

## Kansas News

### Regional Training Unit Welcomes New Staff

**Teressa Schumacher** joined the Juvenile Services team as a Program Consultant II (PC) in September. Teressa has worked as the Family Collaboration Coordinator with Cowley County Youth Services where she facilitated five Parent Project classes with a graduation rate of 85%. Teressa's office is located in the Cowley County Community Corrections building at 320 E 9<sup>th</sup>, Winfield, KS. She will assist the current PCs Kelly Rodriguez, Crystal Payne and Jennifer Maxwell as they provide technical assistance and training in evidence-based programs and practices to individuals who work with juveniles who are adjudicated or are participating in immediate intervention programs. Teressa will cover the 11<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, & 31<sup>st</sup> Judicial Districts. Teressa can be contacted at 620-660-1514 or [teressa.schumacher@ks.gov](mailto:teressa.schumacher@ks.gov).

### KAG – KSU / FHSU – Our Town Our Kids Dr. L. Susan Williams, Project Director KSU - Juvenile Justice Collaborative

#### Our Town Our Kids: Home is where our stories begin

**Our Town Our Kids** (OTOK) is a two-year pilot project uniting Kansas State University, Fort Hays State University, and K-State Extension with community resources in western Kansas.

The **OTOK mission** is to work with local communities to reduce the number of their youth at risk for involvement in the juvenile justice system. Recognizing that home is where our stories begin, we set out to go where home is for western Kansans and their kids. More than 6,500 miles later, we highlight a few of the early results of this spectacular journey.

As of October 7, 2019, 16 individual study circle sessions – a methodology designed for local stakeholder participation and planning -- have been conducted in five locations, involving seven facilitators (locally-based, trained by OTOK), 107 individual participants representing various community positions, including youth/families, and ten OTOK staff. Each study circle involves about 20 community members representing different positions, who meet in four successive gatherings to identify hurdles, strategize about solutions, and construct an action plan. Each of the four sessions is organized around an orienting theme, as follows: Study Circle 1, "Facts are stubborn things;" Study Circle 2, "Problems and patterns;" Study Circle 3, "Specialized populations;" and Study Circle 4, "Your words become your actions." Study Circle #4, the final in the series, will be conducted within each of the locations during early November.

Each participant receives a three-ring binder, complete with a set of foundational materials, process, content, and activities. We ask participants to review a set of materials and videos prior to the session, then we provide a set of handouts at the gathering. In addition, various supplemental materials are available via the OTOK website ([ourtownourkids.org](http://ourtownourkids.org)). Following a preset agenda, facilitators work through three sub-parts of the session, roughly categorized with (1) the first hour devoted to activities, team-building, and responses to previous questions and concerns; (2) the second hour brings a review of new materials and working in small groups to discuss, summarize, and/or deliberate about various local issues; and (3) the third hour centers around data, interpretations, and formulating/re-formulating goals, objectives, and questions for the next session in sequence. Throughout, we focus on a pedagogical strategy of combining hard data/facts with the emotional pull of anecdotes and personal stories.

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### 2019 DOC-Juvenile Services Training Schedule

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

Topeka	Thursday	November 14 <sup>th</sup>
Salina	Tuesday	December 10 <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 Steve Bonner at [steven.bonner@ks.gov](mailto:steven.bonner@ks.gov)

#### Juvenile Justice Basics

Location – McPherson County Corrections,  
122 W. Marlin, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, McPherson, KS  
Date Wednesday November 6 9 am – 5 pm  
To Enroll Email [crystal.payne@ks.gov](mailto:crystal.payne@ks.gov)  
Participants name, agency, position, phone #,  
email address and supervisor's name.

#### 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](mailto: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.

#### Case Planning

The curriculum includes targeting criminogenic needs, identifying objectives, incorporating strengths for achieving goals and case planning for improved youth outcomes.  
Enrollment – The Regional Program Consultants will inform districts when the training will be held in their area.

