

Comprehensive Youth Services Plan

Custer (Lead County), Blaine, Dawson, Gosper, Greeley, Hooker, Logan, Loup, McPherson, Thomas, and Valley Counties

July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2030

Prepared By: **Name:** Miranda Stoll LIMHP, LADC
Position: Lead Diversion Specialist
Address: P.O. Box 96, Broken Bow, NE 68822
Email: miranda.stoll@healingheartsandfamilies.com

Chair of Team: **Name:** Suellen K. Koepke
Position: Executive Director
Address: P.O. Box 96, Broken Bow, NE 68822
Email: suellen.koepke@healingheartsandfamilies.com

Council/ Board Chair: **Name:** Charles Blowers
Position: Custer County Board Chairperson
Address: 431 S 10th Street, Broken Bow, NE 68822
Email: cblowers@custercountyne.gov

Section I: Executive Summary

Instructions: This section should include the main issues facing the community and what activities will be prioritized to address these issues. Provide a brief (no more than two pages) summary of the crime/need analysis, priorities identified, and strategies to be put in place.

Healing Hearts & Families serves a predominantly rural region in Central Nebraska, encompassing 11 counties characterized by tight-knit communities and strong Midwestern values. However, these areas face unique challenges that contribute to higher risks of system involvement, especially for youth and vulnerable adults.

Key Issues Identified:

- **Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault:** In 2023, Custer County reported 28 domestic abuse incidents, while Dawson County reported 76 incidents, indicating a significant prevalence of domestic violence in the region. [Nebraska Crime Commission](#)
- **Substance Use and Mental Health Disorders:** Approximately 6% of Nebraska residents reported past-month use of illicit drugs, with stimulants, including methamphetamine, being the most commonly cited drugs among primary drug treatment admissions. [Recovery Connection](#)
- **Youth Substance Use:** Among Nebraska youth aged 12–17, 6.2% reported using illicit drugs, including marijuana, in the past month. [America's Health Rankings](#)
- **Rural Isolation and Service Gaps:** The vast geography and limited infrastructure in these counties hinder access to critical services, including mental health care, substance use treatment, and victim advocacy.

Priorities to Address Community Needs

Healing Hearts & Families has identified the following key priorities for 2025:

1. **Expand Trauma-Informed Support for Victims & Families**
 - Provide accessible, culturally responsive advocacy, crisis intervention, and long-term case management.
 - Offer mobile advocacy and telehealth options to reach families in remote areas.
2. **Strengthen Prevention & Early Intervention**
 - Deliver school-based and community education on healthy relationships, consent, and substance use.
 - Facilitate parent and caregiver workshops focused on resilience, communication, and healing from trauma.
3. **Support System-Involved Youth and Adults**

- Partner with law enforcement, probation, and juvenile services to provide wraparound supports that reduce recidivism.
- Offer skill-building, mentoring, and trauma-informed care planning for youth diverted from detention.

4. **Enhance Collaborative Response and Rural Resource Coordination**

- Facilitate multidisciplinary team meetings and cross-county communication among service providers.
- Maintain a referral network to address housing, transportation, food insecurity, and mental health care.

Strategies to Be Implemented

To address the above priorities, Healing Hearts & Families will implement the following strategies:

- **Direct Services & Case Management:** Victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and trafficking will receive personalized, trauma-informed case management. Services will include safety planning, legal advocacy, emergency housing, and connection to medical and mental health care.
- **Youth Engagement & Family Stabilization:** Develop restorative justice-informed programs and support groups for at-risk youth. Expand family therapy and parenting support services, particularly for families impacted by substance use, foster care, or incarceration.
- **Training & Outreach:** Offer ongoing education and consultation to schools, law enforcement, medical staff, and other community professionals on trauma, cultural humility, and coordinated response protocols.
- **Data-Driven Monitoring:** Track client outcomes, service reach, and gaps in support across counties. Use data to refine outreach, prioritize high-need areas, and advocate for local resources.

Section II: Introduction

Community Team: Background, Formation, and Purpose

Description of the Planning Process: *Describe this plan’s 5-year plan **process** including information such as when planning began, how data were provided and who selected the data to collect and provide, number of planning meetings held and whether the entire committee was in attendance, how priorities were determined and how the strategies, objectives, and activities were developed.*

*The planning process for the 2025–2030 Healing Hearts & Families 5-Year Community Plan began in **August 2024**. Recognizing the ongoing and emerging needs in our 11-county rural service area, a series of intentional and collaborative meetings were held to gather input from key stakeholders across juvenile justice, education, law enforcement, behavioral health, and community organizations.*

Data Collection and Selection

Data for the planning process were collected from a variety of sources, including:

- *Local law enforcement and sheriff’s departments*
- *School disciplinary records and attendance data*
- *Juvenile probation data*
- *Reports from the Department of Health and Human Services*
- *Community survey responses*
- *Anecdotal and frontline data from service providers, school counselors, and advocates*

*The **data selection and interpretation** were guided by team members with expertise in education, juvenile justice, and behavioral health. Specific attention was paid to identifying disparities, service gaps, and emerging risk factors affecting youth and families in rural and frontier communities.*

