

NEBRASKA COMMUNITY AID & JUVENILE JUSTICE *Conference*



Conference: JUNE 11-12, 2025
CBA/JS Grant Workshop: JUNE 13, 2025



Cornhusker Marriot
Lincoln, NE

2025 Nebraska Community Aid & Juvenile Justice Conference | Agenda

Wednesday, June 11, 2025				
7:30am to 9:00am	Check-in/Registration <i>Lower Level Lobby</i>			
9:00am to 10:30am	Welcome & Opening Remarks: <i>Lancaster Ballroom</i> Keynote Speaker: <i>Lancaster Ballroom</i> Bryan Tuma, Executive Director, Nebraska Crime Commission Commissioner Christa Yoakum, Lancaster County Referees to Coaches: Moving from Catching Failure to Helping Youth Win Brian Lovins, Ph.D.			
Breakouts 10:45am to 11:45am	Impact of Adding School Interventionists - Panel Amber Bodeman, Tania González, Wendy Pohl, Karina Robles <i>Arbor 1</i>	Empowering Latino Youth and Parents: Strategies for Culturally Responsive Practice Citlalli Gonzalez, Elmer Gonzalez, Mayra Jacinto, Guadalupe Mora, Xochitl Rincon <i>Arbor 2</i>	The Four Dimensions of a Coach Brian Lovins, Ph.D. <i>Hawthorne</i>	Why People Give Pastor Tom Barber <i>Olive Branch</i>
12:00pm to 1:00pm	LUNCH (provided) <i>Lancaster Ballroom</i>			
Breakouts 1:15pm to 2:15pm	Value Up Mike Donahue <i>Arbor 1</i>	101: What You Need to Know When Serving Native Youth Matt Baker, Randy DeCora <i>Arbor 2</i>	Community & Family Partnership and Community Prevention Roberta Miksch, Kate Wythers <i>Hawthorne</i>	Missing & Anti-Trafficking Youth Services Taylor Newton, Breanna Delp <i>Olive Branch</i>
Breakouts 2:30pm to 3:30pm	More Than Attendance: The Diverse Responsibilities of Rural Truancy Work Brennan Cole, Sarah Goodding, Vanessa Sherman <i>Arbor 1</i>	What You Need to Know When Serving Immigrant and Refugee Youth Patrick Kabula, Joy Oyebefun, Sabrina Salrin, Adama Sawadogo <i>Arbor 2</i>	The Impact of Cognitive and Communication Disorders on Youth Involvement with the Court and Criminal Justice System Dr. Shameka Stewart <i>Hawthorne</i>	Start by Believing: Supporting Youth Experiencing Domestic and Sexual Violence Natalie Roberts-Day, Nicholette Seigfreid <i>Olive Branch</i>
3:30pm to 3:45pm	SNACK BREAK (provided)			
Breakouts 3:45pm to 4:45pm	Bringing Culture to Youth Keisha Bailey <i>Arbor 1</i>	Bridge to Prosperity Refugee Mentoring Patrick Kabula <i>Arbor 2</i>	Creating a Restorative Safe Place for Youth with Language and Learning Disabilities Dr. Shameka Stewart <i>Hawthorne</i>	Tipping Point: A Different Approach to Working with Gang Involved Youth Matt Baker, Darrell King <i>Olive Branch</i>

