has established that youth exposure to violence is a widespread and significant problem. This is particularly true for youth involved in the juvenile justice system, as research has shown that up to 90 percent of these youth have histories of violence exposure, with many reporting multiple serious incidents. [Read more](#)

Traumatized, Locked Up, LA Girls Starting to Get More Help

Moriah, then 14, woke up to burns on her body one night along with physical evidence that she had been raped. She had been invited to a party the night before by someone she considered a friend. She eventually came to realize that she had almost been looped into a human trafficking scheme. This event, among many other traumatic events, affected Moriah mentally, physically and emotionally. "I just felt neglected," Moriah said of her childhood. When she was growing up her father was in and out of prison, and she turned to other kids in her neighborhood for comfort. [Read more](#)

The Juvenile Justice Corner

**By Michelle Montgomery, Program Consultant
DOC - Juvenile Community Based Services**

Editor's note – From December 2015 through March 2016, Community Supervision Officers from across the state were re-certified to administer the YLS/CMI. Ten training sessions were held in Dodge City, Hays, Salina, Independence, Olathe, Wichita, and Topeka (4). Below is an update/summary to bring everyone up to date on the recent activities involving the YLS/CMI.

The Youthful Level of Services/Case Management Inventory (YLS/CMI) is a risk/needs assessment and case management tool combined into one system. The YLS/CMI, used in Kansas since 2007 by probation officers and corrections counselors, is used in numerous states and internationally to identify a youth's major areas of risk, needs, strengths, barriers to intervention, and incentives that can help motivate a youth. This information is the foundation for developing an individualized case plan designed to increase the youth's chances of being successful while reducing their chances of committing another crime. Assessments and case planning are two examples of the many evidence based practices contained in SB 367 which seeks to improve juvenile justice in Kansas.

As our knowledge of the research relating to effective evidence based practices involving juvenile offenders increases, the Kansas juvenile justice system, including the YLS/CMI, must adapt. To ensure that officers are assessing and attending to current factors related to crime, the timeframes for conducting re-assessments changed in 2015 (Click [here](#) to see CSS-04-102). Most recently, in March of 2016, to meet the needs of the uniqueness of the juvenile correctional system in Kansas, the Kansas Department of Corrections-Juvenile Services (KDOC-JS) received permission from the owners of the YLS/CMI (University of Cincinnati) to update the Initial Youth and Parental Interview Guides and to develop additional interview guides for reassessing risk factors of youth placed in residential settings or with parents/guardians.

National News

Virginia Legislature Passes Bill to Shield Special-Needs Minors from Some Charges

Virginia lawmakers on Monday sent legislation to Gov. Terry McAuliffe that would create a new legal defense for juveniles with special needs who are charged with committing misdemeanor offenses in school. Supporters say the bill is intended to more fairly apply the law to minors with autism and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, among other diagnoses, and keep them out of the juvenile justice [Read more . . .](#)

Shifting Focus Offers Hope for Juvenile Offenders

Locking up teenagers in a prison surrounded by razor wire, sending them to class only when the prison has enough security guards, discouraging family visits and punishing with solitary confinement is a sure-fire recipe for turning troubled kids into career criminals. Four of five released from Virginia's youth prisons are arrested again within three years. [Read more . . .](#)

Local View: Nebraska's Common Sense Approach to Juvenile Justice

Youth are our state's greatest natural resource, and even when they get in trouble, should be treated in a manner that sets them on a path to success. What would you do if your child were charged with a crime? How would you hope he or she would be treated by the system? Our juvenile court is rehabilitative in nature, which means that any court actions and orders are meant to change negative youthful behavior into positive outcomes and brighter futures. [Read more . . .](#)

Justice for Juniors

How should we treat children who get into trouble with the law? For more than a century, American attitudes have shifted between sometimes-wild extremes. Between the 1970s and early 2000s, a system that had become too lenient arguably became too harsh. We're now seeing the start of a swing in the opposite direction, with states as diverse as Louisiana, Texas, Connecticut, New York, Florida, and Michigan considering proposals that may, at last, strike a happy medium on juvenile justice. And other states will no doubt be watching to see what happens. [Read more . . .](#)

Campaign for Youth Justice

New National Poll Shows Americans Want a Different Youth Justice System

The [Youth First Initiative](#) just released a [national poll](#) showing that across the political spectrum, Americans believe that the youth justice system is in need of reform. Ninety-two percent agree that what is most important is that the youth system does a better job of making sure youth get back on track so that they are less likely to commit another offense. The results also show that the majority of American people favour investing in community-based programs rather than in incarceration; and furthermore that they would like states to address the racial and ethnic disparities in the [Read more . . .](#)

Human Trafficking

Human Trafficking is a Criminal Act that Affects People of Every Demographic

Human trafficking is widely recognized as an emerging health care priority. Because of this, Mercy Hospital in Joplin, MO decided to help educate others and build awareness through a community forum. [Read more and watch video . . .](#)

Females: Juvenile Justice Issues - updates . . .

