

Kansas News

KJCC To Welcome New Superintendent

The Kansas Department of Corrections has appointed a new superintendent to the Kansas Juvenile Corrections Complex. The Kansas Department of Corrections says Secretary Jeff Zmuda has chosen Angela McHardie to be the superintendent of the Kansas Juvenile Corrections Complex. It said McHardie will start her role on Dec. 14, 2020. "KJCC provides a safe and secure environment for young people to address personal issues and gain the skills they need to go on to live successful and productive lives," Secretary Zmuda said. "Angela's experience working at various levels in the juvenile justice system makes her a great fit to assume the responsibilities of the superintendent." [Read more](#)

Hearings Held for Interim Legislative Session

On November 13, 2020, Shanelle Dupree, Chair of the Kansas Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee (JJOC) presented testimony to the Legislative Budget Committee on behalf of JJOC. [Read testimony](#)

On November 17, 2020, Shanelle Dupree, Chair of the Kansas Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee (JJOC) presented testimony to the Joint Committee on Juvenile and Criminal Justice on behalf of JJOC. [Read testimony](#)

Tyler Williams Advocates for Youth in Kansas Community

The big reason why I really got into youth justice advocacy is because I was one of the youth who was in the facility. I spent close to five years and eight months from the age of 13 to 19 in the Kansas Juvenile Correctional Complex (KJCC). I wanted to use my experience to look into alternatives for incarceration throughout the state so that youth don't have to go through the struggle and hardships of being in jail. [Read more](#)

WPD and Sedgwick County Juvenile Services Collaboration: Juvenile Intervention Unit

The Wichita Police Department (WPD), in collaboration with Sedgwick County Juvenile Services, has created a WPD Juvenile Intervention Unit (JIU). The announcement was made Monday. In a news release, WPD said this newly created unit consists of a WPD sergeant, two WPD detectives, and two juvenile intervention officers. Youth who offend at a young age are more likely to become chronic and violent offenders as they age, and the best opportunity to intervene is as early as possible. [Read more](#)

WPD Juvenile Intervention Unit - [Watch video](#)

FLOTUS Gives Shoutout to Student Group from Newton

First Lady Melania Trump on Thursday gave a shoutout on Twitter to a group of high school students in Harvey County. The group getting the recognition is the STAND Coalition at Newton High School. [STAND is a youth leadership program in Harvey County that focuses on preventing substance abuse and encourages positive choices.](#) "STAND offers high school students from all backgrounds the opportunity to be active participants in their communities and schools to create positive change," the organization explains on its [website](#). "Youth gain valuable leadership skills, are empowered to design service projects that meet a community need, network with community leaders, and carry out peer to peer prevention/education messages as well as positive social norms campaigns. Each leader involved with STAND [Read more and watch video](#)

DCF – Family First Updates

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

2021 DOC-Juvenile Services Training Schedule

New Employee Kansas Detention Assessment Instrument (KDAI) Training

Zoom Wednesday January 13th, 2021
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. Due to COVID-19 precautions, KDAI trainings are being provided via the zoom platform. For more information on KDAI training or to register contact Steve Bonner at steven.bonner@ks.gov

National News

Expanding Restorative Justice Program Eyed as Way to Reduce School-to-Prison Pipeline

Lincoln Public Schools and Lincoln (NE) police are looking at ways to expand a restorative justice program so students who get in trouble can participate before they get a ticket - and avoid the juvenile justice system entirely. It's really just an idea now, but one based on the desire to find ways to reduce the disproportionate number of minority and low-income students now referred to juvenile court for school-based offenses, [Read more](#)

The Crossover Youth Practice Model - Update Michelle Montgomery, CYPM Coordinator Kansas Department of Corrections – Juvenile Services

Implementation of The Crossover Youth Practice Model (CYPM) continues to move forward in the two pilot sites Montgomery (14th judicial district) and Shawnee (3rd judicial district). Both districts have selected an individual to act as their Local Crossover Coordinator, as well as individuals to participate on their Local Leadership Teams and/or Local Implementation Teams.

The Local Leadership Team's role is providing direction and support for the model. The Local Implementation Team members are charged with the development and implementation of the model. The role of the Local Coordinator is to act as a liaison between the local and state teams.

The Leadership and Implementation Teams mirror the make-up of the State Policy Team and is comprised of representatives of the judiciary (e.g., judges, court administrators), juvenile justice (e.g., intake, probation, corrections) child welfare (e.g., investigations, intake, case manager, permanency) education, mental health & substance abuse providers, law enforcement, and attorneys.

Both pilot sites are meeting individually with Georgetown to examine current practices, review data, and set goals and priorities for working with the crossover youth population.

The Statewide Coordinators are available and open to answering questions, assist in identifying appropriate responses, and troubleshooting concerns, and/or participating in meetings and collaboratives around issues regarding all crossover youth. They can be reached at Ashley.brown@ks.gov and Michelle.montgomery@ks.gov.

