

Kansas News

Wyandotte County Officials Unveil New \$27 Million Juvenile Justice Center in KCK

Local leaders in Wyandotte County cut the ribbon on a new juvenile justice center Monday. The \$27 million building is located near 7th and Ann. Until now, kids who got in trouble with the law were housed across the street in a facility that shared a building with adult inmates. A local judge said they want this new center to be focused less on punishment and more on rehabilitation. [Read more and watch video](#)

Governor Appoints Members to JJOC and KAG

On August 31st Governor Laura Kelly announced appointees to the [Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee](#) [Read more](#)

On September 4th Governor Laura Kelly announced appointees to the [Kansas Advisory Group on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention](#) [Read more](#)

On September 18th Governor Laura Kelly announced appointees to the [Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee](#) and the [Kansas Advisory Group on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention](#) [Read more](#)

Protecting Girls of Color from the School-to-Prison Pipeline

Report: Black Girls are Subject to Discriminatory School Disciplinary Action in Kansas, Massachusetts, and Alabama

Three members of the Appleseed Network, a non-profit network of independent organizations in the United States and Mexico working towards social and legal justice, today announced the release of their comprehensive report, "[Protecting Girls of Color from the School-to-Prison Pipeline](#)," the final product of a year-long research project examining disparities in school disciplinary treatment for Black girls in Massachusetts, Alabama, and Kansas. [Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP](#), an international law firm [Read more](#)

Update – The Parent Project®

The Kansas Department of Corrections-Juvenile Services (KDOC-JS) is hosting a third scheduled [facilitator training](#) session for the [Parent Project®](#) to be held over zoom. The training will be from 8am – 12 pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays December 1st – 10th and is offered at no cost. It is open to professionals that have contact with families and/or children or youth in the juvenile justice or child welfare systems. The [Parent Project®](#) is paid for using juvenile justice reinvestment funds.

The benefits of the [Parent Project®](#) are well documented and include improving school attendance and performance and providing a behavioral model that effectively addresses the critical issues parents face today while offering specific, step-by-step, solutions, not just theories. It is need-based, easy to teach, and is an activity-based curriculum built on cooperative learning norms.

Participants will learn about the [Parent Project®](#) and how to present the curriculum back in their home community. The [Parent Project®](#) is designed to provide parents with guidance, skills and techniques to manage children and youth that may be more challenging and difficult. Issues such as arguing, family conflict, school attendance and poor school performance, teenage sexuality and drug use, runaways, teen violence, bullying and dealing with gang activity will be addressed.

If you work with a family that you would like to refer the parent(s) to attend an upcoming [Parent Project®](#) [click here](#)

To inquire or register for the next [Parent Project®](#) session in December contact KDOC_CO_ParentProject@ks.gov. Registration deadline is November 6th and seating is limited.

Update – Site Visits

In August Greg Artis started conducting virtual site visits to adult jails/lockups, secure detention facilities, secure correctional facilities, nonsecure facilities, and other institutions (secure facilities) in which juveniles might be contained or detained. Because these contacts cannot take place in-person, Greg has asked agency directors and chiefs to assist in virtual walk-throughs of their facilities. Through the end of September Greg has completed 73 site visits to 21 secure, 40 non-secure and 12 co-located detention facilities. After a busy two-month schedule Greg states, "I have found everyone to be very cooperative and accommodating and I appreciate everyone's assistance."

2020 DOC-Juvenile Services Training Schedule

New Employee Kansas Detention Assessment Instrument (KDAI) Training

Zoom	Tuesday	October 20 th
Zoom	Wednesday	November 18 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

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

Recently a multidisciplinary team of representatives from child welfare, juvenile justice, and various service providers met via a virtual platform. The joint discussion brought professionals together to educate each other on agency specific roles and responsibilities and to share perspectives. The group met to identify gaps and areas where the duplication of services may occur while brainstorming ways to jointly address the challenges and needs of one specific crossover youth. The use of multidisciplinary teams is not a new concept. Collaborating and coordinating with other professionals can be an effective and efficient use of resources. Using a multidisciplinary team creates enhanced opportunities to establish common goals for case plans, identify appropriate services, increase accountability and the satisfaction of youth and their family. The team approach is not just specific to crossover youth but can be used to address the needs of all youth in the child welfare and/or the justice system across the state.

The State Policy team is in the process of putting together a Guiding Coalition to help spread the word of CYPM work in Kansas, to provide recommendations for services and supports, and to offer available resources to the State Policy Team. The Guiding Coalition will also add an additional layer of accountability to the work.

To access an updated CYPM Flyer [click here](#)

Kansas News

DCF – Family First Updates

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

Update – Functional Family Therapy®

The Kansas Department of Corrections - Juvenile Services continues to contract with three vendors to provide Functional Family Therapy (FFT®) services in all 105 counties throughout the state.

