

Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program

Annual Report to the Governor and Legislature
July 1, 2014 — June 30, 2015

JUVENILE
JUSTICE



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annual report

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Exploring the history of Community-based Juvenile Services

The County Aid Program was created in 2001 and administered by the Office of Juvenile Services. Beginning in 2005, the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice (Nebraska Crime Commission) administered the County Aid Program. For 8 years, the County Aid Program allocated funds to assist counties in the implementation and operation of programs or services identified in their comprehensive juvenile services plan, including, but not limited to, programs for assessment and evaluation, prevention of delinquent behavior, diversion, shelter care, intensive juvenile probation services, restitution, family support services, and family group conferencing.

In 2013, with the passage of LB561, the County Aid Program was replaced with the Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program. While the scope mostly remains the same, the program broadened recipients to counties and Indian tribes. Currently, the Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program allocates funds to assist counties and Indian tribes in the implementation and operation of programs or the provision of services identified in the aid recipient's comprehensive juvenile services plan, including programs for local planning and service coordination; screening, assessment, and evaluation; diversion; alternatives to detention; family support services; treatment services; truancy prevention and intervention programs; pilot projects approved by the commission; payment of transportation costs to and from placements, evaluations, or services; personnel when the personnel are aligned with evidence-based treatment principles, programs, or practices; contracting with other state agencies or private organizations that provide evidence-based treatment or programs; preexisting programs that are aligned with evidence-based practices or best practices; and other services that will positively impact juveniles and families in the juvenile justice system.

History of County Aid

LB640:	2001-2004	\$1.3 million
LB193:	2005-2007	\$1.3 million
LB1014:	2008-2009	\$1.3 million
LB800:	2010-2011	\$1.3 million
LB782:	2012	\$1.3 million

History of Community-based Juvenile Services

LB561:	2013	\$3 million
LB464:	2014	\$5 million
LB265:	2015	\$7 million

Communities are tasked with strategic planning

Comprehensive Juvenile Services Community Plans



To be eligible for participation in the Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program, a comprehensive juvenile services plan (community plan) shall be developed, adopted, and submitted to the Nebraska Crime Commission. The community plan may be developed by eligible applicants for the Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program and by individual counties, by multiple counties, by federally recognized or state recognized Indian tribes, or by any combination of the three for the Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program. Each community plan is required to be developed by a comprehensive community team representing juvenile justice system stakeholders; be based on data relevant to juvenile and family issues; identify policies and practices that are research-based or standardized and reliable and are implemented with fidelity and which have been researched and demonstrate positive outcomes; identify clear

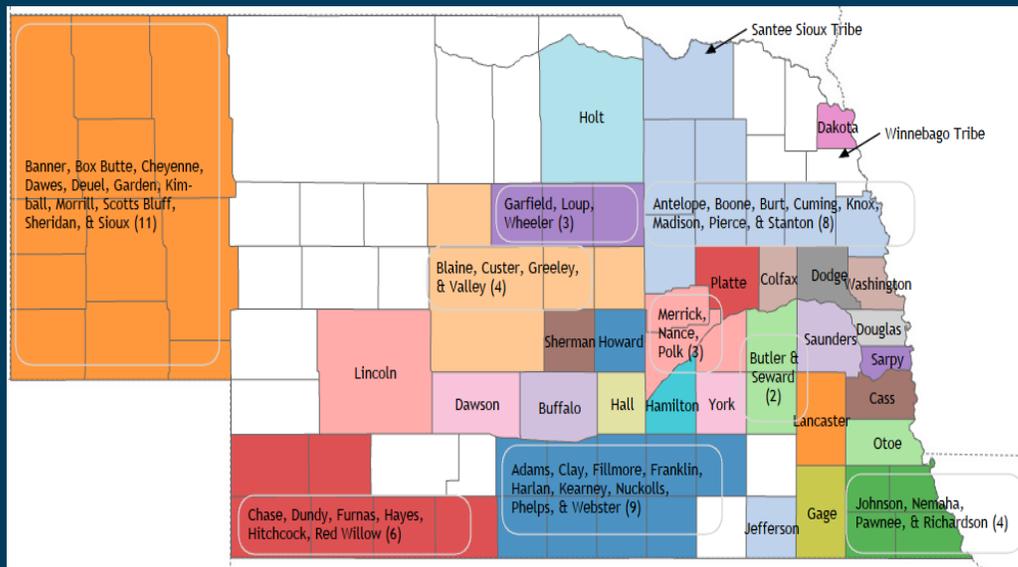
implementation strategies; and identify how the impact of the program or service will be measured. Currently, there are 33 community plans filed with the Nebraska Crime Commission. These community plans represent 72 counties and 2 Indian tribes. Revised community plans serve the timeframe July 1, 2015—June 30, 2018. It is essential that communities have programs to prevent youth from becoming unnecessarily involved in the juvenile justice system. These programs should be available at multiple points throughout the system, providing every opportunity to exit the system. Such programs rarely occur by chance; they are almost always the result of careful community planning. Community planning can also be used to: assess current programs, identify preventive measures to keep youth from entering the juvenile justice system, pinpoint duplication and gaps in services to youth and focus on effective, research-proven strategies.

