

Kansas News

KJCC Holds Graduation Ceremony

Lawrence Gardner High School (LGHS) at the **Kansas Juvenile Correctional Complex** (KJCC) held its semi-annual graduation ceremony on December 20, 2019 with 17 juveniles participating in the ceremony in front of a gymnasium filled with family members of the graduates, juveniles at the facility, LGHS teachers/staff and KJCC staff.

Steve Backman, LGHS Principal and Mrs. McDonald, LGHS Academic Coordinator awarded graduate MH with the Marge Page merit scholarship. Backman stated that MH "had done everything she said she was going to do when she got here, we are very proud of her."

A commencement address was provided by Sean Gates, a graduate of LGHS in 2001 and a former resident of KJCC (known previously as Topeka Juvenile Correctional Facility). Gates currently works in Wichita Schools as a counselor. Gates shared with the graduates and audience that 18 years ago when he was at TJCF he did not know what he was going to do with his life, but he leaned early on to not let others tell him what he couldn't do. By taking stock of what you are doing and living in the moment (not dwelling on the past), that he was able to develop a plan for himself and set goals. Gates stated that "Statistically speaking, every one of you (the Juvenile Offenders present) is likely to end up in prison – but the difference is – on whether you will be successful or not – is the person who sets goals".

Gates encouraged the youth present to "believe in yourself, have faith, and while you are here, take advantage of your opportunities you have every day, and to be the best you can be". He advised the youth "do not let your environment determine what you can be, you (need to) determine that." Finally, Gates encouraged the youth to appreciate the people in their lives. He suggested that the youth during this holiday season to "reach out to your parents, parents set goals, above and beyond . . . they want you to do better". "Make sure you call your parents, tell them you love them".

New Faces at Central Offices

Nate Wallace is the Immediate Intervention Specialist for KDOC-JS. Nate comes to central offices from Valeo Behavioral Health in Topeka where he served as a Team Leader in Valeo's Crisis Diversion Unit. Prior to working at Valeo, Nate worked at the Kansas Juvenile Correctional Complex where he has served as a Unit Team Manager and a Corrections Counselor II. Nate stated "I am super excited to be a small part of a great team at central office in the juvenile service division. Being given the opportunity to serve as the Immediate Intervention Specialist is amazing and I look forward to getting my shoes on and hitting the ground running. I can't wait to see what exciting things are being done across the state and what great ideas are waiting to be explored as we begin on this journey." Nate can be contacted at 785-746-7472 or nathan.wallace@ks.gov. Welcome Nate!

Update on Central Office Phone Numbers Changing

There has been a delay involving KDOC Central Offices switching over to the CenturyLink phone system. As a result, the phone numbers of KDOC-JS staff will not be changing until February. We will keep you updated as we learn more. We apologize for any confusion or inconvenience that this has caused.

2010 Code Books Available Online – Update

The 2019 JO and CINC Code Books are now available online through the Office of Judicial Administration website.

Juvenile Justice 2019 Code Book [Click here . . .](#)
Child in Need of Care 2019 Code Book [Click here . . .](#)

Pew Charitable Trusts

How State Reform Efforts Are Transforming Juvenile Justice

Since 2012, a growing number of states have used data and research to inform sweeping policy changes that aim to improve juvenile justice systems. Their efforts include prioritizing use of detention and out-of-home placement for youth who present the greatest public safety risk, limiting the length of their confinement, reinvesting taxpayer savings to expand access to evidence-based services, and supporting community-based interventions for lower-level offenses. These changes reflect a growing body of research [Read more . . .](#)

Dual Systems: Justice/Welfare System Youth

Challenges for Youth in Foster Care & the Justice System

Youth who have been involved in both the *foster care and juvenile justice system* have higher rates of mental health illness and substance use disorder than kids who weren't in foster care, according to a new state report. The research, released recently by the **Washington State Institute for Public Policy** (WSIPP), sheds light on the unique challenges facing youth in child welfare. Kids who have been incarcerated may be more likely to have undesirable outcomes, but those impacts were significantly [Read more . . .](#)

To access the report [Click here . . .](#)

Kansas News

Oversight Panel Reports Kansas Making Progress on Juvenile Justice Reform

The panel monitoring juvenile justice reform in Kansas released a new report Thursday that documented progress in the third year of a transition to consistent methods of handling offenders within their communities, while acknowledging challenges with reinvesting millions of dollars of savings into proven interventions.

