

Jeff Zmuda, Secretary

Laura Kelly, Governor

Cold Case Playing Cards Development and Background April 2022

The Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC) and the Kansas Bureau of Investigation (KBI), in partnership with the Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police (KACP), the Kansas Sheriff's Association (KSA) and the Kansas Peace Officers Association (KPOA), have developed a deck of Kansas Cold Case Playing Cards as a way of generating tips that may help resolve cases of unsolved homicides, missing persons or unidentified remains.

The card deck includes 52 cards highlighting 59 unsolved criminal cases relating to homicide, missing persons or unidentified remains in Kansas. Each card in the deck includes brief information about an unsolved crime along with a phone number for anyone with information to call: 1-800-KS-CRIME. The decks will replace the traditional card decks available in correctional facilities and county jails across the state with the hope that a person or persons familiar with a case will come forward with information leading to resolution of a case.

The project has been adopted in other states and has generated leads resulting in solving crimes. This concept was first piloted by Florida and has continued to gain support and use throughout the U.S.

Example



In March 2021, Audrey Cress, Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC) Director of Victim Services, brought together a diverse group of stakeholders to begin development of the Cold Case Playing Cards project in Kansas. This was at the prompting of Kansas Secretary of Corrections Jeff Zmuda, who was familiar with the concept and its potential for success. Other states have solved multiple cold case homicides, missing person cases and suspicious deaths by making these cards available.

Committee membership included law enforcement partners, representatives from victim services, facility-based programs, private industry, media and families whose lives have been impacted by homicide. Working in sub-groups, the committee has developed submission processes and forms, procedures selecting and prioritizing cases, how to publicize the projects and cases and how to receive and follow-up on tips. Cases with the highest probability of being solved were selected for the first round of cards.

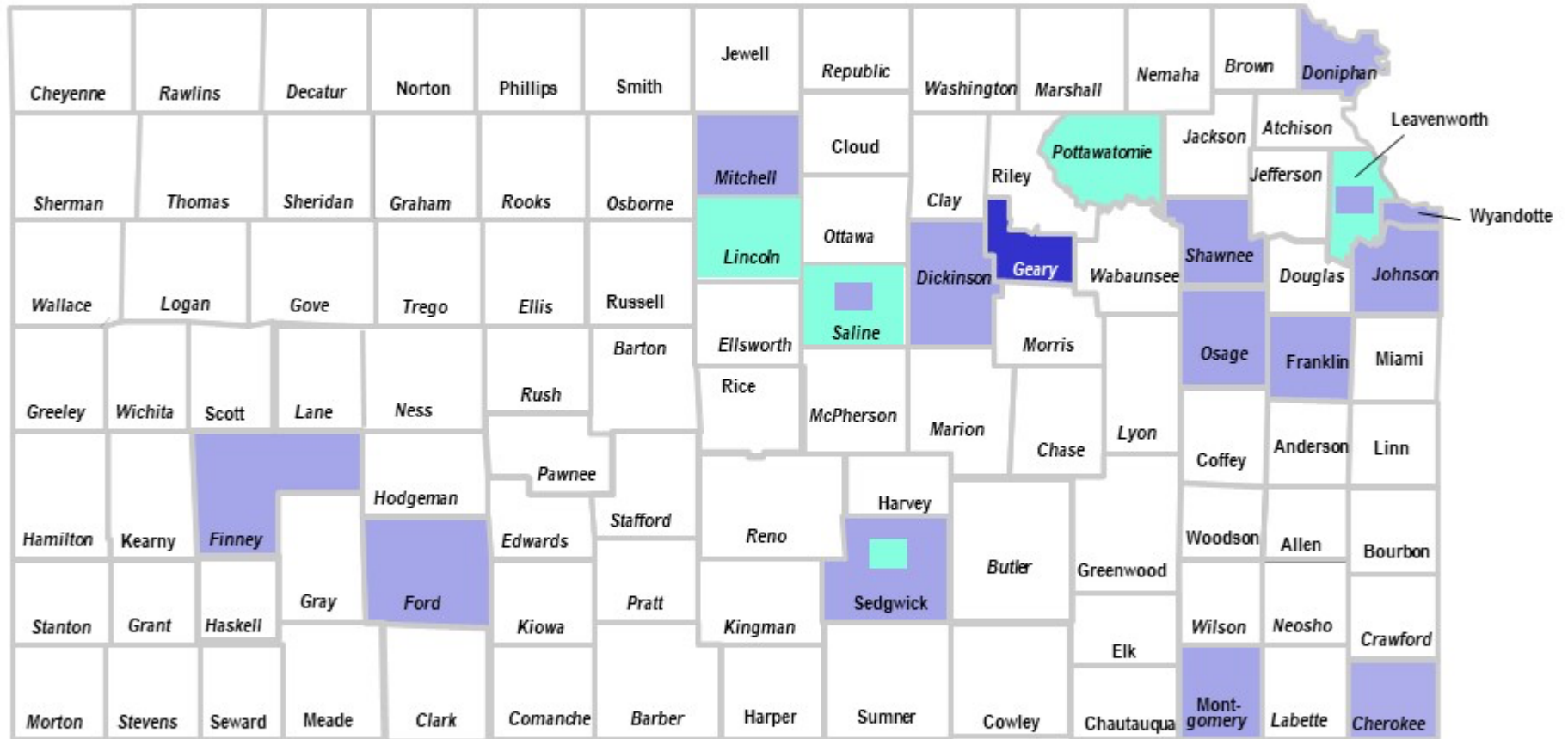
continued

The committee received 81 submissions from law enforcement across Kansas. These were prioritized to a final 52 cards representing 59 individual cases.

- Oldest Case: 1976
- Most Recent Case: 2020
- Cases by County (map on next page)
 - Unsolved Homicide (# of cases – cases may represent more than one victim)
 - Cherokee
 - Dickinson
 - Doniphan
 - Finney
 - Ford
 - Franklin
 - Geary
 - Johnson (2)
 - Leavenworth
 - Mitchell
 - Montgomery
 - Osage
 - Saline (3)
 - Sedgwick (24)
 - Shawnee (5)
 - Wyandotte
- Missing Persons:
 - Leavenworth
 - Lincoln
 - Pottawatomie
 - Saline
 - Sedgwick
 - Unidentified Remains:
 - Geary
- Gender of Victims: 37 male, 22 female
- Race of Victims:
 - 17 Black males
 - 5 Black females
 - 14 White males
 - 17 White females
 - 5 Hispanic males
 - 1 Asian male
- Age of Victims:
 - 55 age 18 and older
 - 4 under age 18

Cold Case Cards

Case Selections April 2022



Cold Case Cards – # of Cases (Represents 59 Victims)

- Unsolved Homicide: Cherokee, Dickinson, Doniphan, Finney, Ford, Franklin, Geary, Johnson (2), Leavenworth, Mitchell, Montgomery, Osage, Saline (3), Sedgwick (24), Shawnee (5), Wyandotte
- Missing Persons: Leavenworth, Lincoln, Pottawatomie, Saline, Sedgwick
- Unidentified Remains: Geary