- In December 2015, KDOC-JS contracted with Eckerd Youth Alternatives to provide FFT® services in judicial districts (JDs) in southeast Kansas. Then in August 2016 they expanded to include portions of eastern and south-central Kansas.
- In December 2016, KDOC-JS contracted with EmberHope Inc. to provide FFT® services in JDs in west-central Kansas.
- In December 2016, KDOC-JS contracted with Comerstones Inc. to provide FFT® services in JDs in northeast Kansas

As a result, FFT® services have been available statewide since early 2017.

FFT® is an intensive therapy model program administered according to evidentiary-based practices to achieve sustainable outcomes that reduce individual recidivism and improve the quality of life for the family and the youth who completes the treatment. The FFT® model administers therapy in three major phases (engagement, behavior change, and generalization), all of which must be completed to finish treatment. The average time it takes to complete treatment is 12 weeks. By providing FFT® services within the community, high and moderate risk juvenile offenders (and their families) are able to receive treatment in their home where they are provided the skills and support they need to overcome delinquency, substance abuse, and violence. In the past, these same youth would likely have been removed from their home for an out-of-home placement or secure confinement in a juvenile correctional facility.

Continued next page . . .

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

The year 2020. Enough said. As this newsletter comes out, we are beginning to round the home stretch of a year that seems like it's lasted a decade or two. As of September 30th, we are officially three-fourths through the year, and we have changed and adjusted so much; in a way it's difficult to define what our new normal is. And all this is on top of an already difficult (and for some) a sometimes-dangerous job.

Working with youth involved in the juvenile justice system can be taxing at times. Our duties and responsibilities can be challenging, complex, require high levels of commitment and professionalism while demanding creativity and flexibility. Sometimes it takes a little extra energy to be professional and courteous to someone that doesn't seem to show the same level of respect in return. And still there are times that you know you're making a positive difference. And so, we move forward.

With all this in mind, my suggestion to you is to take some time this fall, this coming month of seasonal change and often friendly weather. Try to get away from the stress or whatever may seem a bit overwhelming and do something for yourself. Do it safely, following socially distancing guidelines, ideally choose something that is healthy, but choose it because it's positive and feels good to you. Celebrate that October is National [Emotional Wellness](#) Month. If you get the opportunity, I suggest you jump on it – as there are still three months left in the year 2020.

Human Trafficking - Kansas

Local Victim of Sextortion Speaks Out as Experts Say Number of Cases Climbs Higher and Higher

It's called sextortion: the use of nude photos of someone to manipulate them into sex trafficking. The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children says online enticement targeting children is up 93% from January 2019 to January 2020. Experts say that once children are involved, they don't know how to get out and are often afraid to tell their parents. Many of them go on to self-harm, such as cutting, and start contemplating suicide. One young woman who was groomed and enticed through sextortion shared her story [Read more and watch video](#)

Council of Juvenile Justice Administrators

New Practices for Juvenile Justice Systems in the Wake of Covid-19: What Will We Keep?

This year's CJJA Summer Business meeting provided another opportunity to bring together Directors from across the country to talk about their Juvenile Justice Systems' adaptations to living in a world with COVID-19. In partnership with Pew Charitable Trusts, this panel was moderated by CJJA's transitioning President, Lisa Bjerggaard, and featured Directors from ten states who highlighted what kind of impact the virus will have on the long-term practices. Directors discussed changes to facility operations, challenges, and new practices that may be worth sustaining that would increase long-term positive outcomes for youth. Admissions and releases, the use of technology to allow virtual family visits, the nature of delivery of academics, and staff wellness were all [Read more](#)

Juvenile Law Center

Transforming Juvenile Justice During the COVID Pandemic

Juvenile Law Center and many of our partner agencies from the Delivery of Legal Services Committee have been actively involved in a variety of long-term strategies to transform the juvenile justice system in Philadelphia and throughout **Pennsylvania**. The number of incarcerated youth in the Commonwealth has steadily decreased every year since 2016, but the COVID pandemic brings added urgency to our local and statewide demands for reform. At the August public meeting of the Child Welfare Oversight Board, Philadelphia's Department of Human Services shared data that Black children account for 42% of the city's population of children but 79% of youth in delinquency congregate [Read more](#)

National News

Kentucky's Youth Justice Overhaul Gets Mixed Review

It has been about six years since **Kentucky** "fundamentally overhauled" its juvenile justice system with the [enactment of a law](#) mandating that diversion programs be offered for all youth following their first misdemeanor or first-time felony complaint. It was an effort to put an emphasis on behavioral rehabilitation instead of punishment. According to an Urban Institute study of the reforms, the law has "significantly increased" the proportion of Kentucky youth diverted from formal court involvement. Nearly nine out of 10 youth completed diversion and avoided formal court involvement, according to their [report](#) published [Read more](#)

"Justice by Geography:" The Importance of Location for Young Offenders

According to data from the federal [Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention](#), of the 750,000 cases processed across the United States in 2018, about 200,000 involved detention – as authors Katherine Sypher and Anthony J. Wallace described it, "removing a young person from home and locking them away." [Read more](#)

