

Kansas News

KJCC Holds Graduation Ceremony

[Lawrence Gardner High School](#) (LGHS) at the [Kansas Juvenile Correctional Complex](#) (KJCC) held a graduation ceremony on December 17, 2021 with 19 juveniles participating in the ceremony in front of graduates family members, LGHS teachers/staff and KJCC staff. Each of the 19 juvenile graduates had either completed their GED requirements or received their high school diploma.

Mr. Michael Monaghan, LGHS Principal awarded graduate AWe with the Marge Paige Merit Scholarship. Mr. Monaghan stated that the Marge Paige scholarships were created from a donation from Marge Paige in 2009 and funds are provided to each LGHS graduate to help pay for tuition or books to attend an accredited university, community college, technical school or trades program within the first two years of their release date. GED graduates can receive \$250, high school graduates \$500 and one Merit Scholarship winner is awarded \$2000. Mr. Monaghan also recognized Mr. D Balaun as the LGHS Teacher of the Year. Mr. Balaun is retiring after teaching science at LGHS for over 19 years.



Student Speaker AWi addresses fellow LGHS graduates, family members, LGHS teachers/staff and KJCC staff on the Importance of Education at the graduation ceremony held Dec. 17, 2021 at KJCC.

A commencement address was provided by Steve Backman, former teacher and principal at LGHS. Mr. Backman told the graduates about a dream that was laden with forward thinking life lessons and advice. After Mr. Backman's address Mr. Monaghan announced that Mr. Backman would be returning to KJCC and LGHS after the first of the year to help lead a new program at LGHS. Later, AWi gave a Student Speaker Address on the Importance of Education.

KJCC Family Therapy - Update

The [Kansas Juvenile Correctional Complex](#) (KJCC) earlier this year launched a new Family Therapy service available at no cost for all families who have a child residing at KJCC. Family therapy is often short term and may include the entire family or just those members that are able or willing to participate. The intent of the program is to support family members by helping them to develop skills to deepen family connections and get through stressful times. These skills can be used while members are involved with Family Therapy or applied after family members are no longer attending therapy sessions. Families will work with a trained mental health counselor that understands the diversity and culture that makes each family unique while offering guidance and support for the family's wellbeing.

Family Therapy can be provided either in person or through the zoom platform. Sessions are provided in a safe and confidential manner with a licensed professional. Each family's situation will be approached in a manner to best meet their unique needs. To inquire or arrange for Family Therapy family members or local community corrections staff should contact the youth's assigned Corrections Counselor at KJCC or email KJCC Program Director Marissa Reinbold at Marissa.Reinbold@ks.gov.

Training Updates

The next **Juvenile Justice Basics** class has been scheduled for Thursday, January 20th, 2022, from 9:00am to 4:00pm. Staff can sign up through the Learning Management System (LMS). Look for the class title **Juvenile Justice Basic FY2022 (start 1/20/2022)**. This is a virtual training, and the Zoom link will be found in the LMS system but will also be emailed several days before the training along with other documents.

The next **Effective Practices in Correctional Settings II/Graded Responses** (EPICS II/GR) training is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday through Thursday, February 1st - 3rd. We hope to have this class in person and have secured a location in McPherson that will allow for social distancing. More information will be provided as details of the training are finalized. If you have any questions, feel free to contact your local Program Consultant II.

New ATHENA Manual Available Online – Update

A new Manual to assist ATHENA users has been completed and is now available online in the Supervision Officers Library at <https://www.doc.ks.gov/juvenile-services/library/athena-manual/view>

Local Group Honors Shawnee Co. Judge for Efforts to Improve the Juvenile Youth

A local organization recognized a Shawnee Co. judge for his efforts to improve the lives of at-risk youth in the Topeka community. [One Heart Kansas](#) is a national collaborative initiative that provides second chances for at-risk youth offenders in Kansas. Their efforts to help mentor more youth offenders now comes easier with the help [Read more and watch video . . .](#)

Kansas Juvenile Correctional Complex - Update Johnathon Ashley, Training Lieutenant DOC - Kansas Juvenile Correctional Complex

Christmas at KJ

In 2017 I got permission to adopt families for Christmas from the United Way Adopt-A-Family program. We adopted four families that year and were able to provide them with Christmas presents for their children and a Christmas Dinner.

Fast forward to 2021. We were able to open up donations to include youth residents who might want to participate. I anticipated we might receive between \$100 to \$200 from the youth, but what happened was beyond any expectation. The youth at KJCC donated \$2980. This number stunned all of us involved in this project. When we met with the youth to ensure they were aware of how much money they were pledging, the youth told us that **if it wasn't for people helping us when we were younger, we wouldn't have had anything, and now we want to help.**



KJCC Youth met with U.S. Marines with the Toys for Tots Program to donate \$2700 worth of toys paid for by the KJCC youth

Because this much money could go to help so many, we did not want to use it all on just two families. So, I began making phone calls. We were told that all the families had been adopted already; not only through the United Way, but also all of the foster kids had been adopted through KVC's Holiday Heroes Program. What we didn't want to do was just donate the money. We wanted the youth to be able to see how much their donation was going to do. We decided to use \$280 of it to assist the families we adopted, and the rest would go towards Toys for Tots.

