



State of Kansas

Office of Judicial Administration

Kansas Judicial Center

301 SW 10th

Topeka, Kansas 66612-1507

(785) 296-2256

House Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice

Monday, February 4, 2013

Chris Mechler, Court Services Officer Specialist

Kansas Court Services – Mission, Duties, and Recent Developments

Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide testimony on the mission and duties of Kansas court services officers. With me today are:

- Kathleen Rieth, Chief Court Services Administration Officer, 10th Judicial District (Johnson County); and
- Kelly Johnson, Chief Court Services Officer, 4th Judicial District (Anderson, Coffey, Franklin, and Osage Counties).

We are happy to provide you with background information on court services officers, and would be happy to provide any additional information that might be helpful to you.

Mission and Duties

“Under the authority of the Kansas Judicial Branch and the laws of the State of Kansas, the purpose of Court Services is to carry out the orders of the court in a timely, professional, and ethical manner consistent with community interests. This is enacted by completing the responsibilities of court reports and supervision, which holds offenders accountable for their behavior, promotes public safety, and improves the ability of offenders to live more productively and responsibly in the community.” (Kansas Court Services Mission Statement)

The Kansas Judicial Branch currently has 352 court services officers, or “CSOs,” with at least one court services office in each of the 31 Kansas judicial districts. CSO personnel costs are paid from the State General Fund. All other court services operating expenses, such as funding for computers, office supplies, training, travel, and other items, are paid for by the county of the district court for whom the CSO provides services.

The primary role of court services is to assist the district courts by conducting court-ordered investigations and supervising offenders. Duties performed by CSOs are governed by statute, administrative rule, and court policy. In general, CSOs perform the following duties:

- a. Conduct presentence investigations (PSIs) and predispositional investigations (PDIs) and prepare reports as ordered by the court and required by law.

Presentence investigations and predispositional investigations require extensive research into an offender's background. The CSO must conduct a comprehensive criminal history investigation and obtain certified records from other jurisdictions, if available. CSOs conduct detailed risk and needs assessment as a part of the presentence investigation or after an offender is assigned to supervision.

- b. Supervise and counsel probationers regarding how to comply with the conditions of probation imposed by the district court. Supervision involves regular contact with the probationer and his or her family members, teachers, employers, treatment providers, and others. Court services officers also conduct regular drug testing and monitor the payment of restitution and fees.
- c. Notify the court of any probation violations. Recommend modifications to conditions of probation as the CSO deems advisable.
- d. Cooperate with public and private agencies and other persons/entities concerned with the treatment or welfare of probationers and assist probationers in obtaining services from those agencies and persons.
- e. Keep accurate records of cases investigated and all cases assigned for court supervision, and make these records available to the court upon request.
- f. Inform probationers of their registration requirements with the Kansas Bureau of Investigation (KBI) pursuant to the Kansas Offender Registration Act. Inform probationers that they must submit DNA as required by K.S.A. 21-2511(c). Monitor probationers' compliance with the Kansas Offender Registration Act.
- g. Provide investigation and supervision services for persons being considered for pre-trial or bond release. Supervision of persons on pre-trial release is intensive; generally individuals are required to report several times per week and may be on electronic monitoring.
- h. Plan and supervise reintegration of children in need of care who are not placed with the Department for Children and Families (DCF). CSOs work with families, schools, and therapists to ensure the best interests of the child and compliance with the federal Adoption and Safe Families Act.
- i. Assist courts, prosecuting attorneys, and law enforcement officials in making decisions regarding the granting of diversion. If directed by the court, provide supervision to persons granted diversion.
- j. Investigate and make recommendations to the court on child custody arrangements in contested child custody/divorce cases.
- k. Mediate child custody cases if directed by the court.

Recent Developments – LSI-R Implementation

In 2010 the Kansas Legislature amended K.S.A. 21-6607, increasing the correctional supervision fee and creating the Correctional Supervision Fund. The Correctional Supervision Fund was created to provide funding to court services for the implementation of and training for use of the Level of Service Inventory-Revised (LSI-R), a validated risk assessment tool as designated by the Kansas Sentencing Commission pursuant to K.S.A. 75-5291, and for evidence-based offender supervision programs by Judicial Branch personnel. The Office of Judicial Administration contracted with the University of Cincinnati Correctional Institute (UCCI) to train CSOs in the use of the LSI-R. In the fall of 2011, 233 court services officers were trained and certified in the use of the LSI-R assessment tool.

In April of 2012, the Supreme Court required all district court judges who hear criminal cases to attend a one-day LSI-R training. The Office of Judicial Administration released a Request for Proposal on January 14, 2013, to contract with a vendor to automate the LSI-R and provide web based hosting and management of the assessments. This will make an electronic assessment available via the internet to CSOs throughout the state. The LSI-R has given judges and court services officers a way to focus supervision conditions and programming based on the offender's individual criminogenic risk and needs.