## The Juvenile Justice Corner

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

Four years ago this month (November 2015), the Kansas Juvenile Justice Workgroup released a set of 40 policy recommendations designed to improve juvenile justice outcomes in Kansas. The focus of the recommendations would:

- Protect public safety and hold juvenile offenders accountable,
- Contain taxpayer costs by focusing system resources on the most serious offenders, and
- Improve outcomes for youth, families and communities in Kansas.

The 40 policy recommendations were integrated into Senate Bill 367 that passed the 2016 Kansas Legislature and was signed into law on April 11, 2016. Some of the statute changes became effective January 1, 2017 while others were implemented at later dates, the most recent being July 1, 2019.

Some of the policy and statute changes impacted DCF and DCF contract agencies as well as youth/families served by child welfare. Although significant progress has been made, more work remains to be done. KDOC and DCF are working to better address the needs of youth/families served by both systems. Both agencies are involved in a number of new programs while collaboration, review and analysis continue.

This past month a number of articles and editorials have been published regarding some of the impacts and challenges faced within the juvenile justice and child welfare systems. Below are links to some of those articles.

#### Kansas Juvenile Justice Reforms Moved Troubled Kids from Jails to Foster Care, Creating Chaos

[Read article . . .](#)

#### Kansas had to Reform its Juvenile Justice System, But Kids Aren't Afraid Anymore

Guest Commentary by Judge Kevin Smith, 18<sup>th</sup> JD (CINC & JO cases)

[Read article . . .](#)

#### Kids Who Commit Delinquent Acts Should Not be Treated Like Adult Criminals in Kansas

Guest Commentary by Trent H Wetta, Juvenile Defense Attorney, 18<sup>th</sup> JD

[Read article . . .](#)

#### Editorial: Reform was needed; review must follow

Capital Journal Editorial

[Read article . . .](#)

We appreciate the involvement and commitment that stakeholders have made towards improving the juvenile justice system. Likewise, we are mindful that through collaboration along with the use of research and evidence-based practices we can keep the juvenile justice system moving forward while minimizing negative impacts. It is our goal that we will be able to meet current and future challenges while improving "outcomes for youth, families and communities in Kansas".

### Families First – Department of Children and Families Ariel Erwine, Program Manager DCF – Family First Prevention Services

The official announcement for the Family First grantees took place during a press conference on October 1, 2:30 pm, at the DCF Administration Building in Topeka. Governor Kelly gave the introduction, stating how proud she was that Kansas was one of the first states to implement the federal program. Governor Kelly emphasized the quality and diversity of the providers, their programs, and their geographic location.

Secretary Howard and Governor Kelly announced the winners and recognized the evidence-based programs during the press conference. Selected providers, media, stakeholders, administrative and regional leadership were all in attendance.

"Our grant selection team has ensured that parent skill-building and kinship navigator services are available in every county of Kansas. In addition, we ensured that there are robust substance use disorder and mental health services available in many parts of the state and we'll be looking forward to making those even more robust in the next round of grants," Secretary Howard stated.

#### Family First Prevention Services Act Grant Awards

##### Substance Use Disorder

**DCCCA**, Adolescent-Community Reinforcement Approach Services to Teens in Crawford County.

**Kansas Children's Service League**, Parent-Child Assistance Program in Shawnee County.

**Saint Francis Ministries**, Seeking Safety in Sedgwick County and five counties in the West Region.

##### Mental Health

**Community Solutions, Inc.**, Multisystemic Therapy in selected counties for each DCF region.

**Cornerstones of Care**, Functional Family Therapy in the Kansas City Region

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## Juvenile Justice Information Exchange

### JDAI Shifts Focus to Overhauling Probation, Increasing Diversion

When the Annie E. Casey Foundation launched the [Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative](#) (JDAI) in the tough-on-crime era of the early 1990s, politicians were labeling teenage offenders “superpredators” and states were passing laws making it easier to prosecute kids as adults. Rates of juvenile detention were skyrocketing. Nearly 30 years later, JDAI’s radical [Read more . . . .](#)

