

Kansas News

Community Advisory Committee FY2020 Report

Pursuant to K.S.A. 75-7056, the Juvenile Justice Authority (JJA) established the Community Advisory Committee (CAC), which is comprised of eight members representing four Kansas regions and two at-large appointments. This statute creates an avenue for the CAC to participate in the JJA annual budgetary process, as well as a mechanism to provide input regarding prevention services and graduated sanctions programming throughout the 31 judicial districts. [Access report](#)

Kansas Crossover Youth Practice Model

Kansas Department of Corrections – Juvenile Services (KDOC-JS) has created a webpage to help partners and stakeholders keep up to date with developments involving the Crossover Youth Practice Model (CYPM) in Kansas. The webpage provides a brief overview of the CYPM, a link to Georgetown University's Center for Juvenile Justice Reform (CJJR), a link to the Kansas CYPM Policy Group Membership list, information on upcoming meetings and access to minutes from past meetings along with other resources. KDOC-JS has contracted with CJJR to implement the CYPM in Kansas. KDOC-JS has partnered with the Department for Children and Families and the Office of Judicial Administration on CYPM implementation in two Kansas pilot sites, with goals of expanding the work to other areas of the state. To access the CYPM webpage [click here](#)

DCF – Family First Updates

To access the May edition of the DCF [Family First Prevention Services](#) newsletter [click here](#)

Updates from Central Offices

As of this writing, due to precautions initiated as a result of the COVID-19, the majority of central offices staff with the Kansas Department of Corrections have been working from home since early April. This includes the entire Juvenile Services division. For the majority of the Juvenile Services Team, working remotely is a new experience and has required some adjustments. But with some creativity, a few equipment adjustments, some technology to support communications and by creating some new routines, the work continues. There is never really a slow time of year in our field, but the spring and summer provide ambitious challenges every year. 2020 is no different.

So with these things in mind, here are a few of the larger projects under development and moving forward despite these unique circumstances.

During the last few weeks of "Social Distancing" the Compliance Monitoring processes are being reviewed and updated. This includes a revision and upgrading of policy and procedure manuals, forms used, duties of the Compliance Monitor staff and development of strategies to address disproportional minority contact with youth in the juvenile justice system.

Judicial Districts began using a new automation system for the Immediate Intervention Program on April 1st. Several online trainings on how to use the automation system were provided for local staff starting in late March. As use of the system progresses, KDOC-JS staff continue to work with Judicial District staff and KDOC-IT to address problems local staff may be experiencing. KDOC-JS staff are also developing a training module for the Youth Level of Service (YLS) Screener version to be used as a resource by local IIP staff.

April Terry, PhD, Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice at Fort Hays State University is working with KDOC-JS to provide Inter-Rater Reliability (IRR) for the Kansas Detention Assessment Instrument. Dr. Terry has created activities for Juvenile Intake and Assessment staff to complete and return for evaluation. The IRR process started in late April and is ongoing. Steve Bonner, Program Consultant II at KDOC-JS is working with Dr. Terry and stated "It is a pleasure for myself as well as Candice Byrd to work with Dr. Terry on this project as she is very knowledgeable and has made this process very smooth for us. The communication between her as well as the districts has been a big help for us to attempt to achieve our goal. We still have a lot of work to do, but we have no doubt we will reach our goal"

Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT) training was held online Tuesday, May 12 through Friday, May 15, 2020. 38 participants were in attendance and became certified to facilitate MRT to youth and adults. This is the first time MRT training was provided virtually in Kansas. Attendees included Juvenile Detention Officers, Case Managers, Intensive Supervision Officers, Therapists, Trauma and Mental Health Providers, Corrections Counselors and the Chaplain from the juvenile correctional facility.

KDOC-JS is in the process of working with Judicial Districts to review Juvenile Justice Comprehensive Plan Grant Applications for fiscal year 2021. A Comp Plan Team has been meeting for several months to improve the Comp Plan Application process. The team has been reviewing the applications will be in contact with Judicial Districts in early June providing feedback and making sure all necessary components of the application are complete.

The Juvenile Justice Corner

Jim Johnson, Program Consultant
DOC - Juvenile Community Based Services

Thank You to Corrections Officers & Employees

Earlier this past month, we celebrated National Correctional Officers and Employees week. The tradition of recognizing Correctional Officers and employees annually in early May started over 35 years ago. In the best of circumstances, the work is challenging and not everyone can do it. But this year, in these troubling times, the commitment and discipline corrections staff display is nothing short of remarkable. Your work with juvenile justice involved youth, their families and with children and youth that you come into contact with through juvenile intake is no less important than at any other time.

But on top of these challenges, many of you have added restrictions of movement, realities of social distancing, multi-tasking at home with younger children and becoming a parent/teacher. Everyone of these roles are no less important than your professional duties. To do these things it no doubt takes some sacrifice. We want to THANK YOU for what you do. By rising to this occasion, caring for your loved ones and working with justice involved youth and families, our facilities and communities are safer.

