

Kansas News

KJCC Hosts Open House

On March 15, 2019 the Kansas Juvenile Correctional Complex (KJCC) hosted an open house of three newly renovated areas of the old complex. The three building that were renovated were previously used as living units prior to KJCC occupying the new complex in 2005. Kanza living unit was converted into a spiritual life center, Pawnee living unit was converted into behavioral health offices and Shawnee living unit was converted into re-entry planning offices. All three buildings have areas for programming with youth.

Tours were provided by two KJCC youth. According to Wendy Leiker, KJCC Superintendent the two tour guides "did a fantastic job leading the tours today. It was also the first time they have ever worn suits. I wish everyone could have seen the looks of pride they had on their faces being able to do something that they have never done and having someone(s) take a chance on them. Hard to believe one of these JOs was spending quality time in RH (restricted housing) just a few short months ago. It truly takes a village and you are making a difference with them."

Youth Commentary: We Must Invest in Kansas' Youth

Youth justice in Kansas is at a crossroads. As young people who have directly experienced our broken youth justice system, we know its problems firsthand — which is why we were relieved when the state passed a comprehensive juvenile justice reform package, Senate Bill 367. But unfortunately, this law might never be given the chance to succeed. The law promotes a better approach to youth justice by creating a reinvestment fund that [Read more . . .](#)

Youth Commentary: Kansas Needs to Invest in Stable Housing and Job Training for its Youth

Every year, thousands of Kansas teens experience [homelessness](#), and many wind up becoming involved with law enforcement or the justice system. Fending for themselves without stable housing, food or other basic needs, it's not hard to imagine how they become a part of the [well-documented](#) homeless-to-juvenile-justice pipeline. [Read more . . .](#)

Once-troubled Teen Shares Insights with At-risk Kids

Joe Randolph's self-portrait can be spotted in a permanent mural in the entryway of Van Go Inc. at 715 New Jersey St. . . . Now 26, Joe lives in Shawnee and works at Johnson County Juvenile Services as a youth care adviser, connecting with teens who are going through some of the same struggles he experienced, including moving in and out of foster care. He contributes [Read more . . .](#)

Community Partners List

The KDOC-JS Partner Contact List has been recently updated and is now available on the KDOC website. The contact list includes Administrative Contacts and contacts for Supervision, the Immediate Intervention Program and Juvenile Intake and Assessment. [Click here . . .](#)

2019 Training Catalog Now Available Online

The 2019 KDOC-JS Training Catalog is now available online for staff who work in the juvenile justice field. The catalog includes a schedule of training offerings along with information for each training available to include a brief description, the target audience, delivery method, the dates/times/locations and any required prerequisites. Several trainings have unique requirements to pre-register in advance, so it is suggested to contact the KDOC staff listed for that training you are interested in. To access the Training Catalog, [Click here . . .](#)

As additional trainings are made available, KDOC-JS will provide updated information. In some cases, regional trainers will be in contact with supervisors of officers to provide registration instructions.

2019 DOC-Juvenile Services Training Schedule

New Employee Kansas Detention Assessment Instrument (KDAI) Training:

Salina	Tuesday	April 9 th
Topeka	Wednesday	May 15 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 Crystal Trout at crystal.trout@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.

Human Trafficking - Kansas

Survivor Shares the Warning Signs of HT Victims

A local survivor is on a mission to spread awareness about human trafficking and the role we all have in doing something to stop it. [Read more and watch video . . .](#)

The Juvenile Justice Corner

By Dustin Karr, Deputy Superintendent Kansas Juvenile Correctional Complex

It may not yet have been March, but basketball fever has been in full force at KJCC this winter!

