

## Kansas News

### Update on Athena

We previously announced that the new corrections information management system Athena, that will replace TOADS, JJIAMS and CASIMS, would be up and running in early February. The project has hit some minor delays, but progress continues to be made. Much thought and attention has gone into planning and building an integrated information system which will benefit all of us doing supervision once complete. We are not yet announcing a new go-live date but will once we know more about the extent of programming complications Microsoft is experiencing and how quickly they can be resolved. Thank you all for your continued patience!

### Update on YLS and YLS Training

Juvenile Services movement to the YLS 2.0 (Youth Level of Service 2.0 version) and subsequent training will occur with the Athena roll out. The Athena database will house the YLS assessment moving forward. New officers will receive the YLS 2.0 training and current certified users will participate in a refresher training. More information will be announced when we get closer to the Athena roll out.

### KDOC Launches Web-based MAYSI-2

This past month the Kansas Department of Corrections deployed the web-based version of the Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument – Version 2 (MAYSI-2) for juvenile intakes throughout Kansas.

The web-based MAYSI-2 is provided by Orbis Partners in collaboration with National Youth Screening and Assessment Partners (NYSAP), who developed the original MAYSI-2. The MAYSI-2 is a validated screening instrument that is designed to help juvenile justice service providers identify youth, ages 12-17, who may have special mental health needs.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Jim Johnson by email at [james.johnson2@ks.gov](mailto:james.johnson2@ks.gov).

### Report of the Joint Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice Oversight to the 2021 Kansas Legislature

[Click here . . .](#)

### DCF – Family First Updates

To access the December 2020 edition of the DCF [Family First Prevention](#) Services newsletter [click here . . .](#)

To access the January 2021 edition of the DCF [Family First Prevention](#) Services newsletter [click here . . .](#)

### Wichita Police Say Dealing with Criminal Kids has Gotten Harder Since 2016 Reforms

A woman and her two daughters woke up to a burglar rifling through their home. Another got doused with mace during a brazen carjacking attempt at a strip mall. A third, 82, suffered head injuries when three intruders who ransacked her home shoved her before taking her car for a joyride. In another case, an unsuspecting employee got a note from a would-be robber claiming he had a bomb on him. [Read more . . .](#)

## 2021 DOC-Juvenile Services Training Schedule

### New Employee Kansas Detention Assessment Instrument (KDAI) Training

Zoom	Thursday	February 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2021
Zoom	Tuesday	March 16 <sup>th</sup> , 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](mailto:steven.bonner@ks.gov)

## Human Trafficking - Kansas

### Kansans Need to Know the Difficult Truths About Human Trafficking

When you think of human trafficking, what do you think of? Human trafficking is without question a dark and shadowy crime, but it's happening right in front of us. And if we don't know what it really looks like, we won't see it. Because of its rendering in popular culture and multiple recent [viral hoaxes](#) on social media, people have significant misunderstandings about what trafficking looks like, where it occurs and who are the victims. [Read more . . .](#)

### Human Trafficking is a Growing Concern in Shawnee County

January is National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month to bring awareness to this growing concern globally and here locally. "What we do know is it's happening here in Topeka, it's happening in our county. It's happening in our state. In fact, it's happening all over our country," said Sharon Sullivan, co-chair of the Topeka [Read more and watch video . . .](#)

## The Juvenile Justice Corner

Jim Johnson, Program Consultant  
DOC - Juvenile Community Based Services

Once again, as we begin a new year, we have new opportunities. Each January starts a process to begin pulling together plans for the upcoming fiscal year. The Kansas Department of Corrections – Juvenile Services (KDOC-JS) recently sent out applications to Judicial Districts for grant requests from the Evidence-based Programs Account (EBPA) or JCAB grants (Juvenile Corrections Advisory Board grants).

Last year KDOC-JS in collaboration with the [Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee](#) amended the grant application process to provide local organizations and agencies an opportunity to request funds from the EBPA. By allowing local organizations and agencies an opportunity to initiate this process those who work with justice involved youth and with youth at risk to become justice involved can identify existing gaps locally and can then address those needs. By utilizing local practitioners and community members to identify and target unmet needs, resources can be effectively invested and the community can be better served.

Ultimately, the goal is better outcomes and safer communities. The most effective way to attain that goal is to employ evidence-based strategies that have been used and show success. To explore a variety of evidence-based programs for justice-involved youth go to [Evidence-based Programs | Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention \(ojp.gov\)](#). Anyone interested in requesting a JCAB grant will need to contact your local JCAB to review, approve and submit all JCAB grant requests. Grant applications are due in early May, so now is the time. For more information on regarding the Kansas JCAB grant process and to see a list of JCAB grants awarded this past fiscal year [click here . . .](#)

January 2021 brings new opportunities and a fresh start from a year that many are comfortable with leaving behind. What a great time to take the next step to collaborate in order to better serve the needs of the community and create better outcomes for at risk youth, their families, schools and your local community.