Program to Help Youth Involved in Justice System

"It just seemed as the years passed in the last 10 years that I've been here in Vermilion County (IL), more and more kids are getting involved in the justice system," said Vermilion County State's Attorney, Jacqueline Lacy. Lacy said she wanted to do something about that. Earlier this year, she and several others formed a Juvenile Justice Council. They discussed ways to help young people at risk. "We wanted to find one specific thing we believed we could tackle as a group," said Lacy. [Read more and watch video](#)

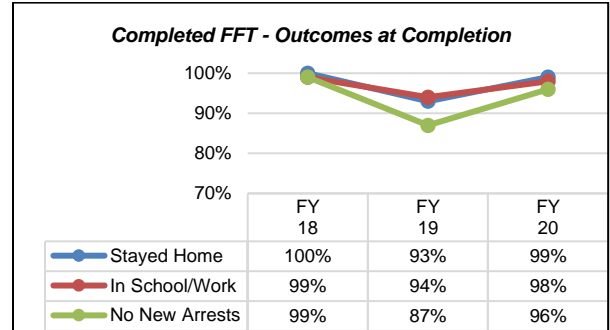
Pittsburgh Public Schools Looks to Commission School Police Data Analysis

The Pittsburgh (PA) Public Schools plans to hire a research organization to conduct an analysis that will match district police statistics with educational data. The district said Wednesday night it selected RMC Research Corporation to prepare an analysis that should help the district not only understand the number of police calls, arrests and citations but also the characteristics and location of students facing those actions over the past couple of years. [Read more](#)

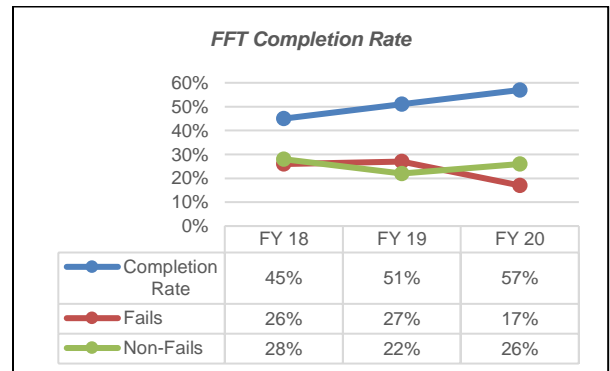
Update – FFT® continued from page 1

The results of FFT® are encouraging. With three years of data involving youth that are adjudicated as Juvenile Offenders but remain at home while successfully completing FFT®, positive outcome trends are noticeable.

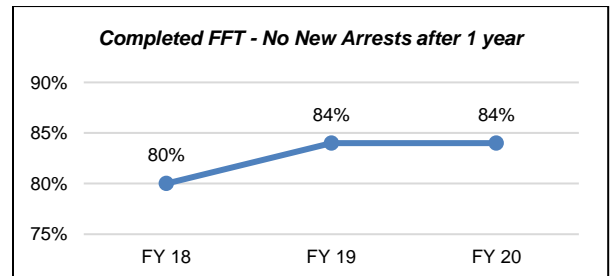
- In FY'18, the first full fiscal year of FFT®, 100% of the youth who completed the FFT® program were able to stay at home while receiving services. In FY'19 93% of the youth were able to remain at home and in FY'20 99% of the youth were able to remain at home.
- Similarly, in FY'18 99% of the youth who completed the FFT® program were able to stay in school (or maintain employment if they had completed high school) while receiving services. Again, FY'19 saw a small drop to 94% and in FY'20 it again increased to 98%.
- In FY18, 99% of youth who completed the FFT® program did not have a new arrest while they received services. In FY19 87% of youth did not have a new arrest while in FY20 that improved to 96%.



Early indications over the last three fiscal years indicate optimistic outcomes for those youth that complete the FFT® program. However, not every youth referred to FFT® completes the program. Youth who do not complete the program are categorized as either Non-Complete/Fail or Non-Complete/Non-Fail. Non-Complete/Fail may involve situations such as the youth or family quitting the program, the youth being arrested on a new charge, the youth is removed from home by the court or the youth runs away after starting the program. Non-Complete/Non-Fails are circumstances such as the youth/family moving away, the youth was admitted to a treatment facility, the youth never attended FFT® to begin with or the youth was discharged from probation. Each successive year the per centage of youth that have completed the program has increased while the percentage of Non-Complete/Fail has remained stable or declined.



Another indicator KDOC-JS is monitoring is any new arrests within the first year after a youth successfully completes the FFT® program. In FY18, 80% of the youth that had completed the program a year earlier had no new arrests during that entire year. In both FY19 and FY20, 84% of the youth were arrest free for the entire year.



One of the goals of the FFT® program is to keep the family intact while the youth begins a process of making positive behavioral changes and both the family unit and larger community can be strengthened. By providing effective FFT® services statewide, the state of Kansas continues to meet the needs of the youth, families, and communities in a consistent and comprehensive manner across the state with a reliable evidence-based community program. Over the first three years early indications are that with FFT® programing in place statewide, reoffending can be reduced with the right interventions and supports in place while providing treatment and holding the youth accountable.