

KS Juvenile Justice Web-Line

November 2016

Kansas News

SB 367 OJA and KDOC Workgroups - Update

Three workgroups were formed in June on 2016 to assist in implementation of SB 367. The three workgroups consisted of three members appointed by the Office of Judicial Administration and three members appointed by the Department of Corrections – Juvenile Services. The three groups were tasked to research and make recommendations on:

- Group 1 – Earned Discharge and Graduated Responses
- Group 2 – Immediate Intervention Programs
- Group 3 – Cutoff Scores and Probation Supervision

All three workgroups have submitted recommendations to OJA and KDOC and those recommendations are currently under consideration. OJA and KDOC anticipates being able to provide more information regarding decisions and plans for implementation for the three areas in December.

Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee - Update

The Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee had its first meeting on October 24, 2016. Senator, Greg Smith, who is the Victims Representative, was elected Chairman and the Honorable Delia York, Judicial Representative, was elected as Co-Chair. Information on the Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee will be available online at the DOC website at the following link: <http://www.doc.ks.gov/juvenile-services/committee>

Mental Health Training Curriculum – Update

The Mental Health Training Curriculum – Juvenile Justice (MHTC-JJ) continues to be provided by KDOC and Community Partners for Juvenile Justice staff across the state. In 2016, KDOC-JS coordinated 10 training sessions which were held in various locations with 239 attendees participating. Since MHTC-JJ training was started in 2014, a total of 172 JIAS staff, 187 JISP/CM staff, and 597 JCF staff have been trained. Statewide. A grand total of 1469 people have completed the MHTC-JJ training since it was initiated in 2014.

Position/Agency	2014	2015	2016	Total
ISO/CM/Supervisors	5	93	89	187
JIAS	5	17	150	172
Total – CC & JIAS (Trained by KDOC-JS)	10	110	239	359
18th JD *	0	0	279	279
10th JD	0	0	92	92
Totals – 10th & 18th JDs (See note regarding 18th)	0	0	371	371
KDOC - Central Office	11	11	0	22
Providers	14	76	9	99
Other	1	20	0	21
Total – Community	26	107	9	142
Sub Total	36	217	619	872
KJCC **	20	336	17	373
LJCF **	29	195	0	224
Total – Facilities	49	531	17	597
Total	85	748	636	1469

* The 18th JD is training their detention staff and providers

** KJCC & LJCF results are based on fiscal year attendees

Foster Care High Needs KanCare Workgroup

The Department for Children and Families formed the Foster Care High Needs KanCare Workgroup to aid in identifying and addressing the health and well-being needs and services of children in out of home placement who are experiencing placement instability and YRCII, PRF or acute care hospitalizations. The workgroup is made up of various professionals from some of the following agencies: Department for Children and Families, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services, Kansas Department of Corrections, United Health Care, Sunflower Health Care, Amerigroup Health Care, St. Francis Community services, KVC Health Systems and various community mental health centers and PRTFs. The Workgroup has been meeting regularly since early July 2016. Analyzing data has been a key aspect of the workgroup along with working down to determine what the root causes of these high needs youth are.

2016 DOC-Juvenile Services Training Schedule

New Officer YLS/CMJ Training:

Location	KJCC, 1430 NW 25th Street, Topeka, KS
Dates	Tuesday December 13 9 am – 5 pm Wednesday December 14 8 am – 5 pm Thursday December 15 8 am – 5 pm
To Enroll	Email michelle.montgomery@doc.ks.gov Participants Name; Judicial District; Phone Number & Email address; and Supervisor's name;
Notes	1. To attend a tour of KJCC prior to the training, arrive by 8:15 am on 12/13/2016 2. Exam will be at approximately 1 pm Thursday, participants may leave once they submit their exam.

The Juvenile Justice Corner

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

Commonly referred to by the juveniles at the Kansas Juvenile Correctional Complex as the "Job Lady" and the "Gear Up Lady", Stephanie Gregory and Abigail Phelps work with juveniles placed at KJCC to help them be successful upon release from the juvenile correctional facility. Both previously worked as Juvenile Corrections Officers and later as Corrections Counselors. Together, they make up the KJCC Reentry Team. They typically meet every juvenile within their first couple of weeks of admission for an initial career assessment and reentry evaluation which starts the process of shaping and developing a long range plan for the juvenile upon discharge.

Juvenile reentry and aftercare services have emerged as critical pieces of comprehensive program planning that apply research on "what works" and "evidenced based practices" to reentry outcomes for youth in the justice system. Adolescent offenders often have a variety of needs such as substance abuse issues, histories of abuse or neglect, involvement in the child welfare system, learning disabilities, or the inclination to give up, quit, or drop out of school or work. All these complex needs or barriers to education and employability need to be addressed to create an opportunity for a successful transition from the juvenile correctional facility to the community.