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

### Crossover Youth Practice Model Involving Youth and Families

Programs, services, and activities that are developed in partnership *with* youth and families are more likely to be effective in engaging them and, therefore, to have a greater impact. To that end, the Leadership Teams in the Crossover Youth Practice Model pilot sites, Shawnee and Montgomery Counties, are preparing to facilitate Listening Sessions.

Listening Sessions are similar to focus groups where space is created for individuals to share their perspectives and experiences. Specifically, youth and their families who have had cases open with both the child welfare and the justice system will be asked about those experiences. The outcomes of the conversations will be synthesized to inform and identify meaningful actions that can be taken to address and support crossover youth in each community.

Involving youth and families as partners in making decisions that affect them increases the likelihood that decisions made will be accepted. Including their voices not only helps them feel valued, and connected to their communities, but communities and systems benefit by learning to better understand and value youth, coordinate services, and improve services.

Questions regarding the CYPM can be addressed to Ashley Brown, CYPM Coordinator for DCF at [Ashley.brown@ks.gov](mailto:Ashley.brown@ks.gov) or Michelle Montgomery, CYPM Coordinator for KDOC-JS at [Michelle.montgomery@ks.gov](mailto:Michelle.montgomery@ks.gov). To learn more about the CCYPM and information regarding past and upcoming meetings of the State Policy Team [click here . . .](#)

## Ohio Behavioral Health Juvenile Justice Initiative

### Ohio Juvenile Diversion Shows 'Positive Results' as Jail Alternative

Programs which address behavioral health, addiction and trauma for juveniles caught up in the justice system yield positive reform results that surpass traditional methods of incarceration, according to a [new Case Western Reserve University study](#). "The majority of justice-involved youth have a history of mental health and/or substance-use issues, and have experienced a great deal of trauma," [Read more . . .](#)

### Focusing on Diversion - Instead of Detention - Yields Positive Results for Youth with Behavioral Health Issues

Of the 5,300 children enrolled in the Ohio Behavioral Health Juvenile Justice Initiative since 2006, 21% reported that someone close to them had been murdered in the past year. Nearly half of the boys and more than a quarter of the girls in the program have both a substance abuse and mental health disorder. But there's good news, too: From 2017 through 2019, 81% of the participants, aged 10 through 17, successfully completed the state's juvenile diversion program, and data indicated that 79% of youth reduced their contact with police while in treatment. [Read more . . .](#)

## Council of State Governments – Justice Center

### Addressing Racial Disparities at the Doorway of Juvenile Justice: How One State and One County are Taking Action

Fewer youth are being referred to the juvenile justice system than ever before, and youth incarceration rates across the country have dramatically decreased by more than 60 percent in the last several years. While these achievements should be applauded, one significant problem persists: racial and ethnic disparities throughout the juvenile justice continuum, particularly when it comes to [arrests](#) and [referrals](#) to court. But some jurisdictions are starting to tackle the issue head on. The state of Connecticut and Sonoma County, CA, offer a glimpse into what progress looks like. [Read more . . . .](#)

## Juvenile Justice Information Exchange

### Behavioral Challenges Can Push Youth with Disabilities into School-to-Prison Pipeline

Who are youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD)? The population of youth with IDD is vast. In 2018-19, the number of students ages 3–21 who received special education services under the [Individuals with Disabilities Education Act](#) (IDEA) was 7.1 million or [14% of all](#) public school students. You may know some better-known IDD's such as autism spectrum disorder (ASD), fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD), Down syndrome and cerebral palsy, to name a few. What you may not know is that many you [Read more . . . .](#)

### Public Perceptions of Youth Who Commit Sexual Offense Is Skewed, Our Research Shows

Few crimes stimulate such visceral reactions and deep-seated fears as sexual offenses. Accordingly, societal responses to sexual offending such as registration and notification laws tend to be quite punitive and highly stigmatizing for the offender. Yet these social control practices are widely considered by the public to be essential for community safety. However, given lessons learned about the linkages between moral panic and legislation in other justice contexts (e.g., juvenile “superpredators” and waiver/transfer laws), we question the degree to which public perceptions about the characteristics of persons who commit sexual offenses are accurate — particularly of juveniles who commit these types of offenses. [Read more . . . .](#)

### No Longer a ‘Monster,’ But I Feel Like a Fraud

As I write these words, I am overcome with a rush of nostalgia. Although my time at the Youth Guidance Center Juvenile Facility (YGC) in San Francisco was anything but joyful, I found solace in the streaks of graphite that marked my paper as I wrote for [The Beat Within](#). Growing up in the heart of San Francisco’s Mission District, which was plagued by crime, drugs and alcohol, along with being raised by immigrant Spanish-speaking parents who did not fully grasp the consequences of our environment, evidently shifted my path from the American Dream they sought for me into a path of violence, depression and alcohol abuse. [Read more . . . .](#)

### Positive Community Programs by Police Lead to Positive Relationships

Growing up in San Jose, California, I had some amazing experiences with law enforcement that I can say likely made a huge difference in my path as a young adult. When I think back, in elementary school we had the Say No To Drugs campaign and McGruff the Crime Dog that led us into our middle school and high school years. Youth sports was a huge part of our culture. Even if you were not an athlete, you supported a neighbor or friend that was. We had P.A.L. stadiums throughout Santa Clara County. These were operated by the [Police Athletic League](#). We also had officers who volunteered or worked on campuses. My high school softball coach was tough on me. He was a San Jose police officer and I would have sworn then that he just did not like me. Of course, years later I realize that he was being hard on me to keep me focused and get the best out of [Read more . . . .](#)