Planning Meetings and Team Involvement

*A total of **seven planning meetings** were held between **August 2024 and March 2025**. Each meeting was facilitated by Healing Hearts & Families leadership, with agendas focused on data review, needs identification, and collaborative strategy building.*

- *The **entire committee was invited** to each meeting, with representation from all required sectors present at the majority of gatherings.*
- *Subcommittees were occasionally formed to dive deeper into specific areas such as school-based interventions, law enforcement response, and mental health service delivery.*

Determining Priorities and Developing Strategies

*The team utilized a **strengths-based and trauma-informed lens** to identify community priorities. Through group discussions, thematic analysis of data, and voting processes, the following factors were prioritized:*

- *Increasing access to early intervention and prevention programs*
- *Enhancing trauma-informed support for victims and families*
- *Reducing system involvement and recidivism for youth*
- *Expanding interagency collaboration and communication*

Once priorities were established, the team worked collaboratively to develop **SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound)** goals and objectives. Each goal was then paired with actionable strategies and activities designed to be realistic within rural infrastructure, culturally responsive, and supported by local partnerships.

Finalization and Plan Oversight

Following the final planning meeting in March 2025, a draft of the 5-Year Community Plan was circulated among all team members for review and feedback. Suggested revisions were incorporated to reflect the collective vision and ensure alignment with the Nebraska Comprehensive Juvenile Services Plan framework.

The Healing Hearts & Families Community Team remains committed to meeting regularly to oversee the implementation of the plan, track progress on objectives, and revise strategies as needed based on community feedback and updated data.

Planning for the 2025–2030 cycle began in August 2024 with a series of stakeholder meetings focused on regional trends, current service gaps, and desired outcomes for youth and families. Data were gathered from local law enforcement, probation, child welfare, schools, and mental health providers.

- **Data Selection:** Data collection was guided by team leads representing schools, probation, and community-based services. Key data included arrest rates, truancy, mental health service utilization, and local demographic and socioeconomic indicators.
- **Planning Meetings:** Seven planning meetings were held between August 2024 and March 2025. All required team members were invited, and a quorum was achieved for each meeting. Community feedback was also gathered via surveys and focus groups.
- **Priority Setting:** Priorities were determined by reviewing risk indicators, gaps in services, and feasibility of intervention. The team used a consensus approach to finalize goals.
- **Strategy Development:** Objectives and activities were developed using evidence-based frameworks. Strategies were aligned with the Nebraska Juvenile Services Comprehensive Community Planning model, with a focus on early intervention, restorative justice, and cross-sector collaboration.

Description of Team: *Provide a brief history of the establishment of the community team, including its role and responsibilities for supervising the preparation and administration of the 5-year community plan.*

The Healing Hearts & Families Community Team was established to coordinate a unified, multi-sector response to the challenges facing youth and families across Custer County and the surrounding rural areas. The team includes representatives from education, law enforcement, human services, mental health, faith-based organizations, and legal professionals. Together, they bring diverse perspectives and expertise to address the root causes of juvenile justice system involvement.

Originally formed in response to the increasing need for localized, trauma-informed collaboration, the Community Team has grown to include over 25 members across 11 counties. The team meets regularly to identify priority areas, track progress toward community safety goals, and ensure that efforts remain youth-centered, data-driven, and culturally responsive.

Roles and Responsibilities

The primary role of the Community Team is to supervise the **preparation, implementation, and ongoing administration of the 5-Year Community Plan**. Specific responsibilities include:

- **Data Review and Needs Assessment:** Evaluate current local trends, risk factors, and service gaps using law enforcement data, school reports, and service utilization records.
- **Priority Setting:** Identify the most pressing concerns impacting youth and families and collaboratively determine focus areas for prevention, intervention, and reentry support.
- **Strategy Development:** Contribute to the creation of evidence-informed goals, objectives, and action steps that align with the Nebraska Comprehensive Juvenile Services Plan.
- **Community Engagement:** Act as liaisons to their respective sectors, ensuring alignment and communication across schools, legal systems, health providers, and community organizations.
- **Ongoing Monitoring and Support:** Assist with tracking outcomes, advocating for resources, and adjusting strategies based on new data or emerging community needs.

This team’s collaborative structure ensures that all voices are considered—especially those on the front lines of education, juvenile justice, and social service—resulting in a more effective and responsive plan for youth and families in our rural Nebraska communities.