To learn more about the Crossover Youth Practice Model and information regarding past and upcoming meetings of the State Policy Team please [click here](#).

National News – Dual Involved Youth

Child Welfare System Fuels 'Criminalization' of Youth, Webinar Told

A child placed in foster care or a group home is "more likely" to end up in the machinery of the juvenile justice system, a webinar was told Thursday. Ignoring the often-overlooked connection between the child welfare system and youth incarceration perpetuates a system that is especially biased towards young people of color, said Kim Dvorchak, executive director of the National Association of Counsel for Children, a nonprofit legal advocacy group. [Read more](#)

The Juvenile Justice Corner Jim Johnson, Program Consultant DOC - Juvenile Community Based Services

We continue to forge ahead into the last month of 2020 while navigating the unique challenges this year presents. On top of all the changes and adversities we face, there remains some unfinished business that carries over from year to year.

November is [National Youth Homelessness Awareness Month](#) and [National Runaway Prevention Month](#). With the populations many of you have contact with, it is not uncommon to see an intersection between homeless youth with youth runaways. And it is these youth that are at high risk to be recruited into human trafficking as victims.

The [Family and Youth Services Bureau](#) released an issue brief [Human Trafficking Prevention: Strategies for Runaway and Homeless Youth](#). The brief addresses many of the factors that can lead a youth who is a runaway or homeless to become a victim of sex and/or labor trafficking. Addressing each of these issues involved multi-disciplinary collaboration at both the local and state levels. This brief provides guidance and makes recommendations on steps that can be taken for both intervention and prevention in each area.

There is no doubt that 2020 has been an unusual year. With the holidays often come increased emotion and stress which can result in a sense of feeling overwhelmed. Over the next few weeks, many of the youth we work with and their family members will benefit from your reassuring demeanor. For all that you do to help impact the lives of the youth and families you come into contact with, we thank you.

Annie E. Casey Foundation

Juvenile Detention Explained

Every day, thousands of young people in the United States are held in juvenile detention facilities while their cases are handled in court. Despite [steady declines](#) over the past two decades, [more than 15,000 young people were held in detention centers](#) on any given night in 2017, the latest year for which federal data are available.

With so many young people moving in and out of detention centers as they await legal actions on their cases, it's worth asking: What exactly is juvenile detention and how can being detained affect a young person? [Read more](#)

Human Trafficking - Kansas

Front-line Workers Face Challenges Recognizing Human Trafficking Warning Signs

Human trafficking elicits stereotypical images of captive women subjugated by their oppressors. Because of that, it's often more difficult to recognize all victims of trafficking when they don't fit in with such entrenched ideas. According to a new article by a team of researchers from the University of Kansas, human trafficking "crosses categories of race, class, gender, sexuality, citizenship status and ability — no one is immune from the potential of exploitation." [Read more](#)

Joplin's Fight Against Human Trafficking Continues

Joplin's battle in fighting against human trafficking coincides directly with the nation's battle, as professionals from the local area spoke out on the issue. Whether it's sex trafficking or labor trafficking, both are found in the four states area. Andy Blair, Joplin Police Department Sergeant, has worked alongside detectives in human trafficking cases and since has gotten involved with Joplin's local RISE Coalition. Blair said that human trafficking is a prevalent issue found in Joplin. "It's not uncommon, I'll tell you, I mean trafficking—crime-wise—it's one of the biggest crimes that you see, whether it be internationally or nationally," Blair said. "It's, money-wise, it's [Read more and watch video](#)

Urban Institute

Kentucky Is Succeeding in Keeping Youth Out of the Juvenile Justice System

Juvenile justice systems have come under [increased scrutiny](#) this year as states and localities confronted the direct connection between youth incarceration and the COVID-19 public health crisis. But we have long known that juvenile justice system involvement is harmful. In September, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges issued a new [bench card for judges](#) (PDF) explaining how court involvement negatively affects young people. It summarizes how justice system involvement can jeopardize education, employment, housing, and access to public benefits. Justice system involvement can also inflict additional trauma and stress, interfere with peer and family relationships, and disrupt educational continuity and progress. Research indicates that incarceration is an [ineffective and costly strategy](#), but more evidence is proving how detrimental it is just to be in the system at all. [Read more](#)

Juvenile Justice Information Exchange

It's Time to Protect Child Sex Crime Victims in Justice System

Some of the worst government-sanctioned human rights abuses committed against children are happening right here in the United States. Earlier this year, a child sex crime survivor in Ohio had her life sentence commuted by Gov. Mike DeWine. At the age of 15, Alexis was sentenced to life in prison for participating in a robbery where the man who had been raping and sex trafficking her was killed. [Read more](#)

