

Kansas News

Bill would Create Juvenile Crisis Intervention Centers

SB 179 would create and amend law to establish juvenile crisis intervention centers. The bill defines a juvenile crisis intervention center as a facility that provides short-term observation, assessment, treatment and case planning, and referral for any juvenile who is experiencing a mental health crisis. The bill and assigned to the House Judiciary Committee. After a hearing on 3/21/2018 the House Judiciary Committee recommended that SB 179 be passed by the full House. Passed as amended by the House 124-0. Will be referred to Conference Committee.

House Substitute for SB 179 [Click here](#)
Supplemental Note - House Substitute for SB 179 [Click here](#)

Troubling Trend for Troubled Teens

Officials dealing with youth in the local court system are seeing troubling trends in mental health treatment following a dramatic change last year in Kansas juvenile justice laws. One of the most concerning issues, said Randy Regehr, director of Reno County Community Corrections, is growing wait [Read more](#)

Juvenile Reforms Need to Move Forward

There is no doubt that in Reno County, and across Kansas, we can and should do more to support kids and families, including those experiencing mental health crises. I was concerned, though, by some comments quoted in a recent article ("Troubling Trend for troubled teens," The Hutchinson News, [Read more](#)

KS Bill Would Reveal Names of Juvenile Sex Offenders

[Watch video](#)

House Committee Changes Lewd Behavior Penalty

Using the "gut and go" tactic, a Kansas House committee tabled a proposal on juvenile sex offender registration, replacing it with legislation that would increase the penalties for lewd and lascivious behavior. Rep. J. Russell Jennings, R-Lakin, who chairs the corrections and juvenile [Read more](#)

Teen Court Receives City Support (Liberal, KS)

Since beginning only a few years ago, the Teen Court and Truancy programs through Adolescent Support Services have helped many in the community. Tuesday's Liberal City Commission meeting gave the Adolescent Support Services staff the opportunity to provide an update to the commission and community about both programs. "The Truancy program came into being at the request of then-Mayor Tim Long back in 2012," Adolescent Support Services Director [Read more](#)

2018 DOC-Juvenile Services Training Schedule

New Employee Kansas Detention Assessment Instrument (KDAI) Training:

Salina	Tuesday	April 10 th
Topeka	Tuesday	May 22 nd
Times	9 am – 3:00 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. For more information on KDAI training or to register contact Crystal Trout at crystal.trout@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 their 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 and it will take place on Thursdays.

Sedgwick County DOC and **Johnson County DOC** currently do not have MHTC-JJ trainings scheduled at this time. But if you are interested in attending a future training at their location please contact:

- o For Sedgwick County DOC – contact Steve Stonehouse at Steven.Stonehouse@sedgwick.gov
- o For Johnson County DOC – contact Rachel Mestad at Rachel.mestad@jocogov.org

Campaign for Youth Justice

Lifting the Voiceless: Raising Awareness for Girls in the Juvenile Justice System

March is a time to reflect on the great contributions of women to our society, but we will be remiss if we didn't take some time to think about those voiceless young women and girls that are incarcerated. Oftentimes, the criminal justice system overlooks the special circumstances and unique challenges that girls in the system face. Before ever coming into contact with the criminal justice system, many girls experience trauma such as, physical and/or sexual abuse, neglect, poverty and family instability. [Read more](#)

The Juvenile Justice Corner

Jim Johnson, Program Consultant
DOC - Juvenile Community Based Services

One of the policy enhancements that was part of SB 367 was to establish a statewide criteria for Law Enforcement Officers (LEO's) to have the option, upon arrest, of providing youth with a Notice to Appear (NTA) citation. The NTA directs the youth to schedule and complete an appointment with Juvenile Intake and Assessment Services (JIAS) so the youth may be assessed for appropriate interventions. The NTA was intended to enhance youth accountability while preventing deeper involvement in the juvenile justice system. The NTA proposal was approved by the legislature in 2016 and became effective in January 2017 in [KSA 38-2330](#).

A handful of jurisdictions previously utilized NTA's as permitted by law but it was not a widespread practice. In the first few months of 2017, most judicial districts (JD's) were in process of working with law enforcement agencies and district/county attorneys to set up local NTA procedures. In October 2017, JIAS offices across the state began reporting monthly totals of NTA citations issued by LEO's and NTA's complied with by youth. Although there are only a few months of data to review, early indications are that the NTA process is off to a positive start. For instance:

- Of the 105 total counties in Kansas, 94 of them have a law enforcement agency utilizing the NTA process. This number continues to slowly grow as more law enforcement agencies begin using NTA's.
- 14 (45%) of the JD's have attained a 100% compliance rate of having every juvenile who was served a NTA, reporting as expected to JIAS.
- 25 (80.5%) of the JD's have attained a 75% compliance rate or better, of having juveniles who were served a NTA, reporting as expected to JIAS.