When the Juvenile Justice Authority merged several services with the Department of Corrections in 2013, KDOC adult reentry staff began working with Corrections Counselors at the juvenile correctional facilities to provide training and mentoring so that reentry services could be made available to juveniles being released. KDOC had partnered with the National Institute of Corrections and has developed Offender Workforce Development Specialist (OWDS) training for Kansas. KJCC then expanded reentry program planning by adding the two reentry positions at KJCC. Both Gregory and Phelps as well as five other KJCC staff currently serve as certified OWDS Specialists.

There are a wide variety of reentry programs available at KJCC. Some provided in group settings, while some are offered on an individualized basis. Programs offered include: Career Interest Assessments, Reentry Evaluations, Topeka Literacy Council, Kansas Kids Gear Up, Kansas Driver's License Prep, FAFSA Registration, Selective Service Registration, Work Opportunity Tax Credit, Photo Identification, Department of Commerce (resources available), Vocational Rehabilitation Services (can refer if applicable), Transition Interviews, Release Resource Packet (to take with them upon discharge), Basic Employability Skills Training (through Kansas Workforce Centers), Financial Literacy, Job Workshops, Career Fairs, College Information, Resume Building, Mock Interviewing (and packets), Big Brothers/Big Sisters (Shawnee and Sedgwick Counties P3 program), Leisure Planning Packets, College Enrollment (KKGU Members), Job Applications or other Resource Information as needed. However, even with all those program offerings, both Gregory and Phelps agree that there is no replacement for one on one interaction with a juvenile with the application of Motivational Interviewing techniques. **Continued next page . . .**

Juvenile Reentry Programing – Kansas Keys

Keys for Networking offers the iGRAD program to help support youth 15 and older that are in Foster Care or under the supervision of DOC-JS. The iGRAD program helps youth graduate from high school on time with their peers by:

- helping to tracks placement histories and to help in gathering earned grades/credit,
- securing records and storing them,
- assisting in communications between schools/providers, and
- assisting with interventions for risk factors that create barriers to success.

To help in this process, Key's staff request transcripts and/or grade cards for each student each semester. Key's staff monitor the required credits and required core subjects. As transcripts come in, Key's staff examine the students' grades, attendance and amount of credits earned. When students have low grades, attendance is poor and/or the earned credits are less than 2.625 a semester, Key's staff call school counselors, teachers, community supervision officers, GEAR UP staff (if/when the student is enrolled in GEAR UP), to resolve issues and develop individual plans to help students. Key's staff will follow the students for eight semesters if/when parental releases are captured prior to the youth's transition to parental custody or student reaching the age of 18 when they must have their own release.

Referrals to GEAR UP or iGRAD can be made by the student him/herself, by the parent, by the school or by the youth's Community Supervision Officer.

Questions on iGRAD can be addressed to penny@keys.org

For more information on iGRAD [click here . . .](#)

For more information on Kansas GEAR UP [click here . . .](#)

National News

Youth Prisons Don't Work. Here's What Does

October is [Youth Justice Action Month](#), so let's take stock of what we've learned about our juvenile justice system just this year. About **50,000 youth** are caught in a system that **disproportionately imprisons African Americans and Latinos**. Some teens, including **Dequan Jackson**, are kept behind bars not because they are a danger to society but [Read more . . .](#)

No Second Chance: Why Juvenile Offenders Stay Locked Away

Markeil trudged into Courtroom 12 in a jail jumper, shackled at the wrists, waist and ankles. The 25-year-old was there to be sentenced — again — for his involvement in a September 2008 murder, a crime committed when he was 17. This day marked the 3rd time the judge would decide his fate. Previously sentenced to life, the U.S. Supreme Court deemed it unconstitutional to sentence a juvenile to mandatory life without parole, calling it cruel and unusual punishment. The nation's highest court acknowledged that kids can change. [Read more . . .](#)

Neuroscience Suggests the Justice System May Be Too Harsh on Young Adults

For a long time, the United States' justice system has been notorious for its proclivity for imprisoning children. Because of laws that grant prosecutors and judges discretion to bump juveniles up to the category of "adult" when they commit crimes deemed serious enough by the authorities, the U.S. is an outlier in **locking up kids**, with some youthful defendants even getting life sentences. Naturally, this [Read more . . .](#)

Human Trafficking

U.S. Advisory Council on Human Trafficking Releases First Annual Report on HT

1. Ensure law enforcement is trained in anti-trafficking
 2. Create public awareness campaigns reflecting diversity
 3. Provide support services to all trafficking survivors
 4. Increase funding to investigate more labor trafficking
 5. Help survivors get on track for success in work and life
- [Click here to access annual report . . .](#)

AG & U.S. Attorney Announce Indictments & Arrests in US and Mexico on Sex Trafficking