Community Planning Highlight

“In 2014, a group of leaders in Douglas County, Nebraska recognized the urgency and opportunity to transform its juvenile justice system. The County’s juvenile arrest rate was 50% greater than the national rate and too many arrests disproportionately represented black youth and a handful of neighborhoods. At the same time, there were many assets to build on, including the 200 service providers and community organizations that served youth, the successful development of alternatives to detention, the strong track record of the diversion program and most importantly, agreement among system professionals, community organizations, and community members that collectively could do better for the County’s youth.

This meant that answers did not come from the customary group of people determining prescribed solutions behind closed doors, but rather from extensively engaging the community in co-creating the solutions to transform the juvenile justice system. Community engagement involved interviewing diverse stakeholders, conducting focus groups, and hosting town hall meetings to get feedback on proposed next steps.” — The Sherwood Foundation

Douglas County adopted the model of Collective Impact which is essential to building a dynamic comprehensive juvenile services community plan.



*The map above displays the counties and tribes with community plans in Nebraska

2014 Community-based Juvenile Services Aid

Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Allocation of Funds, Juvenile Justice Institute; September 19, 2014

For Fiscal Year 2014/2015, a total of \$5,018,028 was distributed across 69 counties and 2 Indian tribes. The analysis of the allocation of funds was prepared by the University of Nebraska Omaha's Juvenile Justice Institute to assist the Director of the Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Division (Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Allocation of Funds, Juvenile Justice Institute; September 19, 2014).

Funds for improving community planning totaled \$164,202 (3.6%). These funds support persons responsible for writing community plans, addressing gaps in the system, coordinating meetings amongst juvenile justice stakeholders, researching the grant applications process, compiling applications data, administration and management of grant applications, and other duties related to the community planning and grant writing processes.

PROGRAM AND SERVICE REQUESTS

Funds for alternatives to detention totaled an estimated \$867,572 (19%). The two main categories under alternatives are funding for placements and electronic monitoring and tracking.

Although none of the requested funds directly addressed disproportionate minority contact (DMC), a handful of programs did request funds to conduct cultural outreach for diversion or population-specific services, both of which indirectly address DMC. Allocated funds related to DMC totaled \$107,134 (2.3%). These funds fell into two main categories, cultural outreach programs and interpreters/translators.

Juvenile diversion programs received an estimated \$557,360 (12.2%). Two main categories include diversion programming and diversion personnel. There was some overlap between categories; for instance, one county hired a bilingual diversion coordinator, so the position was included under diversion rather than cultural outreach programs. In addition, a county could request funds to run a group serving both probation and diversion youth. In such situations, the Juvenile Justice Institute either classified funds based upon the area of emphasis in the funding application or divided the funds between categories (if percentages were included within the application).

A number of applications requested funds for school-related programs. A total of \$678,884 (14.9%) was allocated to school-related programming. Many grant applicants requested funding for after-school care that included a center for programming. Such blending of programs and positions made it challenging to tease out separate categories. However, the Juvenile Justice Institute identified five main categories under school-based programming, including after school programs, alternative schools, school resource officers, truancy programs, and truancy program personnel.

A total of \$66,761 (1.5%) was requested for substance abuse and related issues. Substance abuse programs include a wide range of substance-related supplies and activities, such as speakers, victim impact panels, equipment, and supplies, including drug testing kits, drug screening kits, and educational materials.

No funding was requested to directly address data sharing. However, a total of \$70,935 (1.6%) was requested to increase system collaboration and information sharing. This included funding for the crossover youth practice model and trauma-informed training in Douglas county.

Almost no funding was requested to address gang involvement or activity. This is likely due to the fact that the Office of Violence Prevention issues awards related to community violence and gang activity. Lancaster, Douglas, and Hall counties currently receive OVP funding.

2014 Community-based Juvenile Services Aid

Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Allocation of Funds, Juvenile Justice Institute; September 19, 2014

