

## Kansas News

### KJCC Holds Graduation Ceremony

[Lawrence Gardner High School](#) (LGHS) at the [Kansas Juvenile Correctional Complex](#) (KJCC) held an indoors graduation ceremony on June 25, 2021 with 19 juveniles participating in the ceremony in front of family members of the graduates, LGHS teachers/staff and KJCC staff. Of the 19 juvenile graduates, 9 completed GED requirements while 10 received their high school diploma. This was the first indoors graduation ceremony open to visitors and staff held since COVID precautions were instituted at KJCC in March of 2020. For the entire academic year 2020-2021, LGHS had a total of 36 GED graduates and 25 regular high school diploma graduates.

Mr. Ammons, LGHS Administrative Assistant awarded graduate BH with the Marge Page Merit Scholarship. Ammons stated that the Marge Page scholarships were created from a donation from Marge Page 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. Ammons read from a letter Page sent to LGHS in 2009 that stated "I believe in you – you are important to the future of the world – make your future happen."



One of 19 LGHS graduates received his diploma from Chris Modellmog, Director, Smoky Hill Education Service Center and prepared to "walk the stage" at their graduation ceremony held June 25, 2021 at KJCC.

A commencement address was provided by Robert Vargas, the Founder/Executive Director of [Warriors 4 Wyandotte](#). Vargas told the graduates that "motivation will come and go – emotions will come and go – so you need disciplines in your life . . . People talk about potential – when you tap into your potential you achieve purpose . . . Don't slow down, don't stop – keep pushing – keep driving".

### KDOC Chief Council Jeff Cowger Retires

Jeff Cowger, Chief Legal Counsel at KDOC since June of 2018 is retiring from state service effective July 1, 2021. Jeff began his career as an attorney with KDOC in August 1996. He transferred to the Juvenile Justice Authority (JJA) legal team as Deputy General Counsel in July 2003 and in 2012 transferred to the Kansas Department of Labor for a year before returning to JJA. He remained as JJA's Deputy General Counsel until JJA consolidated with KDOC in 2013. After the consolidation with KDOC Jeff provided legal services to juvenile services providers in addition to numerous legal issues trainings on juvenile justice for juvenile intake, community corrections, and juvenile correctional facility staff throughout the state. Jeff also served as a Commissioner for the National Interstate Compact for Juveniles.

### Update – Site Visits

In June Greg Artis started conducting in-person site visits to adult jails/lockups, secure detention facilities, secure correctional facilities, court holding facilities, and other institutions (secure facilities) in which juveniles might be contained or detained. Initial locations visited were in Douglas, Franklin, Johnson, Shawnee and Wyandotte Counties. Greg's goal this summer is to make contact with and update information collected during the 73 site visits that were done virtually beginning last September. Managers of secure facilities will be contacted first. Non-secure facilities will then be contacted and asked to complete a survey. In person site visits will be conducted at the non-secure facilities as needed. Regarding being able to start with the onsite visits Artis stated "It is a pleasure to go to the facilities and see how cordial the administrators, Sheriff's, Chiefs and staff are during the onsite visits. It is also wonderful to see the pride they take in the care of their facilities and how clean and well managed they keep them".

### 2021 DOC-Juvenile Services Training Schedule

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

Zoom	Thursday	July 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2021
Zoom	Wednesday	August 18 <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)

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

March's edition of the newsletter, highlighted Kristen Powell as a member of the Kansas Crossover State Policy Team (SPT). Kristin brings much needed youth/young person voice to the SPT. Today's edition is featuring Kristin again due to a great accomplishment!

Kristen's name was submitted, along with about 15 others, to be nominated for membership on the Supreme Court Task Force on Permanency Planning.

Members of the task force include, district court judges, district magistrate judges, lawyers, court-appointed guardians, prosecutors and representatives from Indian tribal courts, state agencies, Court Appointed Special Advocates, citizen review boards and mental health, behavioral health and substance abuse treatment providers. The task force was created in 1984 and to advise the court on ways to better serve the children under its jurisdiction.

On May 24, 2021 Kristin was officially appointed as a new member on the task force, to serve from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2025. Kristin is replacing Daniel Martin, whose term expires June 30, 2021 and will attend her first meeting in August. Kristin says, "I am excited to be appointed to the Supreme Court Task Force on Permanency Planning. I am hopeful that while being a member of the task-force I will be able to use my personal experiences and my voice to talk about and advocate for the important changes and improvement need in the systems of care."