The 8th JD (Dickinson, Geary, Marion and Morris Counties) is one of the districts with a 100% compliance rate. Since October 2017, LEO's in the 8th JD have served 30 NTA's to juveniles, and all 30 have been complied with. Lawrence Palmer, Director of Juvenile Intake and Prevention Coordinator for the 8th JD Community Corrections, stated "what has really helped is developing relationships with law enforcement and county attorneys. It's really important for intake workers and others in the system to help and support law enforcement and to have a better understanding of what they are dealing with. By working together we can make good decisions and have the youth and family take responsibility."

Continued next page . . .

Human Trafficking - Kansas

Human Trafficking Survivor Hopes New Films will Shine Light on Growing Epidemic

Human trafficking is a \$150-billion industry for traffickers, according to the International Labor Organization. New data from the National Human Trafficking Hotline reports an increase in the number of human trafficking cases in both [Kansas](#) and [Missouri](#). "I survived 17 years of my journey here on the streets of Kansas City. [Read more and watch video](#)

Wichita Man Convicted of Human Trafficking

A jury has convicted a Wichita man on federal human trafficking charges. U.S. Attorney Tom Beall said a 25-year-old male was convicted of one count of sex trafficking of a minor, one count of sex trafficking of an adult by force, fraud or coercion, and one count of interstate transportation of a minor in furtherance of prostitution. During trial, [Read more](#)

Kansas Tries to Stop Human Trafficking

One activist says many victims wind up behind bars, as well as the suspected traffickers. [Watch video](#)

Program on Signs of Human Trafficking

A Wichita hospital has played a lead role in developing a training program for medical professionals to identify indicators of human trafficking. [Watch video](#)

Council of State Governments – Justice Center

Juvenile Injustice: Racial Disparities in Incarceration Start Early

Much like its adult counterpart, the United States' juvenile justice system teems with racial disparities and overcrowding in settings inundated with non-violent, low-level offenders, according to a new report. **Nonprofit Prison Policy Initiative** released [Youth Confinement: The Whole Pie](#). [Read more](#)

Teaching—and Reaching—Students behind Bars

There are no guardhouses or concertina-topped fences around the Wyoming Girls School. There's no need; the correctional facility nestles on a rural road off Interstate 90, almost dead-center of the state at the foot of the Bighorn Mountains, and no student has tried to run away in the last seven years. But the school's openness also highlights its deeper push to help its students consider themselves students again, [Read more](#)

Human Trafficking - National

Three Cities Lead Fight against Human Trafficking

Governments' efforts to combat human trafficking have shifted in recent years from a tough-on-crime approach to one focused on identifying and helping the victims. Now three cities – Atlanta, Chicago and Minneapolis – will push that paradigm shift even further. Each have won funding from an initiative called the Partnership for Freedom, which challenged cities to imagine better ways to coordinate cross-agency anti-trafficking efforts. "The winning cities demonstrated a commitment to address all victims of sex and labor trafficking," says Megan Tackney, program manager for Partnership for

[Read more . . .](#)

National Human Trafficking Hotline Cases Jump by 13% in 2017

Cases of human trafficking reported to the [National Human Trafficking Hotline](#) and BeFree Textline jumped by 13 % in 2017 from the previous year, according to data released today by Polaris. The Polaris-operated helplines handled a record 8,759 cases of human trafficking in 2017, bringing the total number of reported cases since 2007 to 40,987. The data from the National Human Trafficking Hotline is one of the largest data sets on human trafficking for the United

[Read more . . .](#)

Juvenile Justice Information Exchange

OJJDP Head Caren Harp Wants to Rebalance System from Focus on 'Therapeutic Intervention'

A session at the [National Council of Juvenile and Family Court's](#) annual conference, held here this week, was billed as a chance for attendees to ask questions of Caren Harp, the new head of the [Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention](#) (OJJDP). But Harp, [who was appointed in December](#), turned it into a listening session, asking the audience of mostly judges and attorneys to tell her what's working in their jurisdictions and how OJJDP might help them continue that work. "What do you need from us?" [Read more . . .](#)

Two Leaders Fighting Structural Racism Had to Stop Fighting Each Other First

On paper, Meghan Harrah and Albino Garcia had a shared goal: to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in the juvenile justice system. They also had a shared title: co-chair of the working group within [JDAI](#) (Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative) in Bernalillo County, New Mexico. But their different perspectives and unaddressed pain and anger, which stemmed from decades of racial and ethnic tensions, threatened to undermine this work. [Read more . . .](#)

Example of Community-based Probation Success Can Make Long, Hard Journey Worthwhile

On a cloudy September afternoon in Santa Cruz, California, I am standing in the probation complex parking lot talking on the phone with Chief Probation Officer Fernando Giraldo. Out of the corner of my eye I catch a glimpse of a figure breaking into a run toward where I am standing. Being the chick that I am, I take a two-second survey of the area and determine that I am the intended target . . . I had the pleasure of attending the [JDAI](#) (Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative) [Read more . . .](#)

Juvenile Systems Need to Listen to, Trust Young People

The supposedly immaculate stone walls feel as if they are about to close in on me. I wait on court date after court date for a woman of privilege to apply a sentence or provide a "safe" placement for me. This woman asks questions every time I am dragged into that room by the shackles and cuffs that bind my voiceless frame. [Read more . . .](#)