I was able to reach out to the U.S. Marines who run the local Toys for Tots program. Three KJCC staff went shopping and purchased \$2700 worth of toys. On Friday, December 17th four U.S. Marines came to KJCC, met with the youth that donated the money and were presented with the toys. To see not only young people, but those involved in the justice system in the way that we did - smiling and happy - because they helped those in need is truly something special. The Marines met with the KJCC youth for about 40 minutes. They talked about what kind of impact this will have on the community and those families the youth were going to help. After the meeting, the youth who were allowed to go outside the secured perimeter worked with the Marines to help get all the toys outside and loaded into the Marine's vehicle.

As the Marines drove away, I was talking to the last couple youth who had not yet returned to their living units. One of the youth said **he was happy he was going to be able to help so many people. He did not realize how much he could help someone else.** I hope this lesson sticks with him and the other youth involved for the rest of their lives. – *Johnathon Ashley*

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

A major accomplishment of The Kansas Crossover State Policy Team (SPT) this year is the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement between KDOC, OJA, and DCF. The agreement allows for the exchange of specific data which will provide a more comprehensive analysis of the recidivism rate for juveniles, and statistics regarding Kansas crossover youth. The data points are designed to answer three (3) questions; how much we did, how well we did it, and if anyone is better off, and will guide decision-making for CYPM implementation. The data collection team is composed of volunteers from the two CYPM pilot sites, and Amilee Turner, Program Analyst with KDOC's Research and Behavior Analytics unit. The team will meet early in 2022 to further discuss and prepare to collect data.

The SPT spends most of the time during the monthly meetings brainstorming ideas to improve communication and collaboration between agencies, remove barriers and enhance, improve or identify effective services for crossover youth and their families. The team ended the year with discussions around two (2) issues brought to the team by Kristen Powell, the young adult advocate member of the team. The first issue is identifying ways to improve the process and reduce the costs for young adults who want to retrieve their child welfare and juvenile justice records. **Continued next page . . .**

The Juvenile Justice Corner

Jim Johnson, Program Consultant
DOC - Juvenile Community Based Services

Wow – What a year. In some ways 2021 just seems like a continuation of 2020. With all the adjustments, crazy twists and turns and in some cases heartaches that come our way, it's easy to focus on the frustrations and difficulties. The continuation of COVID along with the related variants of Delta and now Omicron does not help any. But I want to take a moment to focus on the positive. KDOC-IT launched ATHENA, and even with the need for adjustments and some imperfections, it is a huge step forward. People have worked hard (really really hard) to make this happen – and we do appreciate their efforts. The youth and staff at KJCC continue to make improvements and impacts in their programming, security enhancements, family outreach, mentorship and school offerings. KDOC-JS Central Office staff have gone through another (almost full) year of teleworking while going through a reorganization with adult community corrections. KDOC continues to work with partners and state agencies to move forward on initiatives such as Crossover Youth, JCAB Grants, YLS-CMI upgrades, IIP upgrades, virtual trainings, implementation of the new Juvenile Crime Prevention Grants and the Kansas Advisory Group with racial and ethnic disparities initiatives. The Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee continues to navigate the juvenile justice reforms created in the 2016 passage of Senate Bill 367. The list goes on and on.

All that said, what makes all this work is you the people that work with and influence the justice involved youth in Kansas. Whether a local community corrections staff, juvenile corrections officer, therapist or clinician, law enforcement officer, corrections counselor, attorney, support staff, health care or mental health provider, a supervisor/manager, an educator, or a policy maker – the commitment, determination and perseverance you have is making a difference. So in this very busy time of year, it does not hurt to take a few minutes to appreciate the steps forward and progress made. We appreciate your contributions to this process!!

National Conference of State Legislatures

Juvenile Justice in the Post-Pandemic World

NCSL's 2021 Legislative Summit in Tampa, Fla., included a session entitled "Juvenile Justice in a Post-pandemic World" discussing COVID-19's effects on youth justice and recent state policy enactments. The session featured North Dakota Senate Judiciary Chair Diane Larson (R), who spoke about her state's major overhaul to the juvenile justice code—something that has not happened since 1969. One of the main features of the legislation involved changing the way the state handles status offenses. "That means they no longer go to court," she said. "If there is a police report, it is no longer referred to court, it is referred to social services for evaluation and support for both the child and the family." [Watch video . . .](#)

State in Focus: Delaware

On Nov. 8, 2021 **Delaware** enacted numerous juvenile justice reform bills including modifying the age of juvenile court jurisdiction and specific transfer laws. [House Bill 115](#) set the minimum age of juvenile court jurisdiction to 12, meaning the prosecution of children under 12 is prohibited except in the case of serious charges like rape or murder. The law also provides that children younger than 16 cannot be transferred into adult court, except when they face charges of rape or murder. The sponsor of the bill, Rep. Nnamdi Chukwuocha (D) [said](#), "There are better ways to hold young children accountable for minor incidents without causing lifelong problems by putting them into the criminal justice system at such a young age."