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Thursday, June 12, 2025				
7:30am to 8:30am	Check-in/Registration <i>Lower Level Lobby</i>			
Breakouts 8:30am to 9:30am	SquareOne Youth Crisis Response: Supporting Youth and Families in Times of Crisis Ashley Chism, Amber Dirks <i>Arbor 1</i>	Supporting Immigrant and Refugee Families: A Holistic Approach to Youth and Family Case Management Samia Ahmed Abdel Mawla, Lanetta Edison-Soe (Poe Poe), Nico Le, Lwe Ku Say, Sabrina Salrin <i>Arbor 2</i>	It's Not A "Just" Disease Shari Strong <i>Hawthorne</i>	Evidence-Based Nebraska: Evaluating the Effectiveness of the Juvenile Diversion Program in Your County Dr. Anne Hobbs, Michele Lueders, Monica Miles-Steffens, Sadie Brewer, Faith Hall <i>Olive Branch</i>
Breakouts 9:45am to 10:45am	Panel: Implementing Innovative and Creative Strategies in Diversion Programs Across the State Jill Hahn, PhD, Carrie Hastreiter, Georgia Rogers, Meggie Studt <i>Arbor 1</i>	Culture, Connection, and Care: Strengthening African Youth and Families Through Culturally Responsive Support Adama Sawadogo <i>Arbor 2</i>	Value Up Mike Donahue <i>Hawthorne</i>	Double-Edged Scroll: Understanding Social Media's Effect on Youth Mental Health Libby Matile Milkovich, MD <i>Olive Branch</i>
Breakouts 11:00am to 12:00pm	A Multilevel Analysis of Diversion and Juvenile Recidivism in Nebraska Dr. Navruz Shaw <i>Arbor 1</i>	Fostering Partnerships between Schools and Families to Improve Academic Outcomes, Mental Well-being, and Beyond Duane Hagedorn, Brianna Mumm, Amber Pelan, Heather Sisel, Deana Thuer <i>Arbor 2</i>	Voices for Action: Empowering Youth Leadership Stanford Bradley Jr., Steve Solorio, Na'Veah, Ava, Evett, Daniela, Ja'kyah, <i>Hawthorne</i>	Double-Edged Scroll: Understanding Social Media's Effect on Youth Mental Health Libby Matile Milkovich, MD <i>Olive Branch</i>
12:00pm to 1:00pm	LUNCH (provided) <i>Lancaster Ballroom</i>			
Breakouts 1:15pm to 2:15pm	Utilizing the RNR Model for Juvenile Offenders in Lancaster County Lesley Ahrens, Christopher Reid, Caroline Steffensmeier, Laura Suhr <i>Arbor 1</i>	Breaking Barriers: Empowering Professionals and Community to Overcome Systemic Trauma Dr. christian bijoux <i>Arbor 2</i>	Youth Voice in Advocacy and Juvenile Justice Lincoln Arneal, Nandi Kumondan, Karoline Yoder <i>Hawthorne</i>	Unified Impact: A Path Forward for Youth and Families Roberta Miksch, Miranda Stoll, Kate Wythers <i>Olive Branch</i>
2:15pm to 2:30pm	SNACK BREAK (provided)			

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Thursday, June 12, 2025 Continued

Breakouts 2:30pm to 3:30pm	RYDE: Restorative Youth Dialogue & Engagement Program Dan Bechtol, Gwen Foxall <i>Arbor 1</i>	Breaking Barriers: Empowering Professionals and Community to Overcome Systemic Trauma Dr. christian bijoux <i>Arbor 2</i>	Enhancing Peer Capacity within School Environments: A Pilot Implementation of Trauma-Informed Peer Advocate (TIPA) Program Thang S. Tran, Ph.D. <i>Hawthorne</i>	From Disconnection to Genuine Understanding Miranda Stoll <i>Olive Branch</i>
3:45pm to 4:45pm	Statewide Diversion Meeting <i>Arbor 1</i>			

Friday, June 13, 2025

CBA/JS Grant Workshop

8:30am to 9:00am	Check-in/Registration <i>Lower Level Lobby</i>
9:00am to 11:30am	Grant Management Training Jessi Svoboda, Erin Wasserburger <i>Arbor 1</i>

CEU's, CLE's and Criminogenic Hours

Conference sessions that have been approved for CEU's and CLE's (CLE activity ID is 270350) are listed on the Session Description pages. The Nebraska Crime Commission certifies that this activity has been approved for CLE credit in the State of Nebraska.

Criminogenic Hours approved as noted in program descriptions:

- JS = Juvenile Justice Services CEU
- SM = Standardized Model for the delivery of Substance Abuse CEU
- ABHS = Adult Behavioral Health Services
- CLE = Continuing Legal Education

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June 11, 2025

9:00am to 10:30am
Lancaster Ballroom

Keynote: Referees to Coaches: Moving from Catching Failure to Helping Youth Win - 1 JS, 1.25 CLE
Brian Lovins, PhD, President of Justice System Partners

Many of us are frustrated with the current juvenile justice system. Some believe it is too harsh and creates paths to later criminal involvement, while others believe we are not harsh enough—ignoring accountability. We all want the same thing—for young people engaged early in the system to avoid deeper exposure and to be diverted from future criminal behavior. So how do we come together to create a system that accomplishes this important outcome? We shift from a system that is designed for referees, where we are tasked with monitoring the rules, blowing the whistle, and issuing penalties, to one that centers coaches, where we see the potential in each youth, build a success plan, and help them win!