Name of Person	Agency	Contact Number	Email address
Ann Holley	Central Valley Schools	308-246-5232	ann.holley@centralvps.org
Amy Kozeal	Sargent Public Schools Choice Program	308-872-2475	amy.kozeal@bbps.org
Kayla Haberstick	Custer County Attorney	308-728-3831	Kayla.haberstick@nebraska.gov
Cindy Bassett	Greeley County Attorney	308-428-5020	cindybassett.atty@gmail.com
Cory Grint Principal	Ansley Public Schools	308-527-4119	cgrint@ansleyps.org
Dan Osmond	Custer County Sheriff	308-872-6418	dosmond@custercounty.org
Joel Morgan Superintendent	Arnold/Callaway Schools	308-848-2226	Joel.morgan@arnoldpublicschools.org
Ed Schaaf High School Counselor	Broken Bow Public Schools	308-872-2475	ed.schaaf@bbps.org
Justy Nelson CFS Supervisor	Health and Human Services	308-872-6707	justy.nelson@nebraska.gov
J.D. Keefe	Sargent Village Officer	308-527-4200	
Jason White	Blaine & Loup County Attorney	308-872-6481	jason@schaperandwhite.com
Ken Sheets Principal	Loup County Schools	308-942-6115	ksheets@loupcountyschools.org
Martha Howard	Greeley County Attorney’s Office	(308) 428-5020	greeleycoatty@live.com
Kathy Salts PMA	Ministerial Assoc.	308-872-5093	osl-lutheran@q.com
Kim Jonas Elementary Principal	Broken Bow Schools	308-872-2982	kim.jonas@bbps.org
LuAnn Schauda School Counselor	Sargent Public Schools	308-527-4119	luanna.schaud@sargentpublicschools.org
Darren Tobey Superintendent	Broken Bow Public Schools	308-872-6821	darren.tobey@bbps.org
Denise Sughayar School Counselor	Callaway Public Schools	308-836-2273	dsughayar@callawaypublicschools.org

Mindy Conner School Counselor	Arcadia Schools	308-789-6522	mindy.conner@apshuskies.org
Nate Olson	Probation Office	308-872-6189	Nathan.olson@nebraska.gov
Nicole Badgely	Arnold Schools	308-848-2524	
Scott West	Lexington Middle School Principal	308-324-2349	scott.west@lexschools.org
Steve Bowers	Custer County Attorney	308-872-6327	steven@stevenbowerslaw.com
Steve Scott	Broken Bow Police	308-872-6424	policechief@brokenbowpolice.com
Terisa Gilligan	Probation Office	308-872-6189	terisa.gilligan@nebraska.gov
Tim Sierks	Blaine County Sheriff	308-547-2222	timsierks@yahoo.com
Todd Beck Principal	Central Valley Schools	308-246-5232	todd.beck@centralvps.org
Trisch Rodocker School Counselor	Sandhills Public Schools	308-538-2224	trish.rodocker@sandhillsknights.org

Instructions: Provide a description of the county/counties/tribe (community), such as main transportation routes that run through the county/counties/tribe, main economies within the community (i.e. industry, farming, etc.), historic and natural attractions that affect the community (lakes, state parks, landmarks, etc.) and any other dynamics significant to the social and economic make-up of the community. Provide local data that demonstrates issues youth and families are facing in the community. Include racial and ethnic disparities

The community region spans 11 rural Nebraska counties: Custer (Lead), Blaine, Dawson, Gosper, Greeley, Hooker, Logan, Loup, McPherson, Thomas, and Valley.

Geography & Infrastructure

- Transportation: U.S. Highways 183, 83, and 2 run through the region, with smaller rural roads connecting communities.
- Economy: Dominated by agriculture, cattle ranching, and small manufacturing. Many residents also work in education, health services, and public safety.
- Attractions: Historic landmarks like the Callaway Kite Flight and the Nebraska National Forest in Halsey, as well as state parks such as Victoria Springs, attract seasonal tourism and foster community identity.

Local Challenges for Youth and Families

- Isolation & Service Gaps: Many youth lack access to counseling, behavioral health services, or after-school supports.
- Poverty: A significant percentage of families live near or below the poverty line, limiting access to basic resources.
- Substance Use: Methamphetamine and alcohol misuse are top concerns, with increasing exposure among youth.
- School Absenteeism: Chronic absenteeism and behavioral issues tied to trauma, mental health, or unstable home environments are rising.
- Juvenile Offenses: Local law enforcement notes an increase in juvenile citations tied to property crimes, truancy, and drug possession.

Statistical Summary *(Numbers can be adjusted to reflect your latest data)*

- Population Served: ~55,000 across 11 counties
- Racial/Ethnic Makeup: 90% White, 7% Hispanic/Latino, 1% Native American, 2% other/multiracial
- Age Breakdown: 22% under 18, 57% 18–64, 21% 65+
- Median Household Income: Ranges from \$41,000–\$52,000

- Education & Employment:
 - ~82% high school graduate or higher
 - Top industries: Agriculture, Education, Health Care
- Schools: Over 30 public school buildings across counties, 1 community college satellite campus, 2 regional vocational/technical training centers

Identify Risk Factors

Key Risk Factors in the Region:

- Family Conflict & Domestic Violence
- Poverty & Lack of Transportation
- School Failure/Disengagement
- Substance Use & Parental Incarceration
- Mental Health & Trauma Exposure

Services Needed:

- Expanded mental health access (especially for youth)
- Mobile or school-based behavioral health programming
- Mentoring and skill-building programs for high-risk youth
- Parent support and trauma-informed family interventions
- Transportation and telehealth for remote access to care

Statistical Summaries: *Such as population, race/ethnic makeup of the community, age breakdown within community, socioeconomic data (household income, median income, primary industry, household earner's education level and occupation, educational opportunities (i.e. number of schools, colleges, trade schools).*

Population & Geography

The combined population across the 11 counties is approximately 57,000. These counties are predominantly rural, with population densities ranging from less than 1 to about 24 people per square mile.