[House Bill 215](#) requires law enforcement to electronically record custodial interrogations for both adults and young people in the system, and [House Bill 162](#) established the Juvenile Re-Entry Services Fund which provides funding to community based services that support young people after they have been released from secure confinement.

Finally, Delaware enacted the [Clean Slate Act](#), which will automate Delaware's existing criminal-record expungement process for thousands of adults and youth in the juvenile legal system by eliminating the need for them to file a petition with the State Bureau of Identification (SBI).

National News

Iowa Supreme Court Establishes Juvenile Justice Task Force

The **Iowa** Supreme Court announced the formation of a Juvenile Justice Task Force on Wednesday to "review the continuum of care" in Iowa's Juvenile Justice System and make recommendations to improve its services, governance and data collection. In a news release issued Wednesday, Iowa's highest court said it is time for a "holistic review of the juvenile justice system." The court said the state's juvenile justice system is decentralized with its governance, services, funding and data collection divided among four state entities - the Iowa Judicial Branch, Iowa Department of Human Services, Iowa Department [Read more . . .](#)

2022 DOC-Juvenile Services Training Schedule

New Employee Kansas Detention Assessment Instrument (KDAI) Training

Zoom	Thursday	January 13 th , 2022
Zoom	Thursday	February 10 th , 2022
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

Juvenile Justice Basics

Zoom	Thursday	January 20 th , 2022
Times	9 am – 4:00 pm	

The **Juvenile Justice Basics** class will be held online via zoom on Thursday, January 20th from 9:00 am till 4:00 pm. Participants can enroll through the [Learning Management System \(LMS\)](#). For more information email KDOC_JS_Training@ks.gov.

Save the Date – Tentatively Scheduled

Effective Practices in Correctional Settings II/Graduated Responses (EPICS II/GR)

Location – McPherson

Dates -	Tuesday	February 1	8:30 am – 5 pm
	Wednesday	February 2	8:30 am – 5 pm
	Thursday	February 3	8:30 am – 12 pm

For more information contact KDOC_JS_Training@ks.gov

Mental Health Training Curriculum – Juvenile Justice (MHTC-JJ)

KJCC - The Mental Health Training Curriculum – Juvenile Justice (MHTC-JJ) will be available for new employees from Judicial Districts to attend at Kansas Juvenile Correction Complex as a part of KJCC's new employee orientation.

To inquire about upcoming trainings or if you have questions please contact Lt. Johnathon Ashley at johnathon.ashley@ks.gov or 785-354-9820. KJCC will have MHTC-JJ training as a part of their basic training for new employees approximately every four weeks.

Crossover Youth Practice Model continued from page 1

The second issue pertains to ensuring that youth who crossover from child welfare to juvenile justice are made aware of transitional services through DCF that they may qualify to receive.

Sharing information and collaboration between systems is challenging. While Kansas has statutes and codes which dictate who can share what information when, the Information Sharing Workgroup took on the task of reviewing and developing an 'at a glance' tool based on those statutes. The tool is in review and we hope for a test run in early 2022.

While the Information Sharing Workgroup focused on assisting staff from both the child welfare and juvenile justice system to improve information sharing, the Prevention Workgroup is seeking to understand the impact of cross-system information sharing on those involved with systems. Members of this workgroup developed a quick, anonymous, five (5) minute survey for distribution in the pilot counties. Once received, the workgroup will review and incorporate the feedback into processes that will promote more effective communication between systems.

Looking toward to 2022 as the current workgroups complete tasks the SPT anticipates creating at least one new workgroup that will focus on Celebrating Crossover. This workgroup will look to create a mechanism where the accomplishments of crossover youth are highlighted.

2021 was a busy year for the CYPM Kansas State Policy Team as the target population and definition of crossover youth was developed, teams in the pilot counties of Shawnee and Montgomery were put in place, system assessments were completed, recommendations and work plans were developed, focus groups were held, and ideas for strengthening communication and collaboration were shared. We are excited and looking forward to further implementing CYPM in 2022.

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

National News – Dual Involved Youth

How One Organization Cultivates Courage to Dream Beyond Bars

Communities United for Restorative Youth Justice ([CURYJ](#), pronounced "courage") has been organizing and transforming in East Oakland (CA) for over a decade. The organization launched in 2010, when they created a community garden on unused city land in Oakland's Fruitvale district and fought to defeat gang injunctions targeting youth of color. Since then, CURYJ has fought tirelessly in coalition to decriminalize, decarcerate and uplift youth through programming and policy work. Their work is driven by the [core values](#) of "La Cultura Cura," "For Us by Us" and "Every Young Person Is a Blessing." CURYJ has popularized the slogan "Close youth prisons. Build youth leaders." With the closure of California's state youth prison system, they are putting it into practice. [Read more . . .](#)