Critical Thinking: Why It's So Important, How to Learn It

(Part 1 of 2)

Critical thinking skills are an important life skill, as they help people make good decisions, understand their actions and consequences, and solve problems. I speak inside prisons with women, youth and men to talk about life skills. As an ex-addict in recovery, I know what it looks to [Read more . . .](#)

Electronic Monitoring Popular As Alternative to Incarceration but Needs Closer Look

Remember when you were a teenager? Did you ever hang out at the mall with friends, occasionally cut class or do other impulsive things with very little thought about the consequences? These actions probably drove adults crazy, but you were doing exactly what you were supposed to be doing — you were being a [teenager](#). Healthy adolescent development includes trying new things, testing and creating limits and boundaries, taking risks, acting impulsively and orienting more toward peer groups and peer group culture. I work with young people at the RYSE Center [Read more . . .](#)

PEW Charitable Trusts

Louisiana's 2017 Criminal Justice Reforms

Reinvests Savings from Adult Services to Juvenile Justice Services
On June 15, 2017, Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards signed the most comprehensive criminal justice reform in state history. Six Republicans, two Democrats, and one independent authored the bipartisan package of 10 bills, which should enable Louisiana to shed its long-held status as the state with the nation's highest imprisonment rate by the end of rate by the end [Read more . . .](#)

National News

House Passes Juvenile Justice Reform Bill

Alabama lawmakers are one step closer to overhauling the state's juvenile justice system after the House passed a bill aimed at keeping low-level offenders out of detention. Thursday's vote was 69-20 after more than three hours of heated debate and multiple amendments. The bill [Read more . . .](#)

Arkansas Works to Overhaul Juvenile Justice System

Judges and youth advocates say Arkansas' patchwork juvenile probation system needs an overhaul to treat children in the system more fairly. Efforts are underway in at least 18 of the state's 75 counties to improve probation and the overall juvenile justice system. The goal is to reduce the number of children in detention and to keep them out of court [Read more . . .](#)

In Jail, a School of Second Chances, and One of Philly's Best Principals

[Read more . . .](#)

Purpose of Juvenile Justice System is Rehabilitation

By Gov. Dennis Daugaard, Governor of South Dakota

It has been three years since we reformed South Dakota's juvenile justice system. When the legislation was passed, South Dakota had the second highest juvenile incarceration rate in the country. It was nearly three times the national average. At the same time, our juvenile violent crime arrest rate was approximately one-third of the national average. We were locking up primarily non-violent juvenile offenders. Since this law has been in effect, we are seeing fewer [Read more . . .](#)

The Juvenile Justice Corner continued from page 1

In the 28th JD (Ottawa and Saline Counties), LEO's have served 83 NTA's with 81 of those youth reporting to JIAS as expected, for a 97.6% compliance rate. Mendee Kramer, Supervisor of Juvenile Intake for the 28th JD, stated that the NTA system they created "has worked out great". Kramer explained that the LEO's do a good job evaluating the circumstances, and if they write the youth a NTA citation, "the officers tell the youth you need to call this number within 48 hours, and most will circle the number on the ticket". Kramer believes those communications skills used by the LEO when delivering the citation help create a clear expectation to the youth of the importance to follow up.

Once the youth report to JIAS, the typical intake interviews and screenings take place. According to Kramer, in the 28th JD "once we have our intake, we can evaluate to see if the youth would be eligible for referral to our Immediate Intervention Program (IIP). For those youth that are not referred for an IIP, a notice is sent to the County Attorney". Kramer advises that their system is working well and they have a very good working relationship with both law enforcement and the county attorney.

For Palmer in the 8th JD, going out on the road to meet with the police chiefs and sheriffs helped to build mutual understanding. The NTA's have worked out well for LEO's in the rural areas. It has helped LEO's by "saving them lots of time and avoiding unnecessary travel, often between three to five hours" of transportation time for each incident. When he meets with the chiefs and sheriffs, he addresses other questions or concerns they may have which often includes an overview on the intake process, an explanation of the Kansas Detention Assessment Instrument (KDAI) and how an override works. By taking the time to address these issues, Palmer advised he can see them get more comfortable knowing that safety issues will be met.

Capt. Mike Sweeney of the Salina Police Department also sees improvements, and added that before the NTA process, some youth would get picked up and released to their parents, but there was no follow up. Now, with the NTA process, the youth are released after receiving a citation, "they know there will be repercussions" when they follow up in JIAS. With the NTA process "JIAS and the county attorney are now getting involved". The youth "are getting assessed and assigned to the programs that they need." Sweeney continued "we are getting to the point where we can figure out the causation". Sweeney added that he believes both JIAS and law enforcement "are working with the county attorney to reduce juvenile crime".

Early indications are that local representatives of the juvenile justice system are working together in a collaborative manner to successfully build and enhance their NTA processes. These collaborative efforts are moving Kansas closer to achieving our goals of enhancing public safety while holding juvenile offenders accountable and improving outcomes for youth, families, and their local communities.