

YOUTH

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“Diversion is a choice the state gives you instead of locking you up,” Hollowell told participants. “It’s about redirecting your path, giving you a second chance, and connecting you with support.”

Diversion programs can include counseling, educational classes, drug and alcohol treatment, restitution or community service. Successful completion can result in charges being dismissed, preventing a juvenile record from following youth into adulthood.

Participants included elementary, middle and high school students, parents, mentors and local advocates. Attendees introduced themselves and shared their school affiliations, with students from Christian County, Hopkinsville Middle School and Indian Hills Elementary represented.

State officials also discussed recent legislation affecting juvenile justice, including Senate Bill 162, which modifies how school-related offenses and diversion programs are handled.

Hollowell explained that failure to complete a diversion program can result in charges being reinstated and that changes in the law have altered how families and advocates participate in diversion decisions.

Hollowell also addressed House Bill 366, which focuses on the possession or viewing of sexual performances involving minors, and House Bill 4, which criminalizes grooming behavior by adults or individuals in positions of authority.

“These laws exist to protect young people,” Halliwell said, emphasizing that youth can also face legal consequences for sharing explicit content or engaging in grooming behavior.

The session also highlighted community-based diversion programs that aim



Ladessa Lewis/Men2Be

**Youth with Men2Be participate in an educational field trip Saturday at the Seek Museum in Russellville.**

to connect youth with mentors, therapy, sports, arts programs and restorative justice practices rather than arresting them.

Men2Be co-founder Ladessa Lewis said the organization wanted to create a space where young people could share their experiences directly with policymakers.

“Dr. Deonte Hollowell, who works closely with the Juvenile Justice Department, felt it was essential for Men2Be to host this listening session because these are our boys—our neighbors, sons, and brothers—and too often they are pushed into a system that doesn’t understand or support them,” Lewis said. “We wanted a room where their voices mattered more than statistics, where their stories could be heard without judgment.”

Lewis said the presence of state officials carried an important message for local youth.

“For our youth, seeing state officials show up and listen sends a powerful message: you are not invisible,” she said. “When officials sit across from young people and hear their struggles and dreams, it reduces the distance between lived reality and policy. That moment validates their worth and builds trust—the kind of trust that opens doors to real change.”

Men2Be provides mentorship, family support and

diversion programming to intervene before youth become deeply involved in the justice system. Lewis said the organization partners with Court Designated Workers and Family and Juvenile Services to help youth complete diversion requirements and avoid deeper system involvement.

Lewis said racial and ethnic disparities remain a central issue in juvenile justice.

“The disparity I see most painfully is opportunity denied,” she said. “Black boys in our community face fewer supports, harsher expectations, and less patience, and that leads to disproportionate system contact.”

She said community organizations can help address disparities by offering culturally responsive mentorship, safe spaces, job and educational pathways, and family-centered support.

“We must respond with empathy and persistence, confronting bias while creating real alternatives that keep young people connected to hope and possibility,” she said.

A second day of discussions and a visit to the Seek Museum in Russellville, were planned as part of the initiative, with youth leaders invited to help guide conversations on solutions for keeping young people safe and out of the justice system.



**This architectural rendering shows an overhead view of what the new Sanctuary Inc., facility will look like.**

SANCTUARY

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notes of the current Sanctuary Inc., location.

The current building continues to age and is plagued with costly maintenance and repairs each year, she said.

In seeking a new location, Lancaster said officials looked at multiple sites that had access to green space, health care, public transportation, grocery stores and employment options that were nearby.

The chosen site also has underground utilities that are in place, something that the director described as an attractive find; it is also ADA accessible to meet the needs of clients who may have mobility challenges, according to Lancaster.

The director noted that it was an exciting milestone to find the ideal space, and she said the new facility can be built in half the square footage of the current facility.

Spurr Architecture provided the architectural rendering for the new facility.

The domestic abuse shelter serves nine counties of the Pennyryle region, including Christian, Trigg and Todd counties, in addition to Caldwell, Crittenden, Hopkins, Livingston, Lyon and Muhlenberg counties in western Kentucky.

During the 2024-2025 fiscal year, Sanctuary Inc., provided domestic abuse survivors with 15,467 shelter bed nights, answered 1,393 crisis calls, provided 1,181 counseling and therapy sessions, provided 907 legal and medical advocacy services and served 132 children with safety and support groups, according to information provided by the director.

Domestic violence, Lancaster noted, is something that hits close to home for everyone.

“We’re here to work toward the healing and reminding folks that they don’t have to do this alone,” she said of her agency’s efforts in the nine-county area.

WINGS

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include sporting tournaments, soldier skills competitions, military demonstrations and static displays, ceremonies, and soldier-veteran reunions. Major events

open to the public include: Division Run — May 15, 6:30 to 8 a.m.

Tennessee Wings of Liberty Museum grand opening — May 15, 1 p.m.

Army Parachute Team demonstration — May 16, 9:30 a.m.

101st Airborne Division Air Assault demonstration — May 16, 10 a.m.