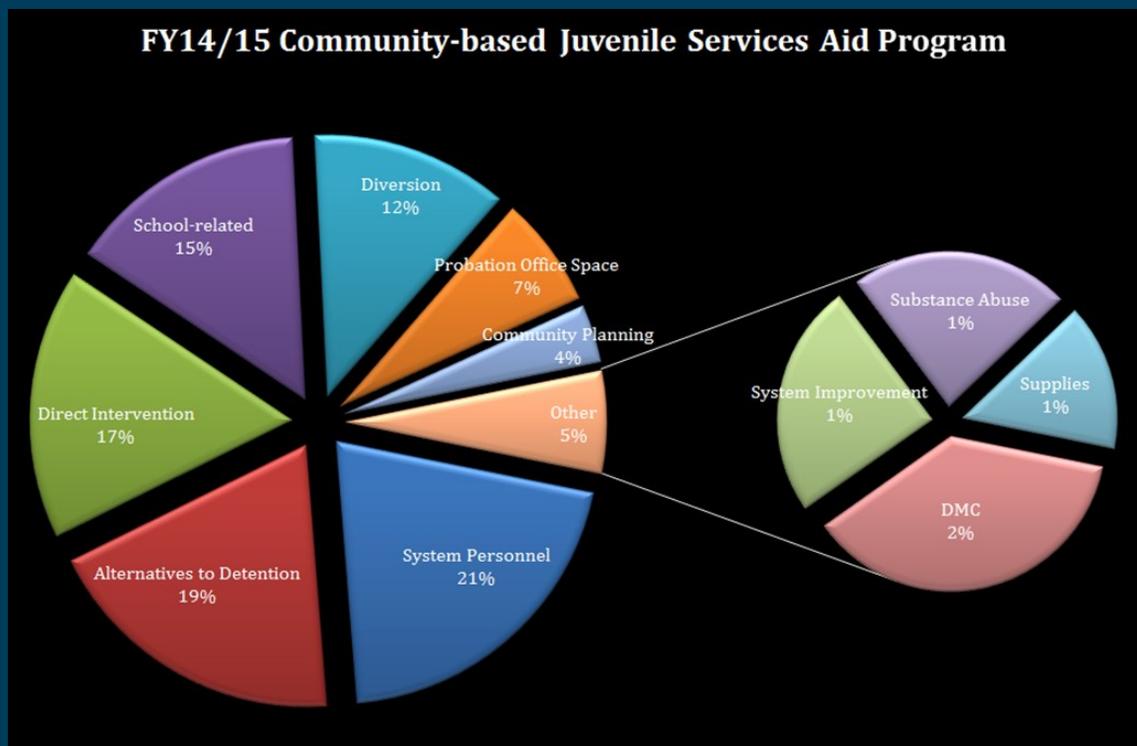
SYSTEM-WIDE REQUESTS

Juvenile justice personnel costs are commonly included in applications for the Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program. A total of \$1,259,126 was requested for personnel directly working for a program or intervention. These funds were included in the previous section which outlines program and service requests. An additional \$940,739 (20.6%) was requested for system personnel, which is a conservative count as it does not include personnel related to intervention programs for youth. Jointly, the Juvenile Justice Institute conservatively estimates that at least 50% of funds were allocated for personnel working in support of the juvenile justice system. System-wide personnel requests include, but are not limited to: county attorneys and legal assistants, JDAI site coordinators, assessment specialists, community resource analyst, juvenile services personnel; and miscellaneous expenses such as CASA, drug courts and AmeriCorps stipends.

Other funding requests fell under the categories of office space, office supplies, and transportation. A total of \$357,213 (7.8%) was included in this category. Probation office space was requested at \$313,054 for expenses related to leases, renovation, and rent.

DIRECT INTERVENTION FOR YOUTH REQUESTS

In addition to the allocations set forth above, the Juvenile Justice Institute initial analysis indicates that roughly \$761,829 (16.7%) was requested for direct interventions and programming for youth. This includes, but is not limited to: programs for the Juvenile Assessment Center in Douglas County, family support programs, life skills education, medication, mental health services, mentoring services, youth center, youth emergency services, youth employment preparation, and WhyTry training. An assessment of whether these direct interventions are “aligned with evidence-based practices or best practices,” requires a more in-depth examination. This will occur through the passage of LB265 in 2015, which allows the Juvenile Justice Institute to evaluate the effectiveness of programs by measuring individual-level data that will be entered into a common data set.





Statewide working group

Pursuant to Nebraska Revised Statute §43-2404.01, the Director of the Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program shall develop and coordinate a statewide working group as a subcommittee of the coalition to assist in regular strategic planning related to supporting, funding, monitoring, and evaluating the effectiveness of plans and programs receiving funds from the Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program. This statewide working group is referred to as the Community Planning Advisory Subcommittee of the Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice.

In FY 2014/2015, the Community Planning Advisory Subcommittee accomplished many tasks to assist with the successful distribution of Community-based Juvenile Services Aid funds. The subcommittee convened 13 times and discussed the assigned statutory duties.

During the first quarter, the subcommittee assisted Lancaster County and the Crime Commission in hosting the 2014 Nebraska Community Aid and Juvenile Justice Conference on October 29—31.

During the second quarter, the subcommittee assisted the Crime Commission with creating and revising the rules and regulations for the Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program.

During the third quarter, the subcommittee reviewed 61 grants in the amount of \$5,018,028. Each community's plan was reviewed in conjunction with each application to ensure priorities identified in the community plans were aligned with funding requests.

During the fourth quarter, the subcommittee in collaboration with the Juvenile Justice Institute and the Crime Commission, hosted 2 regional trainings to assist counties and tribes in completing their community plan. Over 90% of communities attended.

