The Restorative Justice Authority

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# Crawford County Restorative Justice Authority Assessment

## Overview

The Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC) Juvenile Service Division and the Kansas Advisory Group on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (KAG) is supporting an assessment of the Restorative Justice Authority (RJA), the juvenile justice system (JD#11) in Crawford County. The goals for this assessment are to understand how RJA currently collects, analyzes, and uses data to inform practice and to enhance those capacities where possible to better support justice-involved youth. We are also examining where disparities may exist in youth involvement and experience with the system. The assessment will be used to identify and recommend improvements to the system to minimize youth involvement. Conditions in the community that contribute to youth involvement in the juvenile justice system will be examined as well as the capacity of the system to effectively serve our youth. Another goal is to build our capacity collectively to alter those conditions and capacities for the benefit of our youth. This assessment represents the first steps in this process.

## Assessment Components

The assessment will examine multiple components of the juvenile justice system to better understand how youth become involved, move through, and leave the system, with the goal of reducing youth contact with the system. Data on youth will be identified to help examine multiple aspects of the Juvenile Justice System, from arrest through recidivism. The study will examine a variety of juvenile justice system data including arrest data from local law enforcement, intake assessments, pre-trial placement, prosecution and disposition of cases, programming and service outcomes, and recidivism. The breadth of data collected and analyzed will allow for critical insight into the functioning of the Juvenile Justice System in Crawford County. The data drawn from RJA records will represent only a snapshot of the juvenile justice system and will be supplemented with interviews of key stakeholders and community members to provide a fuller picture of the juvenile justice system. Using the data together will provide a clear picture of the local context and the juvenile justice system that will aid in recommending strategies tailored for Crawford County.

The assessment will be conducted by the KU Center for Community Health and Development and the Learning Tree Institute in partnership with the Restorative Justice Authority. For More information please contact Dr. Jomella Watson-Thompson ([jomellaw@ku.edu](mailto:jomellaw@ku.edu)) or Dr. Jerry Schultz ([jschultz@ku.edu](mailto:jschultz@ku.edu); 785-864-0750) of the KU Center for Community Health and Development or Angie Hadley ([ahadley@rjauthority.org](mailto:ahadley@rjauthority.org)) of the Restorative Justice Authority.