### California, NY’s Amazing Low-crime Trends Need to Be Studied

Leaders across the United States agonize over recent mass shootings as Americans fear [more to come](#). Perhaps we can learn from youth in two mega-cities where gun violence has fallen dramatically even as politicians fail to act. Teens in the nation’s two largest metropolises, New York City and Los Angeles, once suffered [gun killing rates](#) triple the national average. Over the last 25 to 30 years, however, teens’ gun death rates in these two cities have fallen by an astonishing 88%, including drops of 88% in homicides and 81% in suicides. [Read more . . . .](#)

### We Must Understand Promise of Adolescent Development to Serve Youth

Nearly 25% of our population are teens and young adults in the most important developmental sprint of their lives. But rather than helping young people realize their great potential to become successful adults who contribute to our country’s future, too often we’re unwittingly cutting their progress off just before the finish line. The recent release of “[The Promise of Adolescence: Realizing Opportunity for all Youth](#),” a comprehensive look [Read more . . . .](#)

### My Brother’s Killing Messed Me Up

March 7, 2012 my oldest brother was killed. He was killed by the NOPD (New Orleans Police Department). Coming home from school March 7, 2012, my oldest brother and his friend was sitting outside. They were just chilling and talking. Once he saw my siblings and I get off the school bus, [Read more . . . .](#)

### Probation Must Be Reformed Nationwide By Focusing on Incentives

[Six months ago](#), Philadelphia District Attorney Larry Krasner announced policies to reduce the number of children sent to juvenile placement. One focus was reforming probation, even though it is often thought of as an alternative to placement. In reality, juvenile probation is too often a gateway [Read more . . . .](#)

### Our Town Our Kids - continued from page 1

Throughout the study circle process, groups identify local needs, compile known resources, and develop goals and objectives for moving forward. Though each group varies widely in terms of process and character, several similarities in topic have emerged. Each location voices concern of access to mental health resources – often in terms of availability of quality services, transportation, and cost-handling. A second cross-cutting theme is the need for people power – physical bodies in the form of volunteers, mentors, employees/staff at agencies and existing resources, and actual population boosts. Other common concerns center around counseling services, trauma-informed programs (especially in schools), alternative educational services and activities, and keeping families together.

Still, each area study circle takes on a distinct character and culture, which brings both challenges and opportunities. Inevitably, bringing a diverse group of people together with a wide range of perspectives, experiences, and opinions is both challenging and stimulating. Data work – which is always involved – is hard work. Collaboration, coalition-building, capacity growth is extremely challenging, and people are often tired. But a significant unifying theme, though not always overtly stated, is the pathways, tribulations, and outcomes for kids. We always bring it back to the kids.

We have developed 21 original video recordings, 4 brochures, 45 handouts, 35 data sheets, and accrued approximately 25 additional secondary source materials, each hand-constructed to meet a specific substantive objective in the delivery of content to the facilitators and study circle participants. Drawing from our various experts and from the latest and most well-researched sources of information regarding juvenile justice and at-risk youth, we continue to develop a virtual library of resources that can be used within this project and in carrying forward the goals to other situations and entities (ourtownourkids.org). The aim is to construct a toolkit that can be used by all communities in Kansas to develop their own strategies for success of their kids.

Once the study circles are complete, we begin a series of data builder sessions, in which a smaller number of community participants learn to identify, gather, manage, and analyze local data for use in garnering future evidence-based programs and resources.

Amidst the challenges, many bright moments shine through. One of the participants recently offered this as a final thought on an assessment sheet: “This process has changed the way I think about . . . well, everything.” We’ll take it.

For more information on OTOK you can contact [Dr. Williams](#) at [lswilli@ksu.edu](mailto:lswilli@ksu.edu).

