

KS Juvenile Justice Web-Line

April 2021

Kansas News

Update on Athena

On Monday, April 19th, Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC) launched a new web-based core information system, ATHENA. Upon deployment, ATHENA replaced the CASIMS, TOADS and JIAMS systems. KDOC Information Technology staff (KDOC-IT) with the support of Microsoft started to migrate the data from the three legacy systems into Athena on the weekend prior to deployment. Because of the volume of data needing to be migrated over to ATHENA and some technical issues, some records were migrated the following weekend. As of this writing, KDOC-IT & Microsoft are continuing to work on issues with some of the data sets in order to complete the data migration process.

Beginning in March and prior to the launch date, KDOC provided training to over 600 staff from around the state on how to operate ATHENA and over 450 staff were trained on how to operate the juvenile intake portion of ATHENA. As ATHENA users continue to use the new system and have questions there are several methods to get support or questions/problems addressed:

1. Email addresses have been created with KDOC staff ready to respond. Juvenile Services staff can e-mail KDOC_JSJC_AthenaHelp@ks.gov.
2. KDOC is providing a weekly opportunity for ATHENA Users to pose questions on ATHENA and get answers in real time via zoom. Two meetings have been held with two more to be held:
 - Wednesday, May 5, 2021; 10 – 11 AM
 - Wednesday, May 12, 2021; 10 – 11 AMTo access these meetings use this link:
<https://kdoc.zoom.us/j/82447780506?pwd=RDFDSUxwTlIHZXdMVIQya0U4Q29Bdz09>
The Meeting ID is: 824 4778 0506
The Passcode is: 010891
3. The ATHENA Team at KDOC has also developed a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) which is available at [Microsoft Word - ATHENA FAQ \(powerdms.com\)](#).
4. If you are having problems with ATHENA signing on, not being able to access the right functions or you have reason to believe the system is not performing properly you can submit a Help Desk ticket through the KDOC Portal or contact the Help Desk by phone at (785) 746-7600 or by email at KDOC_Customer_Serv@ks.gov.

In a memo provided to KDOC staff and stakeholders across the state, Secretary of Corrections Jeff Zmuda wrote *"In the weeks ahead I want to ask everyone to continue the open communication and coordinated work that led to the development of this technology. While Athena is developed by Microsoft, one of the largest corporations in the world, who brings to this task the skill sets, experience, and resources necessary to launch this system change, we should expect some transitional needs to arise. When they do I hope that you will be patient knowing that the resources of Microsoft are at our full disposal in this implementation phase."*

Update on Training

In the upcoming weeks, KDOC-JS will provide the following trainings:

- The **Juvenile Justice Basics** class will be held online via zoom on Tuesday, June 8th from 8:30 am till 3:30 pm. Participants can enroll through the **Learning Management System (LMS)**. For more information email KDOC_JS_Training@ks.gov.
- **Effective Practices in Correctional Settings II (EPICS II)** training will be held online via zoom on Thursday, May 27th and Wednesday, May 26th from 8:30 am till 4:30 pm. Participants can enroll through the **Learning Management System (LMS)**. For more information email KDOC_JS_Training@ks.gov. Prior to attending EPICS II, Officers/Staff must complete Juvenile Justice Basics.
- **Graduated Responses** training will be held online via zoom on Tuesday, May 25th and Wednesday, May 26th from 8:30 am till 12:00 noon. Participants can enroll through the **Learning Management System (LMS)**. For more information email KDOC_JS_Training@ks.gov. Prior to attending Graduated Sanctions, Officers/Staff must complete Juvenile Justice Basics and EPICS II.
- **Refresher training for Officers/Staff already certified with the Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory 2.0 (YLS/CMII 2.0)** will be held online via zoom on Monday, May 10th and Tuesday, May 11th. The refresher course will last approximately 90 minutes. There are six sessions to choose from (two morning and one afternoon) over the two days. Participants can enroll through the **Learning Management System (LMS)**. For more information email KDOC_JS_YLSCMII@ks.gov.
- Training for **new Officers/Staff** to become certified to administer the **Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory 2.0 (YLS/CMII 2.0)** is being planned for June. More information should be coming soon.
- **Kansas Detention Assessment Instrument (KDAI)** Training for new Juvenile Intake and Assessment employees will be held online via zoom on Wednesday, May 19th and Tuesday, June 22nd from 10 am till 4:00 pm. For more information or to register contact Steve Bonner at steven.bonner@ks.gov.

