

THE GEARY COUNTY SECURE CARE CENTER

To: Senate Judiciary Committee
Senator Richard Wilborn, Chairman
State Capitol
Topeka, KS 66612

From: Geary County Secure Care Center
820 North Monroe
Junction City, KS 66441

Re: SB 332

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of SB 332. My name is Shawn Brandmahl. My concern with the present statute regarding secure care (K.S.A. 38-2260) or more specifically K.S.A. 38-2202 is that it needs to be updated due to the passage of SB 367.

When SB 367 was passed, it had a detrimental effect on secure care due to the fact that CINC youth could no longer be held in detention pending placement. Current legislation requires that a youth may run twice before being allowed in secure care. This was not a problem when CINC youth could be held in detention pending placement. However, when the youth are sentenced to secure care they tend to run from authorities at the first opportunity. When a youth is on the run, he/she is often difficult to locate, oftentimes for several months which puts the youths safety at risk. During this time, the youth is not in school, not receiving necessary services and may be subject to exploitation. When a youth is allowed to run twice, the youth falls even further behind in school and in receiving necessary treatment.

After talking to representatives with KVC and St. Francis, I estimate that at any one time at least 80 youth are on the run on any given day.

Our objective is to provide needed services to youth who are falling behind and not receiving proper supervision and training to be successful in society before they turn 18. When youth are on the run for long periods of time, they fall behind, making it difficult for them to catch up with their peers. The services that we provide are far more beneficial to the youth than the lessons that they learn 'on the street.'

The services that we provide are:

1. Medication evaluations prescription delivery by St. Francis Community Health Center
2. Therapeutic interventions by St. Francis Community Health Center
3. GED preparation and delivery
4. Breaking the Chains through USD 475 covering truancy, choices and goal setting
5. Relationship Goals Program (K-State College of Human Ecology) for social skills training
6. Reading program through Dorothy Bramlage Library
7. Independent Living Skills through Kansas Works
8. Life Skills Training DVD's offered through facility staff

It is our hope that this committee will support the upgrade to this statute to ensure that at risk youth are receiving the services that they need.

Thank you for your attention to this matter,

Shawn Brandmahl
Executive Director
Geary County Secure Care Center