

Kansas News

Reinvesting in New Correctional Services

Hearing an annual report from Harvey/McPherson Counties Community Corrections Director Janet Cagle has become commonplace for the Harvey County Commission — with the governing body receiving an update on yearly outcomes before agreeing to continue services with the organization. Monday brought about this process once again. While Cagle reviewed the efforts of the past fiscal year for the commission, noting another success in terms of reaching goals (with an 82 percent success rate — the goal is 75 percent — for adult probationers in Harvey County), the future was also a key focus — particularly in regards to juvenile [Read more . . .](#)

Graduated Responses: Frequently Asked Questions and Community Supervision Standard Update

Since the Graduated Sanctions, Incentives and Response Grids have been published, KDOC-JS has addressed a number of questions from across the state. Some of the most commonly asked questions and answers have been assembled into a *Frequently Asked Questions* summary that is available [here](#) at the KDOC website.

Community Supervision Standard CSS-04-110, *Absconders* has been updated and is available [here](#) at the KDOC website.

2017 DOC-Juvenile Services Training Schedule

Legal Issues Training on SB 367 and SB 42 for Juvenile Intake & Community Corrections Staff

A half day presentation will be provided by KDOC-JS Attorney Jeff Cowger to inform staff and stakeholders on the Kansas Juvenile Justice Code and statutory changes from the 2016 and 2017 Legislative Sessions.

Monday	October 16	8 AM – 12 noon	Pittsburg
			<i>Community Mental Health Center, 3101 N Michigan</i> Register here
Wednesday	October 18	1 PM – 5 PM	Salina
			<i>Salina County Health Dept., 125 Elm St.</i> Register here
Thursday	October 19	8 AM – 12 noon	Topeka
			<i>KBI Forensic Science Ctr., 2001 SW Washburn Ave</i> Register here
Monday	October 23	8 AM – 12 noon	Wichita
			<i>Sedgwick County DOC; 3803 E. Harry, Suite 125</i> Register here
Tuesday	October 24	9 AM – 1 PM	Kansas City
			<i>West Wyandotte Library; 1737 N 82 St, KC, KS</i> Register here
Thursday	October 26	1 PM – 5 PM	Garden City
			<i>Finney Co. Community Services Ctr.; 607 W Santa Fe</i> Register here

Moral Reconciliation Therapy Training

The next Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT) training, facilitated by the Correctional Counseling, Inc. is scheduled for Tuesday, November 14 through Friday, November 17 at Sedgwick County's Juvenile Field Services Location in Wichita, KS. MRT is a four-day training. The first three days of the training run from 8:30 to 5:00 pm with an earlier dismissal time on the final day of training. To register for MRT training or if you have questions, contact Megan Bradshaw by email at Megan.Bradshaw@ks.gov or by phone at 785-296-0897.

School Resource Officer Leaves Legacy as Trusted Mentor, Father Figure

Entering the doors of Robinson Middle School two years ago as a sixth-grader, Christina Gomez said she had some anger issues. "I was one of those kids you would call 'not so behaved,'" she said. "Through the years, I would usually fight someone." But with the help, friendship and trust she found in Topeka police officer Ron Hollar, the 13-year-old eighth-grader said she knows "fighting is not the answer." "He's helped me learn that you do the right thing and walk away," Gomez said. "He's helped me through a lot of times. He's been there for me when nobody else was." [Read more . . .](#)

Reforms Create Opportunities for Parents & School Leaders to Improve School Discipline Policies

FROM KANSAN'S UNITED FOR YOUTH JUSTICE

Part of juvenile justice reform is improving school discipline practices. As such, KUJYJ has produced two documents that provide guidance to parents and school leaders about the need for new approaches to school discipline and how they can go about creating a Memorandum of Understanding with local law enforcement.