The Juvenile Justice Corner

Hope Cooper, Deputy Secretary
DOC - Juvenile and Adult Community-Based Services

The Kansas Department of Corrections – Juvenile Services Division (KDOC-JS) will look a little different starting this next fiscal year. With a renewed focus on support of the local agencies and communities we serve, an organizational structure shift will provide units that serve both juvenile, adult and the joint agencies. The units will be arranged by the following categories:

- Grant management and quality assurance
- Special projects
- Compliance and facility support
- Community based services (supervision)
- Crossover youth

The job functions will remain, it is just a shift of where those positions will be organized. Juvenile and Adult functions will remain separated but approach to the work will become more in line with each other.

Kansas Juvenile Correctional Complex - Update
Dustin Karr, Deputy Superintendent
DOC - Kansas Juvenile Correctional Complex

After having been suspended for more than a year, KJCC along with the rest of KDOC facilities resumed in-person visitation on Sunday, April 18! With COVID-19 numbers in the community trending down, we feel comfortable that we can safely begin opening our facility up to visitation again, but we do have to understand that there is still risk and so we must still take safety precautions. The first thing to note is that while we are taking this big step forward, we are not going to immediately resume what was considered "normal" visitation prior to COVID-19. We are going to start slowly – safely – and will gradually move back toward normal as the situation and the virus allows us to safely do so.

At this time, in-person visitation will be limited to immediate family members and each youth will be allowed a maximum of two (2) visitors per visit. Immediate family is defined by KDOC Internal Management Policy and Procedure 10-113D as, **"parents, step-parents, siblings, spouses of siblings, half-siblings, step-siblings, children, step-children, ... spouse, parents of spouse, grandparents, or any person who filled the role of parent de facto with respect to the offender as confirmed by the warden/superintendent upon review of the social history."** After more than a year of not being able to see their child/loved one in person, the youth not being able to physically see their parents, siblings, grandparents, we want to ensure that youth and their immediate family have the opportunity to be together before we extend to more distant family members, friends, etc. Any two approved visitors who meet that definition of immediate family will be able to schedule a visit. We understand that placing the limit of two (2) visitors is disappointing; however, for social distancing purposes, we must temporarily reduce the capacity of our visitation rooms and placing this limit of two visitors per youth

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

Daniel Olson has accepted the position of the Crossover Youth Policy and Practice Coordinator for the Office of Judicial Administration (OJA). He is a great addition to our team! Daniel graduated from Washburn University in 2005 where he obtained his Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice. He began his career at Family Service and Guidance Center as a Case Manager for 3 years. He was an Intensive Supervision Officer for the 8th Judicial District for about a year. In 2012 Daniel began working at Topeka Correctional Facility (TCF) as a Corrections Counselor for adult women. In 2019 he decided to try his hand as a Corrections Counselor (CCII) at Kansas Juvenile Correctional Complex (KJCC). One of Daniel's favorite roles as a CCII was the challenge of working with the youth to help them change their thinking and behavior patterns so they could become successful adults once released. Daniel also works part-time at the Topeka Round Up Club. He enjoys being outside and around the animals. Daniel is excited to be a part of this new program that will help youth in the long term. Daniel can be reached at olsond@kscourts.org.

Here is a quick and exciting update on our pilot sites (Shawnee and Montgomery Counties):

Montgomery county identified two youth and a parent to be part of their Implementation Team. The new members were oriented on April 13th and joined their first team meeting on April 15th. Including youth and families is an important step to create real system change.

Shawnee county completed their system assessment at their March meeting. During the April meeting recommendations from Georgetown University's Center for Juvenile Justice Reform were discussed. It is anticipated that youth and family members will be oriented and ready to join the Implementation Team in May.

