

Kansas News

Staffing Changes at KDOC

Amilee Turner has joined the Research and Behavioral Analytics Team in the Reentry Division of the Kansas Department of Corrections as a Research Analyst IV. Amilee will support Juvenile Services by conducting research with areas of revisualization, analyzation, and restructuring of Juvenile Services data and systems input, working on various projects during this transformative period and producing output that can effectively assist the KDOC in helping offenders through different pathways and programs. Prior to coming to KDOC, Amilee was a Graduate Teaching Assistant at the University of Kansas while finishing her doctorate degree from KU in Political Science. Her research areas of expertise pertain to political violence, societal grievances, conflict motivation, as well as aspects of gender inequality and violence. Amilee can be reached by email at Amilee.Turner2@ks.gov.

Leslie West has joined the Research and Behavioral Analytics Team in the Reentry Division of the Kansas Department of Corrections as a Research Analyst IV. Leslie will support Juvenile Services by working on juvenile services data, research, reporting, and evaluation support. Previously, Leslie served in the US Army where she had assignments in Fort Lewis, Washington, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, Iraq and Mannheim, Germany. She has worked in detention centers, jails, and prisons. Additionally, Leslie spent three years with CCA in Leavenworth and worked for the Leavenworth County Juvenile Detention Center. Leslie has a Bachelor's degree in Sociology with a minor in race relations, and a Master's degree in Public Policy and the law. Most recently, Leslie worked as a Program Consultant at the Lansing Correctional Facility in Re-Entry and as a Discharge Planner. Leslie stated "I am so happy to join the Research team as a Research Analyst at Central Office and I can't wait to meet and work with everyone." Leslie can be reached by email at Leslie.West@ks.gov.

District Judge Thomas Foster to Retire November 29th

District Judge Thomas Foster of the 10th Judicial District will retire November 29 after 21 years of service. Foster became a judge in 1999 and was chief judge from 2009 to 2013. The 10th Judicial District is composed of Johnson County. He has worked to improve child support guidelines and juvenile facilities. He said serving on the Kansas Juvenile Justice Review Committee from 2015 to 2016 was his most significant contribution as a judge. "The committee's recommendations led to closing ineffective and inefficient juvenile group homes in Kansas and hopefully will lead to better community programs for juveniles, while saving over \$10 million per year in taxpayer [Read more . . .](#)

Governor Appoints Member to the KAG

On October 2nd Governor Laura Kelly announced an appointee to the [Kansas Advisory Group on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention](#) [Read more . . .](#)

[Kansas Advisory Group on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention](#) [Read more . . .](#)

DCF – Family First Updates

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

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

Update – The Parent Project®

Registrations for the [Parent Project®](#) December training have reached capacity. To be placed on the waiting list and for a potential upcoming Parent Project® [facilitator training](#), please contact KDOC_CO_ParentProject@ks.gov.

2020 DOC-Juvenile Services Training Schedule

New Employee Kansas Detention Assessment Instrument (KDAI) Training

Zoom	Wednesday	November 18 th
Zoom	Thursday	December 10 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. 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 – Disproportionate Minority Contact

Disproportionate Minority Contact: It's Tricky

It was a Tuesday morning with Dr. Kort Prince, interim director for the Utah Criminal Justice Center (UCJC), and Derek Mueller, Utah Criminal Justice Center senior research analyst. The topic of the day was DMC - that is, disproportionate minority contact - in the state of Utah. UCJC had been contracted by the Utah Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice (CCJJ) to analyze the ratios of contact at the arrest and referral stages with minority youth relative to white youth, adjusted for the [Read more . . .](#)

The Crossover Youth Practice Model - Update Ashley Brown, CYPM Coordinator Kansas Department of Children and Families

Crossover Youth Practice Model (CYPM) kicked off in the pilot sites (Montgomery and Shawnee counties) with orientation on September 21, 2020. Both counties are eager and excited! Montgomery County's second meeting was held on October 20, 2020. Shawnee County's next meeting is scheduled for November 9, 2020. The sites were to identify the following before their respective meeting;

- A local coordinator
- A list of individuals who will make up the leadership team and/or the implementation team. The sites may decide to have one team of people that takes on both roles or have two separate teams
- A plan to engage youth and families

A gap analysis will be completed by each site. The purpose of the gap analysis is to; examine current practices, review data and set goals and priorities based on that data.

The CYPM coordinators, Office of Judicial Administration (OJA), Department of Children and Families (DCF) administrative and data staff, Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC) administrative and data staff and Georgetown University met on October 5, 2020 to discuss data collection and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between DCF, KDOC and OJA. The MOU is almost complete and will soon go through legal departments and signatures. The MOU outlines data sharing among the three agencies. The MOU will also outline a timeframe for collecting data. At the specified timeframe KDOC, DCF and OJA will provide child specific data to the CYPM coordinators. The Coordinators will create aggregate data and combine into one report and it will be used to guide policy and practice. It was also decided during the October 5th meeting that each county will provide a data packet for the identified Crossover youth in their county. It has not yet been determined how often the data packet will be required.

