

KANE COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTER



A Note from the Superintendent

Change does not come easily, nor are there many opportunities to effect meaningful change. During these uncertain times, it would be easy to curl up in bed and pull the covers over your head. However, if you did that, you would not be taking advantage of the opportunity in front of you. The things that cause stress and unrest are often the things that inspire change. Criminal Justice reform has been discussed for years and yet it has taken a pandemic and protests over social, economic and racial inequities to catapult that need into the spotlight.

Change is nothing new to the Juvenile Justice Center. We believe in and allow empirical data to guide our approach to working with the kids. As demonstrated by our revised detention screening and support of a statewide screening instrument, we believe in only detaining the most high-risk kids. We believe in being transparent and are receptive to evaluation by and feedback from State and independent agencies. We believe that acknowledging positive behavior is more effective than always pointing out the negative. We foster an accepting, inclusive and diverse environment, which is reflected in our PREA compliance and hiring practices. We believe in collaborating with and being mindful of the needs and opinions of our stakeholders, having meaningful discussions, expressing our values and finding common ground.

We continue to do everything possible to keep everyone at our facility safe and stand firm in our belief that our kids and community deserve the highest level of service possible. Now is not the time to stand still, now is the time to evaluate, improve and move forward.

Mike Davis

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Teacher Appreciation Week



During the week of May 3, 2020, we celebrated Teacher Appreciation Week. The JJC is lucky to have a progressive and dedicated group of teachers and the support of the Kane County Regional Office of Education. It was felt that the Governor's order canceling in-person classes was aimed at children not spreading the virus at school and bringing it home to their families. As the kids at the JJC are not moving about in the community, our teachers have continued to hold in-person classes throughout the pandemic. This provided a welcome distraction for our kids, while continuing to provide them with the educational services they deserve. That being said, pandemic or not, our teachers create an innovative and educationally conducive environment on a daily basis. Be it managing our garden, producing math parody videos or facilitating interactive and entertaining cognitive-behavioral training groups, our teachers are always willing to go the extra mile for our kids. Thank you Mr. Spalis, Mr. Pawola, Ms. Sloan and Mr. Steffes, we appreciate everything you do for our kids and facility.

Thank you to Kane County Board Chairman Chris Lauzen for taking the time to join us for lunch on July 21, 2020. We appreciate his support over the years and wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.



