

**Community Task Force**  
**RECOMMENDATIONS - Youth Corrections (KDOC, JIAC and JDF)**  
**4-18-2022**

**We recommend...**

**State-level**

1. The Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC) revise its budget requirements to allow for **mental health to be a core service** for KDOC, so that it is not dependent on grant funds for mental health programs at the local level.
2. Supporting the expansion of the statewide **Crossover Youth Practice model** implementation to every judicial district in Kansas and develop local protocols to serve youth with involvement in child welfare and juvenile justice systems. *[In process]*
3. Striving for **parity in programs** for those impacted by the youth corrections systems, through intentional engagement and funding of culturally competent and gender responsive programming.

**Community**

4. Developing and implementing an **MOU** between the Wichita Police Department and Juvenile Intake and Corrections (JIAC) that honors the 2016 US Attorney General Opinion and clearly outlines that arrest report must be completed before youth is released to JIAC. The arrest report should include all details from the original classification of the call from dispatch to final classification of the call when the youth arrives at JIAC, all expectations for youth brought to the facility, transfers, arrest reports, officer release form, etc. *[See also in WPD Recommendations]*
5. Creating a **database at JIAC that identifies grassroots organizations** that serve youth who are impacted by the youth correction systems. A transparent process should be developed and implemented that allows the community to see organizations included in the database, as well as creates opportunity for other organizations to be added to the database. Organizations listed in the database will be intentionally engaged and provided with technical assistance to apply for grant funds that allow for culturally relevant, gender and trauma-based programs are available for youth. *[Need to coordinate with similar recommendation for WPD]*

## Facility

6. By July 1, 2022, updating JIAC Policy 8.810 – **Use of Force**, so that it states:
  - Once youth is secured in a cell, instead of holding him/her down in the prone position, close the cell and allow the youth to calm down *[Need to check federal regulations to see if this is already in place]*
  - Do not use any position that covers the youth’s chest
  - Only allow the prone position to be used to cuff and sit, cuff and stand
  - One staff person is responsible for video/audio recording any incidents of restraint, keeping time to ensure a youth is sitting or standing immediately after cuffing/restraining, and the youth is in overall good health and wellbeing. This person would also be observing employees and in charge of “tapping out” anyone who appears to have reached his or her physical, mental, or emotional limit when working with a youth. This person should never assist in restraining the youth. *[KJCC has a program that could be used as a model.]*
7. Requiring a **nursing staff person** to be present at JIAC/Juvenile Detention Facility (JDF) 24/7.
8. Updating the language of the JIAC **Medical Criteria for Admission Form 8.804** so it requires current and accurate information prior to transfer.
9. Establishing a “**calming room**” at JIAC that could be safe for youth experiencing some form of distress, where they can be safely left alone and not restrained.
10. Prioritizing in the County’s upcoming CIP budget updates for the **video recording system** at JIAC to cover more areas of the lobby and holding rooms, and a recording system that includes **audio capacity**.
11. Not allowing a juvenile in a **Wrap restraint** be brought into the JIAC facility. *[Completed December 2021]*
12. Not allowing a **single JIAC worker** to handle intake for someone described as “a combative juvenile.”
13. Requiring law enforcement officers who bring an allegedly combative, noncompliant youth into the JIAC to stay on scene, or nearby, until the juvenile is processed.
14. Ensuring all juveniles at JIAC are separated from each other (taken to another room), so they are not exposed to potentially traumatic events in the common areas.

## Overall

15. Creating and staffing a **Citizen's Review Board** for JIAC and JDF, with quasi-judicial powers. *[More definition needed.]*
16. Strengthening the **Individual Just Plan (IJP)** process used in different organizations throughout Sedgwick County
17. Using Team Justice as a vehicle to gain community volunteers for Crossover Youth Practice Model
18. Establishing a long-term goal for the Kansas Department of Corrections to develop and implement a strategy that moves juvenile justice systems to a **restorative justice system**. *[Hope Cooper can provide clarifying language.]*
19. Requesting a **Legislative post-audit** conducted to examine the implications of the "Stand Your Ground" laws, particularly as it relates to incidents involving law enforcement.

## Training

1. Developing and implementing **standardized training** for law enforcement, JIAC and JDF personnel, to include topics on mental health first aid, adolescent brain development and de-stigmatization of mental health, as well as when and under what circumstances a youth can and should be taken to Ascension Via Christi St. Joseph, as opposed to JIAC. *[See also in Recommendations for Foster Care, WPD]*
2. Ongoing **implicit bias training and testing** that includes, race, culture and gender diversity, for all JIAC and JDF personnel.
3. Requiring all training related to mental health, trauma, cultural and gender diversity, and implicit bias be **required at regular intervals** for all JIAC and JDF personnel.

## Mental Health

1. Ensuring a reliable level of service for **remote/virtual access to mental health** consults at JIAC and JDF from COMCARE or another mental health provider. The providers need to be available 24/7.
2. Ensuring JIAC and JDF provide **trauma care services** for youth who experience a traumatic, crisis event while at JIAC or JDF. Services could be delivered onsite, as well as out in the community once a child is released.
3. Supporting the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Coalition legislative agenda to **increase the number of mental health professionals** in Sedgwick County.