New Report Rates Each State on its Juvenile Justice System

Since 2016, Elder Yusef Qualls has been on a tireless campaign to have officials in Michigan revisit a criminal case that has kept his son incarcerated for over two decades. A so-called "juvenile lifer," Qualls' son, also named Yusef Qualls, has lived within Michigan's adult correctional system since 1997. At 17 Qualls was sentenced to life without parole after police linked him as an accomplice to the murder of a woman in Detroit. [Read more](#)

Promoting Equity in Youth Diversion Programs Must Be Conscious, Detailed Plan

Juvenile justice reforms, including the growing use of youth diversion programs that offer alternatives to youth arrest and incarceration, have helped contribute to a substantial decrease in the number of young people who are involved in the justice system in recent years. Despite this overall decrease, such reforms have also corresponded with a troubling increase in the juvenile justice system's inequitable burden on youth of color and Black youth in particular. [Read more](#)

Bring Back Black Girls Before They're Herded into Foster Care, Justice System

The #SayHerName movement that was launched in 2014 by the [African American Policy Forum](#) and the [Center for Intersectionality and Social Policy Studies](#) has gained immense momentum amid a number of nationally recognized murders of Black women at the hands of police. A goal of the campaign is to bring to light the oft overlooked stories of Black women and girls who have needlessly and unjustifiably perished in their encounters with law enforcement. [Read more](#)

Human Trafficking - National

Child Sex Trafficking: It's Probably Not What You Think It Is

"You just have to dance, we can make a little money like that." That's what Shandel, then 13, said her boyfriend told her at a party he had taken her to some 12 years ago. And that's how it all began, Shandel, now 25, recalled. Gradually, the man she thought of as the only person who loved her or even cared for her, demanded more. Much more -- and she said he would physically abuse her if she refused. [Read more](#)

Local Organization Expanding Resources for Child Survivors of Sex Trafficking

Many people often think human trafficking is not happening in their neighborhood or their city, but the hard truth is it can happen anywhere at any time. Now, a local organization that helps survivors of sex trafficking is looking to expand resources for children who have become victims. Sarah's Home, in Colorado Springs, is home to eight teenage girls who have been exploited to sex trafficking, but soon staff want to start helping teenage boys. Jacqueline Staples, a board member for the organization says more than 300,000 children are victims of sex trafficking every year, and 138,000 of them are teenage boys. However there's only one boys home in the country, which has [Read more](#)

National News

Will Squeeze on State Budgets Drive More Youth Justice Reforms?

Growing financial pressures are likely to bring about more changes in youth justice systems across the country, despite election results that left statehouse leaderships largely unchanged, according to an official with the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL). Addressing a webinar on youth justice reform as final votes for the 2020 races were still being tallied, Anne Teigen, director of the criminal justice program at the NCSL, said it appeared there was little change in the "status quo" in party control over state legislatures. [Read more](#)

L.A. County Moves to Create New Juvenile Justice System Focused on 'Care,' Not Punishment

After years of incremental reform, **Los Angeles County (CA)** is moving to dismantle the largest youth justice system in the country in favor of a "care-first" model that would look less like prison and would emphasize emotional support, counseling and treatment. The plan calls for children and young adults who have committed crimes to be served in home-like settings, and includes 24/7 youth centers and support teams that establish relationships with young people who might otherwise be locked in facilities far from home. [Read more](#)

Juvenile Arrests Hit Record Low ... Again

Juvenile arrests in **Florida** are at the lowest level in 45 years. The number of juvenile arrests continued to decline in Fiscal Year 2019-2020, according to the latest delinquency [report](#) released this week by the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ). Overall juvenile arrests statewide declined 17 percent and felony juvenile arrests also declined 16 percent. These declines continue the multi-year trend of fewer arrests, with a five-year decline of 35 percent, resulting in the lowest number of juvenile arrests in 45 years. [Read more](#)

King County Bypasses Jail with New Effort to Help Teens in Trouble

King County (**WA**) is taking a chance on a new way to keep young people from committing crimes. Instead of pursuing punishment when youth get into legal trouble, community groups will offer these children the promise of a fresh start through a new program called Restorative Community Pathways. Research shows youth who commit a crime and go through the legal system are more likely to drop out of school, not find employment or become homeless, as well as face potentially higher rates of recidivism. [Read more](#)

County Aims to End Incarceration of Youths with New Facility, and New Philosophy

Racine County (**WI**) wants to drop its number of imprisoned juveniles to zero. In the effort to do that, it's planning to build a new \$45 million facility that is nearly 90% funded by a state grant. District 11 Supervisor Robert Miller of Mount Pleasant called it "a very advantageous funding relationship with the State of Wisconsin." The plan and the goal seem contradictory. But the Racine County Board and other county leaders say a state-of-the-art facility built for rehabilitation, and not for punishment like the current Racine County Juvenile Detention Center, will do better for Wisconsin's most troubled youths. [Read more](#)