10:45am to 11:45am
Arbor 1

Impact of Adding School Interventionists - 1 JS, CLE

Amber Bodeman, School Support Specialist, Boys Town
Tania González, MS, Director of Community Support Services, Boys Town
Wendy Pohl, School Support Specialist, Boys Town
Karina Robles, Director of Hall/Howard County Diversion

This panel discussion will cover their roles within the school and from the perspective of those associated with the program, county, and schools. Topics covered will be building relationships with teachers and other school staff, earning the trust of the students and families, the impact on the youth with regard to school attendance, grades, behaviors, and diversion, as well as the overall impact seen by the schools and community. There will be time for Q&A from the audience.

10:45am to 11:45am
Arbor 2

Empowering Latino Youth and Parents: Strategies for Culturally Responsive Practice - 1 JS, CLE

Citlalli Gonzalez, Latino Leadership Youth Program Coordinator, El Centro de las Américas
Elmer Gonzalez, Attendance Program Supervisor, Latino Center of the Midlands
Mayra Jacinto, Facilitator, Latino Center of the Midlands
Guadalupe Mora, Latino Leadership Youth Program Coordinator, El Centro de las Américas
Xochitl Rincon, Student Advocate, Latino Center of the Midlands

In this panel discussion, experts specializing in Latino youth and parent engagement will share their insights and experiences in culturally responsive practices. They will explore strategies to empower Latino youth and parents, such as building trust, promoting resilience, enhancing positive self-identity, and creating a supportive environment for growth and development. Participants will gain knowledge about the unique challenges faced by Latino youth and parents and learn how to address these challenges through culturally sensitive approaches. The panelists will also present examples of successful interventions and programs that have improved outcomes for Latino youth and families. Attendees will leave with a deeper understanding of effective engagement with Latino youth and parents, along with practical strategies to enhance their own culturally responsive practices.

10:45am to 11:45am
Hawthorne

The Four Dimensions of a Coach - 1 JS, CLE

Brian Lovins, PhD, President of Justice System Partners

Coaching is not just standing in front of a player and calling out plays. It is an important role on and off the field to help players improve their skills and ultimately find successful paths forward. For coaches to be successful, they must have the 1) right approach, 2) create coaching connections, 3) adopt successful playbooks, and 4) measure their outcomes in success. This session will help staff identify these four core dimensions within themselves and challenge them to explore new ways they can approach their work.

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10:45am to 11:45am
Olive Branch

Why People Give - 1 CLE

Pastor Tom Barber, CEO, People's City Mission

This breakout session will explore why people give to various causes. When soliciting the public for funding, much focus is often put on technique or how to do it. However, it is more important to first understand what motivates potential donors to support your efforts. And the people you are helping may not be the primary reason.

1:15pm to 2:15pm
Arbor 1

Value Up - 1 JS, CLE

Mike Donahue, Founder, Value Up

In this workshop, you'll discover how student behavior is often a reflection of their self-belief. When students don't feel valuable, they don't act valuable—making negative behavior a signal of deeper internal struggles. By helping students build a stronger sense of self-worth, we increase their willingness to engage and succeed in the learning process.

1:15pm to 2:15pm
Arbor 2

101: What You Need to Know When Serving Native Youth - 1 JS, CLE

Matt Baker, Coordinator, Tipping Point, Lincoln Police Department

Randy DeCora, Truancy Officer/Juvenile Service Program Coordinator, Winnebago Tribal Court

Open, honest, and safe space for conversation and questions about current issues that Native youth and families face in Nebraska. Included in the conversation will be cultural practices that providers should be aware of, how to properly incorporate culture into services, and understand protocols when addressing family members. The discussion will include the team effort required to reduce barriers to attendance, engage in school, and help build up youth's strengths.

1:15pm to 2:15pm
Hawthorne

Community & Family Partnership and Community Prevention - 1 JS, CLE

Roberta Miksch, Columbus Area United Way

Kate Wythers, Community Prevention Director, Columbus Area United Way

Columbus Area United Way Community & Family Partnership provide Community Prevention to promote healthier and resilient families able to meet their needs with reduced stress and improved stability. Community Prevention is provided in four counties, Colfax, Platte, Nance, and Boone. Community Prevention utilizes coaching and navigation to families to provide stabilization and the prevention of child welfare involvement. Community & Family Partnership and Community Prevention are working collaboratively with Nebraska Children and Families Foundation (NCCFF) to help families thrive.

