

# KANE COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTER



## A Note from the Superintendent

During the past year, the Kane County Juvenile Justice Center has faced unprecedented staff turnover and difficulty in attracting qualified applicants. From speaking to other juvenile detention superintendents around the State, this is not exclusive to our building. While the pandemic is obviously a factor, it is short-sighted to blame the pandemic entirely. Over the past few years, there has been a dramatic shift in how detention centers operate. On March 15, 2021, the Illinois Supreme Court approved the first-ever Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts Standards for county-operated juvenile detention centers. On June 29, 2021, the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice Standards for county-operated juvenile detention centers were revised. In short, most of the reforms focus on incarcerating fewer youth and eliminating room confinement. With the low and medium-risk kids already and rightfully being diverted away from detention, that leaves us with the most challenging kids to work with. For years, we have gradually moved away from using room time as a consequence for poor behavior, to the point where we essentially have no room time. While I whole heartily support this reform, there is no doubt that the job of every juvenile detention worker is more challenging today than ever before. Our employees are already minimally required to have a bachelor's degree and must undergo hours of specialized training. Unfortunately, despite those educational requirements, the pay of juvenile detention workers is not on par with that of our adult detention counterparts. Furthermore, the pandemic has permanently changed the way people work, as well as their expectations of their employers. Working evening and weekend hours, the inability to work remotely and working with the most challenging kids makes attracting and retaining juvenile detention workers especially challenging. All of these factors signal to us that it is time for juvenile detention to reimagine how we do business.

*Mike Davis*

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**SB1552**

Amends the Juvenile Court Act of 1987. (4.5) Relevant information, reports and records, held by the Department of Juvenile Justice, including social investigations, psychological and medical records, of any juvenile offender, shall be made available to any county juvenile detention facility upon written request by the Superintendent or Director of that juvenile detention facility, to the Chief Records Officer of the Department of Juvenile Justice where the subject youth is or was in the custody of the Department of Juvenile Justice and is subsequently ordered to be held in a county juvenile detention facility.

**SB2370**

Amends the Juvenile Court Act of 1987. Provides that if the Court prescribes detention, and the minor is a ward of the Department of Children and Family Services, a hearing shall be held every 14 days to determine that there is urgent and immediate necessity to detain the minor for the protection of person or property of another. Provides that if urgent and immediate necessity is not found on the basis of the protection of the community, the minor shall be released to the custody of the Department of Children and Family Services. Provides that if the Court prescribes detention based on the minor being likely to flee the jurisdiction, and the minor is a ward of the Department of Children and Family Services, a hearing shall be held every 7 days for status on the location of shelter care placement by the Department of Children and Family Services. Detention shall not be used as a shelter care placement for minors in the custody or guardianship of the Department of Children and Family Services.

**HB 3513**

Amends the Juvenile Court Act of 1987. Provides that if a minor is committed to the Department of Juvenile Justice the clerk of the court shall forward to the Department all police reports for sex offenses allegedly committed or committed by the minor. Amends the Unified Code of Corrections. Provides that the Department of Juvenile Justice shall maintain and administer all State youth centers. Deletes provision permitting a person committed to the Department of Juvenile Justice to be isolated for disciplinary reasons. Provides that all sentences imposed by an Illinois court under the Code shall run concurrent to any and all sentences under the Juvenile Court Act of 1987. Provides that the target release date for youth committed to the Department as a Habitual Juvenile Offender or Violent Juvenile Offender under the Juvenile Court Act of 1987 shall be extended by not less than 12 months. Creates the Department of Juvenile Justice Reimbursement and Education Fund in the State treasury. Amends the State Finance Act to make conforming changes.



#### **IDJJ Standard 2602.40 (h)**

Any youth who has been detained continuously, or in the aggregate for the same offense, for more than 30 days must be brought to the attention of the chief judge and presiding judge of the juvenile court having jurisdiction in the case, the youth's parent or guardian, and youth's legal representative by the facility head.

#### **IDJJ Standard 2602.130-A.2**

Staff members shall maintain a record of visual contact with each youth no less than once every 30 minutes; however, visual contact for youth on crisis status shall be made at least once every 10 minutes. Crisis status is a determination made by a mental health professional or other designated staff member to provide for the safety of a youth experiencing crisis, including the designation of a crisis level and implementation of an individualized Crisis Care Plan.