For a guide for how school leaders can create a Memorandum of Understanding with law enforcement agencies that improves their school climate, keeps kids and teachers safe, and helps to keep students in the classroom learning, [Click here . . .](#)

For a brief providing information for school leaders on: The need for new approaches to juvenile justice & school discipline policies; SB 367, Kansas's juvenile justice reform bill—an opportunity; and key considerations to make the most of SB 367's opportunity for school leaders, [Click here . . .](#)

The Juvenile Justice Corner

By Kelley Hubbard, Corrections Counselor II
Kansas Juvenile Correctional Complex

On a recent trip back home to California I was reminded of an important lesson in life. The flight attendant started her safety speech, "In the unlikely event that the aircraft experiences decompression, an oxygen mask will automatically appear in front of you...If you are traveling with a child or someone who requires assistance, secure your mask on first, and then assist the other person..." These instructions are in essence a metaphor for life. You must take care of yourself before you can be of any assistance to anyone else.

Most of us can attest to the reality that working in corrections has changed us in one way or another. Some of the changes are positive, other changes have had negative effects on us personally and professionally.

Stressors in corrections include working with difficult offenders, exposure to dangerous situations, questionable policy changes and co-worker relationships.

We are all at risk for Corrections fatigue which can have detrimental effects on our body, mind and personal relationships. Would you recognize the signs and symptoms? Are you feeling exhausted? Do you feel irritable or angry? Have you noticed a decline in your empathy or compassion for others? Are you withdrawing from social engagements you once enjoyed? Do you feel a decreased satisfaction with areas of your life? Is your spiritual tank running on empty? If you answered yes to any of these questions it may be possible that you are experiencing the cumulative effects of exposure to stressful events in your life.

So, how do we reduce our risk for Corrections fatigue? What can we do to make sure we are putting our oxygen mask on first?

Self-care is the act of doing things that benefit and enhance our lives. It's very important for us to take the time to meet our needs first. A few basic self-care habits include: rest/sleep, staying hydrated, exercise, having fun-do something you enjoy doing, connect with others, laughter, relax, get a massage-remember we carry issues in our tissues.

There is a lot of information available to you if you are ready to make the time and commitment to care for yourself first. Start off with 5 minutes a day and you'll begin to notice the benefits and rewards. Do you want to increase your optimism and hope? Do you want to improve your physical health? Do you want to decrease your stress levels? Do you want to increase your ability to maintain a work-life balance? If you answered yes to any of those questions, then it's time to put YOU first and strap on the oxygen mask and breathe deeply.

Corrections Fatigue Training

Kansas Corrections Care Coalition is available to provide free training opportunities on Corrections Fatigue. It is an all-day training event and is designed so that supervisors and employees that do not supervise anyone attend different sessions. Effects of corrections fatigue may be low staff morale, impaired job performance, individual health and functioning issues, problematic professional and personal relationships, and high staff turnover. Attendees will learn strategies and identify resources for countering the effects of corrections trauma and fatigue; and Equip corrections staff with strategies they can use to move toward professional fulfillment individually and within a workplace culture. For more information contact Dawn Shepler (316-613-7234) or e-mail dawn.shepler@ks.gov

Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators

Kansas Finds New Opportunities in Juvenile Justice Reform

In 2016, Kansas passed legislation designed to comprehensively improve its juvenile justice system. Among the most dramatic shifts, the legislation narrowed the use of out-of-home placements and required all savings from bed reduction to be redirected toward evidence-based programs that reduce recidivism, promote accountability, and demonstrate better outcomes for young people. As Kansas works to implement this transformative juvenile justice legislation, Department of Corrections (KDOC) officials are proactively pushing to improve outcomes not only for juvenile justice youth but also for their employees. [Read more . . .](#)

Council of State Governments – Justice Center

Palm Beach County Program Partners with Probation Officers to Improve Reentry

Steven's path to college had a few detours. As a child, he was in and out of foster care, and at 17 he was placed in a Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) program after getting involved with drugs and stealing. "It took me getting in trouble to realize life is short," Steven recalled when writing about his own experience in the juvenile justice system. [Read more . . .](#)