1:15pm to 2:15pm
Olive Branch

Missing & Anti-Trafficking Youth Services - 1 JS, CLE

Taylor Newton, MPA/MSW, Director of Community Impact, Project Harmony

Breanna Delp, MATYS Program Manager, Project Harmony

The Missing and Anti-Trafficking Youth Services Program represents a key initiative to combat youth trafficking and exploitation in Omaha. By providing early intervention, comprehensive assessments, and ongoing support, this program not only addresses the immediate needs of vulnerable youth but also works towards long-term solutions to prevent trafficking and exploitation. Through collaboration with law enforcement and community partners, Project Harmony is playing a vital role in helping these youth regain control over their lives and navigate the path to recovery.

A few of the major objectives that will be covered in the presentation will be:

- Raise Awareness about the critical issue of missing juveniles in Omaha and the risks they face, including sexual exploitation and trafficking, particularly for non-system involved youth.
- Discuss best practices and dynamics of working with at-risk youth
- Describe Project Harmony's role in community initiative, development and maintenance of MATYS program, role of the MATYS Specialist and the collaboration with OPD and other key community stakeholders.

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2:30pm to 3:30pm
Arbor 1

More Than Attendance: The Diverse Responsibilities of Rural Truancy Work - 1 JS, CLE

Brennan Cole, Juvenile Services Coordinator, York and Polk Counties

Sarah Goodding, ARRIVE Coordinator, Saunders County

Vanessa Sherman, Juvenile Diversion Coordinator, Otoe County

In rural areas with few resources to combat school absenteeism, programs have learned to be all-in-one. In this session you'll get insight into how to work most effectively, efficiently and creatively to support youth and families.

2:30pm to 3:30pm
Arbor 2

Empowering Immigrant and Refugee Youth: Supporting Families, Preventing System Involvement, and Building Pathways to Success - 1 JS, CLE

Khamisa Abdulla, Women's Empowerment Program Manager, Asian Community and Cultural Center

Patrick Kabula, Program Manager, International Council For Refugees and Immigrants

Joy Oyebeun, Essential Resources Program Manager, Asian Community and Cultural Center

Adama Sawadogo, Founder and Executive Director, African Immigrant Family Services (AIFS)

Immigrant and refugee youth often face significant barriers as they and their families navigate complex systems in the United States—from education and social services to the juvenile justice system. This panel brings together experienced service providers working directly with immigrant and refugee communities to share insights, challenges, and promising practices. Panelists will explore how culturally responsive programs, mentoring, and family engagement can strengthen protective factors, prevent system involvement, and support youth and families in building successful futures. Join us for a conversation on how systems and communities can collaborate more effectively to uplift and empower these young people.

2:30pm to 3:30pm
Hawthorne

The Impact of Cognitive and Communication Disorders on Youth Involvement with the Court and Criminal Justice System - 1 JS, SM, CLE

Dr. Shameka Stewart, Esq., PhD, CCC-SLP/L, Associate Director/Associate Professor of

Communication Sciences & Disorders, Juvenile Forensic Speech-Language Pathologist

Over 33% of youth who are currently incarcerated or confined have been diagnosed with a disability that would qualify them for special education and related services like speech-language pathology had they been enrolled in general education. The more alarming part is that the 33% of youth discussed in the statistics are only those who have been identified. There is a larger percentage that have not yet been identified and are being criminalized for cognitive and communicative difficulties they cannot manage or control. This presentation will begin with discussing what a speech-language pathologist is, what SLPs do, and their role in the IDEA and IEPs. The presentation will then engage in an interactive breakout activity with participants that will lead into the discussion of CCD including interactive scenarios, lastly, the presentation will discuss the intersection between CCD and youth delinquency and risk for delinquency closing with a Q and A.

2:30pm to 3:30pm
Olive Branch

Start by Believing: Supporting Youth Experiencing Domestic and Sexual Violence - 1 JS, CLE

Natalie Roberts-Day, Executive Director, Voices of Hope

Nicholette Seigfried, Group and Prevention Coordinator, Voices of Hope

Young people impacted by domestic violence and sexual assault often feel confused, ashamed, or unsure of how to name their experience. In this session, we'll explore how juvenile justice professionals can best support youth by validating their experiences, offering choice instead of control, and avoiding common pitfalls that deepen shame—such as minimizing teen relationships or rushing them to act before they're ready. Participants will learn trauma-informed strategies to build trust, promote autonomy, and connect youth with supportive resources. Above all, we'll emphasize the power of consistency, compassion, and the simple but profound message: "I'm here. I believe you. You're not alone."

