

## Kansas News

### Roger Werholtz Named Interim Secretary of KDOC

Newly elected Governor **Laura Kelly** named **Roger Werholtz** as interim secretary of the Kansas Department of Corrections. His appointment took effect on January 14, 2019. Werholtz succeeded **Joseph Norwood**, who was named Corrections Secretary by former Gov. **Sam Brownback** in 2016. Werholtz was Secretary of Corrections from 2002 to 2010 and previously had been Deputy Secretary of Corrections. Werholtz has asked former KDOC Secretaries **Keven Pellant** and **Chuck Simmons** to serve on the KDOC Management Team on an interim basis. Pellant served as KDOC's Interim Secretary (2011), Deputy Secretary and as a Warden. Simmons served as KDOC's Secretary (1994 – 2002), Deputy Secretary, Warden and as Chief Legal Counsel.

### KJCC Holds Joint Graduation Ceremony

**Lawrence Gardner High School** (LGHS) at the **Kansas Juvenile Correctional Complex** (KJCC) held its semi-annual graduation ceremony on December 21, 2018 with 24 juveniles receiving high school diplomas in front of a gymnasium filled with family members and mentors of the graduates, juveniles at the facility, LGHS teachers/staff, KJCC staff, and representatives from the State Departments of Education and Corrections. This was the first graduation that included male and female graduates together in the same ceremony. The day before, in a separate ceremony 33 juveniles received program certificates from **Washburn University Institute of Technology**. [Read more . . .](#)

### Fort Hays State, K-State Partner on Juvenile Justice

A team from Fort Hays State University is partnering with the K-State Juvenile Justice Collaborative on a project awarded funding by the Kansas Department of Corrections and the Kansas Advisory Group (KAG). The project, titled "**Our Town, Our Kids**", aims to work with local communities in developing support systems for youth and families in order to prevent youth from entering the juvenile justice system and to provide services that maximize their chances of leading productive, successful lives. [Read more . . .](#)

## 2019 DOC-Juvenile Services Training Schedule

### New Employee Kansas Detention Assessment Instrument (KDAI) Training:

Salina	Tuesday	Feb. 13 <sup>th</sup>
Topeka	Thursday	March 14 <sup>th</sup>
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 Crystal Trout at [crystal.trout@ks.gov](mailto:crystal.trout@ks.gov)

### Juvenile Justice Basics:

Location – KHP 2025 E Iron, Salina  
 Date Wednesday February 6 9 am – 5 pm  
 To Enroll Email [michelle.montgomery@ks.gov](mailto:michelle.montgomery@ks.gov)  
 Participants name, agency, position, phone #,  
 email address and supervisor's name.

## JJDPDA Reauthorization Act of 2018

### Juvenile Justice Reform Introduced at the Capitol

Justice reform, particularly juvenile justice reform is on the minds of many Lawmakers. Two bills were introduced in the North Dakota House this session. Both will affect Mandan's Youth Correctional Center. House bill 1039 would change the age someone can be prosecuted and sent to the correction center from 7 to 10 years old. [Read more and watch video . . .](#)

*USA Today*

### Placing Juveniles in Solitary Confinement Doesn't Fix Them – In Fact – It makes them Worse

[Read article . . .](#)

*National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges*

### NCJFCJ Judges Applauds Updated Law to Modernize and Improve Federal Juvenile Justice System

[Read article . . .](#)

*Equal Justice Initiative*

### New Bill Bans States from Holding Children in Adult Jails

[Read article . . .](#)

*Annie E. Casey Foundation*

### Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 2018 Affirms Protections for Young People

[Read article . . .](#)

*Juvenile Law Center*

### After Years of Advocacy, JJPDA Finally Reauthorized

[Read article . . .](#)

## Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators

### Kansas Continues to See Success of Juvenile Justice Reforms

Following two years of vigorous study and debate, Kansas passed comprehensive juvenile justice reforms in 2016. More than two years later, state officials examining performance measures see indicators of success across the system, as the narrower use of out-of-home placements allows cost savings from bed reduction to be redirected toward evidence-based programs that reduce recidivism, promote accountability, and demonstrate better outcomes. The bipartisan Kansas [Read more . . .](#)

### The Juvenile Justice Corner

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

### January is National Mentorship Awareness Month

How do you measure success? Ken Davis, director of the Kansas Department of Corrections – Juvenile Services **Mentoring 4 Success** program measures success "one kid at a time". For Davis, the challenge is finding the unique attributes in a youth and an adult mentor that have the potential to develop into something special. He has seen the evidence that when a youth and mentor's match works, **it changes lives for the better.**

After nearly five years and overseeing over 400 matches, Davis has learned to look beyond the here and now. Success takes place when a youth is able to grow, learn and find ways to deal with the challenges and adversities they face in life. Like any typical youth, sometimes the youth Davis pairs with an adult mentor may struggle or insist on "learning the hard way". But the right mentor with support from case managers, supervision officers or community service organizations can provide the support that promotes healthy development while emphasizing the youth's strengths. For youth who do not leave the community, it can aid them in reducing the impact of negative influences and risk factors while providing them connectedness, supervision, guidance and the hope they need for a better future. For youth that have been incarcerated in a detention center or corrections facility, mentorship can provide all the above plus that critically important bridge to successful community reintegration.

