

**Kearney, Phelps, Harlan
Comprehensive
Youth Services Plan
July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2030**

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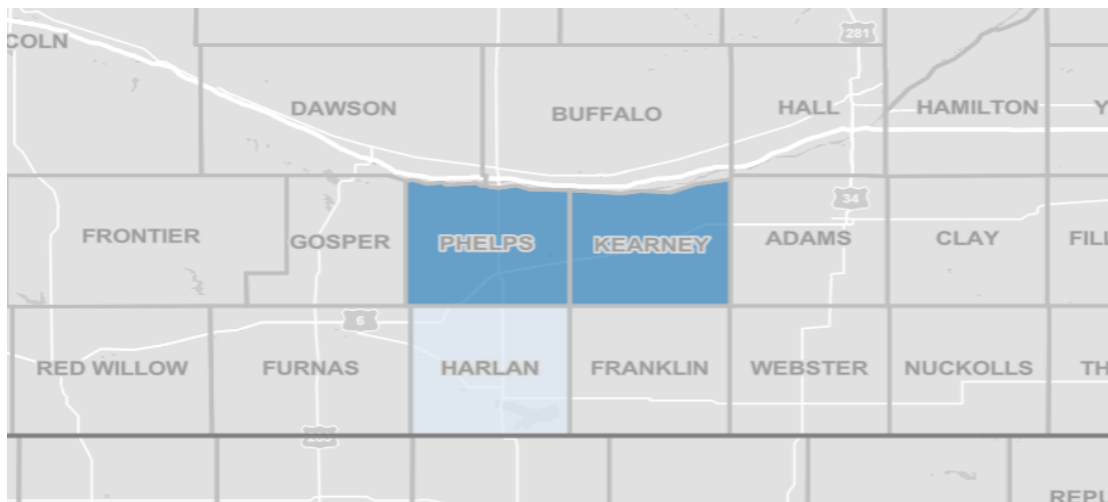
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**Kearney, Phelps, Harlan Counties
Comprehensive Juvenile Services Community Plan (2025-2030)**

Section I: Executive Summary

Kearney, Phelps, and Harlan counties make up 3 of the South-Central Nebraska regions included in this plan. Phelps County is the most populous out of the three sitting at 8,988. Kearney counties' population is 6,690 and Harlan Counties is 3,054. Harlan being smaller counties than others in Nebraska can have its limitations on time and transportation which may cause barriers to some youth and families when attempting to access the programs and services addressed in this document. Some of the services may be a 30–60-minute drive to the surrounding counties to attend those programs and services.



Throughout this document, the top priorities will be addressed in greater detail along with strategies that will be put in place of those priorities and analysis with data gathered to the crimes and needs in each community. The top 5 priorities are mental health treatment, pre-trial diversion for defiance of authority, criminal behaviors, and lack of concern for others, crisis intervention, family/life skills, and diversion services. Our team has discussed and come to the conclusion that these priorities are in fact our top 5 in the communities we serve. Our crime/need analysis has helped the team determine the strategies that will be used to help successfully address each priority stated. These strategies included alleviating financial and personal limitations, having a mental health provider available, and having access to yoga and meditation courses/classes for our mental health priority. Strategies being used for crisis intervention include also being able to alleviate financial barriers, available support services so families don't have to be put on a waitlist or be turned away, and urgent

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care/training for staff and families. For our family/life skills priority, our strategies include expanding access to parenting classes, having travel vouchers or virtual support to alleviate financial barriers, and expand access to life skills education classes for youth. Education needs is another one of our top priorities for our communities and the strategies discussed that'll be used are our Truancy program (TIP), utilizing central mediation services, and being able to provide referrals and information for additional resources and services families may need. Strategies that are included for our pretrial diversion for defiance of authority, criminal behaviors, and lack of concern for others are diversion itself and alleviating financial and personal limitations. Alleviating financial barriers is one of our top strategies used for most of our priorities.

Section II: Introduction

Community Team: Background, Formation, and Purpose

The Kearney, Phelps, Harlan Youth Services Team is an advisory committee that gathers and impacts the work done in all three counties. This team has for the first time been put together this year, 2024 and includes a variety of different agencies and roles with Kearney County being the lead county in a funding effort to serve juveniles ages 11 to 18 who become involved in the juvenile justice system. This group of people meet monthly to discuss new issues, agendas, etc. that surface in each community to be able to address each one and work together to improve those issues, agendas, etc. The monthly meetings address the need in all three counties and are aligned to ensure a common agenda, share data, ensure collaboration and coordinated efforts through evidence-based practices, and are supported by each community partner leadership involved. There will be many roles and responsibilities that are in place to supervise and administer the plan. Those roles include monitoring each priority and addressing additional issues that arise with each priority. By doing that we can prepare additional ways and services to provide as well as adjust our responsibilities to continue to improve our plan. To continue to improve the growth and services, we will meet every other quarter and yearly to discuss and evaluate the progress. At the end of the 5 years, we will determine what worked and what didn't to again improve for the following years to come.

The planning process was lengthy, but our team was brought together to create a plan that will benefit each county. The planning first began in May 2024 when we had our first meeting. This meeting was to meet everyone and explain what the plan can include and explain that it is not only used for the grant but for other community needs as well. We also discussed who could find certain data for the plan and answered any questions. Any other resources were brought up that could be beneficial for the program being created. From

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there not everyone was able to attend each meeting held but still had a good outcome the majority of the time. We ended up having a total of 6 meetings to discuss, gather, and analyze data found and presented for the plan. Priorities were determined by discussing what was missing in the past or needed improvement in each community. With smaller communities, there are many areas that could be improved or is a community need but our top 5 are mental health, pretrial diversion for defiance of authority, criminal behaviors, and lack of concern for others, crisis intervention, family/life skills, and school educational needs. Strategies, objectives, and activities were determined by services that are and in close proximity that can improve those priorities in all three counties.

LIST OF TEAM MEMBERS/CONTRIBUTORS

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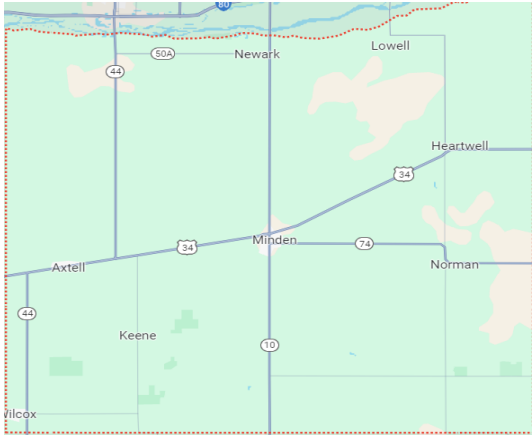
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COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION AND DEMOGRAPHICS