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3:45pm to 4:45pm
Arbor 1

Bringing Culture to Youth - 1 JS, CLE

Keisha Bailey, Facilitator, Omaha Tribe Reservation

Equine Assisted Prevention/Promotion Tribal Youth Program on the Omaha Tribe Reservation. Using equine assisted learning and activities with a blend of Umonhon cultural teachings to reduce negative behaviors and decisions made by native youth.

3:45pm to 4:45pm
Arbor 2

Bridge to Prosperity Refugee Mentoring - 1 JS, CLE

Patrick Kabula, Program Manager, International Council For Refugees and Immigrants

This session will explore effective strategies for mentoring refugee youth, focusing on creating pathways to success and long-term prosperity through mentorship programs tailored to immigrant and refugee communities.

3:45pm to 4:45pm
Hawthorne

Creating a Restorative Safe Place for Youth with Language and Learning Disabilities - 1 JS, CLE

Dr. Shameka Stewart, Esq., PhD, CCC-SLP/L, Associate Director/Associate Professor of Communication Sciences & Disorders, Juvenile Forensic Speech-Language Pathologist

This presentation will discuss the importance of recognizing and modifying restorative justice programs to accommodate cognitive and communication differences. This presentation will discuss how cognitive and communication disorders alter the awareness and success of restorative justice programs. The presentation will provide differences and key features stakeholders should account for when developing and implementing restorative justice programs for youth with varying learning and comprehension abilities.

3:45pm to 4:45pm
Olive Branch

Tipping Point: A different approach to working with gang involved youth - 1 JS, CLE

Matt Baker, Coordinator, Tipping Point, Lincoln Police Department

Darrell King, Coordinator, Tipping Point, Lincoln Police Department

How to work with Gang Involved youth in a meaningful, long lasting mentor based direction. What Tipping Point has found that works and what issues are we still trying to work on.

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8:30am to 9:30am
Arbor 1

SquareOne Youth Crisis Response: Supporting Youth and Families in Times of Crisis - 1 JS, SM, CLE

Ashley Chism, Crisis Services Director, CenterPointe

Amber Dirks, MS, LIMHP, LDAC, Senior Director of Community Response, CenterPointe

This presentation will introduce SquareOne Youth Crisis Response, a 24/7 crisis support service for youth and families in all 16 counties in the Region V catchment area, covering both urban and rural communities. We will explore how the program addresses urgent emotional, behavioral, and mental health challenges that often leave families feeling isolated or unsure of where to turn. Emphasizing the reduction of stigma, the presentation will highlight the use of compassionate, non-judgmental language, viewing crisis as a natural response to stress rather than a personal failing. Attendees will learn about the importance of early intervention, the tools SquareOne provides to empower youth in seeking help, and the trauma-informed care, safety planning, and community resource connections that foster stability and hope.

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8:30am to 9:30am
Arbor 2

Supporting Immigrant and Refugee Families: A Holistic Approach to Youth and Family Case Management - 1 JS, CLE

Samia Ahmed Abdel Mawla, Middle Eastern Community Advocate, Asian Community and Cultural Center
Lanetta Edison-Soe (Poe Poe), MSW, PLMHP, Health Education and Advocacy Manager, Karen
Community Advocate, Asian Community and Cultural Center
Nico Le, Youth Program Coordinator, Asian Community and Cultural Center
Lwe Ku Say, Karen Community Advocate, Asian Community and Cultural Center
Sabrina Salrin, Youth Program Coordinator, Asian Community and Cultural Center

The Asian Community & Cultural Center in Lincoln, Nebraska, serves immigrant and refugee communities through a range of programs, including a comprehensive Youth Program. Our approach is holistic, focusing not only on mentoring youth through in-school and after-school activities but also on supporting their families to create a strong foundation for success. In this panel, we will share insights into our mentoring and case management strategies and highlight real-world examples of collaborative efforts between staff and families that have made a meaningful impact.

8:30am to 9:30am
Hawthorne

It's Not A "Just" Disease - 1 JS, ABHS, CLE

Shari Strong, Founder, The Josh Place

In this session you will learn about the following as Shari shares her personal experiences:

- Unique Perspective of Challenges: You will gain insight into the daily challenges and emotional toll of living with an adult child with Schizophrenia, including managing crises.
- Community Support: How the lack of community support can hinder the family members from making good decisions.
- Moving Forward: Why isn't more done for clients after the hospital or 3-7 day stay?