Members

Amy Hoffman, Crime Commission
 Anne Hobbs, Juvenile Justice Institute
 Carissa Uhrmacher, Clay County
 Cynthia Kennedy, Crime Commission
 Denise Kracl, Colfax County
 Elaine Menzel, NACO
 Monica Miles-Steffens, Probation
 Pam Lausterer, Saunders County
 Ron Johns, Scotts Bluff County
 Sandy Roes, Dawes County
 Sara Hoyle, Lancaster County
 Shawne Coonfare, Douglas County
 Sherry Peterson, Madison County
 Wilma Arp, Platte County

Appreciation

“The Community Planning Advisory Subcommittee to the Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice is instrumental in assisting the Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Division in its statutory obligation to adequately manage the usage of community aid funding in alignment with each community's plan. Your dedication to this subcommittee and its various obligations is appreciated by the Nebraska Crime Commission.”

—Darrell Fisher, Executive Director

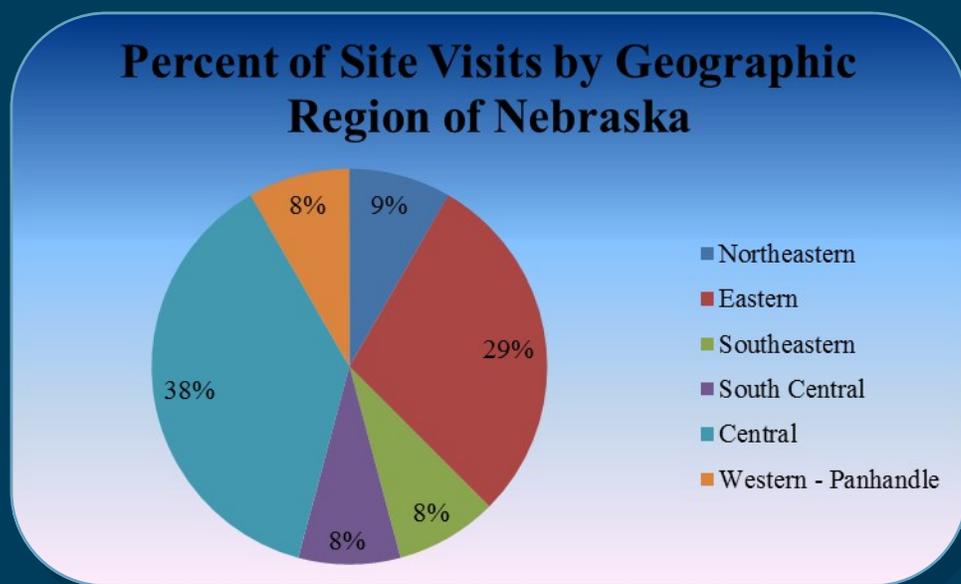
Are programs effective?

Activity Summary Report, Juvenile Justice Institute; July 15, 2015

Pursuant to Nebraska Revised Statute §43-2404.01, the commission, in consultation with the University of Nebraska at Omaha, Juvenile Justice Institute, shall contract for the development and administration of a statewide system to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of plans and programs receiving funds from (a) the Commission Grant Program and (b) the Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program in preventing persons from entering the juvenile justice system and in rehabilitating juvenile offenders.

From July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015, the Commission contracted with the Juvenile Justice Institute in the amount of \$50,000 to begin the evaluation process for the Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program and assist in the implementation of evidence-based practices.

During the first quarter, the evidence-based Nebraska (EB-NE) team sought consensus on the statewide definition from key stakeholders in the juvenile justice system. To measure evidence-based work in the field, the EB-NE team developed an online survey, with questions based upon the three methods of establishing evidence-based work, which is outlined in the final report from the Juvenile Justice Institute. The survey was distributed to all programs receiving community-based juvenile services aid. Ultimately, EB-NE analyzed data on approximately 130 programs. Of the programs that responded, only 36.5% classified themselves as purely pre-adjudication services. From the programs that completed the survey, EB-NE selected a diverse sampling of 24 programs for onsite visits. They intentionally selected programs that represented a variety of program types across the state. The onsite interview protocol mirrored the questions from the online survey. This methodology allowed EB-NE to confirm whether the online survey was understood by programs, and whether programs could provide documentation for the scores they provided. During the last two quarters, four graduate students and two faculty members completed onsite interviews.



Are programs effective?