Kearney County

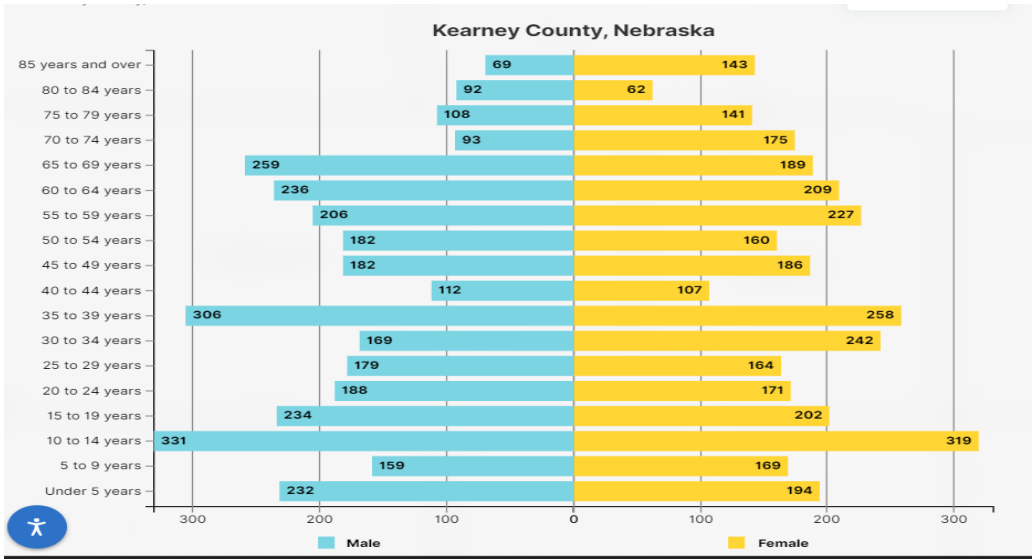
Kearney County is located in the south-central part of Nebraska and has a population of 6,690 as of 2023. It is a rural area made up of 5 towns within 516 square miles. The 5 towns include Axtell, Norman, Heartwell, Minden, and Wilcox. The county seat is Minden which was formed in 1860. The Public School District for Kearney County includes Axtell Community School, Minden Public Schools and Wilcox-Hildreth Public Schools. The main transportation routes that run through this county would be Highway 34, West to East from Axtell to Heartwell, Highway 10 North to South lead to Interstate 80, and Highway 74, West to East from Minden to Norman. Main economies within the community are health care and social assistance, agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting, and retail trade. Some historic and natural attractions to the community would be Pioneer Village, Minden Opera House, Ft. Kearney State Recreation Area, Rowe Sanctuary, and the community public swimming pools. Other attractions to the community may be the Minden Country Club and Jensen Memorial Library along with others that might draw in the public.

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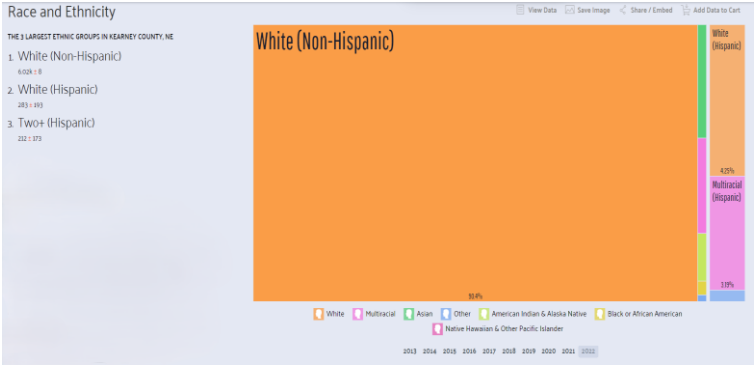
DEMOGRAPHICS

As mentioned before, the population of Kearney County is 6,690. The child population of 19 years old and under is 1,833 making up 27.4% of the county’s population.



As shown in the graph below, the racial profile of Kearney County is predominately Caucasian. The county is not as racially or ethnically diverse as the State of Nebraska. Caucasians account for 90.4% of the population in Kearney County and 83.55% statewide. In Kearney County, White(Hispanics) represent another one of the largest proportion of a racial group other than White(Non-Hispanic) with 4.25% followed by Multiracial(Hispanic) with 3.19%, Asians (0.75%), Multiracial(Non-Hispanics)(0.63%), American Indian and Alaska Native(0.32%), and Black or African American(0.090%). Overall, the minority population in Kearney County represents 8.48% of the population.

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Over 90% of Kearney County’s population 5 years and older speak English only. 100% of Heartwell’s residents speak only English, while 0% speak other languages. 95.94% of Axtell’s Residents speak only English, while 4.06% speak other languages. Spanish being 2.24% of what Axtell’s population speaks. Other Indo-European languages make up 1.82%. 100% of Norman’s residents speak only English, while 0% speaks other languages. 99.4% of Wilcox residents speak only English, while 0.6% speak Asian and Pacific Island languages. 91.17% of Minden Residents speak only English, while 8.33% speak Spanish.

SOCIOECONOMICS

The median household income in Kearney County at 74,276 which is below that for the state of Nebraska at 78,360. Households in Wilcox report the highest median income in the county sitting at 72,857 and Heartwell as the lowest sitting at 60,156. The primary industry in Kearney County is agriculture, with large scale grain elevators and sand extraction facilities as the main rural industrial uses.

The median family income in the county is 87,475. Norman is slightly more than the county median at 87,500. Wilcox is a few thousand more sitting at 91,250 for the median family income and Axtell is not far off sitting at 75,417. Heartwell families earn the lowest median income at 49,375.

The per capita income for Kearney County residents is 37,233. Norman is the only community that the per capita income is slightly higher than the county overall with 37,375. Axtell, Wilcox, and Minden are all three just below the county average at 36,758, 35,098, and 33,580. Heartwell residents have the lowest per capita income at 22,328.

Median Median Per Median Earnings Full-Time

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Household Income	Family Income	Capita Income	Year Round Workers Male	Female
74,276	87,475	37,233	51,425	32,917

The proportion of families in Kearney County living below the poverty level overall is 9.46% and is slightly lower than the proportion statewide sitting at 10.4%. The national average is 12.5% which is approximately 3% higher than Kearney County. Children under the age of 18 that live in poverty is 15.5% of the population. The percentage of children ages 5-17 that are below the poverty line is 16.5% while 83.5% are above the poverty line.

HOUSEHOLDS AND HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

There are 2,683 households in Kearney County. 55.3% are married couples. Female householders are at 23.6% and male householders sit at 15.1%.

TRANSPORTATION ROUTES

The Northern border of the county runs parallel to Interstate 80. There is also a major highway running west to east and that is Highway 34 and North to South is Highway 10.



