



## KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF COURT SERVICES OFFICERS

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J. RUSSELL JENNINGS JOINT COMMITTEE ON CORRECTIONS AND JUVENILE  
JUSTICE OVERSIGHT  
Senator Kellie Warren, Chair

November 18, 10:00 am  
Room 582-N

Kevin Waring, Chief Court Services Officer, 10<sup>th</sup> Judicial District  
[kevin.waring@kscourts.org](mailto:kevin.waring@kscourts.org)

### TESTIMONY – COURT SERVICES PROBATION SUPERVISION

Chairwoman Warren and Honorable Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding Court Services probation supervision. I am the Chief Court Services Officer of the 10<sup>th</sup> Judicial District in Johnson County. I provide today's testimony as the Legislative Chair of the Kansas Association of Court Services Officers (KACSO), which currently represents over 400 Court Services Officers across Kansas.

Court Services Officers (CSO) work at the direction of the Chief Judge, covering all Thirty-One Judicial Districts across the state, proudly supporting the core functions of each district court. While adult and juvenile probation supervision (felony and misdemeanor) is a core function, CSOs perform many additional duties throughout Kansas:

- Pretrial (bond) Supervision & Bond Screens,
- Dispute Resolution (mediation, conciliation, child custody evaluations),
- Child In Need of Care case management,
- Presentence Investigation Reports,
- Specialty Court Coordination & Supervision,
- Risk and Needs assessments for juveniles and adults,
- Supervision of adults found not guilty by reason of mental disease or defect released from a mental facility,
- Court Ordered Drug Testing (cases not on probation supervision).

*The mission of the Kansas Association of Court Services Officers is to challenge, educate, support and advocate for the membership by promoting fellowship and professionalism, providing relevant training opportunities and maintaining communication with all members. The organization will further this mission by encouraging collaboration with our Court Services Officers and professional organizations and by recognizing member excellence.*

**An American Probation and Parole Association Affiliate**

KACSO has concerns about the recent discussions around consolidation of supervision entities in the State of Kansas. The duties of Court Services, Parole, and Community Corrections Officers are very different, while each of them serves as a vital function to our communities. The current structure of supervision is designed to provide public safety while working to create a positive and healthy community. KACSO strongly believes these goals are being met by Court Services, Parole, and Community Corrections. Court Services works closely with our community partners and will continue to collaborate to promote our goals.

As the topic of consolidation has arisen over the years, some of these noted issues are not new but still relevant to the discussion today:

- Court Services Officers are judicial branch employees, working independently for the District Courts. CSOs report directly to the court holding jurisdiction over the work assigned. Consolidation could result in the loss of local oversight of staffing and programs;
- Monetary issues with multi-year contracts currently in place may result in duplication of costs and or a loss of grant funding for local service providers;
- Inconsistencies in salary and benefit decisions, between state and county funded positions;
- Concerns of duplicated community supervision. With the implementation of the Concurrent Supervision Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) agreed upon by the Department of Corrections and the Office of Judicial Administration which took effect on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, the impact of this MOU has only started to be realized.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. As the Legislature looks at the possibility of supervision funding mechanisms or consolidation, KACSO would appreciate the opportunity to continue to be a part of the conversation. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.



Kevin Waring  
KACSO Legislative Chair