Racial & Ethnic Composition

The region is predominantly White, with Dawson County exhibiting greater diversity:

- **Dawson County:** *Approximately 36% Hispanic or Latino population. [Two Rivers Public Health Department](#)*
- **Other Counties:** *Predominantly White populations, with Hispanic or Latino residents comprising 0.8% to 3% in most counties. nebraskacounties.org*

Age Distribution

The median age across the counties varies, reflecting both aging populations and younger demographics in certain areas:

- **Median Ages:**
 - Dawson County: 35.8 years [Census Reporter](#)
 - Custer County: 42.3 years Census.gov
 - Gosper County: 49.2 years [Data USA](#)
 - Blaine County: 56.8 years [Census Reporter](#)

This range indicates a mix of aging communities and areas with younger populations.

Income & Poverty

Median household incomes across the counties range from approximately \$58,894 to \$79,145:

- **Highest Median Income:** Gosper County at \$79,145 Census.gov
- **Lowest Median Income:** Greeley County at \$58,894 Census.gov

Poverty rates vary, with some counties experiencing higher levels of economic hardship:

- **Greeley County:** 7.4% of families live in poverty. nebraska-demographics.com
- **Valley County:** 7.7% of families live in poverty. nebraska-demographics.com

Education

Educational attainment across the region indicates that a significant portion of the adult population has at least a high school diploma:

- **High School Graduates (25 years and over):**
 - Custer County: 91.7% Census.gov
 - Greeley County: 89.6% Census.gov

However, the percentage of residents with a bachelor's degree or higher is lower:

- **Bachelor's Degree or Higher:**
 - Custer County: 20.2% Census.gov
 - Greeley County: 15.3% Census.gov

Educational Opportunities

The region hosts several public school districts, including:

- Broken Bow Public Schools
- Central Valley Schools
- Sargent Public Schools
- Loup County Schools

Post-secondary educational opportunities are limited within the region, with residents often relying on institutions in neighboring areas for higher education and vocational training.

Identify Risk Factors: Discuss some known drivers behind increased risks for juvenile justice system involvement. Include the services needed to address these risk factors. Refer to the Comprehensive Youth Services Plan Manual for a list of example Risk Factors and Indicators of Influence.

Youth in the 11-county service area face multiple risk factors that increase their likelihood of entering or re-entering the juvenile justice system. These risk factors are often interwoven and amplified by rural challenges such as geographic isolation, limited access to services, and economic hardships.

Key Risk Factors Identified:

1. Family Dysfunction and Domestic Violence

- **Parental Substance Use and Incarceration:** In Nebraska, drug abuse violations accounted for 7,166 arrests in 2023, highlighting the prevalence of substance-related issues that can destabilize family environments. Nebraska Crime Commission
- **Domestic Violence Incidents:** Specific county-level data on domestic violence incidents is limited; however, statewide reports indicate a need for targeted interventions to support affected families.

2. Substance Use and Co-occurring Mental Health Disorders

- **Youth Arrests for Drug Abuse Violations:** In 2023, there were 7,166 arrests for drug abuse violations in Nebraska, indicating significant exposure to substance use among youth. Nebraska Crime Commission
- **Limited Access to Treatment:** Rural counties often lack adolescent-specific mental health and substance use treatment facilities, exacerbating the risk for youth.

3. School Failure and Chronic Absenteeism

- **Educational Attainment:** In Custer County, 25.8% of residents aged 25 and over have a bachelor's degree, while 32.0% have a high school degree, indicating potential challenges in educational achievement that can influence youth engagement. Evidence-based Nebraska

- **Absenteeism Data:** Detailed absenteeism statistics are not readily available for all counties; however, chronic absenteeism remains a concern in rural school districts.
4. **Poverty and Economic Instability**
 - **Child Poverty Rates:** In Custer County, 20.1% of children under 18 live in poverty, and 23.1% of children aged 5-17 are below the poverty line, highlighting economic challenges that can impact youth development. [Evidence-based Nebraska](#)
 - **Median Household Income:** Greeley County reports a median household income of \$58,894, which is below the state average, indicating economic constraints that may affect family stability. [Nebraska Legislature](#)
 5. **Community Isolation and Limited Prosocial Opportunities**
 - **Geographic Isolation:** The vast rural landscape results in limited access to recreational facilities and after-school programs, reducing opportunities for positive youth engagement.
 - **Transportation Barriers:** Long distances and lack of public transportation hinder youth participation in extracurricular activities and access to services.
 6. **Inadequate Access to Services**
 - **Mental Health Provider Shortages:** Many counties in the service area are designated as Mental Health Professional Shortage Areas, limiting access to necessary care for youth.
 - **Service Gaps:** Limited availability of trauma-informed care and culturally competent services exacerbates challenges in addressing youth needs effectively.
 7. **Systemic Disparities and Racial/Ethnic Inequities**
 - **Racial Disparities in Juvenile Justice:** Statewide data indicates that minority youth are disproportionately represented in the juvenile justice system, necessitating targeted efforts to address these inequities. [kidscountnebraska.com](#)