National News – Dual Involved Youth

Reducing System Crossover for Black LGBTQ+ Girls and Nonbinary Youth

Crossover youth (CY) is a term used to describe youth who have experienced maltreatment and engaged in delinquency and includes those who are dually-involved in both the juvenile justice and child welfare systems. Within and across each of these systems, it has become evident that lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ+) youth are overrepresented compared to their heterosexual, cisgender peers. Further, Black girls are disproportionately represented in the CY population when compared to their White counterparts who are only [Read more . . .](#)

UH Law Center Combines Forces with Center for Urban Transformation to Expand Pro Bono Juvenile Justice

The University of Houston Law Center's Juvenile and Children's Advocacy Project (JCAP) is collaborating with the Center for Urban Transformation's juvenile diversion program (CUT) to expand CUT's capacity to represent and serve young people in Houston's Fifth Ward (TX), with a goal of breaking the school-to-prison pipeline. JCAP will provide CUT clients with superior legal representation in multiple capacities including youth with solely juvenile justice system involvement; youth with dual system (DFPS and juvenile justice) involvement; juvenile record [Read more . . .](#)

National News

SC begins Juvenile Justice Reform Amid DOJ Criticism; Charleston County First Test Site

South Carolina's juvenile justice system had a rocky year in 2020, from a Department of Justice report slamming state custody for endangering the youth in its care to a lawsuit against Charleston County's detention facility. Attempts at reform were slow-moving. In 2021, state officials and advocates are bringing in outside help. The S.C. Department of Juvenile Justice is starting a three-year partnership with the Center for Children's Law and Policy, a national juvenile justice reform group. [Read more . . .](#)

National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges Launch Innovative Bench Card Resource Center for Judiciary

The [National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges](#) (NCJFCJ), with support from the [State Justice Institute](#) (SJI), announces the launch of an all-new [Bench Card Resource Center](#) for the judiciary. Juvenile and family court judges primarily use bench cards during hearings on matters related to child welfare, family violence, juvenile justice, and child custody. Ideally, judges review each case prior to a hearing and assess all pertinent information. [Read more . . .](#)

Joint Statement on the Importance of Specialization of Judges, Prosecutors and Defenders in Juvenile Delinquency Proceedings and Resource for Behavior and Language in Juvenile Court

Today, the [National Juvenile Defender Center](#) (NJDC), the [National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges](#) (NCJFCJ) and [Fair and Just Prosecution](#) (FJP) released a joint statement underscoring the importance of specialization, training and experience for judges, prosecutors and defenders assigned to all-important juvenile delinquency practice. In collaboration with the [Georgetown Law Juvenile Justice Initiative](#), these groups have also published a resource guide delineating best practices for understanding behavior and using appropriate language in juvenile court. "We all want young people to thrive," said Mary Ann Scali, executive director of NJDC. [Read more . . .](#)

Zoom fatigue? Not in Utah Juvenile Detention Facilities

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit last year, Utah's juvenile detention centers halted visitation. "Heavy moments. Like, decisions have to be made," Brett Peterson, the director of Utah's Juvenile Justice Services said. "One of those was saying, 'We're not going to be able to have visitors in the middle of a pandemic.' That was tough." But as everyone quickly pivoted to relying on Zoom, FaceTime, WebEx and other video communication technologies, the state's juvenile [Read more . . .](#)

Restorative Justice, Part 1: Juvenile Court Diversion is Cheap and Effective, But inconsistent Across N.H.

Only a few months away from graduating from Spaulding High School, Dillon Guyer made a seemingly small decision that would change his life. He remembers his 17-year-old self as a typical rambunctious teenager who skipped a few classes a day to smoke weed with his friends behind the school. Something anyone at that age may have done. This time, they got caught. [Read more . . .](#)

School Resource Officers 'The Gatekeepers' of Juvenile Court Diversion

Nicole E. Rodler, chairwoman of the [New Hampshire Juvenile Court Diversion Network](#), calls school resource officers (SROs) "the gatekeepers" of the juvenile diversion system. While their exact roles vary by school district and police department, SROs are generally tasked with keeping school campuses secure, protecting staff and students, mentoring students, and handling in-school juvenile offenses. They are the officers most likely to know the [Read more . . .](#)