Human Trafficking – Kansas

Human Trafficking Investigation in Garden City Led to Arrest

Human trafficking is a growing problem, and not just in the big cities. In the last week, [Garden City police arrested a 34-year-old](#) on suspicion of human trafficking. "It can happen anywhere," said Janene Radke, who runs Family Crisis Services in Garden City. "It doesn't just happen in the urban areas, and we're starting to see more of a rise of it in the rural areas." Experts say cases of human trafficking can be [Read more and watch video . . .](#)

Think Again Before Buying Your Pre-teen a Smart Phone, Child Sex Investigator Says

Parents aren't giving enough thought to the dangers their children are exposed to when they are allowed to have a smart phone, a Wichita police sergeant who investigates child sex crimes said Tuesday. "You have access to more data in your purse than is contained within the Library of Congress," Sgt. Jeffery Swanson told about 30 people at a League of Women Voters Lunch and Learn event at the library annex. "The computer in your phone is more powerful than the first rocket that went to the moon, yet parents don't think anything of giving it to a 10- or 12-year-old child." [Read more . . .](#)

\$60K Grant will Help YWCA as it Seeks to Safely Shelter Victims of Human Trafficking

Providing safe shelter for victims of human trafficking is a complex challenge. Local victim advocates explain that traffickers, motivated by greed, see a financial incentive in tracking down anyone trying to escape that life. The tactics they use to maintain control over their victims are "really awful," said Michelle McCormick, director of the YWCA Northeast Kansas' Center for Safety and Empowerment. "Our safety considerations have to be top priority because the traffickers will go after the people who they consider their property in a different way than somebody who is a batterer, a domestic violence perpetrator," McCormick said this past week. "So we have to make sure our safety [Read more . . .](#)

Juvenile Justice Information Exchange

School-to-Prison Pipeline Can Be Dismantled Using Alternative Discipline Strategies

The school-to-prison pipeline refers to the streamlining of at-risk students from schools to incarceration or related correctional-type facilities that results from punitive discipline practices and criminalizing misconduct in schools. Ultimately, the school-to-prison pipeline is the consequence of zero tolerance policies that originally mandated schools to penalize students for bringing weapons and drugs onto [Read more . . .](#)

How to Create an Effective and Equitable Juvenile Justice System in Michigan

Two 15-year-olds, Ryan and Michael, are both arrested for simple assault. While Michael is ordered to complete a diversion program, Ryan is to be locked up for six months in a juvenile facility. Why the difference in punishments? They live in different counties in Michigan. [Read more . . .](#)

Book Review: The Art of Holistic Security

We live in a world of best practices. Some call themselves evidence-based best practices (EBP), some are simply promising practices based on evidence from somewhere, and a few are practices grounded in evidence-based research (EBR). Confusing, eh? Part of the confusion stems from the difficulty and complexity of achieving successful outcomes with youth in custody. In part, the striking effectiveness of recent juvenile detention reforms, particularly [JDAI](#), has removed from secure custody those youth who can thrive in non-secure alternatives, leaving behind the most at-risk [Read more . . .](#)

Sentenced to Life without Parole as a Juvenile: Edward Knight | Age 59

[Listen to his story . . .](#)

Leader of Civil Rights March Shaped By Exposure to Segregation, Racial Bias

When she was in the sixth grade, when she still wanted to be a pediatrician and not a lawyer for revolutionaries, Soffiyah Elijah entered her first integrated school in Hempstead, Long Island. She remembers that in response to integration the administration of the school then segregated the classrooms. So she spent her first day in an integrated school among all [Read more . . .](#)

PEW Charitable Trusts

Juvenile Commitment Rate Falls by Half Nationally in 10 Years

Over the past decade, the nation's juvenile commitment rate—the share of adjudicated youths in residential facilities—dropped by half, falling to the lowest level since the federal government began tracking it in 1997, according to a new analysis by The Pew Charitable Trusts. [Read more . . .](#)

Human Trafficking - National

Senate OKs Lifetime CDL Ban for H.T.

