

## Kansas News

### Closing of Larned Juvenile Correctional Facility both Emotional and Hopeful

The atmosphere was like both a reunion and a wake. There were hugs, tears, and emotional greetings between old friends. Men and women stood side by side, some holding back tears, but all with a sense of hopefulness Friday afternoon as staff of the Larned Juvenile Correctional Facility gathered for the closing ceremony of the facility. The facility which was dedicated in 2003 and could hold 128 youth is now permanently closed. [Read more . . .](#)

### Staff Say Farewell at Closing of Larned Juvenile Correctional Facility

Staff of Larned Juvenile Correctional Facility (LJCF) said goodbye as the doors of the facility were permanently closed on March 3. The facility capable of housing 128 male youth stood empty that afternoon. [Read more . . .](#)

### New program for Juvenile Offenders Available Statewide

Therapists who can meet with families in their homes on evenings and weekends now are available to help kids who have been in trouble with the law to change their behavior, Gov. Sam Brownback and corrections officials announced in Salina on Wednesday. [Read more . . .](#)

### Governor Kicks off Juvenile Program in Salina

Governor Sam Brownback was in Salina on Wednesday to help kickoff a statewide effort geared toward troubled youth and their families. The governor and others celebrated Cornerstones of Care for providing a program of therapy and supervision as an alternative to removing youth from their homes or incarcerating them. [Read more and listen . . .](#)

### KDOC Celebrates Launch of Therapy Program for Juvenile Offenders in Salina

[Read more . . .](#)

### KDOC's Statewide Launch of FFT for Juvenile Offenders Now Underway

The event took place at the Finney County Department of Corrections, 607 W. Santa Fe St., and officials from the Kansas Department of Corrections and EmberHope, charged with administering FFT services to the region, gathered to discuss the merits of the program that launched Feb. 6. [Read more and watch video . . .](#)

### New Program Aims to Decrease Rates of Juvenile Criminal Activity

A new program for at-risk juvenile offenders in the criminal justice system was launched in 52 western Kansas counties and 29 northeastern counties last week. [Read more . . .](#)

### Kansas House Committee Advances Juvenile Justice Reforms

A Kansas House committee advanced a bill that would amend the state's juvenile justice policies — a year after lawmakers made sweeping changes to them. Last year's overhaul intended to create options other than incarceration for Kansas youth offenders. But the changes had some unintended consequences, said Rep. Russ Jennings. One example is that some crimes involving a gun, like a drive-by shooting, might only result in probation.

KCUR [Read more . . .](#)

KMUW [Read more . . .](#)

TOPEKA CAPITAL JOURNAL [Read more . . .](#)

GARDEN CITY TELEGRAM [Read more . . .](#)

## Human Trafficking

### Topeka Rescue Mission Director Addresses Human Trafficking

Rescue Mission Director and author of "In Darkness, a Light Still Shines" Barry Feaker, detailed the Rescue Mission's campaign to battle and stamp out Human Trafficking. Feaker defines the crimes as being perpetrated against people who are cultivated and used for profit. [Watch video . . .](#)

### Midwest, Rural Areas Not Immune to Sex Trafficking

Thousands of people are sold for sex in the United States each year. But \*where\* sex trafficking happens may surprise you. It's not just a big city problem. [Listen to report . . .](#)

## The Juvenile Justice Corner

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

### Skill Development Training for School Misconduct

A challenging puzzle takes commitment, persistence, the ability to envision, and at times, collaboration. The more pieces or complexities there are to the puzzle, the more likely the need for someone with expertise to help find that unique piece or complete that section of the puzzle. There are numerous pieces that are coming together to help fill in the broader picture of the changes with juvenile justice reform. It takes a tremendous amount of work and collaboration.

One of those pieces of the puzzle is in section 14 of **SB 367, (KSA 75-763)**, which requires the Attorney General, Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center (KLETC) and State Board of Education to collaborate to promulgate rules and regulations to create "skill development training for responding effectively to misconduct in school while minimizing student exposure to the juvenile justice system." This past fall, a public hearing was held and final approval was given for Permanent Administrative Regulations 16-16-1, 16-16-2 and 16-16-3. The Secretary of State published the adopted rules and regulations in the December 1, 2016 edition of the **Kansas Register** (page 1033).