SCHOOLS

Overall, there are 5 public schools in Kearney County. There is one public school in Axtell, and it is PK-12 with 344 students and growing. Axtell Community School is also a Class D school. Minden has 3 public schools. Minden East Elementary School, C.L. Jones Middle School, and Minden High School. Minden High School has 264 students in grades 9-12 and is a Class C-1 school. C.L. Jones Middle School has 324 students in grades 4-8. Minden East Elementary School has 232 students in grades PK and K-3. The 5th school is Wilcox-Hildreth Public School and it is PK, K-12. They are also moving up to a Class D2 school for athletics. There are no Colleges in the area of Kearney County however, the neighboring County of Buffalo County has two colleges, University of Nebraska at Kearney and Central Community College.

ATTRACTIONS

Minden Opera House was built in 1891 and is a historical tribute to area arts and culture. It since then has been renovated in 1999-2000 to serve as an attractive community center for theatrical productions, concerts, art shows, and much more. Pioneer Village is the largest private collection of Americana anywhere! It complex comprises 28 buildings on 20 acres that have over 50,000 irreplaceable items of



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historical value. These items have also been restored to operating order. And of course, the Sandhill Cranes are present every spring which brings in visitors from all over. Almost 500,000 sandhill cranes(90% of of the world’s population of the birds) migrate through the region. Rowe Sanctuary offers guided trips to view the sandhill cranes from observation blinds on the banks of the Platte River.

Minden is a very special place to be at Christmas time. Since 1915, the glowing County Courthouse has been beaming with colored lights to celebrate the season as shown in the picture. Annually on the Courthouse square, Minden’s “Light of the World” Christmas pageant has been a tradition for over 60 years. During this, the lighting has over 10,000 Christmas lights around the square.

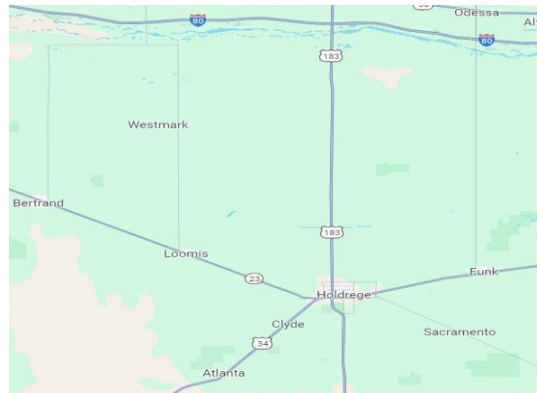


Just like any county, there are some known drivers behind increased risks for juevnile justice system involvement. A few that the team discussed are listed in the table below.

Risk Factors	Services Needed
<i>Community Risk Factors:</i>	
Mental Health	Mental health treamtment, onsite counseling, resources for additional mental health needs.
Availability of Alcohol and Drugs	Drug and alcohol courses, AA meetings, drug/alcohol interventions
Community Crime	MIP diversion, Pretrial Diversion
<i>School Risk Factors:</i>	
Negative Attitude Towards School	Central Mediation, Truancy Intervention program (TIP)
Academic Failure	Truancy intervention program (TIP)
Truancy	Truancy Intervention program (TIP)
<i>Family Risk Factors:</i>	
Family Management Problems	Compass, Region 3, Family support
Child Victimization and Maltreatment	Family support, Family Counseling, Family intervention programs
<i>Peer Risk Factors:</i>	
Peer Alcohol, Drug Use, and Delinquency	Drug/alcohol classes, AA meetings, coping/healing classes

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Phelps County

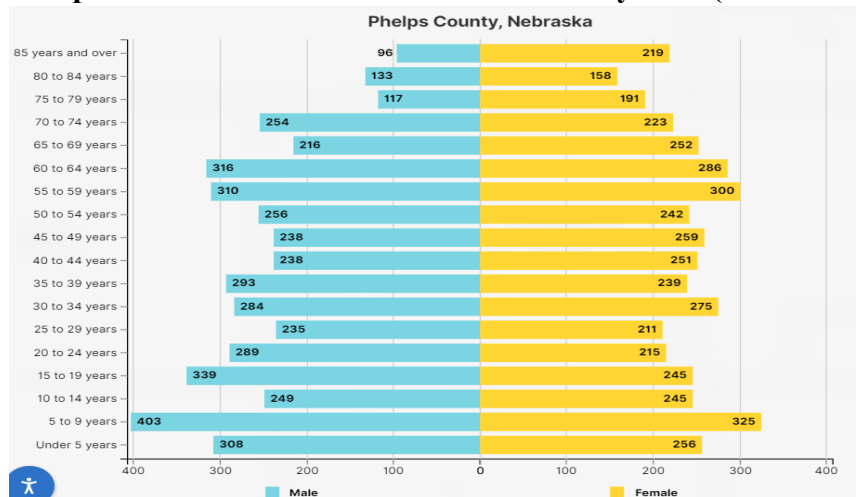
Phelps County is also located in the south-central part of Nebraska and has a population of 8,988 in 2023(58% urban, 42% rural). It is a rural area made up of 5 towns within 540 square miles. The 5 towns include Atlanta, Bertrand, Funk, Holdrege, and Loomis. Its county seat is Holdrege which was formed in 1873. The Public School District of Phelps County includes Bertrand Public Schools, Holdrege Public Schools, Educational Service Unit 11, and Loomis Public Schools. The main transportation routes that run through this county would be Highway 23 from Bertrand to Holdrege and Highway 34 from Atlanta to Funk. Another main route is Highway 183 North to South that runs up North to Interstate 80. Main economies within the community are health care and social assistance, manufacturing, and educational services. Some historic and natural attractions are Nebraska Prairie Museum, Fine and Performing Arts, Park, Wildlife Viewing, and Eagle Viewing.



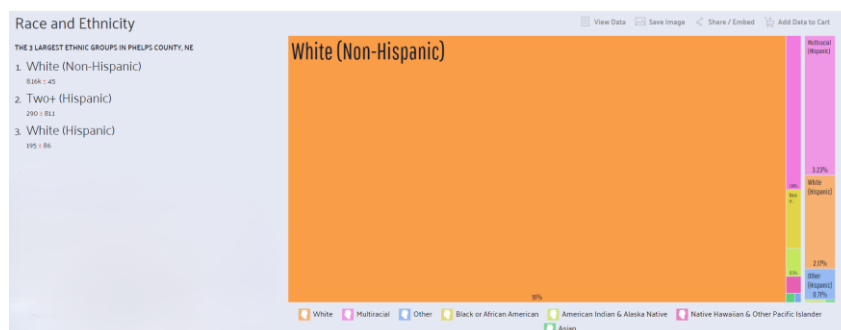
DEMOGRAPHICS

As mentioned before, the population of Phelps County is 8,988. The child population of 19 years old and under is 2,358 making up 24% of the county's population.

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As shown in the graph below, the racial profile of Phelps County is predominately Caucasian. The county is not as racially or ethnically diverse as the state of Nebraska. Caucasians account for 93.14% of the population in Phelps county and 83.55% statewide. In Phelps County, two or more races (Hispanics) represent another one the largest proportions of a racial group with 4.87% followed by other race at 0.76%, Black and African American (0.62%), Native American (0.35%), Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (0.18%), and lastly Asian (0.08%). Overall, the minority population in Phelps County represents 6.86% of the population.