A pair of bills aimed to combat human trafficking passed through the US Senate. The *No Human Trafficking on Our Roads Act*, [S-1532](#), and the *Combating Human Trafficking in Commercial Vehicles Act*, [S-1536](#), were both approved by unanimous consent in the full Senate. [Read more . . .](#)

Combating Sex Trafficking

The US Senate Commerce Committee held a hearing on [S-1693 - Stop Enabling Sex Traffickers Act of 2017](#). The bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to address the issue of internet companies facilitating sex trafficking recruitment online. [To read more or watch the hearing . . .](#)

National News

An Immigrant's Story: I Deserve a Second Chance, Too

Although there is a large and vast discussion throughout the United States around immigration, a subset of the immigrant population has been virtually ignored: the juvenile offender who is tried as an adult and faces deportation for those criminal convictions, often times many years later, after his or her release from the prison system. [Read more . . .](#)

Juvenile Justice Reform Gets a Shot in the Arm with New Act

Cook County legislators recently held a press conference to recognize the passage of the Youth Opportunity and Fairness Act, which aims to increase the protections surrounding sealed juvenile records. HB 3817 provides more than eight clearly defined protections for juvenile records [Read more . . .](#)

No Clear Link between Juvenile Crime Spree, Legal Reforms

A recent spate of serious juvenile crime, including a string of car thefts in which offenders fled police at high speeds and the slaying of an innocent 63-year-old man in Hartford, represent one of the most serious and brazen outbreaks in years. The spree led to assertions from top state law enforcement officials that laws adding 17-year-olds to juvenile court, and making it harder to lock-up juveniles or transfer [Read more . . .](#)

States Take Action to Combat Child Abuse

Spurred by high-profile cases of endangered children and chronically overworked caseworkers, many states have taken steps this year to shield children from abuse and neglect, including adding caseworkers, tightening reporting requirements and expanding the definition of "abuse." Some states and cities are pouring more money into child protection agencies. In Texas, where the foster care system was declared unconstitutional by a federal judge in 2015, lawmakers allocated \$4 billion this year, up 17 percent from the previous budget, to shore up the state's [Read more . . .](#)

New Bill Targets Higher Education Opportunities for Foster Care and Homeless Youth

Advocacy organizations [Juvenile Law Center](#), [School House Connection](#) and [National Network for Youth](#) strongly support the introduction of a bill in the US Congress that would significantly improve the chances for higher education success for youth experiencing homelessness and youth who have been in the foster care system. [The Higher Education Access and Success for Homeless and Foster Youth Act](#), provides legislative solutions for youth who face some of the greatest challenges in accessing a college education. [Read more . . .](#)

Black Girls Are 7 Times More Likely To Be Suspended Than White Girls: Report

A new [report](#) is further confirming the racial biases black girls face in school when it comes to being disciplined. The National Black Women's Justice Institute recently examined the Education Department's data from the 2013-2014 school year, [which was released in June 2016](#), and found that nationally, black girls were more than seven times more likely than white girls to receive an out-of-school suspension. [Read more . . .](#)

PEW Charitable Trusts

States Turning to Evidence-Based Policymaking to Improve Outcomes for Children and Youth

Policymakers want to improve outcomes for children and youth but often struggle with how best to allocate limited resources. In recent years, many have turned to [evidence-based policymaking](#)—the systematic use of high-quality research in decision-making—to help address this challenge. Extensive analysis, for example, has demonstrated that some interventions achieve outcomes that benefit children and youth—such as reducing child abuse and juvenile recidivism rates. But policymakers need access to these findings to identify, fund and sustain these proven programs. [Read more . . .](#)