Over the course of the past several months, and for the first time in recent memory, Lawrence Gardner High School (LGHS) staff and students have had the opportunity to be a part of the first school-sponsored basketball team inside of the Kansas Juvenile Correctional Complex (KJCC). Just like their peers in the community, youth participated in team tryouts, team practices, and had to maintain eligibility requirements based on their academic performance and meeting standards of appropriate behavior both inside and outside of the classroom. After weeks of team practices, the kids had the opportunity to play in three (3) inter-squad scrimmages. At each of these games, KJCC/LGHS staff along with general population youth of incentive level III/IV turned out to watch some good basketball and to support the players. Each of these three scrimmages were nail-biters and with each game, more and more excitement began to build toward the final game of the season. Rather than inter-scrimmage, this game saw the LGHS Lions take on the KJCC Graduates (current KJCC youth who have already graduated from school with their GED or High School Diploma). To add to the excitement and importance of this game, each of the players was able to invite their family members into the facility to watch them play and to have a short visit with them afterward. While the kids were over-the-moon excited to play in front of their family, this excitement was surpassed by the looks of pride that their family members had while they watched and cheered for their loved one!

As he reflected on the past several months and this team, LGHS Principal Steve Backman noted, "I cannot champion enough the efforts and support of everyone at KJCC for our inaugural LGHS basketball team. For a couple of months, there was a distinct difference in student attitudes and excitement in the school. Staff and students alike bantered throughout in good fun. Several students made positive remarks – even the student body as a whole seemed to enjoy watching the games as much as those participating. Ultimately, however, this could not have been possible without the vision and effort of Coach Matt Simmons and Coach Josh Wise. Their tireless efforts and passion for the students was exemplary. They set a standard that the students respected and enjoyed meeting. This was a wonderful accomplishment felt by all."

Over each of the four games, we saw incredible heart from the kids, witnessed fantastic displays of sportsmanship, and witnessed 15 individual guys come together as one PRIDE. **Go LGHS LIONS!**

KS Kids – Justice Involved Youth Making Strides

Editor's Note – Below is a sample of some of the many success stories of Kansas juvenile justice involved youth. If you have a story to share, contact Jim at james.johnson2@ks.gov.

A few months ago a youth at the Kansas Juvenile Correctional Complex (KJCC) approached Mentoring-4-Success Coordinator Ken Davis telling him he wanted a mentor. According to Davis, the youth "had a lot of issues at KJCC, was involved in fights, disturbances and verbal abuse". When Davis asked the youth why he wanted a mentor he replied "I need something different, I need someone to talk to." Davis assigned two Washburn University football players to mentor the youth. They started meeting. The mentors shared their stories with the youth and they listened. They established a good line of communications and trust.

As their relationship developed, the youth showed continuous improvement. When the time came for the youth to leave the facility, the mentors continued to meet with the youth in his home town of Kansas City. At first, things in the community and with his family were not going well. But the mentors kept meeting with the youth. After a home meeting with the youth and his mom that did not go very well, the mentors took the youth to the local junior college. The mentors again told their stories of how they transitioned from their adversities to each establishing a successful college career. They shared their personal hopes and dreams for the future. Davis stated that was a "magical moment" as the youth "began creating a vision of success for himself".

About a month later, the youth reached out to Davis. Davis went to Kansas City to meet with the youth and his mom, not knowing what may have gone wrong. The youth's mom was in tears. The youth had signed up for GED and Vo-tech classes at that same junior college he had visited with his mentors. Davis states that the youth's "attitude and demeanor had made a remarkable change". The mom's tears were tears of joy. The mom told Davis "Thank You – I finally get a win!" After all the frustrations and feeling like she had failed, the mom repeated "I finally get a win! I was tired of losing my boys." Davis summarized this youth's situation with his mom and their mentors as "a measurement of success, one kid at a time."

Human Trafficking - Kansas

Kansas State Board of Education Learns About HT

At a monthly meeting of the Kansas State Board of Education on Tuesday, members were brought face to face with facts surrounding human trafficking in the state. Jennifer Montgomery, director for human trafficking education and outreach with the [Read more . . .](#)

Kansas News – Family Resilience

CPPR - KU Center for Public Partnerships and Research

[Our Tomorrows: Sharing Your Story to Help Build a Better Tomorrow](#)

Every day, we hear stories of resilient families that have bounced back from great challenges. Stories of hope...and stories of struggle. Through these stories we are gathering nuggets of wisdom about the ways in which things could, and should, be going better...to make Our Tomorrows brighter.