The 2016 Legislature ordered overhaul of the state's approach amid criticism that youths were too frequently removed from the home and sent to residential facilities or correctional institutions. Reformers pressed for adoption of standard practices capable of avoiding geographically inconsistent outcomes. Others insisted on evidence-based programs backed by enough money to address troubled youths early and cut recidivism. [Read more . . .](#)

2020 DOC-Juvenile Services Training Schedule

New Employee Kansas Detention Assessment Instrument (KDAI) Training

Topeka (KJCC)	Wednesday	January 15 th
Salina	Thursday	February 13 th
Times	10 am – 4:00 pm	

All intake workers, supervisors and anyone who approves intakes and placement decisions must be trained in administering the KDAI. These trainings are reserved for intake workers and supervisors. For more information on KDAI training or to register contact Steve Bonner at steven.bonner@ks.gov.

Juvenile Justice Basics

Location – Sedgwick County Juvenile Field Services, 3803 E Harry, Suite 125, Wichita
Date Tuesday February 4 9 am – 5 pm
To Enroll Email KDOC_JS_Training@ks.gov
Participants name, agency, position, phone #, email address and supervisor's name.

Effective Practices in Correctional Settings II/Graduated Responses (EPICS II/GR)

Location - Youth & Family Services Center; 920 W Spruce, Olathe, KS
Dates - Tuesday Jan. 28 8:30 am – 5 pm
Wednesday Jan. 29 8:30 am – 5 pm
Thursday Jan. 30 8:30 am – 12 pm

To Enroll - Email KDOC_JS_Training@ks.gov
Participants name, agency, position, phone #, email address and supervisor's name.

For more information contact KDOC_JS_Training@ks.gov

New Officer YLS/CMI Training (includes Case Planning):

Note - Prior to attending YLS/CMI, you must complete the *Juvenile Justice Basics* class

Location – Topeka Parole Office, 2029 SW Western, Topeka
Dates Tuesday Feb. 11 8:30 am – 5 pm
Wednesday Feb. 12 8:30 am – 5 pm
Thursday Feb. 13 8:30 am – 5 pm

To Enroll - Email KDOC_JS_YLSCMI@ks.gov
Participants name, agency, position, phone #, email address and supervisor's name.

For more information contact KDOC_JS_YLSCMI@ks.gov

Mental Health Training Curriculum – Juvenile Justice (MHTC-JJ)

KJCC - The Mental Health Training Curriculum – Juvenile Justice (MHTC-JJ) will be available for new employees from Judicial Districts to attend at Kansas Juvenile Correction Complex as a part of KJCC's new employee orientation.

To inquire about upcoming trainings or if you have questions please contact Lt. Johnathon Ashley at johnathon.ashley@ks.gov or 785-354-9820. KJCC will have MHTC-JJ training as a part of their basic training for new employees approximately every four weeks.

The Juvenile Justice Corner

Jim Johnson, Program Consultant
DOC - Juvenile Community Based Services

In mid-December PBS aired a special titled **The Pushouts** which "tells the story of millions of young people in the U.S. referred to as "dropouts" who, more often than not, are pushed out of school for reasons beyond their control." As young people deal with the difficult realities they face in their lives, they often become less involved with the education system while increasing their vulnerabilities to have contact with police, become involved with violence, have contact with the child welfare system or have involvement with the juvenile/criminal justice system. Some refer to this as the school to prison pipeline.

The Pushouts features **Dr. Victor Rios**, who faced his own challenges as a youth and now focuses his life on the current generation of youth who are struggling like he once did. Dr. Rios focuses on educational issues, sociology and restorative justice. He encourages others to reframe the adversities they face and the negative messages they receive into opportunities to create stories of personal success and resilience. Through the process, young people begin to learn how to believe in themselves while building confidence.