Additional Information Provided as Attachments

- FY 2012 Kansas Court Services Annual Report
- Map of Kansas judicial districts showing each committee member's home judicial district
- CSO case activity for FY 2012 by each committee member's home judicial district
- Chief Court Services Officers Contact List

KANSAS COURT SERVICES

FISCAL YEAR 2012

Court services manages the cases of persons placed under court ordered supervision as the cases progress through intake, supervision, and release. The following summarizes the statewide supervision caseload for FY 2012.

FY 2012 COURT ORDERED SUPERVISION

	ADULT			JUVENILE			Combined TOTAL
	Felony	Miscd	TOTAL	CINC	Offender	TOTAL	
Beginning Balance (07/01/2011)	3,779	13,362	17,141	2,003	3,352	5,355	22,496
New Cases	2,779	10,946	13,725	1,296	3,048	4,344	18,069
Transfer In	395	1,574	1,969	2	121	123	2,092
Compact In		29	29				29
Renew	1,249	3,984	5,233	6	333	339	5,572
All In	4,423	16,533	20,956	1,304	3,502	4,806	25,762
Compact Out	241	163	404	24	40	64	468
Transfer Out	401	1,683	2,084	10	180	190	2,274
Revoke: DOC/JJA	105		105		209	209	314
Other Revoke	829	2,238	3,067	31	480	511	3,578
Absconder	428	1,766	2,194	12	123	135	2,329
Release	2,448	10,838	13,286	1,213	2,676	3,889	17,175
All Out	4,452	16,688	21,140	1,290	3,708	4,998	26,138
Ending Balance (06/30/2012)	3,750	13,207	16,957	2,017	3,146	5,163	22,120

In addition to caseload supervision, court services officers provided pre-trial supervision in 14,099 cases; house arrest supervision in 763 cases; and diversion supervision in 9,500 cases.

FORMAL REPORTS

As a function of both court processes and case supervision, court services officers prepare a wide variety of reports in the criminal and juvenile area. These reports include presentence and predispositional investigations, reintegration plans, and case reports.

During FY 2012, court services officers prepared a total of 26,114 reports. 20,966 of the reports were prepared in the area of adult services, consisting of 16,564 felony and 4,402 misdemeanor reports. In juvenile services, a total of 5,148 reports were prepared, consisting of 839 reintegration reports and 4,309 predispositional reports.

DOMESTIC INVESTIGATIONS

Court services officers provide the court with valuable information in domestic cases by preparing child custody reports, and providing mediation case management services. Other services provided by court services include supervising parenting time visits and exchanges, assisting with Protection from Abuse (PFA) and Protection from Stalking (PFS) Orders, providing community education, and conducting divorce education classes for parents.

In FY 2012, court services prepared 1,311 child custody reports for the court. Mediation services were provided in 2,455 cases. Court services assisted the court and victims in 5,550 PFA cases and 2,723 PFS cases.

RESTITUTION

As a condition of release, offenders are required to compensate victims for damage incurred. In FY 2012, adults under court ordered supervision paid \$3,089,852.29. Juveniles paid \$339,027.58 in restitution to victims.

COMMUNITY SERVICE WORK

Offenders placed on court ordered supervision may be required by the court to complete community service work as a condition of supervision, or to compensate the state for costs or fees. In FY 2012 such offenders completed 59,405 hours of community service work.

Chief Court Services Officers

District	County	Name and Address	Telephone/E-Mail	Fax
1st	Leavenworth	Tom Weishaar Leavenworth Justice Center 601 S 3rd St Suite 3026 Leavenworth KS 66048	913-684-0750 tweishaar@leavenworthcounty.org	913-684-0752
2nd	Jackson	James D Cyphers Jackson County Courthouse 400 New York Room 311 Holton KS 66436	785-364-5203 jamescyphers@hotmail.com	785-364-3804
3rd	Shawnee	Sarah Mays Shawnee County Courthouse 200 SE 7th, Suite 104 Topeka KS 66603	785-233-8200 x4014 smays@shawneecourt.org	785-291-4959
4th	Franklin	Kelly Johnson Court Building 301 S Main Ottawa KS 66067-0637	785-242-5433 kjohnson@franklincoks.org	785-242-8330
5th	Lyon	Terry Morgan Lyon County Court Services 430 Commercial Emporia KS 66801-3902	620-341-3294 csomorgan@5thjd.org	620-341-3456
6th	Bourbon	Daniel Saye Bourbon County Courthouse PO Box 868 Fort Scott KS 66701-0868	620-223-1790 bubba_saye@yahoo.com	620-223-2011
7th	Douglas	Michelle Roberts Douglas County Court Services 111 E 11th Lawrence KS 66044-2966	785-832-5218 mroberts@douglas-county.com	785-832-5370
8th	Dickinson	Nikki Davenport Dickinson County Courthouse 109 E 1st PO Box 127 Abilene KS 67410	785-263-3054 x314 ndavenport@8thjd.com	785-263-4407
9th	McPherson	Jennifer Foster McPherson County Courthouse PO Box 546 McPherson KS 67460	620-241-3510 Jenniferf@9thdistct.net	620-241-3744