### Kansas Juvenile Correctional Complex - Update Marissa Reinbold, Program Director DOC - Kansas Juvenile Correctional Complex

In 2014, Kansas Juvenile Correctional Complex introduced Aggression Replacement Training® (ART®), an evidence-based program that concentrates on development of individual competencies to address several emotional and social aspects that contribute to aggressive behavior in youths. Program methods are designed to teach youth how to control their angry impulses and take perspectives other than their own. The main goal is to reduce aggression and violence among youths by providing them with opportunities to learn prosocial skills in place of aggressive behavior through three components: Social Skills training, Anger-Control training, and training in Moral Reasoning. Youth attended one-hour sessions, in each of these, three times a week. Throughout the 30-hour program, our goal is to see a reduction of aggression and violence among residents, decrease angry impulsive behaviors, increase prosocial skills, increase moral reasoning and development, and increase perspective taking. Program providers at KJCC compile a group of 12 residents for each group and begin the process by speaking with them, individually, to provide education on the program and gain their cooperation and buy-in before group begins. One of the crucial elements in ART® is the Modeling and Role-Playing portion of skill-building. Once the facilitators model the skill, every resident is required to role-play the skill with a real-life situation they have or might encounter to practice in a controlled environment. They are then provided performance feedback from their peers and the program providers. Showing, trying, practicing, and discussing are all vital elements to ART®. If they are not done correctly, we would do more harm than good to the residents and jeopardize the fidelity of the program and its intent. *Continued next page . . .*

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

Over the last year or so we have added updates in a couple of areas that are critical to the work we do in Kansas.

Several months ago with the help of the Coordinators from the [Crossover Youth Practice Model](#) (CYPM) with agency representatives from the [Office of Judicial Administration](#) (OJA), [Kansas Department for Children and Families](#) (DCF) and [Kansas Department of Corrections – Juvenile Services](#) (KDOC-JS) we started providing updates on the CYPM.

About that same time, we started providing links to DCF's [Family First newsletter](#) – [Prevention in Kansas](#).

This past spring with the help from staff at the [Kansas Juvenile Correctional Complex](#) (KJCC) we started providing updates on developments made within our state juvenile correctional facility.

In the near future we plan to begin providing updates on the [Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee](#) as they continue to "oversee the implementation of reform measures intended to improve the state's juvenile justice system" ([K.S.A. 75-52.161](#)).

Our goal is simple, to share information while engaging juvenile justice practitioners and policy makers across the state so that we can improve awareness and practices with youth and families, to contribute towards making our interventions and system more effective, all while helping make our communities safer. For all of you that contribute to this cause and to this newsletter, a genuine **Thank You**.

## Kansas News

### JIAS & Detention Trends of Girl's in Kansas Studied

**Editor's Note** – The published article below was co-authored by: *April Terry*, PhD, Assistant Professor, Criminal Justice, Fort Hays State University; *Ashley Lockwood*, MS in Clinical Psychology, Fort Hays State University; *Morgan Steele*, PhD, Assistant Professor, Criminal Justice, Fort Hays State University; *Megan Milner*, MCJ, Superintendent, Kansas Juvenile Correctional Complex

### The Gendered Path for Girls in Rural Communities: The Impact of COVID-19 on Youth Presenting at Juvenile Detention Facilities

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, girls and women represented one of the fastest growing populations within the juvenile and criminal justice systems. Since the spread of COVID-19, suggestions were provided to juvenile justice bodies, encouraging a reduction of youth arrests, detentions, and quicker court processing. Yet, the research comparing peri-COVID-19 changes for girls and boys is lacking, with an oversight to gender trends and rural and urban differences. This study used Juvenile Intake and Assessment Center (JIAC) data from a rural Midwestern state to look at rural and urban location trends for both boys and girls. Results suggest rural communities are responding differently to girls' behaviors, revealing a slower decline in intakes compared to boys and youth in urban areas. Evidence reflects a steady decline in juvenile [Read more . . .](#)

## National News – Crossover Youth

### Telling the Story of Crossover Youth – A Conversation with Filmmaker Santiago Rizzo

Michael Umpierre interviewed filmmaker Santiago Rizzo about his childhood, his new film "The Only Question," and how he hopes his film will change the national conversation around youth in the juvenile justice and child welfare systems. After moving in with Tim Moellering at the age of 13, Santiago became an emancipated minor and Student Body President of Berkeley High School. In 2003, Santiago graduated with a 3.55 GPA from Stanford with a degree in Economics and a minor in Psychology. He then worked for Credit Suisse as an analyst in an analyst at Intrepid Capital and then became a portfolio manager [Read more and watch video . . .](#)

## National News

### Groups Urge Training, Mentoring Programs Over Youth Incarceration

Juvenile-justice reform groups say helping young people with work and life-skills training reduces recidivism more effectively than incarceration, and they cite an Illinois program as an example. [Curt's Café](#), with locations in Evanston and Highland Park, also connects youth living in at-risk situations with other support services, and has [received a grant](#) to expand its training curriculum. Jennifer Vollen-Katz, executive director of the John Howard Association of Illinois, a prison watchdog group, said incarceration is the wrong way to change kids' or teens' behavior, and hopes to see more funding for alternatives like [Read more . . .](#)

### Racial Disparities Persist in Youth Justice System: Panel

While juvenile incarcerated populations have dropped by about 60 percent in the past 20 years, racial disparities persist in the youth justice system, says a panel of scholars and experts. White justice-involved youth receive alternatives to juvenile detention at greater rates than youth of color, said David Muhammad, executive director of the National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform. And that too often leaves Black and Hispanic youth at the mercy of a system oriented towards "how we can fix you," rather than offer them avenues for positive development [Read more . . .](#)

## KJCC – Update *continued from page 1*

As we have been working to build a culture of ART@ within the facility, several uniform and non-uniform staff across the facility have received the necessary training to be ART@ facilitators, allowing them to support and recognize when residents in ART@ are attempting to utilize their new skills.