8:30am to 9:30am
Olive Branch

Evidence-Based Nebraska: Evaluating the Effectiveness of the Juvenile Diversion Program in Your County - 1 JS, CLE

Anne Hobbs, JD, PhD, Director, Juvenile Justice Institute
Michele Lueders, MAM, Evidence Based-Nebraska Project, Juvenile Justice Institute
Monica Miles-Steffens, MPA, Assistant Director, Juvenile Justice Institute
Sadie Brewer, Research Assistant, Juvenile Justice Institute
Faith Hall, Research Assistant, Juvenile Justice Institute

The Evidence-Based Nebraska initiative is designed to support and evaluate programs through data-driven insights, implementation science, and collaborative learning. In this interactive session, participants will explore data from their County's Diversion Program and will seek to answer: Is my program effective at keeping youth from deeper involvement in the juvenile or adult justice systems? Attendees will examine critical performance indicators, such as enrollment rates, program completion, matching needs to services, and future system involvement. Participants will be encouraged to reflect on methods for increasing the effectiveness of their program. The session will also highlight how local programs can use this data to drive program improvement, advocate for resources, and ensure alignment with evidence-based practices.

9:45am to 10:45am
Arbor 1

Implementing Innovative and Creative Strategies in Diversion Programs Across the State - 1 JS, CLE

Jill Hahn, PhD, Director of Juvenile Diversion and Truancy, Johnson, Nemaha, Pawnee, Richardson Counties
Carrie Hastreiter, Juvenile Diversion Administrator, Platte Valley
Georgia Rogers, Youth Services Coordinator, Cheyenne, Kimball, and Deuel Counties
Meggie Studt, Director of Juvenile Diversion, Dodge County

This panel will highlight how various programs throughout the state are tailoring their approaches to ensure that each young person receives the help they need to thrive.

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9:45am to 10:45am
Arbor 2

Culture, Connection, and Care: Strengthening African Youth and Families Through Culturally Responsive Support - 1 JS, SM, CLE

Adama Sawadogo, Founder and Executive Director, African Immigrant Family Services (AIFS)

This interactive session will explore culturally grounded strategies to address behavioral challenges among immigrant & Refugee youth. Through real-life case studies, participants will examine how identity conflict, intergenerational tension, and unspoken trauma impact youth behavior. The session will highlight how African storytelling, proverbs, emotional regulation tools, and culturally responsive parenting practices can be used to strengthen youth development and family relationships. Participants will leave with practical tools to support youth and families through culturally affirming care.

9:45am to 10:45am
Hawthorne

Value Up - 1 JS, CLE

Mike Donahue, Founder, Value Up

In this workshop, you'll discover how student behavior is often a reflection of their self-belief. When students don't feel valuable, they don't act valuable—making negative behavior a signal of deeper internal struggles. By helping students build a stronger sense of self-worth, we increase their willingness to engage and succeed in the learning process.

9:45am to 10:45am
Olive Branch

Double-Edged Scroll: Understanding Social Media's Effect on Youth Mental Health - 1 JS, SM, CLE

Libby Matile Milkovich, MD, Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrician at Children's Mercy Kansas City

This presentation explores the complex and often contradictory effects of social media on youth mental health. Rather than framing social media as inherently good or bad, we examine how its influence is shaped by multiple interconnected levels: system-level structures (like policy and access), relational dynamics (such as peer and family interactions), digital media design (including algorithms and content types), and individual factors (like personality and coping skills). Through this multidimensional lens, we uncover how social media can both support well-being—by fostering connection, identity, and access to resources—and contribute to harm—through cyberbullying, comparison, and overuse. Attendees will gain a deeper understanding of how to navigate this digital landscape with empathy, awareness, and actionable strategies.

11:00am to 12:00pm
Arbor 1

A Multilevel Analysis of Diversion and Juvenile Recidivism in Nebraska - 1 JS, CLE

Navruz Shaw, PhD, Research Manager, Nebraska Crime Commission

This study is a cohort analysis that tracks post-adjudication outcomes for youth who were discharged from diversion programs in 2021. It examines recidivism rates over one-, two-, and three-year follow-up periods, providing insights into both short- and long-term reoffending patterns. The analysis accounts for individual-level demographic factors and community-level socioeconomic conditions. By using a multilevel framework, this study aims to identify key factors that contribute to reduced recidivism.