With all the successes Davis has seen, he is genuinely excited about the future. As the only staff implementing the Mentoring 4 Success program for youth, he has been unable to provide the level of support needed across the state to support the growth he envisions. A second staff member will soon be added to work with Davis and help him to spread and grow the program. Davis wants to create more partnerships within every Judicial District. He wants to involve more local staff while engaging community-based organizations as partners. Ultimately, he wants to support more matches in all 105 Kansas counties.

Davis is aware of the **benefits of mentoring youth**. He sees the desire a youth and potential adult mentor have to "find the right match". Through developing collaborative relationships and involving professionals in the community such as case managers, community corrections staff, judges etc., he can help make successful connections "one kid at a time". If you have any questions, referrals or want to develop your mentoring program locally, you can contact Davis at [ken.davis@ks.gov](mailto:ken.davis@ks.gov) or call 785-249-6341.

## Kansas News – Mentoring in Kansas

### Mentors Stress Importance of Getting Youth Involved in Programs

Last year was one of the deadliest years in recent history in Wichita. Of the more than 40 killed, a handful were just children. The most recent, a 16-year-old boy was killed while police say he was robbing a convenience store. It's something that hits hard for those who spend their time working to keep kids out of trouble. "It just made me sad because we are young, and it just makes me think like who is next," [Read more and watch video . . .](#)

## Kansas Schools – Impacting Juvenile Justice

### 'We Want Our Kids to be in School': Wichita Continues Efforts to Curb Suspensions

Wichita school officials say they don't plan to back away from efforts to curb student suspensions and expulsions, even after the Trump Administration rolled back guidelines aimed at reducing racial discrimination in school discipline. "It's pretty simple, really: We want our kids to be in school, because if they're not in school, they're not learning," said Wichita Superintendent [Read more . . .](#)

### School Leaders Must Learn – and Teach – Facts of Incarceration

*By Tiffany Anderson, Superintendent, Topeka Public Schools.*  
 The New Year is always a time to reflect, renew and refocus. As an educator, my reflections focus on removing the oppression that prevent students from accessing the high quality of education all students deserve. As the first female school superintendent in Topeka, Kansas, as a [Read more . . .](#)

## Human Trafficking - Kansas

### 'It's Really about You, Cause Help is Here': New Resources in Wichita to Combat Human Trafficking

Human trafficking cases are on the rise in Wichita. It has local leaders pushing for more awareness. KSN spoke with them and a survivor to see what's being done to end the problem. They say with more education on human trafficking, they are finding more victims. We were introduced to two new programs that are making a difference in survivors' [Read more and watch video . . . .](#)

## Human Trafficking - National

### Atlanta Superintendent: Super Bowl to 'Super-size' Risk of Child Sex Trafficking

As Atlanta readies for the Super Bowl, the school system is amping up efforts to train teachers and inform [Read more . . . .](#)

### Louisiana Gets \$1.2M Federal Grant to Fight HT

Louisiana is getting some federal help in its fight against the nation's fastest-growing criminal industry: human trafficking. The U.S. Department of Justice [Read more and watch video . . . .](#)

## Human Trafficking Awareness Month

*Idealist Careers*

### How You Can Help End Human Trafficking

[Read article . . . .](#)

*Henry Ford Health Systems*

### Henry Ford Nurse Steps Up to Fight Human Trafficking

[Read article . . . .](#)

*WMC Channel 5 – Memphis, TN*

### Human Trafficking Prevention to be Taught in San Diego Schools

[Read article and watch video . . . .](#)

## Annie E. Casey Foundation

### Rewriting the Playbook; Reducing Juvenile Delinquency

There is a growing body of evidence that identifies effective interventions that get young people back on track. These developmentally appropriate strategies support [Read more . . . .](#)

### Kids Deserve Better: Why Juvenile Detention Reform Matters

Detention is a pivotal decision point in the juvenile justice process. It takes youth who are awaiting a court [Read more . . . .](#)

## Juvenile Justice Information Exchange

### Engaging the Families of Youth in Custody: An Essential Goal for Juvenile Justice Practitioners

With a new year upon us, now is the ideal time for juvenile justice practitioners to reflect upon their work and set goals for the months to come. In our view, arguably no objective in juvenile justice practice is as important as the engagement of families of system-involved youth. This is especially the case for the tens of thousands of youth placed in residential facilities all across the country who are separated from their loved ones. In the past few decades [Read more . . . .](#)

### How to Empower Justice-Involved Youth Leaders

Across the youth justice community, the leadership and expertise of justice-involved youth remains untapped or is utilized in ways that disempower and mirror the exploitative systems that we, as advocates, seek to dismantle. If we, as a [Read more . . . .](#)