Through [Our Tomorrows](#), you get the opportunity to share and reflect, and we get to hear your unique perspective. Using a story-based research tool called SenseMaker, we will examine the patterns and stories in-depth, allowing us to gain new understanding about what families need to thrive. Your contribution to the story collection will make a difference.

The [Our Tomorrows](#) Project - This summer, [CPPR](#) set a goal of gathering 1,000 stories about families. These can be stories of families that are truly thriving...or merely just surviving. There's much to be learned from all kinds of stories with all kinds of outcomes. The stories we collect may be used to shape policy and programming decisions in your community and across the country.

The [Our Tomorrows](#) Goal - What can we do to bring the stories we hear every day to the forefront of conversations that help inform public policy and programming for children, youth, and families across Kansas, and beyond? [To share a story, click here](#)

Human Trafficking - National

Houston Earns Praise for Efforts to Combat HT

Officials from more than 10 US cities convened in **Houston, TX** to learn about its successes combatting human trafficking, a broad approach in which the city's health department, restaurant inspectors and cab companies all help identify potential victims. While human trafficking has typically been viewed as a law enforcement issue, the city in 2015 also began focusing on it through a non-law enforcement lens. That garnered praise from federal officials and [Read more](#)

Woman Builds Infrastructure of Support for Sex Trafficking Victims

On an average day, you might find Andrea Sparks sitting in a sparse room in a building adjacent to the Texas capitol. She'll speak into a teleconference line connected to law enforcement and advocacy groups across Texas. The call may last an hour. This monotonous work can drag someone down if they didn't have a fire inside fueling them every day. The webinar training is a key aspect to a rarely used and hard to prove word in state government: prevention. [Read more and watch video](#)

National News

A Dramatic Shift in Arkansas's Juvenile Justice System By Governor Asa Hutchinson

The (**Arkansas**) General Assembly passed a comprehensive bill that is a giant step forward in reforming our juvenile justice system. The bill provides for better assessment of our troubled youth and allows for sentencing guidelines that are more appropriate to each person. This reform is a long overdue response to the needs of youth who are struggling. It holds great potential to improve the life of our youth and to reduce the number who commit [Read more](#)

Arkansas Takes on New Law

Gov. Asa Hutchinson signed several bills with a variety of focuses into law this week but specifically, the Arkansas leader enacted a plan to take a step forward in reforming the juvenile justice system across the state. **Act 152**, sponsored by several members of the Arkansas General Assembly, focuses on improving outcomes for youth and their families through utilizing "validated risk assessment tools," creating a plan for "diversion [Read more and watch video](#)

Youth Agency Fills Position of Top Deputy

A new deputy director started work this week at the **Arkansas** Youth Services Division as part of a larger effort to overhaul the state's oft-troubled juvenile-justice system, an agency spokesman said Thursday. Kimbla Newsom began Monday in the newly created \$91,200-a-year position. She has decades of experience working with at-risk youth and juvenile-justice programs in [Read more](#)

Next for Louisiana Juvenile Justice Reform?

Improve Safety and Oversight at State's Outdated Facilities

Since Louisiana moved 15 years ago to overhaul a juvenile justice system notorious for its brutal treatment of youth, legislative victories and policy changes have transformed the system — significantly reducing the number locked up and providing a more therapeutic environment for those in custody. [Read more](#)

Columbia University Researchers Present Findings That Could Impact Juvenile Justice in Wisconsin

For the past year, a team of Columbia University researchers has been looking at a landmark juvenile justice initiative in New York City called Close to Home. The researchers presented [their findings](#) to law enforcement, youth justice advocacy groups and others in **Milwaukee, WI** on Wednesday. [Read more and listen to report](#)