Kansas News

To Build Better Police Relationships, Highlight Work of School Resource Officers, USD 501 Student Panel Says

Chris Frazier used to dislike the police. Growing up, the French Middle School eighth-grader had been deeply influenced by accounts of police brutality and discrimination he had seen on TV. But then he started talking with the USD 501 resource officer stationed at his school, and over time, he got to know the officer more deeply as a person, rather than some abstract [Read more . . .](#)

How One City Used Federal Funds to Create Reentry Housing Opportunities

Lack of access to safe, affordable housing is a widespread problem in the United States. A first step to addressing that problem can be for jurisdictions to conduct a housing needs assessment, which provides a baseline for efforts to increase housing access and supply. The City of Salina, Kansas, conducted such an assessment in 2016. As a result, city officials [Read more . . .](#)

Council of State Governments – Justice Center

IOYouth Bills Part of Larger Effort to Reform Connecticut's Juvenile Justice System

Last month, legislation expanding pre-arrest diversion opportunities for youth and shifting responsibility for all youth under 18 who are being held before trial to the Connecticut judicial branch was introduced in the state legislature. The provisions are part of a larger bill proposing sweeping reforms to Connecticut's juvenile justice system. Connecticut has made much progress in recent years to reduce the number of youth who enter its juvenile justice system. However, [Read more . . .](#)

As Students Return to In-Person Learning, Supportive School Discipline Should be Prioritized

With school buildings across the country starting to reopen, administrators' focus will be on preventing the spread of COVID-19 and making up for lost instructional time. But promoting the social and emotional health of students and staff must share equal importance, as many students will return after massive disruptions to their family support systems, normal routines, and social lives. Students who have experienced trauma and stress [Read more . . .](#)

New 50-State Analysis to Focus on Critical Role of Juvenile Court Judges

Juvenile court judges play a critical role in promoting public safety and improving outcomes for the youth who enter their courtrooms. Not only do judges decide individual youth delinquency cases, including the level and type of supervision and services juveniles receive, they are also uniquely positioned to lead juvenile justice system reform efforts. Many states, however, lack laws or court rules—on youth development, evidence-based models, and more—that [Read more . . .](#)

KJCC – Update continued from page 1

allows a greater number of individual youth and their families the opportunity to have a visit rather than limiting the number of youth so that the number of visitors could be larger. What I can say is this is something that we will be frequently re-evaluating, and we will expand that number as soon as we are safely able to do so.

We will have four (4) visitation sessions each visiting day, lasting for 90 minutes each. This timeframe allows the opportunity for adequate cleaning and sanitation prior to the next visitation block beginning. Sessions will be from 8:00am – 9:30am; 10:00am – 11:30am; 12:00pm – 1:30pm; 2:00pm – 3:30pm. At this time, all youth will be eligible for 90-minute visitation regardless of incentive level; as noted above, with reduced capacity, the intent here is to ensure sufficient room to allow all youth and all families the opportunity to visit. This, also, is something that will be frequently re-evaluated and will be updated as soon as circumstances allow.

As families arrive for their visit, they are checking in with facility staff who perform a temperature check and symptom screening in accordance with the mitigation procedures that we have had in place for our staff through the course of the pandemic. In order to ensure the health and safety of all youth, staff, and visitors, anyone presenting with two or more symptoms associated with COVID-19, anyone who has been in contact with a confirmed COVID-positive person within the past 14 days, and/or anyone with a temperature reading of 100.3 will not be permitted to enter the facility. Additionally, in accordance with Executive Order #20-52, anyone entering KDOC buildings or facilities will be required to wear a mask.

The decision to temporarily suspend visitation over the past year and the measures that we have in place for visitation at this time have been, and continue to be, focused on ensuring the health and safety of the residents and staff. These limitations won't be in place forever; this is a starting point, an initial balance of two very important factors: safety and family. We understand that this is a big deal for everyone – especially for the youth and their families – and we are excited to finally be able to bring these families back together in person!