

**Judge James V. Riddel Boys & Girls  
Alternative Program  
“A Systemic Approach to Reducing Recidivism”**

Department of Corrections  
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## **Change in Juvenile Justice Field**

Reforms are being implemented nationally and in Kansas.

System changes are geared to put research on adolescent development and effective interventions into practice.

Overarching reform goal is to support prosocial development of youth who become involved in the system and thereby ensure the safety of communities.

Responses to juvenile crime are focused in three areas:

1. Accountability for wrongdoing
2. Preventing Reoffending
3. Fairness



## Most Effective Practices

- Risk assessment to target youth at moderate or high risk
- Cognitive behavioral programming that targets criminogenic risk factors
- Family engagement in case planning and interventions to strengthen parental authority and learn techniques to support positive change, growth and development in their adolescent
- Structured social learning where new skills and behaviors are practiced and modeled



## JRBR Best Practices

- Serving local youth close to home.
- Parent involvement and participation in case plans, services, visits, day and overnight passes, school conferences, case reviews, transition planning and aftercare.
- Delivery of cognitive behavioral programming proven to reduce recidivism.
- Tracking and reporting outcomes and using data and research in annual reviews to make continuous improvements.



## Youth Residential Center II's

- YRC II is a type of out of home residential placement facility for youth placed into the custody of the state. (JRBR was a YRC II).
- Average length of stay is 150 days.
- Four YRC II's serving JO's in SG County.
- More YRC II's in other areas of Kansas.
- YRC II's admit youth from across Kansas.
- 68% of our youth are served locally (52/77).
- Local YRC II bed capacity is 123



# Riddel Alternative Program

Goals: To reduce recidivism in the target population.  
To increase use of local YRC II's vs. out of county.

## Program Components

1. Providing cognitive behavioral programming to address criminal thinking, values and attitudes to a target population of county youth admitted to local YRC II's, during placement and after until discharge from custody;
2. Changing the way we engage and work with parents and youth at each juvenile services program (intake, detention, alternatives to detention, intensive probation, out of home placement and reentry).



# Riddel Alternative Program

## Target Population (males & females)

- Sedgwick County youth committed to KDOC-JS custody for out of home placement.
- Risk assessment score of moderate or high risk to reoffend.
- YRC II placement is in Sedgwick County and any subsequent local placement (including home) until discharge from state custody.



# Program Component One

## 1. Cognitive Behavioral Programming – Group Format

Thinking 4 a Change (T4C) - is a cognitive behavioral training (CBT) program that targets criminal risk factors, includes cognitive restructuring, social skills development and the development of problem-solving skills.

**AND**

Aggression Replacement Training® (ART®) is a cognitive behavioral intervention program that specifically targets chronically aggressive youth. ART has three components: social skill competence, moral reasoning, and anger management.





## Program Component Two

2. **To implement the Family Engagement Model in DOC juvenile services programs.**
  - Strategies that engage and partner staff with parents to leverage and build upon the strengths of families in the change process with their adolescent.
  - The model respects and recognizes the family as the most important relationship and long-term influence to sustain positive changes.



# Family Engagement Model

- Adopting the model involves changes in policy, procedure, practice and staff training at each level and program in juvenile services (DOC Admin, JIAC, JDF, JRF, JFS and SCYP).
- For juvenile corrections it represents a paradigm shift to a strengths-based and family-focused approach.
- Technical assistance is planned to guide us in making these changes over 18-months.



## Program Goals and Measures

- 90% of local YRC II youth served in Sedgwick County placements (up from 68%)
- 80% or more of youth will complete required programming
- 70% of graduates will show improvement in changes of criminal thinking, values and attitudes (pre/post testing)
- To reduce recidivism to 18% or less for graduates measured at 6 and 12 months (replicates JRBR outcome)
- To expand measurement of recidivism to 24 and 36 months
- To serve 100 youth annually (after initial start up cycle)