Per those regulations, Kelly Shand-Adams, a police instructor with KLETC is leading the work through developing a training curriculum for School Resource Officers (SRO's) and school superintendents or designees. Ms. Shand-Adams desires to meet the statutory obligations while providing officers with more tools to deal with problem behaviors. She hopes to help officers obtain a greater understanding of what is going on behind the behavior while providing some effective interventions to help a youth with limited coping and social skills deal with their frustrations. In doing so and by utilizing trauma informed care approaches, the goal is to have Officers and Superintendents in a better position to connect with the youth while helping to make their lives better and playing an active role in the prevention of escalating situations. Ms. Shand-Adams hopes to begin the first training sessions this coming July. *Continued next page . . .*

## School Resource Officers and Juvenile Justice

### A Day in the Life of a School Resource Officer

In most communities, School Resource Officers deal with the High Schools. In Old Orchard Beach, Maine it's a little unique as officer Luke Porter works in the High School, the Middle School, and the Elementary School. [Watch the video . . .](#)

### Close the 'School to Prison Pipeline'

Maintaining discipline in the classroom can be a challenge for any teacher. And few things can harm other students' ability to focus and learn more than a particularly disruptive classmate. That much is clear. But it's far less clear when disruptive behavior crosses the line from a disciplinary infraction to a crime worthy of prosecution by the juvenile [Read more . . .](#)

## Kansas News

### Youth Art Month Competition

To commemorate the closing of Larned Juvenile Correctional Facility and celebrate Youth Art Month, Kansans United for Youth Justice has launched an art competition to raise awareness of juvenile justice reform in Kansas. The competition will feature original submissions in a variety of media from youth ages 10-22 who are asked to portray the theme of Youth Justice and a world where none of their peers are thrown behind bars. Winners in three age categories (10-13, 14-17, and 18-22) will receive a cash prize. Projects must be submitted by Friday, April 14th. More information on the competition, [click here](#).

### Youth Leadership Opportunity

We are still accepting referrals for former justice involved youth ages 18-22 who are motivated to become more involved in reform advocacy. If selected, they will join us in Washington D.C. on April 26-27 for a training with our national partner, Youth First. Airfare and lodging will be covered. Youth participants at this convening will be invited to participate in **Youth First Youth Voices**, a youth leadership and advocacy network, so that they can network with other youth involved in youth decarceration campaigns; regularly access leadership, advocacy and communications trainings.

The voices of young people should continually be elevated in the mission to reform our juvenile justice system. By sharing their firsthand knowledge of community programs and/or youth incarceration and what changes we need to make the youth justice system better, youth can play an even bigger role and influence not only members of our communities, but also policymakers. Please email [MConklin@KansasAppleseed.org](mailto:MConklin@KansasAppleseed.org) to refer any previously justice involved youth interested in developing their leadership and communication skills!

## Kansas News

The Kansas Department of Corrections – Juvenile Services and the Kansas Advisory Group announced that eight Title II Grants were awarded. The grants were financed through the Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). The Formula Grants Program supports state and local juvenile justice efforts. The Formula Grants Program is authorized under the JJDP Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 5601 et seq.). Awards were made to:

**Johnson County Department of Corrections**  
Burns Institute DMC Intensive Site Engagement (DMC)

**United Government of Wyandotte County / KC, KS**  
Youth Justice Service Center (DMC)

**Cowley County Youth Services**  
Electronic Monitoring Program (ATD)

**Northwest Kansas Juvenile Services**  
Electronic Monitoring Program (ATD)

**Reno County Community Corrections**  
Electronic Monitoring Program (ATD)

**Santa Fe Trail Community Corrections - Juvenile Services**  
House Monitoring Program (ATD)

In addition, two programs were awarded continuation funding for prevention programs:

**Big Brothers Big Sisters of Anderson & Franklin Counties**  
Mentoring Youth

**Gillis Center**  
Functional Family Therapy

## The Annie E. Casey Foundation

### Prosecutors Speak on Juvenile Justice Reform

The Texas Public Policy Foundation has released a report that suggests possible common ground for collaboration between prosecutors and others working to reform juvenile justice policy and practice. [New Prosecutorial Perspectives: A Framework for Effective Juvenile Justice](#) summarizes interviews with prosecutors who “have advocated for or advanced innovative practices in juvenile prosecution.” While the [Read more . . . .](#)

### Ohio County Expands Diversion for Youth with Misdemeanor Charges

The Casey Foundation awarded Lucas County, Ohio, which includes the city of Toledo, [a probation transformation grant](#) to test part of a new approach in juvenile probation. Casey believes that a significant percentage of those youth who would be customarily placed on probation would be better served if their cases were diverted from court. [Read more . . . .](#)

### Data on Youth Disconnection in America Today

Nearly 5 million young people between the ages of 16 and 24 aren’t working or in school — and young adults who fall on the higher end of this age range seem to be faring worse, according to the [Kids Count Data Center](#). Research indicates that disconnecting from work and school at an early age can have long-term financial consequences. These youth need academic and professional pathways to build skills and knowledge and reconnect with networks that can help them achieve financial stability and success. [Read more . . . .](#)

## Mental Health

### Guidelines for Successful Transition of People with Mental or Substance Use Disorders from Jail and Prison: Implementation Guide