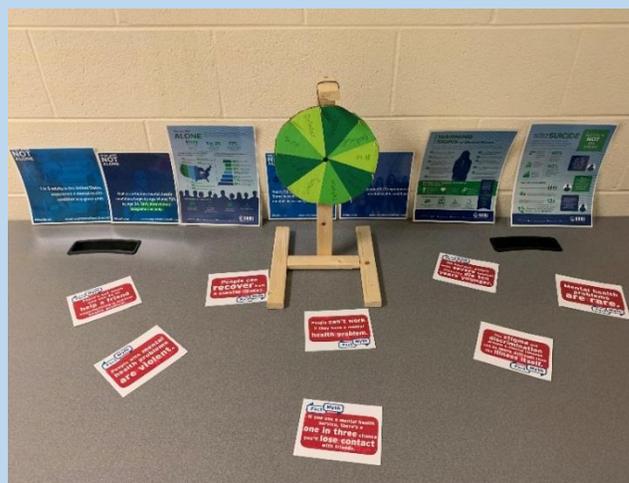
Meet JJC Teacher Sharon Sloan



I was born and raised in Illinois. I graduated from Addison Trail HS and shortly thereafter, got married. I have two grown children, Johnny and Aubrie. Johnny has blessed me with a grandson who just turned 9 this summer. Seeing and dealing with their struggles to get the extra help they needed in school, I was driven to make a difference. I graduated from Elgin Community College with honors in 2003 and earned a scholarship to Elmhurst College (now University). I earned my degree in Biology and Education and graduated Magna Cum Laude in the winter of 2007. I immediately landed a TA job at Schaumburg H.S. where I was an assistant coach of girls' track and field for 14 years. The following fall, I was hired in the Belvidere School Dist. to share my time between Belvidere H.S. and the newly opened Belvidere North HS. While there, I was given many subjects to teach, including an agriculture-based animal science class and a stint as the Future Farmers of America advisor. Loving a challenge, I accepted all with gratitude. I was also given the incredible opportunity to teach night school for the Rockford area's students that struggled in a normal high school atmosphere. I took a hard hit when "pink-slipped" during my fourth year in the district. Heartbroken, I found a job in northern Minnesota and co-managed the Vince Shute Wildlife Sanctuary for one season, working with wild black bears. My duties included maintenance to buildings, preparing food and feeding the bears, teaching the public about bears, working with college interns, procuring food during a drought, cooking for the volunteers, among other things. Once returning home, I worked in retail, but felt the strong urge to get back to teaching and coaching kids. In 2013, I returned to education as a paraprofessional and coach at Cary Grove HS. While working at CG, I also attended Cortiva Massage Therapy School full-time. After graduating in January 2016, I left CG to work for several chiropractors as an LMT. During that time, I met my fiancé, Peter Arient, who greatly encouraged me to return to my passion. After injuring my shoulder at work - enough to require surgery and six months of rehab - I seized the opportunity to return to teaching kids who really needed help learning. I saw the opening for a science teacher at the JJC and went for it. I was elated when I received a call for an interview! I knew immediately I had found my place. I was hired in August of 2018, arm in a sling and all! Since joining the team, I have thrown myself into giving the kids at the JJC the best opportunities possible for learning science. I am also highly involved in the Farm-to-School Program and the JJC garden. I will remain here until I retire, always striving to bring real-life experiences and opportunities to the kids here at the JJC.

Mental Health Fair

May was Mental Health Awareness Month, so our Mental Health Clinicians put on two Mental Health Fairs for staff to take a mental break and practice some self-care! Staff were able to play games, enjoy food, share stories, and win prizes. There were also self-care kits given out to staff who couldn't make it to the fairs. Thank you Ms. Miemczewski and Ms. Cavaliere.



Gardening for Greenies



The JJC garden program has been in place since 2017, when it consisted of only three raised beds. In 2018, we received a USDA grant for \$100,000 to join the Farm-to-School Program, allowing us to build six additional raised beds and add several growing bags. Last year, we had a team of volunteer Master Gardeners from the U of I Extension program that came in weekly to teach and assist the residents with preparing the beds, planting and caring for the vegetation, harvesting, and winterizing the beds. The garden was a great learning opportunity for the kids and was a great success.

This year came with numerous challenges, mostly due to the COVID-19 outbreak and resulting safety protocols. Without having the Master Gardeners' guidance, the first thought was to skip the garden program for this summer; however, knowing the skills of several staff members, and the understanding of how the program benefits the residents, we pulled together our resources and moved forward to create a JJC garden without the benefit of experts. Despite a rough start, we managed to get the garden planted.

The staff and students have pulled together and continue to care for and harvest the garden, which includes several types of peppers, zucchini, cucumbers, cilantro, carrots, corn, sunflowers, potatoes, pumpkins, two types of lettuce, onions, and lots of tomatoes that are now starting to ripen. We also tried to grow watermelon, but unfortunately, they did not survive the heat.

Thank you to Donna Plonczynski, Marcia Koenen, Jennifer Knoblock and the University of Illinois Extension Kane County Master Gardeners for the donation of tomato cages, as well as their advice/consultation.



Garden Mural and Stepping Stones



Thank you to our art teacher and volunteer, Catherine Tilly, and her daughters, Olivia and Lucy, for the countless hours spent creating a warm and visually appealing environment. The most recent additions are the "Grow" mural in our garden, the colorful path to the outside recreation area and paver stones. The care and generosity they have shown our kids is very much appreciated.





In July, the JJC contracted with Family Counseling Service in Aurora to provide comprehensive in-person and telehealth psychiatric services to the kids at the JJC. Welcome Dr. Eric Ward, Dr. Kestenberg and Dara Karlov, APN; we look forward to working with you.