Over 90% of Phelps County's population 5 years and older speak English only. 4.42% speak other languages. The largest group of a non-English language spoken would be Spanish and that is spoken by 3.44% of Phelps County's population. 93.8% of Holdrege residents speak only English and 6.2% speak other languages. Again, with Holdrege residents, Spanish is the next largest at 4.94% of the population. Atlanta residents that speak only English are 99.11% of their population. Then the next largest language spoken is Spanish at 0.89%. The percent of Bertrand's residents that speak only English is 97.03% and the next language spoken is Spanish at 2.03%. 96.35% of Loomis residents speak only English and 3.65% speak other languages. Out of the 3.65% speaking

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other languages, the largest is Spanish at 3.09% of the population. Lastly, 98.71% of Funk residents speak only English. 1.29% speak other languages being Spanish.

SOCIOECONOMICS

The median household income in Phelps County is 65,114 which is below that for the state of Nebraska at 69,597. Households in Funk report the highest median income in the county at 99,375 and Holdrege is the lowest at 58,375. The primary industry in Phelps County is the same as Kearney county which is agriculture.

The median family income in the county is 91,111. Bertrand is a few thousand more than the county median at 94,688 but Funk is over 10,000 more than the county median at 104,167. The next highest for family median income would be Holdrege at 87,143 followed by Atlanta with 10,000 less at 77,250. The lowest family median income comes from Loomis at 69,583.

The per capita income for Phelps County residents is 38,930. Holdrege is the only community with the per capita income that is slightly higher than the county overall with 39,394. Funk, Bertrand, and Atlanta are all three just below the county average at 35,130, 32,866, and 34,347. Loomis residents have the lowest per capita income at 28,971.

Median Household Income	Median Family Income	Per Capita Income	Median Earnings Full-Time Year Round Workers	
			Male	Female
65,114	91,111	38,930	48,750	37,446

The proportion of families in Phelps County living below the poverty level overall is 14.5% and is higher than the proportion statewide as mentioned before at 10.4%. The national average of 12.5% which is approximately 2.0% less than Phelps County. Children under the age of 18 that live in poverty are 13.3% of the population. The percentage of children aged 5-17 that are below the poverty line is 10.9% and percentage of children above the poverty line ages 5-17 is 89.1%.

HOUSEHOLDS AND HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

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There are a total of 3,805 households in Phelps County. Married couples in Phelps County are 50.4%. Female householders are at 21.2% while male householders are at 20.4%. Residents in Phelps County 25 years and older with a bachelor's degree is 26.7% and ones who have a High School Degree are 27.0%. Population of 3 years old and over that are enrolled in school is 3.6% for Nursery school and preschool, 83.4% for kindergarten to 12th grade, 10.1% for college, undergraduate, and 2.9% for graduate professional school. The top occupation in Phelps County is Management Occupations at 11.5% or the work population. Office and Administrative Support is the next highest at 10.4% and Construction and Extraction Occupations at 9.38%.

TRANSPORTATION ROUTES

The Northern border of Phelps County, just like Kearney County, runs parallel to Interstate 80. There is a major highway running west to east and that is Highway 23 that then becomes Highway 34. Another major highway is North to South and is Highway 183.

SCHOOLS

Overall, there are 8 public schools in Phelps County. There are two public ones in Bertrand, Bertrand Elementary School and Bertrand High School. Bertrand Elementary School is a public school that has 122 students in grades PK, K-6. Bertrand High School has 121 students in grades 7-12 and is unranked in class. There are also two public schools in Loomis, Loomis Elementary School and Loomis Secondary School. Loomis Elementary School has 160 students in grades PK, K-6. Loomis Secondary School has 118 students in grades 7-12. Holdrege on the other hand has 4 public schools. There are two elementary schools which are Holdrege Elementary School and Holdrege Public Schools Early Childhood Education Center. Holdrege Elementary School has 358 students in grades PK, K-4 while Holdrege Public Schools Early Childhood Education Center has 47 students and is for Pre-K kids ages starting at 4. Holdrege Middle School is an above average public school that has 306 students in grades 5-8. Holdrege High School has 303 students in grades 9-12 and is a Class B school. As mentioned before for Kearney County, there are no Colleges in the area of Phelps County however, the neighboring County of Buffalo County has two colleges, University of Nebraska at Kearney and Central Community College.

ATTRACTIONS



The Nebraska Prairie Museum features a broad collection of history that includes home and business period rooms, numerous collections and antique cars, and farm machinery and tools used. There is detailed display memorabilia of the original WWII American POW Camp Atlanta which is located near Atlanta. Take a tour of the bronze

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sculptures that are in Phelps County. If you enjoy birdwatching, the Funk Waterfowl Protection Area is the place to go. It is one of the richest bird watching regions of the Country. There are as many as 300 different species of birds that can be found in habitats throughout Phelps County during the spring and fall migration. Another place to check out wildlife is Lake Seldom which is located on the south edge of Holdrege, adjacent to Highway 183. North Park in Holdrege is another great family attraction in Phelps County. There you can enjoy fishing or just a casual walk around the park's trail. There are playground facilities for children, tennis courts, and lots of open green space to do other activities in the sun.



Just like any county, there are some known drivers behind increased risks for juvenile justice system involvement. A few that the team discussed are listed in the table below.

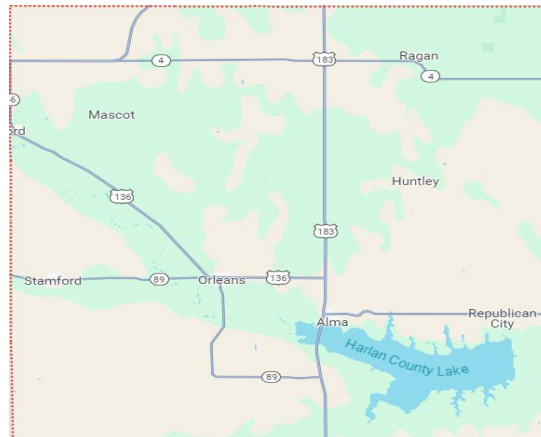
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<i>Community Risk Factors:</i>	
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Availability of Alcohol and Drugs	Drug and alcohol courses, AA meetings, drug/alcohol interventions
Community Crime	MIP diversion, Pretrial Diversion
<i>School Risk Factors:</i>	
Negative Attitude Towards School	Central Mediation, Truancy Intervention program (TIP)
Academic Failure	Truancy intervention program (TIP)
Truancy	Truancy Intervention program (TIP)
<i>Family Risk Factors:</i>	
Family Management Problems	Compass, Region 3, Family support
Child Victimization and Maltreatment	Family support, Family Counseling, Family intervention programs
<i>Peer Risk Factors:</i>	
Peer Alcohol, Drug Use, and Delinquency	Drug/alcohol classes, AA meetings, coping/healing classes