To measure progress for the youth who complete ART@, we look at specific behaviors for 10 weeks prior to group and then the 10 weeks following group. In FY20 the total number of Disciplinary Report convictions for youth who had successfully completed ART@ decreased by 57%. In looking at just the number of violent and/or aggressive Disciplinary Reports, those convictions down 47%. Fighting, one of the most common behaviors among aggressive adolescents, fell 44%. Not every youth who begins Aggression Replacement Training@ successfully completes the program. To secure a successful completion, residents must attend and appropriately participate in group, each session. If more than two sessions are missed, the resident is removed from the group. Although we expect to see some aggressive behaviors as group begins, the residents' multi-disciplinary teams make every effort to ensure they are completing the homework, practicing the new skills, and available for group. As a result, 81% of residents enrolled in ART@ in FY20 successfully completed this challenging curriculum.

## Human Trafficking – Kansas

### Wichita Police Arrest 16 on Human Trafficking Charges

The Wichita Police Department has announced the arrests of 16 people in connection with an anti-human-trafficking operation that also involved state and federal agencies. The arrests were made as part of "Operation Archangel," an effort of the Department of Homeland Security, the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, the Kansas Highway Patrol, Hutchinson police, and the Kansas Attorney General's office. The operation also involved the organization ICT SOS and the Kansas Department for Children and Families. [Read more . . .](#)

### Human Trafficking Sting in Kansas City Region Arrests Dozens, Rescues 14 Missing Kids

A [Homeland Security Investigations](#)-led operation into human trafficking in Kansas and Missouri arrested 82 suspects and rescued 31 victims of sexual exploitation, [officials announced in a news release](#) Thursday. Of the total victims rescued, 14 were missing children with the youngest child being four years old, according to James Wright, deputy special agent in charge of Homeland Security Investigations in Kansas City. The other 17 victims were adults. The operation, which included the Heartland Anti-Trafficking Rescue Taskforce from [Read more . . .](#)

## Nebraska - Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiatives

### Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative 10th Anniversary Marked Through Proclamation Ceremony

Urging all Nebraskans – particularly those within the legal community – to recognize the significant contributions that the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) has made in Nebraska, Chief Justice Mike Heavican signed a Judicial Branch proclamation honoring its 10th anniversary. The proclamation signing ceremony commemorating the 10th Anniversary of Nebraska's JDAI program was held Monday, June [Read more . . .](#) To watch a video of the announcement [Click here . . .](#)

### Douglas County Commissioners: Number of Detained Youth Drops, Thanks to National Program [Read article and watch video . . .](#)

## DMC – Disproportionate Minority Contact

### Assessing Racial & Ethnic Disparities in Criminal Justice

A new tool for analyzing racial disparities in Santa Barbara County's (CA) [criminal justice system](#) numerically quantifies where youths — and adults — of color are more likely to become involved in the system than Whites. Results of the [Probation Department's](#) Relative Rate Index analysis of youths entering the juvenile justice system were presented on June 15 to the [Board of Supervisors](#), which wanted more data on causes but supported the proposed next steps to assure racial equity. [Read more . . .](#)

### School Cops, Juvenile Justice Discussed at Community Meeting

Prom night of 1997 was the first-time then-Handley High School (VA) senior Carl Rush ever got pulled over by a police officer. Rush, who is Black, was nervous as the white officer approached his car. Then he recognized it was Officer Craig Smith, who was Handley's school resource officer at the time. The now-retired Smith had stopped Rush to let [Read more . . .](#)

## Annie E. Casey Foundation

### Resources for Juvenile Probation Reform

Probation plays a pivotal role in the juvenile justice system. More young people who enter the nation's juvenile justice system wind up on probation than with any other outcome. Every year, nearly half a million youths are given some form of [juvenile probation](#). More than half of these young people either are never found delinquent in court or are found to have committed status offenses — conduct that would not be a crime for adults, such as skipping school or possessing alcohol. [Read more . . .](#)

### Motivational Interviewing Technology Helps Youth Experiencing Homelessness

Can artificial intelligence help staff support young people with very real challenges — and provide a tool to significantly improve staff training in an effective technique? Since 2018, the staff at [Covenant House New York](#), New York City's largest service provider for youth experiencing homelessness, have used a counseling and conversational method [Read more . . .](#)

### Generation Work Tools for Employer Partnerships

Many young people are ambitious and interested in a diverse array of career fields. Still, too often, young adults — especially those of color and from low-income backgrounds — struggle to obtain the skills, credentials and experiences needed to secure good jobs that pay family-sustaining wages. Systemic inequities in the [workforce](#), [education](#) and [justice systems](#) have [Read more . . .](#)