#### **IDJJ Standards 2602.170-I.1 & 2602.170-6**

Room Confinement shall not be used for a fixed period of time. If room confinement extends beyond 4 hours an administrator and mental health clinician must develop an individual behavior plan to address the behavior.

#### **IDJJ Standards 2602.210-1.a, 2602.210-1.b & 2602.210-1.d**

Offer minimally 2, visits per week, including extended family, children and other concerned adults in consultation with court services. All visits must be 1 hour in length.

#### **AOIC Detention Standard 3.3 (g)(h)(i)**

(g) Detention officers shall receive a minimum of 40 hours of annual training after the first year of employment. Ongoing training should include re-certification in emergency safety procedures, sexual abuse/harassment issues, behavior management, as well as ongoing skill development in effective interaction with residents.

(h) Supervisors and administrators shall complete a minimum of 40 hours of training each year. The training plan shall include staff development for both new and experienced supervisors and administrators.

(i) For training to be eligible and recognized toward the required hours, it must be vetted through the Supreme Court of Illinois Judicial College's Committee of Probation Education (COPE) and approved by the Illinois Judicial College Board of Trustees.

#### **AOIC Detention Standard 9.7 (I)**

(I) Search protocols for visual inspection of unclothed residents shall not be routinely used as a matter of normal operating procedures. (i) When there is reasonable, individual, documented suspicion of contraband that cannot be identified through a pat down search, a visual inspection may be completed.

# COVID-19 UPDATE



Since the pandemic began in March of 2020, the JJC has had 13 COVID-positive residents and 38 positive staff members. 94% of our employees are vaccinated and many have had a booster. We hold vaccination clinics for the kids every three weeks and thus far, 55 kids have elected to be vaccinated while detained at the JJC. We are extremely grateful to our medical site manager, Ashley, for sticking with us throughout the pandemic. Time after time, she has put our kids in front of herself, treating our positive kids and completing hundreds of COVID tests. She also administers vaccines for our kids and somehow manages to keep up with all of her other responsibilities. We would also like to thank the Kane County Health Department for their consultation and support, including providing us with COVID tests and vaccines.



Another garden season has come and gone at the JJC. COVID restrictions and the drought made this a challenging year for growing. Despite the many challenges, such as a late frost, leaf rot, limited numbers of residents in the garden, as well as a few hungry critters running free in the garden, we did enjoy some successes. We had our second year of successful corn growth, and our sunflowers were amazing! Our pumpkin plants were nice and green, but failed to produce any more than one pumpkin, and that never grew bigger than a cantaloupe. We also added four additional standing beds, some flowering plants, and some blueberry bushes that did not fare too well, and four new peach trees. Working in the garden continues to be a favorite activity for the JJC residents. The kids enjoyed harvesting fruits and vegetables so much that they would eat them right out of the garden. Especially the strawberries and peppers. Our science teacher, Ms. Sloan, incorporated lessons into the garden program. The cooks incorporated the food from the garden into the residents' meals. We also had a farmer guest speaker who talked to the kids via Zoom on how he grew up in an urban area, but found employment in the farming industry.



## In-person Visiting Hours

Residents are allowed one (1) hour in-person non-contact visit on Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday per calendar week.

### Sunday

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
12:45 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.  
2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
3:15 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.

### Tuesday

2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.  
3:45 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.

### Thursday

5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.  
6:15 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.  
7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.  
8:45 p.m. - 9:45 p.m.

### Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
12:45 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.  
2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
3:15 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.

All other holidays will be held via Skype



Residents are allowed one (1) ten (10) minute Skype visit on Wednesday and Saturday per calendar week.