Harlan County

Harlan County is our third county that is part of south-central Nebraska and has a population of 3,054 in 2023. It is a rural area made up of 6 towns within 574 square miles. The 6 towns include Alma, Republican City, Orleans, Stamford, Ragan, and Huntley. Its county seat is Alma, and the county was founded in 1871. The

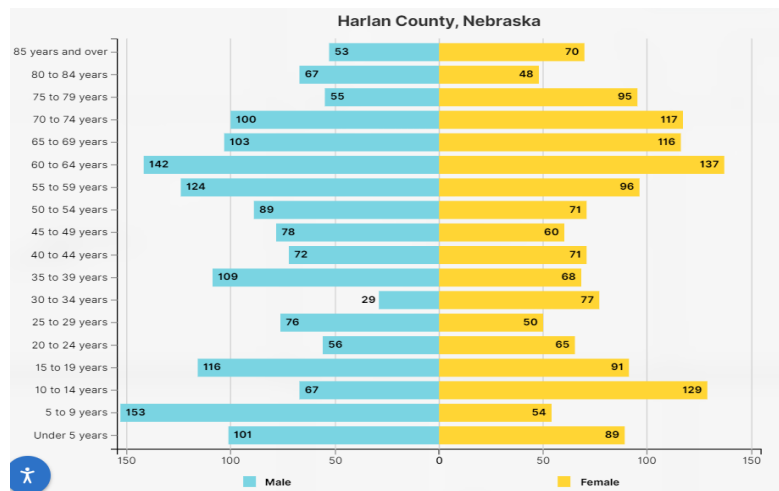
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Public School District of Harlan County is Alma Public Schools. The main transportation routes that run through this county are Highway 183 North to South that runs up North to Interstate 80, Highway 4 that runs West to East to Ragan, Highway 89 into 136 West to East from Stamford to Orleans to Alma to Republican City. Main economies within the community are agriculture, fishing and hunting, health care and social assistance and education services. Some historic and natural attractions are Harlan County Lake being the largest one, Alma Municipal Golf Course, and other café, stores and shops.



DEMOGRAPHICS

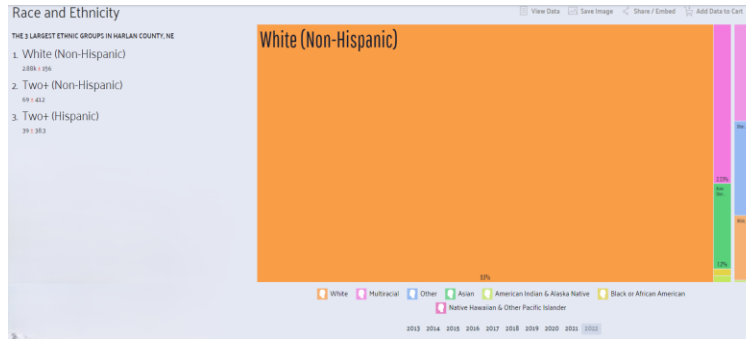
As mentioned before, the population of Harlan County is 3,054. The child population of 19 year old and under is 697 making up 22.9% of the county's population.



As shown in the graph below, the racial profile of Harlan County is predominately Caucasian. The county is not as racially or ethnically diverse as the state of Nebraska. Caucasians account for 93.0% of the population in Harlan County and 83.55% statewide. In Harlan County, two or more races(Non-Hispanics) represent another

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one of the largest proportions of a racial group with 2.23% followed by two or more races(Hispanics) at 1.26%, other(Hispanics) at 1.23%, Asian(Non-Hispanics) at 1.2%, White(Hispanics) at 0.84%, and Black and African American and American Indian and Alaska Native at 0.097%. Overall, the minority population in Harlan County represents 6.86% of Harlan County's population.



Again, over 90% of Harlan County's population 5 years and older speak English only. 3.93% speak other languages. Spanish is the non-English language spoken by the largest group which is 2.41% of the population. 98.63% of Alma residents speak English only and 1.37% speak other languages. The next language spoken by the largest group is Spanish at 0.68%. 100% of Republican City residents speak only English and 0.0% speak another language. 97.18% of Orleans residents speak only English and 2.82% speak another language which is Spanish. 94.15% of Stamford residents speak only English and 5.85% speak another language. That language being Spanish. Residents in Ragan that speak only English accounts for 100% of the population in Ragan itself. No other languages are spoken. Huntley is like Ragan with 100% of the residents speak only English and no other languages.

SOCIOECONOMICS

The median household income in Harlan County is 64,583 which is also below that for the state of Nebraska at 69,597. Households in Stamford report the lowest median income at 38,125 and Orleans reports the highest median income at 63,438. There is no data on median income for the Village of Ragan and Huntley that are in Harlan County. The primary industries in Harlan County include agriculture, fishing, hunting, health care and social assistance, and educational services. However, the highest paying industries are transportation and warehousing, utilities, and wholesale trade.

The median family income in the county is 89,653. Orleans has a median family income of 97,500 almost 10,000 more than the county itself. The next highest is Alma with 85,208 as the median family income.

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Stamford is the next highest median family income at 65,000 followed by Republican City at 53,750. Again for these stats there is no data for Ragan and Huntley.

The per capita income for Harlan County residents is 38,129. Ragan and Huntley are the only two in the community where the per capita income is higher than the county overall with 51,814 and 45,000. The lowest per capita income for Harlan County would be Stamford sitting at 21,556. Republican City is a few thousand more than Stamford at 25,622. Orleans per capita income is at 34,088 followed by 36,123.

Median Household Income	Median Family Income	Per Capita Income	Median Earnings Full-Time Year Round Workers	
			Male	Female
64,583	89,653	38,129	50,781	34,318

The proportion of families living in Harlan County living below the poverty level overall is 24.9%. is much higher than the proportion statewide as mentioned at 10.4%. Children under the age of 18 that live in poverty is 13.3% of the population. The percentage of children ages 5-17 that are below the poverty line is 5.4% and percent of children above the poverty line ages 5-17 is 94.6%.

HOUSEHOLDS AND HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

There are a total of 1,221 households in Harlan County. Married couples in Harlan County in percentage is 71%. Female householders are at 5% while male householders are at 7%. Residents in Harlan County 25 years and older with a bachelor's degree is 17.4% and ones who have a High School degree is 28.5%. The population of 3 years old and over that are enrolled in Nursery school and preschool is 8.6%, 79.8% for kindergarten to 12th grade, 7.7% for college, undergraduate, and 3.8% for graduate professional school. The top occupation in Harlan County is the same as Phelps County, Management occupations at 13.4% as well as sales and related occupations also at 13.4%. The next highest is office and administrative support occupations at 9.08%, then Education instruction, and library occupations at 7.2%.

TRANSPORTATION ROUTES

There is a major highway running North to South and that is Highway 183 that also runs through Phelps County. Highway 126 is the main highway from Alma to Republican City. Highway 89 runs East to West through Orleans and Stamford.