Nurse Appreciation Day

On May 6, 2020, we celebrated National Nurses Day. Being a medical professional is challenging no matter where you practice, especially during these unprecedented times. Being a nurse at a juvenile detention facility, however, comes with a set of challenges uniquely their own. Handling routine medical issues, consulting with physicians/mental health professionals/parents and looking after the overall medical needs of our kids are just a few of the JJC nurses daily tasks. Add a pandemic, taking the temperature of every resident and employee on shift, screening all potential admissions, alleviating the fears of employees and helping the kids handle the stress of being detained can make for some long days. The JJC is fortunate to have a dedicated team of nursing professionals and we are grateful for the work they do. Thank you Ashley, Maria, Molly, Donna and Gabrielle!



Pictured: Nurse Maria and Nurse Ashley

Visitation

Resumption of limited non-contact visitation began on Thursday, June 11, 2020. In order to maintain social distancing, visitation is limited to one visitor per child and we are only capable of accommodating three visitors in each time slot due to social distancing. Visitors can share a 30-minute time slot, but one of them needs to remain in the lobby while the other visits; they can each have 15 minutes. In order to limit the number of people in the lobby, we ask that only those who are visiting enter the building (maximum of two if sharing a 30-minute time slot). We intentionally built in 15 minutes between time slots in order to reduce crowding, efficiently move people in and out of the visitation area and for disinfecting/cleaning. All visitors need to arrive in and wear a mask/face covering at all times, answer screening questions and must consent to having their temperature taken. With only being able to accommodate three visitors at once, we strongly encourage visitors to call in advance to schedule an appointment (630) 406-7480.

Thursdays:	Sundays:
6:00 PM – 6:30 PM	1:00 PM – 1:30 PM
6:45 PM – 7:15 PM	1:45 PM – 2:15 PM
7:30 PM – 8:00 PM	2:30 PM – 3:00 PM
8:15 PM – 8:45 PM	3:15 PM – 3:45 PM

Visitation via video conferencing has been very well received and we will continue to use that technology to supplement in-person visitation. We have installed Wi-Fi in several areas of our building and have purchased additional iPads to expand opportunities for families to visit remotely. Video visits are on Wednesdays from 5:30 PM – 8:30 PM, Saturdays from 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM and Sundays from Noon - 3:00 PM.



Meet Senior Youth Counselor Amy Dittmer



My name is Amy Dittmer, also known as “Ms. D” in the JJC. I am a Senior Youth Counselor and have been dedicated in helping at-risk youth make positive changes in their lives. I have encouraged at-risk youth to think about their decisions and consequences, and how it affects others in the community.

I have been at this job for 19 years because it inspires me to make a difference in these at-risk kids’ lives every day. I just want them to follow their dreams and be all they can be and have someone believe in them!

Here are some inspiring words that residents have written to me:

A JJC resident wrote a Haiku poem

Miss D’s
After nineteen years
Miss D comes to work smiling
And making us laugh

“Since being at the JJC, Ms. D has always been a staff member to inspire me to stay calm and to always look for the bigger picture in situations.”

“Mrs. D has always given me encouraging words and has always made me laugh when I was down.”

Cookout ~ 2020



On June 19, 2020, we cooked out for the kids and employees of the JJC. This is one small way we try to show that we appreciate the work of everyone at our facility. The kids look forward to it for weeks and all of the hard work is worth it when you hear a genuine thank you or are told how much they enjoyed the food. Of course that's usually followed by...."when are you cooking out again?"



Thank You!

Thank you to our wonderful and caring volunteer, Jenny Maxwell, for the donation of a picnic table, umbrella and grill. With our youth counselors wearing masks at all times, it's been nice to have an outdoor space available when they get an opportunity to take a break. On countless other occasions, Jenny has dropped off food for our youth counselors and kids and has provided clothing and backpacks for our kids who are awaiting placement. On July 24, 2020, in celebration of Youth Counselor Appreciation Week, Jenny and the volunteers at Random Acts Matter in St. Charles provided delicious meals to staff on all three shifts. Their kindness is much appreciated and we thank them all.