Activity Summary Report, Juvenile Justice Institute; July 15, 2015

The goal of this work was two-fold: 1) to establish a reliable means of measuring whether programs funded through community-based juvenile services aid align with evidence-based standards; and 2) to determine whether programs funded should be deemed “evidence-based”. The findings are as follows:

1. Only 1.3% of the respondents (2 programs) reported that they had conducted a randomized controlled trial. Neither of these programs had replicated a randomized controlled trial a second time. Six of the respondents, reported conducting a quasi-experimentally designed research study. Five of the six programs reported that the quasi-experimentally designed study found their program to be effective.
2. Dr. Mark Lipsey’s approach links the strongest positive impact on recidivism to four general characteristics: 1) treatment modality; 2) amount of services; 3) quality of service; and 4) the risk level of the juveniles served. Considering a number of interventions funded through community-based juvenile services aid serve low risk youth, who are not yet officially involved in the juvenile justice system, the Lipsey model may not be the ideal tool for measuring the range of programs funded through the Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program. Similarly, one-time events will score lower using the Lipsey model because they are one-time events which offer limited contact hours and duration of services.
3. Programs were asked to report on markers of an effective intervention, based upon an established and tested evidence-based program model documented in literature. EB-NE utilized meta-analyses of specific program types. Meta-analysis has not been conducted on all types of programs and services being offered.

EB-NE is an extensive project, which has enhanced the dialogue and expectation surrounding evidence-based work in Nebraska. Recommendations are as follows:

1. Community Planning Advisory Subcommittee determines the different ways that current funds are allocated: I. Program, II. Systems, and III. Events. At some point during the second year, the subcommittee should recommend whether a certain percent of funds should be devoted to each category.
2. Director of the Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program, Community Planning Advisory Subcommittee, and EB-NE team work with programs to determine appropriate outcomes and measures based upon allocation, program type, and prior research. One resource for process variable or system measures may be OJJDP.
3. After program outcomes and measures are established, the state should develop a quarterly reporting process that allows programs to report on outcomes for their program. Considering county administrators requested more oversight on how their programs reported; any reporting system should allow for the county or tribal administrator to review before submission.
4. Generic program-level variables, like the Lipsey approach should be gathered, but the online survey used in FY2015 should be revised and shortened if used in subsequent years. Additionally, programs who are reporting must be thoroughly trained on who should report and what should be included in the online survey. EB-NE recommends postponing further use of the online survey until additional analysis and training are conducted.

Nebraska Community Aid and Juvenile Justice Conference

Hosted by Lancaster County

The Nebraska Community Aid and Juvenile Justice Conference was held October 29 through 31 at the downtown Holiday Inn, in Lincoln, NE. The first day of the training focused on subgrantee expectations, community planning, grant writing, analyzing local data, and matching programming to local community needs. Days 2 and 3 consisted of 28 speakers, most of them national speakers. A majority of the speakers ran EBP programs in their states. Topics and speakers were selected by analyzing where counties and tribes spent most of their community aid funding and where the biggest gaps were identified in their corresponding community plan. The Crime Commission provided assistance in gathering this information and guidance on structuring the conference to assist communities in addressing the intent of state statute governing the grant funds.

With the recent change in state statute to address truancy, there was a focus on truancy. Finding programs who are recognized for being evidence based in providing truancy intervention/prevention was challenging, as there are very few recognized. As a result, Lancaster turned to their local programming. One of the workshops was a Truancy Diversion Panel, which consisted of local judges and county attorneys. One of the models presented during this workshop has been evaluated and found to increase attendance of program participants by 80% while in the program. This workshop had the most in attendance overall.

The second track focused on diversion programming. The SHAPE Program is a school-based

diversion program out of Shelby County. The intent of the School House Adjustment Program Enterprise is to reduce the number of transports to Juvenile Court for minor infractions and allow students to remain at school; provide immediate interventions, such as behavior modification community service, restitution and a prompt and convenient resolution for the school and parent. This program has been recognized by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention as a DMC Reduction Best Practices Model which was submitted to the President and Congress by the Federal Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice. It was featured by the Coalition on Juvenile Justice, Center for States and Government, International Association of Police Chiefs, Annie E. Casey Foundation, and Council of State Legislatures. Information on this program was presented by John Hall.

Bill Davidson from Michigan presented information on the Adolescent Diversion Project. This diversion program uses university students as diversion case managers and provides a cost effective option for sustaining a local diversion program.

Officer La'Tonya Bey from Philadelphia presented information on the Police Department's arrest-based diversion program. This program recognizes that all jurisdictions have police departments and run their diversion program through their law enforcement agency. All of these programs are recognized nationally for being effective in diverting youth out of the juvenile justice system.

With the recent uptick in gang violence, national experts who are facilitating evidence-based gang prevention and intervention programs conducted workshops.

With the enhancement dollars Lancaster County received through the Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program, they graciously decided to host a statewide conference with a focus on community-based juvenile services aid and juvenile justice programs. Lancaster County planned the conference in conjunction with the Community Planning Advisory Subcommittee to the Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice and the Nebraska Crime Commission. The Nebraska Crime Commission is most grateful to everyone involved who made this conference a success. There was a wide variety of practical training received by programs to implement within their community. Thank you for your dedication and tremendous amount of work.

Ralph Womack with Operation Peace Keeper out of California presented information on his program. Operation Peacekeeper is a youth, gang/violence prevention and intervention program that employs Youth Outreach Workers to build relationships with youth who are on a path toward violence and/or gang membership and to mentor them toward positive behaviors.