### Wednesday

5:15 p.m. – 5:25 p.m. – Unit 1  
5:40 p.m. – 5:50 p.m. – Unit 1  
6:05 p.m. – 6:15 p.m. – Unit 1  
6:30 p.m. – 6:40 p.m. – Unit 3  
6:55 p.m. – 7:05 p.m. – Unit 3  
7:20 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. – Unit 3  
7:45 p.m. – 7:55 p.m. – Unit 2  
8:10 p.m. – 8:20 p.m. – Unit 2  
8:35 p.m. – 8:45 p.m. – Unit 2

### Saturday/Holidays

9:00 a.m. – 9:10 a.m. – Unit 1  
9:25 a.m. – 9:35 a.m. – Unit 1  
9:50 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. – Unit 1  
10:15 a.m. – 10:25 a.m. – Unit 3  
10:40 a.m. – 10:50 a.m. – Unit 3  
11:05 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. – Unit 3  
11:30 a.m. – 11:40 a.m. – Unit 2  
11:55 a.m. – 12:05 p.m. – Unit 2  
12:20 p.m. – 12:30 p.m. – Unit 2

Unit 4 (Quarantine Unit) residents are allowed Skype visits on Monday night between 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

**Parents or legal guardians should call 630-406-7480 to schedule an in-person or Skype visit.**

# Congratulations Sam!



Congratulations to Samantha Miemczewski, Kane County Juvenile Justice Center Mental Health Manager, who was awarded the 2021 Harold T. Siegle Friends of the Families Award for her work with the kids at the Juvenile Justice Center. Sam is a warm and caring mental health professional who is dedicated to the kids in our building and we are lucky to have her.



# Kane County JJC Swearing-In Ceremony







Unlike many departments within Kane County, Court Services staff, which includes JJC youth counselors, are sworn in as Officers of the Court shortly after they are hired. It is because of the influence and weight of their positions that youth counselors take on this monumental and solemn responsibility. Although the pandemic has caused these ceremonies to be scaled down over the past 2 years, the significance is still front and center for Court Services. Executive Director Lisa Aust always provides an inspiring discussion of the essence of the youth counselor position and makes clear how we handpick only the best and brightest to work with our detained youth. Chief Judge Clint Hull carves out time from his very busy schedule to personally get to know each of the staff, and is always very interested in how our staff found their way to Kane County. We are lucky to have the support of our Executive Director and Chief Judge, and we are grateful that they put a distinct personal touch on each swearing-in ceremony.



On October 5, 2021, for the third year, Town House Books and Café donated 20% of all sales in the bookstore and café to the Juvenile Justice Center (JJC) Library and Book Club.

The vision of the JJC Library and Book Club is to use literature to awaken and inspire the juveniles to their full potential and to give them the tools to pursue education and follow a positive new life path. The donations received from purchases during Giving Tuesday will help activate and engage young minds with the gift of current literature.

#### **About Town House Books**

Town House Books is an independent bookstore for all ages, with a friendly, knowledgeable staff located in historic Century Corners in downtown St. Charles, Illinois. The uniqueness and ambiance of the bookstore, which opened its doors in 1974, carries over into the Town House Café, featuring a menu of fresh-from-scratch soups and creative sandwiches. The back courtyard is open for lunch every day, weather permitting.

#### **Town House Books & Café**

105 North 2nd Avenue  
 St. Charles, Illinois 60174  
 Book Store: (630) 584-8600  
 Café: (630) 584-8603  
 E-mail: [thb105@gmail.com](mailto:thb105@gmail.com)

#### **Book Store Hours** <https://townhousebooks.com/>

Monday - Saturday 9am - 4pm  
 Closed Sunday

#### **Café Hours** <https://townhousecafe.com/>

Monday - Saturday 9am - 4pm  
 Closed Sunday  
 Continental Breakfast 9am - 11am  
 Lunch available 11am - 3pm (Kitchen closes at 3pm)  
 Drinks & Desserts available until 4pm

# CHRISTMAS 2021

The Regional Office of Education was once again very generous and provided a wide arrangement of Christmas gifts that the kids were able to purchase for their family and friends. The core component of our programming at the JJC allows the kids to earn coupons as an incentive for demonstrating new and positive behaviors. In turn, the kids are able to use these coupons to purchase gifts, which included items such as ornaments, gloves, socks, toys, hygiene items, ear buds and other holiday items. The kids always cherish this opportunity to maintain their connections with their family and friends, and this is a wonderful opportunity for them to show appreciation for their loved ones.