National News – Dual Involved Youth

Clark County Juvenile Court, DJFS Launch New Program to Help Youth Involved in Dual Systems

The Clark County (OH) Juvenile Court and Department of Jobs and Family Services have partnered together to launch a new program designed to address the needs of critically at-risk children who are involved in child welfare and juvenile justice systems. In the new 'Dually Involved Youth' program, children who enter the juvenile justice system with new charges (or currently have an open case) or become involved with the child welfare system will meet with a community panel to discuss the resources available to them and their families. [Read more . . .](#)

The Juvenile Justice Corner

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

The [Kansas Advisory Group on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention](#) (KAG) was established by the Governor in accordance with [K.S.A. 75-7007](#) and as directed by Section 223(a) (3) of the [Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act](#) (JJJPA). Their purpose is to determine, advocate for, and promote the best interests of juveniles in Kansas. To accomplish this the KAG reviews juvenile justice policy, advises policymakers on issues impacting the juvenile justice system; and strives to keep Kansas in compliance with the federal JJJPA act. One of the policy recommendations in the KAG FY19 Annual Report to the Governor and Legislature is "enhanced data collection and analysis of data pertaining to racial and ethnic disparities" of Kansas youth in the juvenile justice system.

Racial and ethnic disparities (RED) in the juvenile justice system, more commonly known as disproportionate minority contact (DMC), are the overrepresentation, disparity, and disproportionate numbers of youth of color entering and moving deeper into the juvenile justice system. Earlier this year the Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC) provided DMC/RED data for FY 15, FY 16 and FY 17 to judicial districts (JDs) so they could begin to review and analyze the data to become better informed. Over the next few months KDOC will be providing additional DMC/RED data to JDs for FY 18, FY 19 and FY 20 which will give each JD six years of DMC/RED data. Ultimately, KDOC-JS wants to support and assist local jurisdictions to be better informed in order to build local plans to identify and address any disparities that may exist. If you have questions regarding DMC/RED issues or data, you can contact Brock Landwehr at Brock.Landwehr@ks.gov.

As we get involved in processes such as this one here in Kansas, we know that Kansas is not alone in exploring and addressing these issues. Sometimes there is information or resources from other communities/states that represent efforts within their location or agency of their efforts to make progress to deal with DMC/RED. One such resource would be our neighbors to the north in the state of Nebraska. The Nebraska Juvenile Justice Association (NJJA) has put together a virtual conference.

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Council of State Governments – Justice Center

CSG Justice Center Launches Initial Assessment of Indiana’s Juvenile Justice System

The Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center recently launched a new project to analyze and ultimately strengthen Indiana’s juvenile justice system. In partnership with the Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana, the CSG Justice Center will conduct a preliminary assessment of the state’s juvenile justice system that will result in a roadmap for a more comprehensive analysis of the system. The assessment will also help the state begin to identify policies and practices to protect public safety, reduce racial and ethnic disparities, and improve outcomes for youth in contact with the juvenile justice system. [Read more](#)

National News

Justice for Juveniles Bill Sails Through the U.S. House of Representatives

The US House of Representatives unanimously passed the Justice for Juveniles Act ([HR 5053](#)), a bill that exempts youth under age 21 from the administrative burdens of the Public Litigation Reform Act, allowing them protections from widespread abuse and mistreatment while in out of home placements. The bill was sponsored by Representative Mary Gay Scanlon (D-PA), Vice Chair of the House Judiciary Committee, after widespread abuse of young people was discovered at the [Glenn Mills School](#) in Delaware. [Read more](#)

A Child’s Right to Counsel: Juvenile Public Defenders

Juvenile public defenders represent youth charged with crimes through the juvenile court system. Each state has a process to provide access to counsel for allegedly delinquent youth who are unable to pay for a hired private defense attorney. Indigent defense provides juveniles with the constitutionally mandated access to counsel, even if they cannot afford it. Court-appointed lawyers who work on delinquency matters in the juvenile justice field can be labeled as juvenile public defenders, indigent criminal defense attorneys. [Read more](#)

Jobs, Education, Mentors Help Lower Crime Among Youth

Despite crime reports involving some of the area’s youngest people, leaders say work is being done to reduce recidivism rates in the juvenile justice system. You see the reports about shootings and murders and sometimes those offenders are the CSRA’s youth. So we sat down with the commissioner of the (Georgia) Department of Juvenile Justice to see what’s being done to lower crime among that population. “When they see people within their community that [Read more and watch video](#)

Burlington Police Add Positions Focused on Children’s Mental Health, Diversion from Jail

The Burlington (NC) Police Department is emphasizing mental health and diverting children from the criminal justice system through the addition of two positions. The police department has employed a crisis counselor since 2016. The crisis counselor is a social worker who goes on mental-health-related calls along with police. The two new positions, a juvenile crisis counselor and juvenile diversion coordinator, will function similarly but will focus on those under 18. [Read more](#)

Juvenile Justice Information Exchange

This is a seven part series of articles written by [Judge Steven Teske](#), the chief judge of the [Juvenile Court of Clayton County, Ga.](#), was the national chair of the [Coalition For Juvenile Justice](#) and [Naomi Smoot Evans](#) is the executive director of the [Coalition For Juvenile Justice](#)

How Do We Make Youth Homelessness Effort Bipartisan?