19 YEARS
 — Of employment —
 OVER 4,000 DAYS
 HUNDREDS OF PROBLEMS TO SOLVE
 COUNTLESS PROJECTS
 LOTS OF MAINTENANCE REQUESTS
 UNFORGETTABLE FRIENDSHIPS
 EVERLASTING MEMORIES
 ONE HAPPY RETIREE
 THE BEST IS YET TO COME
 — retired 2020 —
 STEVE SMALL



We will all miss you, Steve!



Thank you to Koval Distillery for suspending their normal operations and producing and supplying us with hand sanitizer during the pandemic.



Thank you to Bettina Johnson and the volunteers at Liberation Library who, throughout the pandemic, continue to supply our kids with the books of their choosing. During the height of limited supplies and difficulty sourcing items, Bettina and her team also donated and delivered a large supply of much needed hand sanitizer to our facility. We are fortunate to be associated with such a wonderful organization.



The Kane County JJC was honored to receive a \$58,008 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice "Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Program." This grant was offered for local units of government to prevent, prepare for and respond to the coronavirus. Allowable projects and purchases include overtime, equipment, hiring and supplies. We plan to apply this grant toward our considerable costs due to the pandemic, including overtime, masks, sanitizer, gowns, gloves, cleaning supplies and medical supplies, as well as other expenses that we have incurred.

Creating a Warm Environment

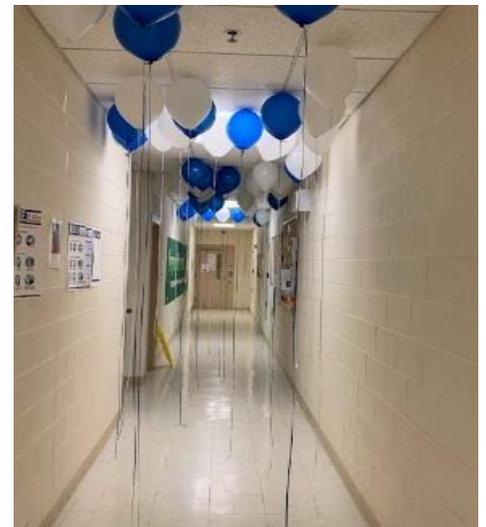
Thank you to Patricia Dal Santo, Deanna Oliver and the Kane County Regional Office of Education. In our ongoing effort to reduce the institutional feel of the facility and through the Title I grant, the ROE continues to purchase new furniture for our facility. In Unit 2, we recently replaced the standard detention-type furniture with colorful, comfortable furniture that has been very well received by the kids. The ROE has also supplied us with LGBTQ books, art supplies, stepping stones for the garden and backpacks containing basic living essentials that are given to kids in need when they are released.



Youth Counselor Appreciation Week

During the week of July 19, 2020, we celebrated Youth Counselor Appreciation Week. Working in juvenile detention is challenging on a good day, let alone during a pandemic. Along with our volunteers, Judge Parga, our supervisors, administrators and mental health clinicians, we tried our best to acknowledge and show appreciation for our youth counselors.

We couldn't do it without you.





JKM Training Inc.
Safe Crisis Management
 Toll Free 1-866-960-4SCM • Fax: (717) 960-0458



Safe Crisis Management (SCM) was introduced to the Juvenile Justice Center in 2014. Supervisor Durin Caplan was the first certified instructor and conducted the first trainings. In 2019, Supervisor Stephanie Sauriol, Senior Youth Counselors Wesley Davis and Jared Weiser were also certified as instructors. In July, the instructors completed their yearly re-certification course.

SCM is composed of two modules. The first is Theory, where the youth counselors are presented with multiple tools in order to de-escalate residents. The second module consist of Emergency Safety Physical Interventions (ESPI), where the youth counselors are trained on using a series of least-restrictive assists. The JJC and SCM curriculum do not condone or utilize excessive force, choke holds or any hold that would add stress or injury to a resident's joints or airway. Each youth counselor must past both the Theory and EPSI tests in order to assist in crisis situations. The SCM curriculum has evolved over the years and in the upcoming year, we anticipate doing more training on trauma and its impact on the kids.