### Why Focusing on Women, Girls Could Reduce Gun Violence

Rosie Brooks has experienced both of a mother’s worst nightmares involving gun violence. Her son spent a decade behind bars for an accidental shooting in which a young woman was killed. Then, instead of a joyous reunion when he was released from prison in January 2018, it was a day of mourning. He went from behind bars to standing at his mother’s side at his sister’s funeral. Brooks’ daughter Sahara Barkley had been shot on New Year’s Day at a gas station. “One gunshot changed my whole world,” Brooks said. She’s one of thousands of mothers who get the news every year that their child has killed or been killed, most often by guns. Though gun violence has diminished over the last several decades, it remains an epidemic in Jacksonville, where the murder rate is routinely the highest in the state; [some ZIP codes here outpace nations](#) that are the murder capitals of the world. [Read more . . . .](#)

## National News

### New Report Shows Decrease in Utah Youth Locked in Detention

There’s a quandary at the heart of the debate around juvenile incarceration. On one hand, evidence has shown that community justice programs like diversion and front-end services like counseling can lead to more positive outcomes for youth. On the other hand, hard-liners say that such an approach is costly, and it doesn’t hold youth accountable. The [Utah](#) Division of Juvenile Justice Services released a report Jan. 8 that cited a 46% percent reduction in youth locked in detention statewide and a 19% increase in early intervention. [Read more . . . .](#)

### New Jersey AG Proposes Further Separating Juveniles from Adults in Prison System

To further separate adults from youth in [New Jersey’s](#) juvenile justice system and those making decisions on the groups’ behalf, Attorney General Gurbir Grewal on Tuesday proposed transferring juvenile parole responsibilities to the authority of the Juvenile Justice Commission and allow parole decisions to be made by those who are most closely involved in the day-to-day rehabilitation of youth. [Read more . . . .](#)

### 17-Year-Olds Will No Longer be Prosecuted as Adults in Missouri

A new law just went into effect on New Year’s day. It states that the criminal justice system in [Missouri](#) will consider 17-year-olds to be juveniles - instead of adults - as they had been before. [Read more and watch video . . . .](#)

### Adverse Childhood Experiences and Justice System Contact: A Systematic Review

In partnership with the Stop Abuse Campaign, researchers at the [Columbia Mailman School of Public Health](#) have published a systematic review showing that higher [Adverse Childhood Experience scores](#) are associated with a greater risk of juvenile justice system contact.

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), as defined by the Centers for Disease Control, are ten childhood traumas, including all forms of child abuse, neglect, and witnessing domestic violence, that have been proven to negatively impact physical, social, emotional, and financial health.

The researchers reviewed 11 studies linking ACE scores to justice system contact. Ten of 11 studies found that those with higher ACE scores were more likely to have contact with the justice system. Justice system contact was defined as arrest, recidivism, felony charge or equivalent, and incarceration. [Read more . . . .](#)

### Report: Most States Do Little to Protect Rights of System-Involved Kids

A first-of-its-kind report scoring the human rights practices in state juvenile justice found one true standout, and a sea of systems in need of improvement. According to a new report by [Human Rights for Kids](#), a nonprofit based in the District of Columbia, [California’s laws](#) put the nation’s most populous state all by itself in Tier 1, meaning it “has created an impressive legal framework to protect the human rights of children in its justice system and has taken its obligation to defend human rights seriously.”

But “the overwhelming majority of the nation – 42 states – have made minimal to no efforts to create a legal framework to protect the human rights of children in the justice system,” the report found. [Read more . . . .](#) To read the full report [Click here . . . .](#)

### Hennepin County Launches Initiative to Eliminate Disparities in Juvenile System

A new initiative aims to reduce stark racial disparities in the thousands of cases heard in Hennepin County’s (MN) juvenile justice system each year. Advocates say the measure is warranted and overdue: In 2018, nearly 75% of the 5,500 juvenile crime cases sent to the Hennepin County Attorney’s Office for review involved youth of color. Black youth, who made up 61% of the cases prosecuted, accounted for only 22% of the county population of 10- to 17-year-olds. While the county has made significant strides in reducing [Read more . . . .](#)

### New Washtenaw County Juvenile Justice Plan Focuses More on Rehabilitation Vs. Punishment

A new policy on juvenile crime was announced by Washtenaw county’s (MI) new prosecutor, Eli Savit. He says they’re taking much more of a rehabilitative approach to juvenile justice in the county versus a punishment approach. The new county prosecutor says scientific data shows a punishment-based approach to juvenile justice does not work and doesn’t make us any safer either. Savit says their goal is to address more juvenile issues outside the criminal legal system and says they will no longer criminally charge what he called “run-of-the-mill youthful mistakes. [Read more and listen to audio . . . .](#)