Operation Peacekeeper is part of a larger effort called Operation Ceasefire which deals with older gang members as well as their younger siblings and other relatives.

Dr. Roslind Blasingame Buford presented information on the Chicago-based gang prevention/intervention program – BUILD. This program is recognized for the best-practice services they utilize to enable youth to reduce risk-taking behaviors, develop personal competencies, and strengthen their commitment to education and community service. BUILD offers positive alternatives to the gangs, violence and drugs that surround youth, assisting them to transition from being “at risk” to “at hope” by providing coordinated services that assess youths’ needs, identify their assets, and involve them in our programs and refer them to our community partners.

Behavioral health was also a gap identified in many community plans. Joseph Foderaro conducted workshops on Trauma Informed Care. He is a therapist with the Sanctuary Model out of Pennsylvania. This model focuses on providing trauma informed care to youth in the system. Local providers presented information on multi systemic therapy. Finally, Paul Cary provided information on the latest in effective drug testing. Mr. Cary is known for his work in training judges through the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges.

Theresa Byrd presented information on the Missouri’s Detention Alternatives and Mental Health Model. This model is one that has been explored by our local probation system and has received national attention for its community based alternatives.

Speakers championing national efforts were also in attendance. This included Jonathan Litt who is working with the SOS project on the National Standards for Care of Youth Charged with Status Offenders.

Finally, speakers focusing on family engagement was another popular topic. Shelley Leavitt from HomeBuilders presented. HOMEBUILDERS® is an evidence-based program designed to strengthen families in order to prevent unnecessary out-of-home placement or return children from foster care, group care, psychiatric hospitals, or correctional institutions. Families served by this intensive, in-home, family therapy model have children in imminent danger of placement, or have children in placement who cannot be reunified without intensive services. The present problems may include child abuse, neglect, family conflict, juvenile delinquency, and child or parental developmental disabilities, or mental health problems.

Tracy Anderson presented information on Strong African American Families. The Strong African American Families (SAAF) program was developed to support families in their effort to prevent youth involvement in substance use. Since 2008, SAAF’s dissemination and training model has been in use to train diverse agencies across the country. During this time, strategies for dissemination have evolved as have the efforts to support agencies in the adoption and sustainment of evidence-based programs, particularly those that are racially specific.

In an attempt to generate feedback and evaluate the conference, all attendees were sent a survey link to complete online. Overall feedback was great with several people requesting an annual conference. Additionally, national speakers commented on the high caliber of speakers in attendance and would like to be involved and invited to future conferences. Only 2 of the speakers charge an honorarium to present, making their dedication to share their valuable program information with others evident.

Spotlight Programs

Triumph Builders Club

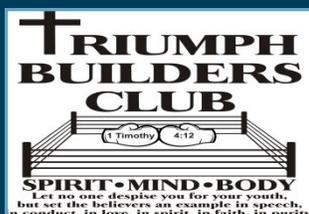
History of Development

In 2009, Platte County received a Violence Prevention grant to address a mounting gang problem. The Time for Change (T4C), Anti-gang Coalition, was developed and multiple groups were identified to assist with implementation of identified strategies:

1. The Parent Group would be responsible for educating the minority families and community.
2. The Youth Group would meet to assist with identifying ways that teens could volunteer in the community and create a leadership council made up of representation of Hispanic and Caucasian youth.
3. The Community Group would organize a scholarship program to assist low income youth by awarding program activity vouchers to increase their participation in positive organized activities
4. Law Enforcement and County Attorney would be diligent in an increased presence in the community, monitoring the gang issues and the County Attorney would prosecute gang crimes at the highest level.

Since 2009

- Gang crime - minimal;
- Gang issues at schools - minimal;
- Graffiti - minimal;
- T4C Coalition - now lead by local Hispanic leaders
- Active Parent Advisory group – developing local leaders;
- Summer Park Program held at trailer court sites – serving low-income youth;
- T4C Scholarships – assisted over 200 low-income Hispanic (80%) with program fees;
- Back-to-School event to raise awareness regarding topic such as: school truancy, healthy relationship building, law enforcement services; and
- Billboard contest - promotes inclusiveness.



2014 – Using Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Funding

- Development of the Triumph Builders Club—an organized leadership club for Hispanic youth that are referred by schools and local agencies;
- Components include: health and wellness, character building and boxing skill development;
- Partnering with YMCA, Word of Life Church, Victory Boxing Club;
- A total of 32 youth have been referred;
- Directed by a local bilingual pastor;
- Volunteers coordinate weekly efforts; and
- Continuation of T4C Anti-Gang Coalition.



Mission Statement

The TBC is a club designed to help young Hispanic males build themselves in a holistic manner (spirit, mind, and body) in practical ways to achieve a better tomorrow.



Spotlight Programs

Truancy Program

Saunders County started looking at a truancy program in 2007, and the expertise of Dr. Hank Robinson from the Juvenile Justice Institute was sought. To discover what policies and procedures were currently being implemented, Wahoo Public High School agreed to be a pilot program.