Part 1 of 7 [Read article](#)

America’s Biases Marginalize Youth, Drive Them to Homelessness

Part 2 of 7 [Read article](#)

Collective Decision-making Can Neutralize Politics of Fear

Part 3 of 7 [Read article](#)

So, How Does This Collective Decision-making Work?

Part 4 of 7 [Read article](#)

Youth Homelessness Is a Symptom, Not a Cause

Part 5 of 7 [Read article](#)

To Work on Youth Homelessness, Brainstorming, Decision Analysis Strong Tools

Part 6 of 7 [Read article](#)

Youth Themselves Must Help Design Supports to Protect Them From Homelessness

Part 7 of 7 [Read article](#)

Annie E. Casey Foundation

Journal Spotlights Casey’s Vision for Transforming Juvenile Probation

The journal of the American Probation and Parole Association (APPA) has dedicated [an issue exclusively to the subject of juvenile probation](#), with five articles produced in collaboration with the Annie E. Casey Foundation. The articles are based on the Foundation’s vision for sweeping changes and priorities to address [juvenile probation](#), a significant yet often overlooked part of the juvenile justice system. [Read more](#)

Human Trafficking - National

'People Don’t Want to Talk About It,' But Reports of Children being Exploited Online have Spiked Substantially

As New Jersey started locking down in the COVID-19 pandemic, a [convicted rapist and registered sex offender](#) from Oklahoma named Aaron Craiger stepped off a Greyhound bus in Atlantic City. He had a phone with child sexual abuse materials on it and graphic plans to carry out his sexual fantasies with two 11- and 12-year-old girls. Instead, Craiger was met on March 18 by undercover law enforcement in a four-month sting that led to the arrests of 19 men, one woman and one juvenile male accused of sexually exploiting children online. [Read more](#)

Missouri Cracks Down on Human Trafficking at Massage Parlors

Missouri is cracking down on human trafficking. The first phase of a recently launched initiative has resulted in 23 illicit massage businesses being evicted by their landlords. Attorney General Eric Schmitt on Tuesday announced the new first of its kind initiative to combat human trafficking by targeting illicit massage businesses. [Read more](#)

Human Trafficking is On the Rise in Rural America

Human trafficking can look a lot different than what most people expect, especially in rural areas. In this podcast episode, AMU criminal justice professor Dr. Jarrod Sadulski talks to Dr. Christi Bartman about her work in rural Ohio to dispel myths and provide education, awareness, and resources about the reality of human trafficking. Learn about specific warning signs, what questions to ask, the type of resources human trafficking victims need, and much more. [Read the transcript](#)

The Juvenile Justice Corner continued from page 1

Session 1: Reducing Racial Disparities in Juvenile Detention with Effective and Innovative Alternatives to Detention

This presentation was selected by the JDAI Alternatives to Detention (ATD) Sub-committee. The first, in a three-part ATD series will be Opal West from the Annie E. Casey Foundation on Alternatives to Detention. [Watch session 1](#)

Session 2: Alternatives to Detention (ATD): why culture matters, targeting intervention for specific populations and building a continuum

In this webinar, the audience will be educated on the journey of Tacoma Washington as they worked to change the culture of their jurisdiction to allow for reform. We will also learn about the Pathways to Success program created specifically for African American youth. This program serves youth who are considered a high risk to reoffend. They will share data from this alternative to detention that is aimed at reducing RED and is showing positive outcomes. The webinar will assist the audience in understanding how changing the culture of jurisdictions to allow for reform as well as understanding how to use data to create strategies. Presenters will also share the robust ATD continuum being used in Tacoma to assist officers in understanding what alternatives are available. [Watch session 2](#)

Session 3: Alternatives to Detention (ATD): Multi-Agency Resource Centers (Assessment Centers)

In this webinar, the audience will hear about the Multi-Agency Resource Center (MARC) in Calcasieu Parish Louisiana. The MARC has served over 11k youth since June of 2011, diverting 82% (27% did not enter any system at all). Absenteeism has been reduced by 26% with their school-based diversion. All of this with only 13 Staff members. The MARC is a single point of entry into the Child Welfare, Juvenile Justice and Prevention systems. [Watch session 3](#)

Session 4: Mental Health in the Black Community

This course will help attendees understand the impact mental health can have on behaviors and how to impact behavior change with clients and their family. Each of the above risk factors, once identified, could be addressed by this therapeutic approach. This course will assist attendees in understanding why the creation of culturally competent service is imperative in 21st Century social service work. The session will also discuss how this approach aims to reduce the criminogenic risks associated with youth. [Watch session 4](#)