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11:00am to 12:00pm
Arbor 2

Fostering Partnerships between Schools and Families to Improve Academic Outcomes, Mental Well-being, and Beyond - 1 JS, SM, CLE

Duane Hagedorn, LMHP, LPC, Behavioral Health Therapist, Family Service Lincoln

Brianna Mumm, CMSW, LMHP, Assistant Director, Family Service Lincoln

Amber Pelan, Program Director, Saunders County Youth Services

Heather M. Sisel, MEd, LMHP, CPC, Behavioral Health Therapist, Family Service Lincoln

Deana Thuer, LCSW, LMHP, Behavioral Health Therapist, Family Service Lincoln

In this presentation and panel discussion, you will learn about how an intervention such as mental health therapy is making a huge impact in many schools in Lancaster and surrounding counties. Our experts will discuss how services are first initiated within the school, how funding is coordinated, and how we connect therapists with school staff. We will dive further into an agency, Family Service Lincoln, who has been providing this support in a school setting for 20 years. Our therapists will share how they connect with families, the school, and the community to provide wrap around services that improve not only the functioning of the student, but by extension the family and surrounding community. For families that need additional support, a grant-supported collaboration between in-home and school-based therapy services, designed to provide comprehensive mental health support for youth and families, will be detailed.

11:00am to 12:00pm
Hawthorne

Voices for Action: Empowering Youth Leadership - 1 JS, CLE

Stanford Bradley Jr., Associate Director of Teen Programs, Malone Community Center

Steve Solorio, Youth Program Manager, El Centro de las Américas

Na'Vaeh, Youth Advisory Council

Ava, Youth Advisory Council

Evet, Youth Advisory Council

Daniela, Youth Advisory Council

Ja'kyah, Youth Advisory Council

Join this dynamic youth-led panel featuring members of the Lincoln/Lancaster County Youth Advisory Committee as they share their personal journeys and insights gained from their involvement in the committee. These young leaders are using their voices to drive real change in their communities. Attendees will hear firsthand how youth engagement is shaping local policy, building advocacy skills, and finding effective solutions to issues affecting their systems. Come to be inspired, ask questions, and explore how youth leadership can be a powerful force for justice reform.

11:00am to 12:00pm
Olive Branch

Double-Edged Scroll: Understanding Social Media's Effect on Youth Mental Health - 1 JS, SM, CLE

Libby Matile Milkovich, MD, Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrician at Children's Mercy Kansas City

This presentation explores the complex and often contradictory effects of social media on youth mental health. Rather than framing social media as inherently good or bad, we examine how its influence is shaped by multiple interconnected levels: system-level structures (like policy and access), relational dynamics (such as peer and family interactions), digital media design (including algorithms and content types), and individual factors (like personality and coping skills). Through this multidimensional lens, we uncover how social media can both support well-being—by fostering connection, identity, and access to resources—and contribute to harm—through cyberbullying, comparison, and overuse. Attendees will gain a deeper understanding of how to navigate this digital landscape with empathy, awareness, and actionable strategies.

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1:15pm to 2:15pm
Arbor 1

Utilizing the RNR Model for Juvenile Offenders in Lancaster County - 1 JS, SM, CLE

Lesley Ahrens, Quality Assurance Coordinator, Lincoln Lancaster County Human Services
Christopher Reid, JD, Chief Deputy of the Juvenile Division, Lancaster County Attorney's Office
Caroline Steffensmeier, MS, Juvenile Diversion Caseworker, Lincoln Lancaster County Human Services
Laura Suhr, MS, Assessment Specialist, Lincoln Lancaster County Human Services

Lancaster County uses a Risk-Needs-Responsivity (RNR) model and tiered approach in assessing and diverting juvenile offenders. We will discuss the importance of utilizing a validated assessment tool, the process of referring youth to the most appropriate intervention and developing individualized diversion case plans. The speakers include the Assessment Specialist, Chief Deputy County Attorney of the Juvenile Division, and Diversion Case Workers.

1:15pm to 2:15pm
Arbor 2

Breaking Barriers: Empowering Professionals and Community to Overcome Systemic Trauma - 1 JS, SM, ABHS, CLE

christian bijoux, PhD, MPH, MBA, Deputy Director of Community Development and Enhancement, Georgetown University, McCourt School of Public Policy

Systemic trauma affects professionals and communities, creating barriers to success and well-being. In this interactive 60-minute virtual workshop, participants will explore the lasting impact of systemic trauma and learn practical strategies to encourage resilience and advocacy. Through guided discussion, real-world examples, and actionable tools, attendees will gain insights into overcoming institutional challenges, building supportive networks, and advancing meaningful change. Whether you are a parent, caregiver, or professional, this session will equip you with the skills to navigate and transform systems for long-term success.