On April 17, 2009 Saunders County Attorney and Youth Services held a meeting with all school administrators in the county. Hence, this began the collaboration and networking of all schools to address truancy and excessive absences. Grant funding to implement the Saunders County Truancy program was obtained.

Another hallmark was on April 23, 2010 when an annual meeting was held with all school administrators for a time of information sharing and collaboration. Dr. Hank Robinson with UNO and Kim Hawekotte with the Douglas County Attorney Building Bright Futures presented the results of the pilot program with Wahoo Public High School. This was another milestone as the Wahoo Principal was very open about what policies and procedures were working and which were not working. With this disclosure, other administrators started sharing their experiences.

During 2011-2012, there were inter-local agreements with schools and the ARRIVE program. Continual focus was to work with all schools, yet have a common ground, with how truancy and excessive absences were being handled.

In 2013-2014, the County Attorney, Youth Services and ARRIVE developed a policies and procedures manual. Many changes were implemented over the

previous years, but ARRIVE felt they could create a document that was comprehensive. This was important as the ARRIVE program had developed a solid working relationship with the schools over the past 5 years, and the hope was that the schools would recognize the ARRIVE program did provide support to their schools and students.

Evaluation results provided to school administrators in June 2014 reflected that the input of communication within the schools resulted in changes within their school handbook. Changes in coding was important particularly in the way absences were documented. It was previously labeled as strictly excused and not excused. Now terminology has changed to notified and not notified, or terminology that is less strict.

The support of the Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program funding has assisted in all stages of the development of the ARRIVE Program in Saunders County as noted above.

In summation, through the support of dollars received through the Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program, the following outcomes have been achieved:

- Development of collaboration among Saunders County schools;
- Providing support for the schools in getting youth to school;
- Working with youth and families to implement solutions to attendance issues; and
- A means to connect families to other resources.

Spotlight Programs

Disproportionate Minority Contact



Lancaster County was fortunate in receiving a grant from the Crime Commission (14-EB-612) to allow for 8 members of the Lancaster County Disproportionate Minority Contact Committee to attend the Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Juvenile Justice Certificate Program at Georgetown University. These 8 members consisted of representatives from Lancaster County Juvenile Court, Lincoln Police Department, Lancaster County Youth Services Center, Lancaster County Attorney's Office, Center for Children, Family, and the Law, el Centro de las Americas, Juvenile Probation, and Lancaster County Human Services.

The Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Juvenile Justice Certificate Program is an intensive training designed to support local jurisdictions in their efforts to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in their juvenile justice systems. The program is operated jointly by the Georgetown Center for Juvenile Justice Reform and the Center for Children's Law and Policy. The three primary goals of the certificate program are to help jurisdictions reduce:

1. Overrepresentation of youth of color in the juvenile justice system;
2. Disparate treatment of youth of color as compared to white youth within the juvenile justice system; and
3. Unnecessary entry and movement deeper into the juvenile justice system for youth of color.

At the completion of the training, participants are responsible for the development of a capstone project -- a set of actions each participant will design and undertake within their organization or community to initiate or continue efforts to reduce racial and ethnic disparities. After the capstone project is developed and approved by Georgetown University, participants receive an Executive Certificate from the university and are offered technical assistance from instructors to aid in the implementation of their project. Additionally, alumni of the certificate program become part of the CJJR Fellows Network.

*Information from Georgetown University Center for Juvenile Justice Reform and the Center for Children's Law and Policy website

Spotlight Programs

Substance Abuse

A priority in the South Central Partnership counties, (lead county Clay), is to address substance abuse, specifically underage drinking, particularly with the rural geography. With this priority in mind, the Area Substance Abuse and Prevention office staff planned and provided a bowling activity for students. Staff designed t-shirts for students that attended the event that stated, "Stay smart, don't start". This theme will be used in future events. One of the main priorities was to schedule a day for the event that the majority of students could attend while out of school. The event was held on December 23, 2014 during the holiday vacation time. After reserving the bowling alley and designing the posters, ASAAP staff dispersed them throughout Adams, Clay, Nuckolls and Webster counties. Fliers were also mailed to local churches and all schools. ASAAP staff contacted teachers and administration at schools directly to let them know about the event and ask them to help advertise by sending e-mail blasts and posting signs in high traffic areas. All asked were happy to oblige. Staff then asked for donations from local businesses, and were able to provide all students that attended free ice-cream from Sonic, as well as various gift baskets. In addition to Community-based funding, ASAAP applied for funding to cover concession item costs for the event. The Sunnyside Foundation in Hastings provided this funding and pizza and soda/juice were made available at no cost for each child in attendance. The event was considered a success by ASAAP staff, volunteers, and parents. RSVP's were requested for the event to estimate how many would be in attendance and also get parent contact information. ASAAP was still getting calls the morning of the event and welcomed all students, not wanting to turn any children away. Over sixty students RSVP'd for the event, and there were close to ten drop-ins at the bowling alley the day of the event. ASAAP staff had hoped for fifty students to be present, so the high participation number was great to see. Feedback from the event included statements made in person and emails from parents, statements included: "Thank you so much for putting on the bowling event! My son had a blast. Merry Christmas!" , "Will you be doing another one? Our daughter had so much fun." , and "We are glad someone is giving kids something good to do, we need more things like this."