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration ([SAMHSA](#)) has released a new guide providing behavioral health, correctional, and community stakeholders with approaches for effectively transitioning people with mental or substance use disorders from institutional correctional settings into the community. [To access the manual . . . .](#)

A webinar will be held on April 20, 2017, to walk stakeholders through the key elements of the guide. More webinar will run from 1:00 – 3:00 PM. [To register for the webinar . . . .](#)

### Engage, Involve, Empower: Family Engagement in Juvenile Drug Courts

Research has shown that family engagement during a youth’s time in the juvenile justice system helps to improve outcomes across behavioral health, education, and delinquency. To inform [this technical assistance brief](#), which explores the application of this knowledge in the juvenile drug treatment court context, [NCMHJJ](#) conducted a nationwide survey of professionals at juvenile drug treatment courts, juvenile mental health courts, and hybrid juvenile treatment courts to learn about attitudes and practices related to family engagement.

## The Juvenile Justice Corner continued from page 1

Another contributor is Derrick Ploutz, who currently serves as the Undersheriff of Haskell County, worked previously as an SRO, is the Attorney General’s designee on the Kansas Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee, is President of the Kansas Juvenile Officers Association, and is working with Ms. Shand-Adams of KLETC to provide support for the LEO curricula development. While he understands the position that a SRO is in, he sees tremendous benefits in providing SRO’s more insights and skills to work with at risk youth while not expecting the SRO to become a mental health expert. As SRO’s apply what they have learned and become more efficient, he is optimistic that they will become even better at prevention and “identifying kids that haven’t had a problem yet and prevent stuff that’s not on the radar yet”. As a LEO, Undersheriff Ploutz understands the demands on an officer and the demands for training, and although he sees these things as very important, he plans to continue to work with KLETC to develop a strategy that is sustainable to maintain over time while not overburdening the LEO.

Undersheriff Ploutz also is excited about the possibilities of future growth through collaboration. In some areas he believes that education administrators may be ahead in training to work with at risk youth. He is hopeful that by bringing school superintendent’s or designee’s and SRO’s/LEO’s to the same table at shared training events, partnerships will be created and enhanced between schools and law enforcement. By expanding the use of positive discipline while creating a community policing culture within the school that attempts to reduce negative law enforcement interactions and arrests, students and education will be better served.

Ms. Shand-Adams agrees with Undersheriff Ploutz. When you get past the state statutes, the administrative regulations, the technical aspects of the training, and all the strategies, it comes down to one thing. As Ms. Shand-Adams stated, “it’s about people who work with kids having a better understanding of kids”. When you get right down to it, with effective collaboration, those pieces of that complex puzzle can start fitting together nicely to create improved and safer outcomes for youth, families, schools, and communities.

## Juvenile Justice Information Exchange

### ‘Get Tough,’ Another Positive Supreme Court Decision Drops

By Judge Steven Teske (Part 3 of 7)

Does anyone want the rest of their life defined by what they did at 14? I don’t think so, and neither does our Supreme Court. We have come a long way since the first juvenile court in 1899. I have compared our juvenile justice journey to a roller coaster ride of highs and lows, and to the [Read more . . . .](#)

### Jerome Miller Got the Revolution Started

By Judge Steven Teske (Part 4 of 7)

There has been a revolution brewing among stakeholders of all juvenile justice walks for years, and I think it has arrived. Some may say it began with the first juvenile court in 1899. Others may say it was the [In re Gault](#) decision [Read more . . . .](#)

### Why Offering Job Options to Adolescents Is Crucial for Them, Community

One of the most consistent recommendations to come out of report after report on fatal confrontations between youth and law enforcement has been the need for jobs. Increasing both adult and youth employment options is seen as essential to the mix of solutions needed to stabilize communities [Read more . . . .](#)

### Organizations That Provide Creative Escape from Prison Start to Connect

Life prospects appeared bleak for 17-year-old Terrance Williams on a quiet Saturday in the spring of 2013. He was facing years in prison on charges of armed burglary. This was just the latest setback in a rough and tumble Philadelphia childhood that had taught him that the only way [Read more . . . .](#)

## National News

### A Judge Saw Potential, and Saved My Life

I was 15 when we snuck alcohol from a friend’s parents liquor cabinet. I was only 16 when I started smoking marijuana, and eventually, I tried this little pain pill the doctors prescribed. I never thought I’d lose the honors classes, sports, friendships; my future; to heroin, but by 17 I had. [Read more . . . .](#)

### Some States Still Sending Teens to Adult Prisons

In most states, 18 is the age when you are seen as an adult in the eyes of the law, for better or for worse. Sometimes it’s good, like when you want to get a tattoo and not have your parents sign for it. But breaking the law means you could be arrested and summoned to appear in criminal court, where your newly minted adulthood might mean a harsher punishment. Yet in a [handful of states](#) you’re considered an adult in the justice system even before you turn 18. [Read more . . . .](#)