### California Is Becoming a Model of Juvenile Justice Reform, Thanks to Progressive Legislation

California has evolved from having one of the most draconian, costly juvenile justice systems to becoming a model of reform. There is still progress to be made, but the last few years of legislative gains are encouraging. Under a [Read more . . . .](#)

### Making Sense of an Utterly Senseless World

As I try to grapple with the effects of PTSD and other effects of trauma I wanted to paint a very vivid picture of what a soul on fire looks like and feels like. Through poetry I am able to do this, so far after the actual experience of living in hell and chaos. I try to make sense of the flashbacks and paranoia that still plague me today and still affect me in so many areas of [Read more . . . .](#)

### Data Collection, Sharing Crucial in Developing School-justice Partnerships

The [National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges](#) released a bulletin last October that details the importance of data in developing effective school-justice partnerships. In the [report](#), NCJFCJ laments that "poor data collection and management strategies" often hamper the effectiveness of school-justice partnerships aimed at disrupting the school-to-prison-pipeline. Those familiar with the Clayton, Ga., model of developing school-justice partnerships know [Read more . . . .](#)

## National News

### Public, Leaders, Talk Juvenile Justice

More programs to help prison inmates transition out of incarceration, to encourage parents to get involved in their children's lives and to try to keep youth offenders from committing more crime were some of the suggestions to state Sen. Keith Perry at the Black on Black Crime Task Force meeting Thursday night. Perry, R-Gainesville (Florida), is chairman of the Senate's criminal justice committee and met with the task force to discuss ideas for new [Read more . . . .](#)

### New 'Youth Assessment Center' Designed to Keep Kids Out of Shelby County Juvenile Detention

Shelby County (Tennessee) Commissioners approved \$500,000 for a new Youth Assessment Center. The center, which is designed to reduce the number of teenagers who committed low level crimes going into the juvenile court system. Mayor Lee Harris and commissioners have made reforming *juvenile justice system* teens [Read more and watch video . . . .](#)

### Special Ed Students More Likely to Receive Harsher Punishments in School

Throughout much of Texas, students who receive special education services are more likely to be given some of the harshest punishments in schools, according to an analysis of Texas Education Agency data. Since the 2013-2014 school year, special education students statewide have [Read more . . . .](#)

### State Officials Praise New Laws to Help People with Mental Health Issues

State court officials are commending state lawmakers for passing and the governor for signing laws Friday that should improve mental-health care for adults and juveniles. Michigan State Court Administrator Milton L. Mack Jr., is pleased with three bills to reform the state mental health code to allow for earlier treatment of individuals who need mental health care services prior to a crisis involving the criminal justice system, state court administrative officials said in a news release [Read more . . . .](#)

### Juvenile Diversion Keeps Kids Out of Court and Away from Crime

*The diversion program recruits community volunteers to oversee local juvenile cases.*

King County's Juvenile Court system has an inventive way of improving the community, helping youth and saving the court's time and money throughout the year. The Juvenile Diversion program is a way for juvenile offenders (in Washington) to have their case heard in an informal setting rather than a court room. Part of the court's Partnership for Youth Justice program, the diversion program has found success on the [Read more . . . .](#)

### Ramsey County's Big Data Plans Under Fire as Profiling

A project calling for the use of data to identify students who could someday run afoul of the law may be in jeopardy. Opposition is growing among critics who say the St. Paul (Minn.) area effort — designed to help steer kids from the criminal justice system — could racially profile children as "future criminals" through the use of information they say is biased. [Read more . . . .](#)

### New Institute Focuses on Juvenile Justice, Trauma

A new institute at Keystone College (Penn.) aims to reduce juvenile incarceration and strengthen the community. The Keystone College Juvenile Justice Institute opened this fall in Harris Hall, providing real-life opportunities for students and help for area children. "For our students, it's great. It gives [Read more . . . .](#)

### Newsom plans to move California Juvenile Justice Division out of corrections department

California Gov. Gavin Newsom said Tuesday that he intends to shift control of the state's Juvenile Justice Division away from corrections officials to government health and human services providers, a move he called long overdue and necessary to build on past efforts to divert children and teens from a path to prison. Under the proposal, first unveiled as part of his January budget, the California Health and Human Services Agency would oversee more than 660 young offenders, the majority held at a camp in Pine Grove and three detention centers in Stockton [Read more . . . .](#)

### Juvenile Court Judges Consider Trauma's Effects

*Juvenile justice authorities estimate that more than 90 % of youths in the system have had at least one traumatic incident.*

The youth standing before family Court Judge Michael Howard in Stark County, Ohio, had achieved almost perfect attendance during his school career. Now, he was skipping school repeatedly, and Howard was preparing to launch into his [Read more . . . .](#)

### Pilot Program Aims to Keep Kids Out of Juvenile Justice System

When the Shelby County Youth Assessment Center launches next year, it will be part of a cultural shift aimed at changing the way authorities respond to juvenile offenders. The center, operated by the University of Tennessee Health Science Center, will provide services like trauma informed care [Read more . . . .](#)