District	County	Name and Address	Telephone/E-Mail	Fax
10th	Johnson	Kathleen Rieth Johnson County Court Services 18505 W 119th Street Olathe KS 66061-9519	913-715-7400 Kathleen.Rieth@jocogov.org	913-715-7420
11th	Crawford	Mac Young Crawford County Judicial Center 602 N Locust Pittsburg KS 66762	620-232-2460 x218 ccsomac@11thjd.org	620-232-5646
12th	Cloud	Wanda Backstrom Cloud County Courthouse 811 Washington Suite C Concordia KS 66901	785-243-8170 ccsobackstrom@12jd.org	785-243-8179
13th	Butler	Bob Keen Butler County Judicial Center 201 W Pine Suite 102 El Dorado KS 67042	316-322-4153 x155 bucso@bcdk.kscoxmail.com	316-322-4159
14th	Montgomery	Nancy Krier-Finley Montgomery County District Court 102 W 7th Suite A Coffeyville KS 67337	620-251-5090 nfinley@14thjudicialdistrict-ks.org	620-251-3507
15th	Sherman	Kathy Russell Sherman County Courthouse 813 Broadway #204 Goodland KS 67735	785-890-4860 krussellcso@st-tel.net	785-890-4858
16th	Ford	Dan Pfannenstiel Ford County Government Center 100 Gunsmoke Dodge City KS 67801	620-227-4615 danp@16thdistrict.net	620-227-4519
17th	Norton	Bill Jones Norton County Courthouse PO Box 70 Norton KS 67654	785-877-5775 cso17jdc@ruraltel.net	785-877-2371
18th	Sedgwick	Melinda B Wilson Sedgwick County Courthouse 525 N Main 11th Floor Wichita KS 67203-3773	316-660-5540 mwilson@dc18.org	316-660-5784

District	County	Name and Address	Telephone/E-Mail	Fax
19th	Cowley	Dan Smith Cowley County Courthouse PO Box 472 Winfield KS 67156	620-221-5476 dansmith@cowleycourt.com	620-221-1097
20th	Barton	Sabrina Chism 20th Judicial District Court 1806 12th Street Great Bend KS 67530	620-793-1887 ctservechism@cpcis.net	620-793-1893
21st	Riley	Kevin Murray Riley County Court Services 100 Courthouse Plaza, PO Box 158 Manhattan KS 66505-0158	785-537-6360 kmurray@rileycountyks.gov	785-565-6607
22nd	Brown	Vernie L Coy Brown County Courthouse PO Box 417 Hiawatha KS 66434	785-742-7818 vcoy@brdistert.org	785-742-0036
23rd	Ellis	Shannon Radke Ellis County Courthouse 1204 Fort St PO Box 8 Hays KS 67601	785-628-9419 sradke@23rdjudicial.org	785-628-9424
24th	Ness	Sue Fehrenbach Ness County Courthouse 202 W Sycamore Ness City KS 67560	785-798-3695 ccso24th@gbta.net	785-798-3839
25th	Finney	Craig Aronson Finney County Court Services 405 North 8th Street Garden City KS 67846	620-271-6150 caronson@finneycounty.org	620-271-6155
26th	Seward	Robert Arheart Seward County Courthouse 415 N Washington Suite 103 Liberal KS 67901	620-626-3242 26jdcso@swko.net	620-626-3261
27th	Reno	Stephanie Springer Reno County Court Services 111 W 1st Hutchinson KS 67501	620-665-8800 stephanie.springer@renogov.org	620-665-8886

District	County	Name and Address	Telephone/E-Mail	Fax
28th	Saline	Kevin Emerson Saline County Courthouse 300 W Ash PO Box 1760 Salina KS 67402-1760	785-309-5842 kevin.emerson@saline.org	785-309-5845
29th	Wyandotte	Delma Leapheart Wyandotte County Court Services 711 Armstrong Kansas City KS 66101	913-573-4190 dleapheart@wycokck.org	913-573-8989
30th	Barber	Donna Hoener-Queal Barber County Courthouse 118 E Washington Medicine Lodge KS 67104	620-886-3021 dhqueal@cyberlodg.com	620-886-5854
31st	Wilson	Phil Young Wilson County Courthouse 615 Madison Rm 207 Fredonia KS 66736	620-378-4533 x286 ccsopjy@twinmounds.com	620-378-4531