COVID-19 Updates

One of the lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic is that things change and can change quickly. As a result, keeping up to date with the most recent information regarding COVID-19 guidance and the number of cases around us can be quite the challenge. To assist with that challenge, below are several online resources that provide good and up-to-date information related to our field. In addition, several county health departments have similar web-site links.

KDOC Response to COVID-19

[Kansas Department of Corrections](#)

[Access guidance](#)

KDOC COVID-19 Confirmed Cases

[Kansas Department of Corrections](#)

[Click here](#)

COVID-19 Guidance: State Juvenile Detention and Correctional Facilities

[Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention](#) [Click here](#)

The Psychology of COVID-19

[American Corrections Association](#)

[Read article](#)

Coping with Stress as a Result of COVID-19

[Centers for Disease Control & Prevention](#)

[Access guidance](#)

Employees: How to Cope with Job Stress and Build Resilience During the COVID-19 Pandemic

[Centers for Disease Control & Prevention](#)

[Read article](#)

COVID-19 Practice, Policy & Emergency Protocols in State Juvenile Facilities

[Council of Juvenile Justice Administrators](#) [Access guidance](#)

PREA Audits and Implementation and COVID-19

[US Dept. of Justice - PREA Management](#)

[Access guidance](#)

Recommendations for Youth Justice Systems during the COVID-19 Emergency

[Youth Correctional Leaders for Justice](#)

[Access guidance](#)

COVID-19 Practice, Policy & Emergency Protocols in State Juvenile Facilities

Protecting youth and staff from exposure to the virus has impacted every aspect of facility management in state juvenile justice systems. Direct care staff, managers and directors have developed creative solutions to address challenges and navigate a new era dictated by social-distancing and emergency planning. Although each state juvenile justice agency differs in its size and the types and numbers of facilities it operates, there are also common challenges and innovative practices shared by many. To capture these challenges and innovations, the **Council of Juvenile Justice Administrators** has developed an Issue Brief that highlights a range of responses to COVID -19 reported by state juvenile justice agency directors and facility superintendents during regional and national COVID-19 [Access the issue brief](#)

What It's Really Like to Be an Essential Worker In the U.S. During the Coronavirus Pandemic

In an effort to slow the spread of the COVID-19, which has sickened more than 1.5 million people worldwide (as of press time), many state and local governments have issued stay-at-home or shelter-in-place orders and closed "non-essential" businesses. Yet with millions of Americans at home trying to work remotely or home-school their children, there are also millions of "essential" workers on the frontlines. This, of course, includes doctors, nurses, and hospital staff among others in the healthcare industry, and they arguably face the brunt of COVID-19 risk and exposure. [Read more](#)

PEW Charitable Trusts

Lessons from Juvenile Justice Reforms Could Help Reduce Pandemic's Impact on Confined Youth

As COVID-19 spreads among youth and staff in juvenile correctional facilities, some states are moving to reduce confined populations. Although motivated by urgent health concerns, many of these policies are consistent with public safety research and reflect a continuing effort by state policymakers to decrease both incarceration and crime. [Read more . . .](#)

National News – COVID-19

Federal Policy Update

On Tuesday, May 12, 2020, Congress released a stimulus bill meant to help address America's needs during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. This bill included a number of juvenile justice specific provisions. The legislation provides \$75 million for rapid response grants through Title II of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act. These funds will help support a variety of services, including testing of young people and staff in facilities, continued access to education and community supports for youth returning home at a time when positive tests in secure settings continue to rise. [Read more . . .](#)
Summary of youth justice provisions [Read more . . .](#)

Guidance to Juvenile Courts on Conducting Remote Hearings During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Social distancing and community shutdowns are having a deep impact on our nation's juvenile courts. As a result, many courts have moved to "remote" hearings to handle cases. Depending on the jurisdiction, remote hearings may be via video or may only be telephonic. Some jurisdictions are holding remote hearings only for critical matters affecting youth liberty, such as detention and parole hearings. Other juvenile courts are handling all kinds of hearings remotely. [Read more . . .](#)

Supporting Youth and Families Impacted by Substance Use During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Substance abuse is a major challenge in communities across America. A 2018 [national survey](#) revealed that in the past year, more than 20 million people age 12 and older had a substance use disorder related to the use of alcohol or illicit drugs. To help youth and families overcome the effects of substance abuse and co-occurring mental health disorders, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention provides funding to [establish and improve the effectiveness of drug courts](#) nationwide. [Read more . . .](#)

Council of Juvenile Justice Administrators

Utah's Juvenile Justice System and the Work of Continued Reform

In March 2017, Utah's Governor, Gary R. Herbert signed a landmark comprehensive set of research-based reforms designed to improve Utah's juvenile justice system. House Bill 239 (HB 239), was sponsored by Representative Lowry Snow and Senator Todd Weiler and was intended to keep youth who can be safely supervised in the community and out of costly residential out-of-home placements. The bill also expanded community-based programs, and standardized practices to reduce disparities across racial and geographic lines, while also diverting youth charged with less serious offenses from formal court proceedings. [Read more . . .](#)