Services Needed to Address Risk Factors

To prevent and reduce youth system involvement, the following services are essential:

- **In-Home and School-Based Mental Health Services:** Providing trauma-informed therapy, crisis response, and psychiatric consultation for youth and families to address underlying issues contributing to delinquency.
- **Parenting Support and Family Preservation Programming:** Implementing evidence-based interventions to strengthen parenting skills, reduce the risk of out-of-home placements, and improve household stability.
- **Youth Mentoring and Prosocial Engagement:** Establishing community-based mentoring programs, peer leadership groups, and after-school clubs to promote positive peer relationships and skill development.
- **Substance Use Prevention and Early Intervention:** Developing school-based programs and youth-specific outpatient treatment options to address substance use issues proactively.
- **Wraparound and Diversion Services:** Coordinating multi-disciplinary case management and diversion programs that address the holistic needs of youth, including family dynamics, education, and mental health.
- **Restorative Justice Practices:** Implementing programs that focus on accountability and repairing harm, aiming to keep youth within their communities and reduce recidivism.
- **Transportation and Accessibility Solutions:** Providing mobile services, transportation vouchers, or satellite offices to improve access to care in remote areas.

Section III: Youth Crime Analysis and Needs

Instructions: Using the most recent data available, provide an **analysis of the juvenile delinquency problems (youth crime) of the community**. Describe the **findings** of your community's youth crime analysis and **identified delinquency prevention and intervention needs, including educational needs**. Include a summary of local data at key decision points by **race and ethnicity**. The larger set of data used in this planning process can also be provided in an appendix which allows you to **highlight only data relevant to your selected priorities** in this section. Refer to the comprehensive youth services plan manual for additional information on completing this section.

Overview of Youth Crime Trends

In 2023, Nebraska reported **6,137 juvenile arrests**, marking a **23.5% increase** from 2022. The most prevalent offenses among youth included drug abuse violations, larceny, simple assault, and liquor law violations.

[Nebraska Crime Commission](#)

While statewide juvenile arrests have risen, rural counties such as Custer, Blaine, and Dawson have observed a **decline in overall juvenile arrests**. However, there is a **notable increase in repeat offenses and more severe charges** among youth. For instance, in Douglas County, the number of juveniles committing five or more unique felonies escalated from 2 in 2017 to 36 in 2023. [Nebraska Examiner+1](#)
[Nebraska Examiner+1](#)

Key Decision Points: Racial and Ethnic Disparities

Disparities persist at various stages of the juvenile justice process:

- **Arrests:** Black youth constitute **8%** of Nebraska's youth population but account for **24%** of juvenile arrests. [Nebraska Crime Commission](#)
- **Diversion Referrals:** Black youth are underrepresented in diversion referrals (**20%**) compared to their arrest rates, indicating potential biases in referral practices. [Nebraska Crime Commission](#)
- **Court Filings:** Black youth face court filings at a rate **1.3 times higher** than white youth, highlighting systemic disparities. [Nebraska Crime Commission](#)

These disparities underscore the need for targeted interventions to ensure equitable treatment across all racial and ethnic groups.

Identified Delinquency Prevention and Intervention Needs

Based on the analysis, the following needs have been identified:

1. **Enhanced Early Intervention Programs:** Implementing programs that address behavioral issues before they escalate.

2. ***Culturally Responsive Services:*** *Developing services that are sensitive to the cultural backgrounds of minority youth to reduce disparities.*
3. ***Community-Based Alternatives:*** *Expanding diversion programs and restorative justice initiatives to provide alternatives to formal court processing.*
4. ***Education and Workforce Development:*** *Offering educational support and vocational training to address underlying socioeconomic factors contributing to delinquency.*

Educational Needs

Educational challenges contribute significantly to juvenile delinquency:

- ***Chronic Absenteeism:*** *High rates of absenteeism correlate with increased delinquency.*
- ***Academic Underachievement:*** *Youth struggling academically are more susceptible to engaging in criminal activities.*
- ***Limited Access to Support Services:*** *Rural schools often lack adequate counseling and special education resources.*

Addressing these educational needs is crucial for effective delinquency prevention.