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SCHOOLS

Overall, there are 2 public schools in Harlan County, Alma Elementary School and Alma High School. Alma Elementary School has 192 students in grades PK, K-6. Alma High School has 167 students in grades 7-12 and is a class C2/D1 school. Again, as mentioned before, there are no Colleges in the area of Harlan County however, Kearney is about 1 hour away at 59.4 miles with the University of Nebraska at Kearney and Central Community College.

ATTRACTIONS



One of the top things to do and enjoy in Harlan County would be the Harlan County Reservoir that includes boating, kayaking, swimming, parasailing, skiing, wakeboarding, tubing, playing on the are playgrounds, and enjoying food and drinks at the local marinas and bars. There is also ATV and Jeep trains that are along the

Republican River and Cedar Run ATV trail. There is an outstanding collection of campgrounds throughout the county. There is riverside camping on the Republican River that has full hook-ups and the amenities of town in the campgrounds in Orlean or Republican City. Fishing and hunting is another attraction in the county, there are guided hunts in the area along with fishing excursions with the local experts. Along with fishing and hunting there are many migrating birds who take rest and refuge in Harlan County. Different kinds of species to look out for are American Bald Eagles, American White Pelican, Sandhill Cranes, and many others. The best time for this would be early March through mid-April. Then of course the town of Alma is a must when visiting due to the many different shops, restaurants, and unique library and park. The swimming pool and golf course are also worth visiting.

Just like any county, there are some known drivers behind increased risks for juevnile justice system involvement. A few that the team discussed are listed in the table below.

Risk Factors	Services Needed
<i>Community Risk Factors:</i>	
Mental Health	Mental health treamtment, onsite counseling, resources for additional mental health needs.
Availability of Alcohol and Drugs	Drug and alcohol courses, AA meetings, drug/alcohol interventions
Community Crime	MIP diversion, Pretrial Diversion
<i>School Risk Factors:</i>	
Negative Attitude Towards School	Central Mediation, Truancy Intervention program (TIP)
Academic Failure	Truancy intervention program (TIP)
Truancy	Truancy Intervention program (TIP)

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<i>Family Risk Factors:</i>	
Family Management Problems	Compass, Region 3, Family support
Child Victimization and Maltreatment	Family support, Family Counseling, Family intervention programs
<i>Peer Risk Factors:</i>	
Peer Alcohol, Drug Use, and Delinquency	Drug/alcohol classes, AA meetings, coping/healing classes

Section III: Youth Crime Analysis and Needs

Below is a brief summary of Bureau of Sociological Research for UNL (Level NRPFS Data)

Youth Level:

Table 1. Kearney County Substance Use and Attitudes and Perceptions by Grade (2023)

University of Nebraska-Lincoln Bureau of Sociological Research

		8 th	10 th	12 th
Kearney	Lifetime Alcohol Use	33.3%	45.7%	52.2%
Phelps		30.0%	33.8%	46.9%
Kearney	Current Alcohol Use	19.0%	20.0%	25.4%
Phelps		0.0%	9.2%	22.4%
Kearney	Current Binge Drinking	4.8%	8.6%	7.5%
Phelps		0.0%	3.1%	10.2%
Kearney	Lifetime Tobacco Use	4.8%	17.1%	16.4%
Phelps		10.0%	4.6%	16.3%
Kearney	Current Tobacco Use	0.0%	5.7%	7.5%
Phelps		0.0%	4.6%	6.1%
Kearney	Lifetime Electronic Vapor Use	0.0%	24.3%	28.4%
Phelps		25.0%	21.5%	35.3%
Kearney	Other Drug Use	19.8%	30.0%	53.8%
Phelps		35.0%	20.0%	53.3%

*No data available for Harlan County

Table 2. Percentage Reporting Drinking alcohol to Increase Effect of Some Other Drug, Among Students who Reported Drinking in the past 30 days*, 2023

		8 th	10 th	12 th
Kearney	<i>Among All Students</i> Did not Drink Alcohol	95.2%	77.1%	74.6%
Phelps		95.0%	83.1%	77.6%
Kearney	<i>Among All Students</i> Drank Alcohol to increase Drug effects	0.0%	1.4%	1.5%

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Phelps		0.0%	3.1%	4.1%
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*No data available for Harlan County

Table 3. How Soon They Wanted to Use Tobacco Products, E-cigarette, or Vaping Device after waking up, Among Students who Reported Using Tobacco Products 2023

		8 th	10 th	12 th
Kearney	Not Using Tobacco	95.2%	92.9%	85.1%
Phelps		95.0%	93.8%	89.8%
Kearney	Within 30 Minutes	4.8%	2.9%	4.5%
Phelps		0.0%	1.5%	0.0%
Kearney	From 30 Minutes to 1 hour	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Phelps		0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Kearney	After 1 Hour but less than 24 Hours	0.0%	0.0%	3.0%
Phelps		0.0%	0.0%	4.1%
Kearney	Rarely Want to Smoke	0.0%	4.3%	7.5%
Phelps		5.0%	4.6%	6.1%
Kearney	Never Used a Vaping or E-Cigarette Device	90.5%	75.7%	64.2%
Phelps		75.0%	70.3%	58.8%
Kearney	Nicotine or Tobacco Substitute	0.0%	14.3%	22.4%
Phelps		10.0%	14.1%	23.5%
Kearney	Marijuana or Hash Oil	4.8%	4.3%	6.0%
Phelps		5.0%	1.6%	7.8%
Kearney	Meth, Cocaine, or Heroin	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Phelps		0.0%	3.1%	0.0%
Kearney	A Product without Nicotine or other drugs	4.8%	4.3%	4.5%
Phelps		5.0%	9.4%	7.8%

*No data available for Harlan County

Mental Health

Table 4. Percentage Reporting Anxiety, Depression, and Suicide During the Past 12 Months, 2023

		8 th	10 th	12 th
Kearney	Loss of Sleep Due to Worries	23.8%	24.3%	14.9%
Phelps		15.0%	26.2%	7.7%
Kearney	Depressed	23.8%	28.6%	28.4%
Phelps		30.0%	44.6%	42.3%
Kearney	Inflicted Self harm	19.0%	14.5%	9.0%
Phelps		15.0%	26.6%	11.5%
Kearney	Considered Attempting Suicide	0.0%	14.3%	16.4%
Phelps		25.0%	15.4%	15.4%

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Kearney	Attempted Suicide	0.0%	4.3%	1.5%
Phelps		0.0%	6.2%	7.7%
Kearney	Difficult to Concentrate due to Mental/Emotional Problem	42.9%	35.7%	34.3%
Phelps		25.0%	48.4%	34.7%
Kearney	Poor Mental Health	38.1%	28.6%	28.4%
Phelps		10.0%	36.9%	23.1%

*No data available for Harlan County

Table 5. Chronic Absenteeism by Race/Ethnicity and School Year (2022)

Year	Geographic Area	Total Youth with Chronic Absenteeism	Hispanic	Asian/ Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islander	American Indian or Alaska Native	Black or African American	White	Two or More Races
2022	Kearney	113	11, 9.7%	0, 0%	0, 0%	0, 0%	97, 85.9%	5, 4.4%
	Phelps	193	28, 14.5%	0, 0%	6, 3.1%	1, 0.5%	153, 79.3%	5, 2.6%
	Harlan	15	1, 6.7%	1, 6.7%	0, 0%	1, 6.7%	11, 73.2%	1, 6.7%

Kearney County has a 95.52% graduation rate while Phelps County and Harlan County are closer in graduation rates at 92.51% and 92.26%. There is no data in dropout rate for these County's but in Nebraska it is 1.4%.