Community Planning

The formation of the Winnebago Juvenile Justice Program Team (WJJPT) began approximately 2 years ago when a few stakeholders started working to develop the Comprehensive Juvenile Services Plan for the Winnebago Tribe. They made a list of all the tribal programs who handle juvenile concerns. Then, they sent invitation letters to those key people to attend a meeting and discuss the problems that are encountered when working with youth. From that first meeting, the entire group then began a strategic planning process. They developed a vision statement, mission statement, and discussed and agreed upon objectives. This process did not happen overnight. They had numerous meetings throughout the first year and some lively discussion as to what direction the group would take to proceed forward. All the members are committed to making positive changes that will assist youth and ultimately the community and Tribe. This past October the Winnebago Tribe received a grant from the Office of Juvenile Justice to renovate one of its buildings into a Juvenile Crisis Center. This was one of the goals of the WJJPT group, and it will soon be a reality. They will no longer need to send juvenile offenders to a contracted detention facility or to a BIA managed facility to await arraignment. They will be housed at the Crisis Center in Winnebago while they await arraignment. The most important aspect of this is reaching out to youth immediately and beginning early assessments with them and their family.

Spotlight Programs

Truancy

During the 2013-2014 school year it came to the attention of the Colfax County Community Team that elementary school children were walking from a trailer court outside of Schuyler down a four-lane divided highway with a speed limit of 65 miles per hour to get to school. There is no sidewalk on or near this highway so the children were walking on the shoulder of the road. Not only was this dangerous but children were late to school making the truancy problem in Colfax County worse. As a result, the Community Team supported the Schuyler Community Schools in creating an inner city bussing program for all Schuyler Community Schools students. The program began in the 2014-2015 school year. The basic premise is that any child can go to the closest Schuyler Community School and catch a bus to get them to their school on time. If your child needs to get to the elementary school across town and you do not have a driver's license or you do not have a car, you can walk your child to the high school where your child can catch a bus. The Community Team would like to show community support by paying for a small amount of gas to support this program. To date, during this school year this program has provided a total of 19,000 children rides (duplicated numbers) before and after school. By the end of the school year that number will, of course, double. This bussing program has had a huge impact on truancy and tardiness at all schools in Schuyler.

Diversion

Dodge County has had a diversion program for many years, but last year as a result of community collaboration through the Juvenile Comprehensive Services Team, Dodge developed a formal truancy diversion program, which included a truancy officer. In August 2013, Dodge County agreed to become a Crossover Youth Practice Model (CYPM) pilot program site through a partnership with the Georgetown University Center for Juvenile Justice Reform. The CYPM initiative seeks to effectively address the unique issues presented by children and youth who are known to both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. These young people, often referred to as 'crossover youth', move between the child welfare and juvenile justice system, or are known to both concurrently. This population as a whole generally requires a more intense array of services and supports than other youth known to each system individually. With the implementation of the CYPM, the Dodge County Juvenile Comprehensive Services Team decided to develop a Community Youth Coordinator position. The Community Youth Coordinator is housed in the Dodge County Attorney's office and any youth referred for delinquency, truancy, or another law violation will be cross-checked to determine if that youth has an open child welfare case or any history of abuse/neglect. For qualifying youth and families, coordination of services specific to the youth's priority needs, including proper case service management through a collaborative effort, will be provided. Dodge County has also partnered with the Fremont Area United Way in partnership with the Fremont Family Coalition. The Fremont Area United Way in partnership with the Fremont Family Coalition has agreed to assist in serving referred youth and their families and pool existing resources to most effectively treat their needs. The Community Youth Coordinator will be responsible for the intake and case management services for youth referred for truancy issues. By diverting appropriate youth to the Community Youth Coordinator and diversion program and making it a more youth and family centered approach, Dodge County intends to decrease truancy by 10% and help youth to be more successful in school. The Community Youth Coordinator is responsible for leading and facilitating the Dodge County Truancy Task Force, and an active member of the Fremont Family Coalition. The Community Youth Coordinator is responsible for developing prevention and aftercare services and programs to assist with case management of youth and their families. This collaborative effort in Dodge County has evolved over the years, but initially started as a result of the funding that became available for youth services through the Nebraska Crime Commission.

Appreciation

The Nebraska Crime Commission appreciates the opportunity to enhance community-based juvenile services throughout our state. This funding source is providing communities with increased services for youth and the opportunity to measure program effectiveness and success through evaluation.

ANNUAL REPORT

COMMUNITY-BASED JUVENILE
SERVICES AID PROGRAM

JULY 1, 2014—JUNE 30, 2015

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