National News

Many Women, Girls Feel Impact of Justice System Via Their Network, Bronx Report Shows

G.I.R.L.S. N Da Hood is exploring gender and incarceration in the **Bronx, NY**. We focused on understanding women's experiences with arrest, court, lockup, placement and beyond. We documented experiences and stories to help create change — a better, more humane approach to solving conflict that is built on accountability, healing, and strengthening relationships. We are [Read more](#)

Why Changing Juvenile Corrections is Critical to American Criminal Justice

Prison reform is a major topic within the national political conversation. For many incarcerated people, the path to jail begins in the teen years; at any given time, roughly 50,000 young people are held in juvenile prisons. Johnnie McDaniels, former executive director of the Henley-Young Juvenile Justice Center, shares a brief but spectacular take on the "revolving door" of juvenile corrections. [Read more and watch video](#)

Juvenile Judges Focus On Vicarious Trauma, New State Leaders at Conference

Juvenile judges from across **Tennessee** recently held their winter conference in Murfreesboro, focusing on the effects of vicarious trauma on themselves, judicial staff, and children, as well as learning about legislative changes and new state leadership in key areas. Tennessee Supreme Court Justice Roger [Read more](#)

Budget Cuts are Hurting our Children and their Future

Connecticut should invest in the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act. Investments in our young people have long lasting implications for their future, and for our communities. Education, for example, is one of the leading indicators of success in a young person's life. Youth with less than a high school education or GED face a **346 percent higher risk** of experiencing homelessness than their peers. Adult prisons, meanwhile, report that [Read more](#)

Onerous Fees, "Antiquated" Data System Gum Up Juvenile Justice, Child Welfare

Nevada could do more when it comes to child welfare and juvenile justice, whether providing resources that stop youth from entering the system altogether, or halting the school-to-prison pipeline. For a start, the Children's Advocacy Alliance is pushing for a bill that would eliminate fees paid by youths and their families [Read more](#)

How the JJDPA Helps States Improve Youth Justice

States across the country are starting to introduce legislation that mirrors the Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDPA), which was reauthorized for the first time in almost 16 years in Dec. 2018. The JJDPA garnered strong bipartisan support and remains the most influential piece of federal legislation with core protections for youth who have come into contact with the juvenile [Read more](#)

Jailing Runaways Does Not Keep them Safe

The Superior Court Judges' Association recently asserted that children who have not committed a crime should be jailed for their own safety. I disagree. In fact, research shows that just the opposite is true: Jail endangers children. The only thing a child learns by going to jail is that they belong in jail. [Read more](#)

Investing One Hour of Time a Week to Impact Youth Crime Could be a Game Changer

In one household, a family prepares for dinner, and mom's cellphone rings. The person on the other end informs her of the news: her son has been killed in a robbery. In another household, another family prepares for dinner. Mom's cellphone rings and the person on the other end informs her of the news: her 13-year-old son has been arrested and is accused of murder. Which mother's heart is heavier and more deserving of our support? [Read more](#)

Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators

National Gang Center Blog Discusses Study on Reducing Youth Gang Membership and Delinquency

The [National Gang Center](#) has posted a new blog examining a [study](#) cosponsored by OJJDP and the National Institute of Justice on reducing youth gang membership and delinquency among gang-involved youth. The study evaluated a trial modification of the [Functional Family Therapy \(FFT\)](#) model on youth from the Philadelphia Juvenile and Family Court. The study found that the FFT model was effective for reducing delinquency, substance use, and recidivism for youth at high risk for gang membership. [To access the blog, click here](#)

Recruiting, Hiring & Retaining Qualified Staff January 2019

CJCA has recently published the [CJCA Toolkit](#): Recruiting, Hiring and Retaining Qualified Staff. During the past two decades, the issue of hiring and retaining juvenile justice staff has received increased attention. As the body of evidence-based research has grown, juvenile justice agencies throughout the nation have embraced a reformative approach to working with young offenders. Although data [Read more](#)