Family Level:

Table 6. Youth Who Report Supportive Adults by Grade (2023)

		8th	10th	12th
Kearney	Adult at home who listens	90.5%	94.3%	80.6%
Phelps		85.0%	78.5%	85.7%
Kearney	Adult at home who knows where they are going/whom they are with	81.0%	94.3%	79.1%
Phelps		90.0%	85.9%	83.3%
Kearney	Adult at school who listens	90.5%	85.7%	91.0%
Phelps		85.0%	78.5%	81.1%

*No data available for Harlan County

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Department of Health and Human Services

Community Level:

Table 7. Youth Perceptions of the Community Attitudes on Substance Use by Grade (2023)

		8th	10th	12th
Kearney	Parent: Wrong/very wrong- Marijuana	95.2%	90.0%	95.5%
Phelps		100.0%	92.2%	89.8%
Kearney	Parent: Wrong/very wrong- Alcohol	90.5%	87.1%	86.6%
Phelps		89.5%	95.4%	83.7%
Kearney	Parent: Wrong/very wrong- Cigarettes	95.2%	95.7%	94.0%
Phelps		100.0%	95.4%	93.9%
Kearney	Adults in Neighborhood: Wrong/very wrong- Marijuana	100.0%	91.4%	86.6%
Phelps		100.0%	95.3%	93.9%
Kearney	Adults in Neighborhood: Wrong/very wrong- Alcohol	76.2%	72.5%	68.7%
Phelps		90.0%	79.7%	77.6%
Kearney	Adults in Neighborhood: Wrong/very wrong- Cigarettes	85.7%	91.4%	83.6%
Phelps		95.0%	92.2%	89.8%

*No data available for Haran County

Policy, Legal, & System Level:

Juvenile Diversion:

The County attorney for each county will be the ones who decide who can be diverted. However, the Juvenile Service Officer will also be part of that decision depending on the circumstance presented. Most youth that are eligible for the program will be first time offenders. They will be assessed at the start of their time with diversion along with a letter of acceptance into the program. There will also be a separate letter informing the family that they will need to contact the Juvenile Service Officer to set up a meeting to go over what is required of the youth to successfully complete the program. Some requirements may be a certain amount of community

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service hours, an apology letter, a workbook or course addressing the underlying issue that brought them into the juvenile justice system, or counseling sessions. Referrals are made for youth who have received a citation for a misdemeanor offense. There is a fee for the program of \$75.00 but if a family or youth is unable to pay with proof then it can be waived. There is no data on success rates as of this time due to the young nature of our program.

Juvenile Court and Prosecution:

JUVENILE PETITIONS AND ADJUDICATIONS BY CASE TYPE: DISTRICT 10							
Demographic	Cohort	Misdemeanor			Felony		
		Filings	Adjudications	% Adjudicated	Filings	Adjudications	% Adjudicated
Age Group 2022	14-15	50	44	88%	9	8	89%
	16	48	43	90%	2	2	100%
	17	40	31	78%	5	3	60%
Age Group 2023	14-15	63	56	89%	13	11	85%
	16	50	42	84%	6	4	67%
	17	53	39	74%	8	6	75%
Sex 2022	Female	48	40	83%	1	1	100%
	Male	89	77	87%	14	12	86%
	Unknown	1	1	100%	1	0	0%
Sex 2023	Female	59	49	83%	0	0	0%
	Male	105	86	82%	26	21	81%
	Unknown	2	2	100%	1	0	0%
Race/Ethnicity 2022	Asian/P.I	3	1	33%	0	0	0%
	Black	7	6	86%	1	1	100%
	Hispanic	9	9	100%	0	0	0%
	White	95	85	89%	11	8	73%
	Unknown	24	17	71%	4	4	100%
Race/Ethnicity 2023	Asian/P.I	0	0	0%	0	0	0%
	Black	15	12	80%	1	1	100%
	Hispanic	26	20	77%	0	0	0%
	White	99	82	83%	18	16	89%
	Unknown	26	23	88%	8	4	50%
	Am. Indian	0	0	0%	0	0	0%

Filing decisions are made by prosecution based on (1) seriousness of offense, (2) evidence available, and (3) criminal history of the juvenile. Any juvenile who is charged can request court counsel appointed at their first hearing. If they choose not to have an attorney, they are required to complete a signed waiver and provide it to the Court prior to the hearing. County Attorneys who are making charging decisions do so without regard to a

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juvenile's race, ethnicity, gender or socioeconomic status. Charges are made based off the seriousness of the offense. The Court has a broad discretion as to the types of services it can provide. Judges in the 10th Judicial District, which includes Phelps, Harlan, and Kearney County can utilize any/all the following:

- Supervised probation which can include classes, drug testing, placement
- Administrative probation
- Out of home placement, including placement in the YRTC, group homes or foster homes.
- Classes such as defensive driving or decision-making classes
- Mental health services such as evaluations, ongoing counseling
- Community services such as AA/NA meetings

Adult Court:

In general, the practice in Phelps County is to file juvenile cases in juvenile courts, rather than in adult courts. In the last year, no juvenile cases have been filed in adult court. For Harlan and Kearney County, the Attorney will file driving and alcohol offenses in an adult court. This is generally done on the principle that driving and drinking are inherently adult activities. Rarely is a motion to transfer denied by the court to Juvenile Court. Repeat offenders and offenders with serious crimes are the ones who end up with adult charges. The level and severity of crimes drive the decisions, but other factors would be age, family/community support, location of the juvenile, and victim impact are also carefully considered. Filing decisions are again consistent across race, ethnicity, gender and socioeconomic status.