A 21-count indictment was unsealed in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York charging 7 defendants with sex trafficking, conspiracy and related offenses. The indictment, which was returned under seal on Sept. 15, 2016, alleges that the defendants are members of an international sex trafficking organization which operated in Mexico and the US from 2000 - 2016. 14 victims of the charged sex trafficking organization are identified in the indictment. [Read more . . .](#)

15 Things We Learned in Hutch About HT

Communities sometimes deny human trafficking and the sexual exploitation of young girls happens where they live. Movies and music glamorize pimp culture and there's a real demand for sexual services. But those "women" who advertise themselves as 18, 19 or 20 on places such as Backpage or Craigslist are likely to be 16 years old, or 14, even as young as 12. Lt. Travis Rakestraw, Wichita Police Department Exploited and Missing Child Unit Commander, spoke on the dangers of human trafficking happening in the shadows. [Read more . . .](#)

Lawmakers to Tackle Human Trafficking – Foster Care Connection

Lawmakers in Texas to address sex and human trafficking, as child advocates say common victims are children in and out of the Texas foster care system. [Read more and watch video . . .](#)

Juvenile Justice Information Exchange

Man Still Fighting 40-year Sentence for Nonlethal Crime He Committed as 14-year-old

Fourteen-year-old Christopher Thomas pulled on his tan Dickies pants, white sweatshirt and blue and white tennis shoes as he got ready for school. He had been living at his foster home in Hephzibah, Georgia, for just six months, but already was close to his foster "brothers" Christopher Butts and RaShaan Eugene Bentley. [Read more . . .](#)

Next Administration Needs to Close Youth Prisons, Experts Say

The next presidential administration should build on the momentum researchers, advocates and policymakers have created to close youth prisons, experts say. They are hopeful a new [report](#) that lays out the case for investing in community-based alternatives to incarceration will be a [Read more . . .](#)

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When asked about challenges they face, both Gregory and Phelps are in agreement:

1. The juvenile population faces a lot of barriers. In many situations not one staff member or one program is adequate, but it takes several programs along with the encouragement and reinforcement of several staff to give the juvenile the information, strategies and support they need to overcome those barriers.
2. Financial Literacy needs to be a top focus, as the number one reason why young adults drop out during the first two years of school is their inability to manage finances.
3. Bridging the gap with the community is a priority. Ms. Phelps advises "It takes everybody to work together to get this done." Team work and collaboration are essential. The situations that are successful are multi-disciplinary efforts that involve not just the juvenile and reentry specialist; but the facility correctional counselor, teachers, the community supervision officer, and often the parent or guardian. Without the follow up in the community, they may not follow through with that job interview, or they may reconnect with the old circle of friends that led to previous problems.

KDOC offers two opportunities each year for staff that work with juvenile or adult offenders to attend Offender Workforce Development Specialist (OWDS) training and become certified. You do not have to be an employee of the KDOC and there is no cost to attend. The next class is scheduled to start in January, 2017. For more information on OWDS training in Kansas contact Jim Chastain at Jim.Chastain@doc.ks.gov For more information on KDOC OWDS resources, [click here . . .](#) or for the introduction module of OWDS training [click here . . .](#)

For now, the Job Lady and the Gear Up Lady are going to continue to serve the juveniles at KJCC and reach out into the community. It's like the Job Lady says – "Success begets success".

For more information on the reentry program at KJCC contact Stephanie Gregory at Stephanie.Gregory@doc.ks.gov or Abigail Phelps at Abigail.Phelps@doc.ks.gov.

Juvenile Reentry Programing – On the Web

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF CORRECTIONS

Reconnecting Justice: Pathways to Effective Reentry through Education and Training

[Click here . . .](#)

YOUTH.GOV

Reentry

[Click here . . .](#)

THE NEWS & OBSERVER

NC Prison System to Focus on Getting Inmates Ready for Reentry

[Click here . . .](#)

JUVENILE JUSTICE INFORMATION EXCHANGE

Mentor, Live-in Center Crucial for Reentry Young People

[Click here . . .](#)

CENTER ON JUVENILE AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Placement Diversion and Reentry Program

[Click here . . .](#)

THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

Juvenile Reentry

[Click here . . .](#)

OJJDP – JOURNAL OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

Reducing Juvenile Recidivism Through Specialized Reentry Services

[Click here . . .](#)

OJJDP – Journal of Juvenile Justice – Fall, 2016

Reducing Juvenile Recidivism Through Specialized Reentry Services: A Second Chance Act Project

Developing an Alternative Juvenile Programming Effort to Reduce Detention Overreliance

Variations in Juvenile Offending in Louisiana: Demographic, Behavioral, Geographic, and School-Related Predictors

Factors Associated with Turnover Decision Making Among Juvenile Justice Employees: Comparing Correctional and Non-Correctional Staff

Childhood Adversity Among Court-Involved Youth: Heterogeneous Needs for Prevention and Treatment

Effectiveness of Culturally Appropriate Adaptations to Juvenile Justice Services [Read publication . . .](#)