Girls in Trouble: Providing the Right Response

One of the starkest statistics in the lives of girls today is that 73 percent of girls in the juvenile justice system have been physically or sexually abused, according to U.S. Bureau of Justice figures. A report last summer referred to this as the "sexual-abuse-to-prison pipeline." Experiencing abuse is one of the major predictors of girls themselves getting into trouble, according to the report published by the [Read more . . .](#)

Girls and the Juvenile Justice System

Today, nearly 30 percent of juveniles arrested are girls or young women and their share of arrests, detention, and court cases has steadily increased over the past two decades. Unfortunately their stories remain unchanged. Often girls of color and girls living in poverty, they are victims of violence, including physical and sexual abuse. They are typically nonviolent and pose little or no risk to public safety. And their involvement with the juvenile justice system usually does more harm than good. [Read more . . .](#)

The Juvenile Justice Corner continued from page 1

The importance of conducting a valid and reliable assessment cannot be overstated. To this end KDOC-JS has strict training measures and a quality assurance (QA) process in place; only Community Supervision Agency staff who have attended the two and one half (2 ½) day training and successfully passed all aspects of the homework may administer the assessment. In 2015, Michelle Montgomery (KDOC-JS YLS/CMJ Statewide Coordinator) and Laura Parker (KDOC-JS YLS/CMJ Co-Facilitator) certified 42 Community Supervision/Court Services Officers and Juvenile Correctional Facility staff. Officers/staff wishing to retain certification are also required to attend an annual training. For 2015 Ms. Montgomery and Mrs. Parker traveled across the state conducting ten (10) one day training sessions in seven (7) different locations for 174 officers. Beginning in 2015, KDOC-JS's initiated a new YLS/CMJ Quality Assurance (QA) process which requires each Community Supervision Officer to submit an audio recording of a YLS/CMJ during a specified quarter of a two-year period to Megan Bradshaw (Program Consultant II) for inter-rater reliability. Since July 2015, 32 officers from four (4) districts (8th, 13th, 18th, and 25th) have participated in this process.

Looking toward the future of the YLS/CMJ in the state of Kansas, KDOC will be conducting a study to examine the consistency (reliability) and predictability (validity) of the tool for youth in Kansas.

Assessment is the cornerstone of effective correctional interventions. The information gathered by the YLS/CMJ should be used to determine the appropriate levels of supervision and services/interventions each juvenile offender should receive. By identifying and providing individualized services to high risk youth (those more likely to recidivate) Kansas can better utilize resources and assist those youth to become law-abiding citizens. As the YLS/CMJ is used more effectively statewide to better meet the needs of the youth served and improve youth outcomes, the goals of improving public safety while strengthening Kansas families and communities becomes more achievable.

Disproportionate Minority Contact Eliminating Racial and Ethnic Disparities

Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) describes the disproportionately high/overrepresentation of minority youth in the juvenile justice system, in proportion to their general population and as compared with white youth. Minority populations/youth of color include American Indian and Alaska Native, Asian, Black or African American, Hispanic or Latino, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, and persons of mixed race/ethnicity.

W. Haywood Burns Institute – 2015 Annual Highlights [Read more . . .](#)

Repairing the breach: A Brief History of Youth of Color in the Justice System [Read more . . .](#)

02 Silent Beats [Watch video . . .](#)

Poor White Kids Are Less Likely to Go to Prison than Rich Black Kids

It's a fact that people of color are worse off than white Americans in all kinds of ways, but there is little agreement on why. Some see those disparities as a consequence of racial discrimination in schools, the courts and the workplace, both in the past and present. Others argue that economic inequalities are really the cause, and that public policy should help the poor no matter their race or ethnicity. When it comes to affirmative action in college admissions, for example, many say that children from poor, white families should receive preferential treatment, as well. [Read more . . .](#)

Study: Black Girls Are Being Pushed Out of School

News surrounding a confrontation in a Baltimore school is raising new questions about the role race plays in discipline for black girls. Baltimore television station WBAL has been reporting on an October incident that led to three students at the city's Vanguard Middle School being injured, and later arrested and suspended, after an altercation with a school security officer. [Read more . . .](#)

Annie E Casey Foundation

San Francisco Probation Takes New Approach to Technical Violations

San Francisco's Juvenile Probation Department is using a new program in which youths facing detention for probation violation charges instead attend sessions designed to deepen their understanding of the rules and conditions governing court-ordered probation and the value of making good decisions. [Read more . . .](#)