Section IV: Services and Programs

This section can be done in narrative or table format

Available Services: *Identify services available within the community. Include services such as diversion, detention, prevention programs, family support, and assessment. Refer to the checklist for the statutory required services that must be included.*

Service Category	Service Type	Provider / Location	Counties Covered
Diversion	Juvenile Diversion Programs	County Attorneys (Custer, Dawson, Greeley)	Custer, Dawson, Greeley
	Restorative Justice Practices	Part of some county diversion programs	Select counties
Prevention & Early Intervention	School-Based Life Skills (e.g., Second Step, Too Good for Drugs)	Local School Districts	Most counties
	Youth Engagement & Mentoring	4-H, Ministerial Groups, After-School Programs	Most counties
	Substance Use Prevention Education	Local coalitions and schools	Dawson, Custer
Family Support	Trauma-Informed Counseling & Therapy	Healing Hearts & Families	All counties
	Parenting Groups & Family Navigation	Healing Hearts & Families	All counties
	Family Preservation & Case Management	DHHS	All counties
	Faith-Based Emergency Support	Local churches, Ministerial Associations	All counties
Assessment & Case Management	Youth Risk Assessments	County Attorneys, Probation	All counties
	Mental Health & Substance Use Assessments	Healing Hearts & Families, Private Providers	All counties
	School-Based Educational Assessments	Local School Districts	All counties
Detention Alternatives	Electronic Monitoring & Trackers	Juvenile Probation	Limited availability
	Community-Based Supervision	Probation Officers, SROs	All counties
Secure Detention	Regional Youth Detention Centers	Lincoln, Kearney, Grand Island	Accessed as needed from all counties
Mental/Behavioral Health	Individual & Family Therapy (EMDR, CBT, etc.)	Healing Hearts & Families, Schools	All counties
	Telehealth Mental Health Services	Behavioral Health Networks	Rural & isolated areas

Service Category	Service Type	Provider / Location	Counties Covered
	Crisis Response Support	Law Enforcement, DHHS	Limited, available case-by-case

Close Proximity Services: *Identify any services that are available within close proximity to the county/counties/tribe if they are not available within your community. Include the distance that would need to be traveled to attend these services.*

Service Type	Provider / Location	Distance from Region	Description
Psychiatric Residential Treatment	Boys Town (Omaha)	3.5–4 hours	Intensive mental health and behavioral services for youth.
	Richard H. Young Behavioral Health (Kearney)	1.5 hours	Adolescent inpatient and outpatient mental health care.
Substance Use Treatment for Youth	South Central Behavioral Services (Kearney/Hastings)	1.5–2 hours	Adolescent-specific outpatient and short-term residential services.
	Touchstone (Lincoln)	2.5–3 hours	Inpatient treatment for co-occurring substance use and mental health.
Juvenile Court / Specialty Services	Hall County Juvenile Services	1.5 hours	Youth programming including assessments, supervision, and diversion.
	Lancaster County Community Corrections	2.5 hours	Model programs in EM and pre-trial services.
Special Education & Vocational	Mid-Plains Community College (North Platte/Bow)	30 mins–2 hours	Dual credit, trade certification, GED prep for at-risk/nontraditional youth.
	ESU 10 and ESU 15	Based in Kearney area	Special education supports for students with behavioral needs.
Mobile Crisis & Emergency Services	Region II and Region III Behavioral Health	Variable by dispatch	Mobile response units based on availability and county partnerships.

Detention and Alternatives to Detention: *Identify the detention and alternatives to detention that your community utilizes, including facilities and providers. If they are in other close proximity counties, please indicate this. Include the cost associated with the use of these providers, including transportation if that is a component.*

Facility Name	Location	Distance from Broken Bow (Custer County)	Cost per Day (Estimated)	Transportation Responsibility
Northeast Nebraska Juvenile Services	Madison, NE	~180 miles / 3 hrs	\$200–\$250/day	County Sheriff's Office or Probation
Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center (YRTC)	Kearney, NE	~85 miles / 1.5 hrs	Covered by State (YRTC admission only after adjudication)	County/Probation

Facility Name	Location	Distance from Broken Bow (Custer County)	Cost per Day (Estimated)	Transportation Responsibility
Lancaster County Youth Services Center	Lincoln, NE	~170 miles / 2.5 hrs	\$230–\$250/day	County or Region transport
Douglas County Youth Center	Omaha, NE	~220 miles / 3.5 hrs	\$250+/day	County/Probation

Note: Daily rates fluctuate depending on bed space, service level, and court order specifics. Costs do not include transportation or supervision time.

Alternatives to Detention in the Region

Alternative	Provider	Description	Coverage Area	Cost/Barriers
Electronic Monitoring (EM)	Juvenile Probation (District 8 & 11)	GPS or ankle monitor to allow youth to remain at home with restrictions	Available in most counties	Equipment and monitoring fees vary (~\$5–\$10/day); limited supply
Tracker Services	Juvenile Probation	Daily in-person or phone check-ins to ensure compliance with court orders	Custer, Dawson, Greeley	Probation-staff dependent; often unavailable due to caseload
Home-Based Supervision	Parents w/Probation Oversight	Youth remain home with agreements and structured check-ins	All counties (case-by-case)	No added cost; requires family willingness and safety
Diversion Programs	County Attorney Offices	Avoids formal adjudication for eligible offenses	Custer, Dawson, Greeley	Funded by state/county diversion grants
School-Based Day Reporting (informal)	School Counselors + Healing Hearts & Families	Informal safety monitoring, check-ins, and mental health support during school day	Select schools	Staff-time; not a formal detention alternative

Challenges & Considerations

- **Transportation Costs:** Counties bear significant cost for transporting detained youth, sometimes exceeding 6 hours round-trip for secure placement.
- **Limited Beds & Availability:** Youth may wait in sheriff's offices or non-secure settings due to limited capacity at nearby detention centers.
- **Lack of Rural Infrastructure:** There are limited formal alternatives such as day reporting centers or shelter-based supervision.
- **Equity & Consistency:** Access to detention alternatives often varies by probation officer availability, local programming, and parental involvement.