OJJDP - Reentry

In Focus – OJJDP - Reentry

This fact sheet summarizes the grant programs available from the U.S. Justice Department's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) under the federal Second Chance Act, which authorizes federal grants for reentry services and resources that will increase the likelihood that youth returning home after residential placement will become productive and law-abiding members of society. [Read more . . .](#)

Council of State Governments

A Look into Court-Based Behavioral Health Diversion Interventions

Recognizing that people with behavioral health needs are overrepresented in the criminal justice system,¹ many communities have developed alternatives to incarceration that connect eligible people to community-based treatment and supports. While efforts around preventing people from entering the criminal justice system and developing law enforcement diversion interventions are critical to connecting people to treatment community wide, this brief focuses on diversion efforts led by those working in courts, such as judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, and court administrators. For information on other diversion opportunities, see Behavioral Health Diversion Interventions: Moving from Individual Programs [Read more . . .](#)

National News

Governor Newsom Signs Executive Order on Division of Juvenile Justice Discharge and Reentry Process

California Governor Gavin Newsom today signed an executive order that addresses the release and reentry process at the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, so that eligible youth serving time at DJJ can be discharged safely and expeditiously. The executive order calls for all discharge and reentry hearings to be held via videoconference to minimize the youth's and other participants' exposure to COVID-19. [Read more . . .](#)

How Have States Improved Accountability to Victims through JRI?

People who have experienced victimization have diverse and complex needs that require attention from federal, state, and local governments. This presentation summarizes how states have engaged victims, victim advocates, and service providers throughout the Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI) process; outlines some strategies states have used through JRI to improve accountability to victims and survivors of crime; and highlights creative, victim-centered policy and practice changes that states could consider to better serve victims and survivors. [Read more . . .](#)

Las Cruces Case Worker Helping Youth Who Have Aged Out of Care Plus the System-involved

Transitioning out of juvenile justice is already laborious for many young people. It's infinitely more difficult during a global pandemic. "They're literally coming back into the community from being in a facility so getting on their feet is what they're trying to do," said Jalyn Weiss, transition services coordinator for the juvenile justice department of the **New Mexico Children, Youth and Families Department** (CYFD). "Finding a job is the hardest thing for them right now," added Weiss, who works with youth from Doña Ana, Otero, Lincoln and Sierra counties. "They're not able to get all of the documents they need, such as an ID or birth certificate or Social Security [Read more . . .](#)

Human Trafficking - National

Pandemic puts trafficking victims at higher risk

As lawmakers, all of us are focused almost exclusively on combating the coronavirus pandemic and seeking ways to mitigate its horrific impact. The United States has about a million confirmed cases of COVID-19 with over fifty-five thousand deaths. My state of **New Jersey** alone has well over one hundred thousand confirmed cases with over 6,000 dead. Your constituents in each of your countries, like mine, have suffered enormous devastation and loss. [Read more . . .](#)

Two Ago She Was Held Captive by Sex Traffickers; Now She's a Member of the U.S. Advisory Council

Courtney Litvak was a student at Cinco Ranch High School (**Texas**) when she became immersed in the life of sex trafficking. Now she's been appointed to President Donald Trump's U.S. Advisory Council on Human Trafficking. Litvak came from a loving family. She was an accomplished swimmer. She lived in a safe neighborhood. She grew up in the church, and she was saving herself until marriage. Then, at the age of 18, she was being sold for sex. [Read more . . .](#)

Juvenile Justice Information Exchange

For Kids Unsafe at Home, School Closure Increases Risk for Trauma

In January, Sharral Dean, a therapist at the **Family Counseling Center of Central Georgia**, was seeing about 30 young clients a week. At any given time, five to seven of them were what Dean calls "at risk" — more likely to experience violence at home, at higher risk for depression, anxiety, fighting in school and entering the juvenile justice system. [Read more . . .](#)

How to Help Struggling Kids During Coronavirus

This time of year usually marks year-end celebrations and summer preparations for youth. But with regular traditions like prom and graduation on hold, and with many jobs in limbo, teenagers in Alabama aren't sure what to expect for the coming months. That uncertainty can cause a lot of stress. If anyone knows how hard this time might be for Alabama's youth, it's Mike Rollins. When Rollins was a teenager, he said he got into "a bit of trouble" and was sent to the [Read more . . .](#)

New York Homeless Youth Feel Lonely, Stuck, Isolated

First he lost his job as a shift manager at McDonald's. Then the movie theater, the bowling alley, all the places he spent time in began to close. Now he has to finish his senior year of high school online, without a real graduation. He's yet to hear back on whether he got into his college of choice, [Read more . . .](#)