Sporting events and unit open houses — May 18–21, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

A full list of events is available at [home.army.mil/campbell/weekof-the-eagles](http://home.army.mil/campbell/weekof-the-eagles). Updates will also be posted on the 101st Airborne Division’s Facebook page, according to the release.

SPOTLIGHT

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economic case to support it. And we have serious proposals before us,” Burke said.

“In 2026, we have an opportunity to make early childhood education a defining investment for Kentucky. One that strengthens children, supports families and builds an even stronger future for our Commonwealth.”

BILL

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shares her life experience and knowledge as it relates to the stuff we’re talking about. She’s been amazing. I’ve seen that happen many

times in my time at U of L,” said Mott, an associate professor in geography and environmental sciences.

She predicts that losing the waiver would force many of the older students out of higher education since many are living on

fixed incomes and modest retirements.

As for Tipton’s assertion that people over 65 won’t be contributing to the economy, Mott said, “I guess in response to that I’d say they’ve contributed to the economy their entire adult lives.”

RUSSIA

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but have shown little willingness to compromise and remain adamant their demands must be met.

U.S.-brokered talks between envoys from Russia and Ukraine in recent weeks have been described by officials from both sides as constructive and positive, but there has been no sign of any progress on key issues in the discussions.

Putin, “in his head, still thinks that he can actually militarily win (in Ukraine) at some point,” Rosin said.

A White House official responded to the Estonian intelligence chief’s comments and said President Donald Trump’s negotiators had made “tremendous progress” on the talks to end the war. Although prisoner exchanges have happened sporadically since May, they pointed in particular to a recent agreement in Abu Dhabi reached by the U.S., Ukraine and Russia to release more than 300 prisoners.

That agreement was evidence that efforts to end the war are advancing, said the official, who was granted anonymity because they did not have permission to speak publicly.



Vyacheslav Prokofyev/AP photo

**Russian President Vladimir Putin listens to Russian Deputy Prime Minister Tatyana Golikova during their meeting at the Kremlin, in Moscow, Tuesday, Feb. 10.**

In an indication that Trump wants to accelerate the momentum of those efforts, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said last week that Washington has given Kyiv and Moscow a June deadline to reach a settlement. Trump over the past year has set several deadlines that have come and gone without apparent consequences.

Fiona Hill, a Russia expert and adviser to Trump in his first term, said Trump and his officials are spinning a story that depicts the U.S. president as a peacemaker and, for that reason, they are not interested in changing their assessment that Putin wants to end the war.

She told AP that both leaders “need their version of events to play out”

and are hanging onto their version of the truth — Putin as the victor in Ukraine and Trump as the deal-maker.

MORE DEADLY RUSSIAN BOMBARDMENTS

On Tuesday morning, Russian planes dropped seven powerful glide bombs on Sloviansk, in the Donetsk region of eastern Ukraine, killing an 11-year-old girl and her mother, according to regional chief Vadym Filashkin. He said that 16 others, including a 7-year-old girl, were injured in the attack that damaged 14 apartment blocks.

During the night, Russian drone attacks elsewhere in Ukraine wounded at least five people, including a toddler and two other



Sergei Grits/AP photo

**Workers repair the DTEK company's power plant destroyed by a Russian missile attack, at an undisclosed location in Ukraine, Monday, Feb. 9.**

children, regional authorities said.

Although Trump has repeatedly suggested that Putin wants peace, he has sometimes appeared frustrated with the Russian leader’s lukewarm approach to talks.

From an intelligence perspective, Rosin said he doesn’t know why U.S. officials believe Putin wants to end the war.

Hill, who served as a national intelligence officer under previous U.S. administrations, said it's unclear what intelligence information Trump gets on Russia — or if he reads it.

He relies heavily on his lead negotiators, special envoy Steve Witkoff and son-in-law Jared Kushner, who Hill said may struggle to believe that the damage to

the Russian economy from the war is a price Putin is willing to pay for Ukraine.

Referring to reports that Witkoff has attended meetings with Putin without a U.S. State Department translator, she questioned if Trump's envoys understood what was being said in meetings and suggested officials may be “selectively” looking for what they want to hear.

OPTIMISTIC REPORTS FILTER UP TO PUTIN

Putin is fixated on controlling all of Ukraine and the idea “is so deep in his head” that it takes priority over anything else, including the economy, Rosin said, suggesting the conflict will continue in some form for several years.

He said Putin's position

may change only if the situation in Russia, or on the front line, becomes “catastrophic,” threatening his power. For now, the Kremlin leader still believes he can take Ukraine and “outsmart everybody,” Rosin said.

One reason Putin thinks he can win militarily in Ukraine is because he is “definitely” getting some incorrect information from his officials, the Estonian intelligence chief said.

Not all Russian officials, however, believe they are winning the war in Ukraine, Rosin said.

“The lower you go in the food chain,” the more people understand “how bad it is actually on the ground,” he said, whereas higher-level officials are more optimistic because they are given more positive reports. Rosin cited examples of officials being told Russian forces had captured Ukrainian settlements when that was not true.

The reports that arrive at Putin's desk may be “much more optimistic” than the situation on the ground because Putin only wants to see success, Rosin said.

Hill said both Trump and Putin are probably being told what they want to hear by people who want to please them.