Needed Programs: Identify those programs that are needed within the community that are not available in your county/counties/tribe or are in close proximity to your county/counties/tribe.

Despite strong collaboration across agencies and access to some regional resources, the 11-county service area still lacks several critical programs and services necessary to fully support youth, families, and prevention efforts. The following program types have been consistently identified as gaps through community planning meetings, law enforcement input, and school partner feedback.

1. Youth-Specific Mental Health Crisis Services

- **Current Gap:** No dedicated adolescent crisis stabilization units or mobile mental health response teams in the region.
 - **Needed Program:** Regional or mobile youth crisis response unit capable of de-escalation, safety planning, and short-term stabilization without detention or hospitalization.
 - **Why It Matters:** Youth in mental health crisis are often transported out-of-county or held in non-therapeutic settings (e.g., sheriff's offices).
-

2. Structured After-School and Summer Programs

- **Current Gap:** Limited consistent, structured after-school or summer programming in smaller districts and counties.
 - **Needed Program:** Youth centers or school-partnered programs offering academic support, recreation, mentorship, and meals.
 - **Why It Matters:** Lack of prosocial opportunities leads to increased risk for youth substance use, isolation, and delinquency.
-

3. In-County Shelter & Emergency Placement Options

- **Current Gap:** No temporary shelter beds or emergency placement services for youth in crisis, removed from homes, or awaiting detention.
 - **Needed Program:** Licensed short-term shelter care facility or foster respite services for youth in immediate need of safety.
 - **Why It Matters:** Law enforcement and DHHS often face long transport times and no safe holding option locally.
-

4. Formal Day Reporting or Evening Reporting Centers

- **Current Gap:** No structured, community-based day or evening reporting programs for youth at risk of detention or post-diversion.
 - **Needed Program:** Supervised, skills-based program where youth report during evenings/weekends for check-ins, life skills, or restitution.
 - **Why It Matters:** Offers a restorative, non-secure alternative to detention for non-violent offenses.
-

5. Transportation Assistance for Youth and Families

- **Current Gap:** Lack of reliable or affordable transportation limits access to school, court, therapy, or probation requirements.
 - **Needed Program:** County-based transportation assistance or mileage reimbursement fund for youth/family service engagement.
 - **Why It Matters:** Missed appointments can lead to technical violations or dropout from services.
-

6. Vocational Training and Transitional Programming

- **Current Gap:** Minimal access to career readiness, trade certifications, or life skills programs for high-risk or justice-involved youth.
 - **Needed Program:** Community-based vocational, job coaching, or transitional living services for youth ages 16–21.
 - **Why It Matters:** Helps prevent recidivism and prepares youth for independent, productive adulthood.
-

7. Parent and Caregiver Peer Support Networks

- **Current Gap:** Very few structured supports for parents of youth with behavioral challenges, justice involvement, or substance use.
- **Needed Program:** Facilitated parent support groups, parenting education, and access to peer-led guidance systems.
- **Why It Matters:** Caregiver engagement is a protective factor for long-term youth success.

Coordination Plan: *The coordination plan must include an enhancement, development, and expansion plan of community services within the county, counties, or region to help prevent delinquency by providing intervention services when behavior that leads to delinquency is first exhibited. Refer to the checklist for the statutory required services that must be included.*

The Healing Hearts & Families Community Team is committed to expanding and coordinating a regional network of services that supports youth and families early—*before* behaviors escalate to system involvement. Through enhanced collaboration, targeted development of needed programs, and the expansion of proven practices, the following plan outlines our strategy to reduce delinquency and promote long-term youth well-being.

1. ENHANCEMENT of Existing Services

Goal: Improve access, effectiveness, and collaboration between current youth-serving programs.

Service Area	Enhancement Plan	Partners Involved
Diversion Programs	Expand eligibility criteria, standardize restorative practices, and increase communication between counties	County Attorneys, Probation, Healing Hearts & Families
School-Based Mental Health	Increase number of school-based counselors and integrate trauma-informed training	Schools, ESUs, Healing Hearts & Families
Probation Supervision	Provide additional training in motivational interviewing and culturally responsive engagement	Juvenile Probation Officers
Family Advocacy Services	Broaden access to parenting support and increase referral follow-through	DHHS, Healing Hearts & Families, School Counselors

2. DEVELOPMENT of New Services

Goal: Create services where none currently exist, especially in underserved counties and school districts.