The Pushouts will be available on the PBS web-site through 1/17/2020 and can be accessed [at this link . . .](#)

Dr. Victor Rios gave a TED talks presentation that can be viewed [at this link . . .](#)

Juvenile Justice Information Exchange

The Contrariness of Plea Bargaining in Juvenile Courts

By Judge Steven Teske

Some things I just don't get. I get it that the fastest runner doesn't always win the race and the strongest doesn't always win the battle. I get it that chance can decide outcomes. And when chance is the deciding factor, it seems unfair to the fastest and the strongest, but welcome to the underdog. What I don't get is when doing what is right for kids is left to chance. [Read more . . .](#)

Prosecutors Champion Legitimate, Meaningful Justice Reforms

As a career prosecutor I have spent the better part of 45 years working in all areas of the criminal justice system. I started as a juvenile court prosecutor at a time when our juvenile justice system was not nearly as adversarial as it is now but rather seemed more interested, as such cases are legally styled, in the best interest of the child. [Read more . . .](#)

My Brother's Use of Gun Created Lasting Childhood Wounds

I have zero experience with guns. Other than using a water gun at the local fair to win a prize, I never held a gun, shot a gun or even seen a real gun in person. In my world, guns exist in movies and should only be carried by law enforcement. I know that guns in America have been a sensitive issue due to all the mass shootings. I also know that guns are used for hunting, but for me, I'm a city guy, so when I think of guns, guns are generally used by the wrong people for the wrong things. [Read more . . .](#)

Washington 'State-raised' Inmates from Foster Care Urge Better Youth Support

Inevitable. That's how winding up in prison felt for a group of former foster youth — now adults who are imprisoned at Monroe Correctional Complex in **Washington** state. The men, who are part of the prison's "state-raised working group," convened a half-day conference last week to explore how to sever the pipeline they say delivers too many from foster care to prison. The state, as the de facto parent of foster children, must do a better job protecting, nurturing and educating their [Read more . . .](#)

Helping Others Heal Is More Powerful Than a Bullet

The losses of life, the endless pain and suffering, the thousands of lives sent to prison, fatherless and motherless children and worst of all a parent having to bury their child. Going back into my life I'll never forget the tragedy that came with the first time I heard gunshots and then saw the horrific wreckage. Two people died that night, one a man I didn't know and the other a best friend of mine. I wasn't shot, I didn't pull the trigger, but the bullets tore through my heart and soul. I remember sitting next to my best friend who was laying there dead with [Read more . . .](#)

We Connected Former Gang Members, Clergy, Community and Police to Fight Violence

In the city of **Stockton, Calif.**, gun violence was already notably on the rise in 2011 because of a series of compounding circumstances. First, there were cutbacks in law enforcement due to a city budget crisis. There were turf wars between gangs due to mass migration from the San Francisco Bay Area as a result of the rise in rent and a loss of affordable housing. Finally, there was a lack of community witnesses and crime reporting due to lack of trust in law enforcement officers. [Read more . . .](#)

California Leaders Embrace Youth Voices, but Miss Opportunity for Major Reform

The **California** Legislature ended its 2019 session by passing several juvenile justice reforms that will increase protections for youth and place much-needed limits on harmful system overreach. These legislative victories are due, in large part, to the leadership of youth and community advocates who have closely engaged in the legislative process and [Read more . . .](#)

Our Jacksonville Partnerships, Social Structure Help Give People Second Chances

When we began our journey to rebuild broken urban communities in our city, Jacksonville, Fla., 20 years ago, little did we know that we would become an important part of a powerful national movement - reframing how we look at crime, incarceration and poverty. We have learned that the role poverty plays in the conversation of criminal justice reform is far understated. Incarceration adversely impacts already disadvantaged communities by weakening [Read more . . .](#)

Trauma-informed Care in Juv. Detention Is Not Enough

While **Florida** has taken steps toward integrating trauma-informed practices in the juvenile justice system, the state needs to reconsider its treatment of youth. Notably, utilizing trauma-informed care in the juvenile justice system, while necessary, is not sufficient - prevention should be the goal, with trauma-informed services implemented in all child-involved systems. [Read more . . .](#)

Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators

South Dakota's Juvenile Justice Landscape

In 2013 **South Dakota** had the second highest juvenile commitment rate in the country, despite our juvenile violent crime rate being 1/3 the national average. We were spending a significant amount of the state's juvenile justice budget on out of home placements, sending youth to costly state run and private facilities, all with a poor return on investment. Nearly half of our kids who released from any type of facility returned to custody within [Read more . . .](#)

National News

California Can Lead the Nation in Science-based Juvenile Justice Solutions

California's juvenile justice system has evolved as we have learned more about brain development, the effects of adverse childhood experiences and social, emotional, and mental health needs of our young people. While ensuring community safety, we have moved away from the old norms of an overly punitive system to one that follows research and science to fulfill the [Read more . . .](#)

Policymakers Ordering Review of State Juvenile Justice

Pennsylvania policymakers announced a task force that will take a broad look at the state's juvenile justice system in hopes of improving the results it produces. Legislative leaders and Gov. Tom Wolf announced formation of the group at a news conference, giving it nearly a year to issue recommendations about how to make people safer, improve accountability and save tax dollars. Its members will be appointed by Wolf, the court system and the Legislature. House Majority Leader Bryan Cutler, R-Lancaster, said the concept is to use data and [Read more . . .](#)

Maine Voices: Spend Juvenile-Justice Money on Maine's Youth, Not Prisons

Right now, the Maine Juvenile Justice Assessment and Reinvestment Task Force is holding critical discussions about the future of our state's young people. But they are leaving behind an essential voice in the conversations: youth like us who have firsthand experience of the system. Although there are two young people represented on the task force, far too often [Read more . . .](#)

Plan for New Juvenile Justice Agency in Peril

Hopes for a new state agency to house and treat children who run afoul of the law were significantly dimmed after a key lawmaker came out against the plan Friday. "I'm just not in support of creating a new agency or a new branch or a new division or anything," said Rep. Toni Walker, a New Haven (**CN**) Democrat who is also the co-chair of the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee. "I think we need to work [Read more . . .](#)

Reporting for Work Where You Reported for Probation

One afternoon in October, Abdul Malik was sitting just inside the entrance of a New York City Probation Department building in the South Bronx when he recognized a young man coming in and beckoned him over. Like many people passing through the building, the teen had been arrested and sentenced to probation and had come for a mandatory check-in with his [Read more . . .](#)

NFL Players Sound Off on CJ Reform for Young People

In the lead up to the 2020 presidential election, criminal justice reform has emerged as a key priority for many Americans - and candidates across the political spectrum have taken note. But one crucial consideration is missing from these conversations: the urgent need to transform the youth justice system. As former and current NFL players, we strive to use our [Read more . . .](#)

The Juvenile Justice System Needs Reform

In October, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer signed into law a bill decreeing that **Michigan's** court system will no longer automatically treat 17-year-old offenders as adults. Unless the district attorney wants to try the defendant as an adult, which it reserves the right to do, juvenile courts will handle the cases. This is a victory for proponents of criminal justice reform, and it is not the only way in which the juvenile system has improved. In the past 20 years, the population of incarcerated [Read more . . .](#)

Delaware County Assessment Center Steers Kids Away from Juvenile Court System

The Assessment Center in Delaware County (**Ohio**) aims to keep kids from getting into the juvenile court system. It will provide youth, who are referred to the Assessment Center, with a series of assessments and screenings to determine what resources would benefit for the youth and their family, and it's funded entirely by a [Read more and watch video . . .](#)

Changes in Juvenile Justice Laws Coming

At the Nov. 11 meeting of the Roxboro Kiwanis Club at La Piazza restaurant in Uptown Roxboro (**NC**), Ronnie Dunevant, director of Roots and Wings, updated the club on the activities of this program. He expressed his appreciation for the support of the club, and reminded those in attendance that the organization believes that every child should have the roots to grow and the wings to fly. It operates a parenting class for adults [Read more . . .](#)