## Juvenile Justice and Education

### Would More Support Keep Special Education Students Out Of The Juvenile Justice System?

On a tour of the Juvenile Services Center in **Cheyenne (WY)**, Sgt. Jay Stewart explains that juvenile offenders stay here for an average of 49 days. But whether they’re here for a week or a year, kids are required to go to school. “Education for us is huge,” said Stewart. “If they are not getting their education, they continue down that same path.” The path Stewart is referring to leads to prison. [According to the National Center for Education Statistics](#), adults without high school diplomas are more like [Read more . . . .](#)

## Restorative Justice in the School & Community

### Restorative Justice Isn’t a Panacea, But it Can Promote Better Relationships Among Students

California’s recent expansion of a ban on student suspension is sparking debate about whether other disciplinary tactics mete out enough discipline. In the wake of the [statewide law](#), for example, some school districts that are banning or limiting suspensions are simultaneously introducing restorative practices, which are being unfairly criticized in our view. Restorative practices [Read more . . . .](#)

### ‘Restorative Justice’ Aims for Equity at Portland Schools

Woodmere Elementary School in Southeast **Portland (OR)** is one of the dozens of schools in Portland Public Schools attempting a culture change in its approach to disciplining students – an issue that the school district has struggled with in terms of disproportionately affecting students of color and low-income students. This is being done through school administrators and teachers adopting a philosophical approach called “[restorative justice](#),” which puts a focus on building healthy relationships—between students, teachers, parents and others, to help students thrive. That’s [Read more . . . .](#)

## Annie E. Casey Foundation

### Santa Cruz Probation Collaboration Reduces Group Home Placements for Latino Youth

In **Santa Cruz County, California**, an analysis revealed that Latino youth on probation had worse outcomes and higher rates of confinement than their white peers. In response, the county launched a culturally informed effort known as FUERTE Wraparound — or FUERTE, for short. [Read more . . . .](#)

## Girls in the Juvenile Justice System

### Girls of Color & the Criminalization of Trafficking Survivors

This Youth Justice Action Month as families, advocates, and communities participate in acts to end racism and the over-criminalization of young people of color, it is crucial that our efforts intentionally and explicitly uplift the voices and experiences of girls touched by the juvenile justice system. Similar to boys of color, girls of color are disproportionately pushed into the juvenile justice system. [In fact, girls of color account for 22% of the youth population, but 66% of incarcerated girls.](#) However, girls’ experiences in the system are distinct from boys, as are the reasons they are pushed into the system. Girls enter the system through pathways that are directly tied to their experiences of interpersonal violence and trauma – a process we call the [Abuse to Prison Pipeline](#). A particularly troubling example of the Abuse to Prison Pipeline is the continued criminalization of child sex trafficking survivors. [Read more . . . .](#)

### Families First - continued from page 1

**Horizons Mental Health Center**, Parent Child Interaction Therapy in Reno County and four counties in the Wichita Region

**TFI Family Services**, Parent Child Interaction Therapy in selected counties in the East, West, and Wichita Regions.

**Saint Francis Ministries**, Family-Centered Therapy in the West and Wichita Regions.

#### **Kinship Navigation**

**Kansas Legal Services**, Kin-tech. Available statewide.

#### **Parent Skill-Building**

**Child Advocacy and Parenting Services**, Family Mentoring Program in Saline and Ottawa counties.

**FosterAdopt Connect, Inc.**, Fostering Prevention Program in Johnson and Wyandotte counties.

**Great Circle**, Healthy Families America in selected counties for the East and Kansas City regions.

**Kansas Children’s Service League**, Healthy Families America in Sedgwick county and selected counties in the East.

**Kansas Parents as Teachers Association**, support to Parents as Teacher’s programming across the state.

**Success by 6 Coalition of Douglas County**, Healthy Families America in Douglas County in the Kansas City Region.

**Univ. of Kansas Medical Center Research Inst, Inc.** –Project Eagle, Attachment and Bio-Behavioral Catch-Up Program in selected counties in the Kansas City and West Regions.

For more details about these awards visit: [familyfirst.dcf.ks.gov](http://familyfirst.dcf.ks.gov) or contact [DCF.FamilyFirst@ks.gov](mailto:DCF.FamilyFirst@ks.gov).