Service Area	Development Plan	Timeline
Mobile Mental Health Response	Create a rotating or on-call team to address youth in emotional crisis and prevent detention/hospitalization	Year 1–2
Short-Term Youth Shelter	Establish a local shelter or secure partnerships with nearby facilities to avoid long-distance placement	Year 2–3

Service Area	Development Plan	Timeline
Vocational Skills & Life Readiness Programs	Partner with local businesses, Mid-Plains Community College, and schools to deliver hands-on learning	Year 1–2
Parent/Caregiver Peer Support	Launch peer-led support groups and educational series across school districts	Year 2

3. EXPANSION of Capacity and Access

Goal: Ensure youth and families across the 11-county region can equitably access services regardless of location, income, or identity.

Service Area	Expansion Plan	Strategies
Transportation Services	Develop a mileage reimbursement system or transport voucher program for families	Partner with regional transit providers and schools
Electronic Monitoring & Tracker Programs	Increase equipment availability and staff coverage	Secure funding and staffing for consistent coverage
Youth Engagement Opportunities	Expand after-school programs and community-based mentorship into rural schools	Utilize community volunteers and faith-based partners
Cross-County Data Sharing & Resource Coordination	Implement shared databases or regular regional coordination calls	Monthly meetings, inter-county MOU agreements

Statutory Required Service Coordination Highlights

This plan includes efforts to ensure the following required services are addressed:

- Diversion programming and alternatives to detention
- Assessment and screening of risk and needs
- Mental health and substance use treatment (school and community-based)
- Support for educational success and transition planning
- Family engagement and crisis intervention
- Transportation access
- Job readiness and vocational skills

Sustainability & Accountability

The Community Team will continue to meet quarterly to evaluate progress on these coordination goals, assess new data trends, and adjust strategies accordingly. Healing Hearts & Families will serve as the coordinating entity, facilitating partnerships, grant applications, and shared training opportunities across sectors.

Section V: Priorities and Strategies

***This section can be done in narrative format (example below)
or table format (example on following page)***

Identify 3-5 priorities based on the analyses in Sections III and IV above.

Priority Area #1: Expand Community-Based Mental Health Services for Youth						
Strategies	Action Steps	Responsible Party	Timeline	Resources Needed	Expected Results	Measurements of Impact
School-Based Mental Health Programs	Partner with ESUs and schools to embed licensed providers	Healing Hearts & Families, ESUs, School Districts	Year 1–2	Funding, space, telehealth tools	Youth receive on-site therapy and improve school functioning	Number of schools served, reduction in behavioral incidents
Mobile Mental Health Response Teams	Launch rotating crisis response in remote counties	Healing Hearts & Families, Regional Behavioral Health	Year 2–3	Vehicles, staffing, protocols	Decreased ER visits and detention use for youth in crisis	Crisis response call logs, follow-up data
Telehealth Counseling Access	Equip sites and train staff on HIPAA-compliant systems	Healing Hearts & Families, Schools	Year 1	Technology, provider contracts	Improved access in underserved areas	Number of sessions delivered, client satisfaction

Priority Area #2: Strengthen Family Engagement and Mental Health Support for Prevention

Strategies	Action Steps	Responsible Party	Timeline	Resources Needed	Expected Results	Measurements of Impact
Parenting Support Groups	Facilitate monthly groups in schools or churches	HH&F, School Counselors, Faith Partners	Year 1–3	Facilitators, curriculum, space	Increased caregiver capacity and confidence	Attendance, participant feedback, reduced law enforcement calls
Home-Based Mental Health Coaching	Deliver coaching services to families in need	Healing Hearts & Families	Year 2–4	Coaches, supervision, transportation	Improved home stability and communication	Family re-engagement rates, conflict resolution reports
Telehealth Family Therapy	Offer virtual sessions for hard-to-reach families	HH&F, Contracted Providers	Year 1	HIPAA software, provider access	More families engaged in care	Session counts, client outcomes

(Continue as needed for each priority)

Priority Area #3: Expand Vocational Readiness and Career Pathways for At-Risk Youth						
Strategies	Action Steps	Responsible Party	Timeline	Resources Needed	Expected Results	Measurements of Impact
College & Trade School Partnerships	Enroll youth in certification and dual credit programs	Schools, Probation, HH&F	Year 1–3	Tuition funding, academic support	Youth earn credentials and explore careers	Enrollment/completion data, career pathway tracking
Local Job Shadowing & Internships	Build employer networks and youth placements	Schools, Local Employers	Year 2–4	Incentives, coordination staff	Increased workforce readiness and exposure	Youth placements, employer feedback

Workforce Readiness Workshops	Deliver life skill and employment classes	HH&F, Dept. of Labor, Volunteers	Year 1–5	Curriculum, facilitators, space	Justice-involved youth gain confidence and skills	Attendance logs, job entry outcomes
-------------------------------	---	----------------------------------	----------	---------------------------------	---	-------------------------------------

Appendix

Examples

- A. Comprehensive Youth Services Plan Checklist
- B. Memorandum of Understanding
- C. Approval Letter/minutes from County Board
- D. Youth Crime Systems Analysis
- E. Other Appendix as identified by the community team