1:15pm to 2:15pm
Hawthorne

Youth Voice in Advocacy and Juvenile Justice - 1 JS, CLE

Lincoln Arneal, Assistant Vice President of Policy and Leadership, Nebraska Children and Families Foundation
Nandi Kumondan, Young Adult Advocate
Karoline Yoder, Young Adult Advocate

Hear from several young people and their experience using their voice to make a difference in their community. We will learn what issues they are passionate about and how to involvement them in decisions. In addition, the panel will talk about what supports helped them transition from system involvement into adulthood.

1:15pm to 2:15pm
Olive Branch

Unified Impact: A Path Forward for Youth and Families - 1 JS, CLE

Roberta Miksch, Columbus Area United Way
Miranda Stoll, LIMHP, LADC, Reiki Master Practitioner, A New Beginning Coaching & Retreats
Kate Wythers, Community Prevention Director, Columbus Area United Way

This breakout group brings together key community partners to explore collaborative strategies that support youth and families through prevention, intervention, and long-term stability. Participants will engage in meaningful dialogue around shared goals, identify gaps in current services, and co-create a unified vision for impactful, sustainable change.

2025 Nebraska Community Aid & Juvenile Justice Conference | Program Descriptions

June 12, 2025

2:30pm to 3:30pm
Arbor 1

RYDE: Restorative Youth Dialogue & Engagement Program - 1 JS, CLE

Dan Bechtol, MA, Executive Director, Concord Mediation Center

Gwen Foxall, Restorative Justice & Restorative Practices Coordinator, Concord Mediation Center

This presentation will provide an overview of new curriculum-based programming that was created due to requests by local community stakeholders in response to identified skills needed for youth who are participating in diversion programming. The goal of programming is to support youth in learning how to better engage in conflict and apply learnings from the curriculum in real world situations reducing future formal system involvement. RYDE is a 12-Hour prevention-focused restorative practice curriculum for youth to build community and develop skills in growth mindset, emotional intelligence, and essentials of conflict engagement.

2:30pm to 3:30pm
Arbor 2

Breaking Barriers: Empowering Professionals and Community to Overcome Systemic Trauma - 1 JS, SM, ABHS, CLE

christian bijoux, PhD, MPH, MBA, Deputy Director of Community Development and Enhancement, Georgetown University, McCourt School of Public Policy

Systemic trauma affects professionals and communities, creating barriers to success and well-being. In this interactive 60-minute virtual workshop, participants will explore the lasting impact of systemic trauma and learn practical strategies to encourage resilience and advocacy. Through guided discussion, real-world examples, and actionable tools, attendees will gain insights into overcoming institutional challenges, building supportive networks, and advancing meaningful change. Whether you are a parent, caregiver, or professional, this session will equip you with the skills to navigate and transform systems for long-term success.

2:30pm to 3:30pm
Hawthorne

Enhancing Peer Capacity within School Environments: A Pilot Implementation of the Trauma-Informed Peer Advocate (TIPA) Program - 1 JS, CLE

Thang S. Tran, PhD, Assistant Professor, School Counseling Program Coordinator, University of Nebraska Omaha

This presentation introduces the Trauma-Informed Peer Advocate (TIPA) program—an innovative, school-based initiative designed to equip high school students with trauma-informed peer support skills. Grounded in the Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) framework, the program trains students in mental health literacy, a trauma-informed approach, basic counseling skills, crisis intervention, and multicultural and social justice advocacy. Preliminary outcomes from 23 participants showed improvements in school connectedness, self-esteem, and self-efficacy across key domains. TIPA highlights the potential of peer-based approaches to foster early mental health intervention and build inclusive, supportive school communities.

2:30pm to 3:30pm
Olive Branch

From Disconnection to Genuine Understanding - 1 ABHS, CLE

Miranda Stoll, LIMHP, LADC, Reiki Master Practitioner, A New Beginning Coaching & Retreats

This presentation explores the pervasive issue of disconnection in relationships and its impact on communication, empathy, and trust. Participants will learn to identify the barriers to genuine understanding, including emotional triggers, assumptions, and cultural or personal biases. Using evidence-based techniques and interactive activities, the session will teach strategies to foster deeper connections and mutual understanding in personal and professional relationships.

THANK YOU!

Thank you so much to our wonderful conference sponsors!
Please be sure to visit all our exhibitors in the Lower Level
Lobby on Wednesday or Thursday!

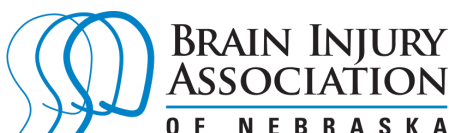
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