Probation:

Table 8. Nebraska Juvenile Justice System Report (2023): Juvenile Probation Activity by Age, Gender, Race/Ethnicity

County	Age, Gender, Race/Ethnicity	Placed on Probation		Out-of-Home Placement		Probation Revoked		Satisfactory Release	
		Total Youth	% of Total	Total Youth	% of Total	Total Youth	% of Total	Total Youth	% of Total
Kearney	14-15	1	1%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
	17	1	1%	1	3%	0	0%	1	2%
	18	1	1%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
	Male	3	2%	1	3%	0	0%	1	2%
	White	1	1%	1	3%	0	0%	1	2%

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	American Indian or Alaskan Native	2	2%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
	Not Hispanic	3	2%	1	3%	0	0%	1	2%
Phelps	14-15	2	2%	1	3%	0	0%	1	2%
	17	4	3%	1	3%	0	0%	2	3%
	18	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	2%
	Female	2	2%	0	0%	0	0%	3	5%
	Male	6	5%	2	7%	0	0%	3	5%
	White	8	6%	2	7%	0	0%	4	6%
	Other	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	2%
	American Indian or Alaskan Native	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	2%
	Hispanic	2	2%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
	Not Hispanic	6	5%	2	7%	0	0%	6	10%
Harlan	17	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	2%
	Male	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
	White	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
	Not Hispanic	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%

-No data Available is marked by *

Table 9. Nebraska Juvenile Justice System Report (2023): Youth Risk Levels by Age, Gender, and Race/Ethnicity

County	Age, Gender, Race/Ethnicity	Youth Starting on Probation		Youth Discharged from Probation	
		JCBR/ Low/ Moderate Low	JCBI/High	JCBR/ Low/ Moderate Low	JCBI/High
Kearney	14-15	1	1	*	*

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	17	1	1	2	1
	18	*	1	-	1
	Female	*	1	*	1
	Male	2	2	2	1
	Hispanic	*	*	*	1
	Not Hispanic	2	3	2	1
	American Indian or Alaskan Native	1	1	*	1
	Other	*	*	*	1
	White	1	2	2	1
Phelps	14-15	2	*	1	*
	17	2	2	1	2
	18	*	*	1	*
	Female	1	1	3	*
	Male	4	2	1	3
	Hispanic	*	2	*	*
	Not Hispanic	5	1	4	3
	American Indian or Alaskan Native	*	*	*	1
	Other	*	*	1	*
	White	5	3	3	2
Harlan	17	*	*	1	*
	18	*	*	*	1
	Female	*	*	*	*
	Male	*	*	1	1
	Hispanic	*	*	*	*
	Not Hispanic	*	*	1	1

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	White	*	*	1	1
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-Not data available is marked by *

Section IV: Services and Programs

Services available in Kearney, Phelps, and Harlan County are unfortunately limited. Being smaller communities has its barriers to providing services within each county.

SYSTEM POINT: PREVENTION (Available Services)		
Program/Agency Name	Eligible Age	Risk or Need
Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System (NSCAS)	3-8, 11 Grade	Educational learning need, truancy
CareerConnect (MentoringWorks)	High School	Anti-Social attitudes, truancy, low engagement, low attachment
SchoolConnect (Mentoring Works)	Elementary	Anti-Social attitudes, truancy, low engagement, low attachment
TIP (Serves Kearney, Phelps, and Harlan)	K-12 Grade	Truancy
South Central Area Recovery(SCAR)	11-19	Mental Health coping and healing resources, AA meetings, 12 step meetings
Banisters Leadership Academy	K-6 th Grade	Life, leadership, and social skills
CASA of Phelps and Harlan	0-17	Abusive parent(s), family violence, parental substance abuse, low parental warmth, lack of supervision, previous victimization
TeamMates (Chapters in Minden, Holdrege, and Alma)	3-12 Grade	Anti-social attitudes, truancy, low engagement, low attachment, low achievement
Family & Youth Mediation (Central Mediation Center)	0-19	Lack of concern for others, inappropriate use of time, lack of supervision, lack of discipline, truancy, parental hostility
Child Welfare Conferencing (Central Mediation Center)	0-19	Lack of supervision, lack of discipline, low parental warmth, abusive parent(s), parental substance use, family violence
Head Start Child and Family Development Program	3-21	Low achievement, low attachment, low literacy
Kearney County Health Services (Minden)	3-21	Mental health issues as well as substance abuse issues
Independent Rising	0-Adult	Living skills training, advocacy, peer mentoring and networking, family support services

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Counseling Towards Hopes (Holdrege)	3-21	Mental health issues as well as substance abuse issues
CK Counseling (Holdrege)	3-21	Mental health issues as well as substance abuse issues
Kroll Counseling (Holdrege)	3-21	Mental health issues as well as substance abuse issues
Guardian Light	0-Adult	Foster care support, family support, and drug testing
Healthy Horizons Counseling (Kearney, Phelps, and Harlan Counties)	3-21	Mental health issues as well as substance abuse issues
Compass	All ages	Foster care support, family support
Family Counseling Center	All ages	Mental health issues as well as substance abuse issues, and Family disturbances and disagreements
A Blessing of Hope	All ages	In home/out of home family support, Intensive family preservation(IFP), Intensive family reunification(IFR)

SYSTEM POINT: DIVERSION SERVICES

(Diversion and Services available to youth on diversion)

Program/Agency Name	Eligible Age	Risk or Need
Pretrial Diversion (Kearney County)	0-17	Defiance of authority, criminal behaviors, and lack of concern for others
Pretrial Diversion (Phelps County)	0-17	Defiance of authority, criminal behaviors, and lack of concern for others
Pretrial Diversion (Harlan County)	0-17	Defiance of authority, criminal behaviors, and lack of concern for others
Victim Youth Conferencing (Central Mediation Center)	11-18	Lack of concern for others, inappropriate use of time, lack of supervision, lack of discipline, defiance of authority, and criminal behaviors
Life Skills-Conflict Class (Central Mediation Center)	11-18	Lack of concern for others, defiance of authority, criminal behaviors, and low literacy
Family & Youth Mediation (Central Mediation Center)	0-19	Lack of Concern for others, inappropriate use of time, lack of supervision, lack of discipline, truancy, parental hostility
Child Welfare Conferencing (Central Mediation Center)	0-19	Lack of supervision, lack of discipline, low parental warmth, abusive parent(s), parental substance use, family violence

Although there may be limited services in Kearney, Phelps, and Harlan County, there is a wide variety of services available in close proximity to each county. The table below list each service available within close proximity. Most of which are approximately 32.2 miles from Minden, 54.7 miles from Holdrege, and 78.5 miles from Alma.

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SYSTEM POINT: CLOSE PROXIMITY

Program/ Agency Name	Eligible Age	Risk or need
Area Substance and Alcohol Abuse Prevention- ASAAP (Serves Adams, Clay, Nuckolls, & Webster Counties)	K-12 Grade	Drug/Alcohol use
Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center (YRTC)-Kearney	11-18	At risk youth, defiance of authority, criminal behaviors, and lack of concern for others
Teen Outreach Program at Hastings Middle School (YWCA)	Middle School	Anti-social attitudes, lack of concern for others, inappropriate use of time, deviant peer groups
SASA Crisis Center Teen Services & Child Advocate	0-18	Abusive parent(s), family violence, previous victimization
Juvenile Intensive Outpatient (Horizon Recovery)	0-17	Drug/Alcohol Use
Life Skills (Horizon Recovery)	0-17	Drug/Alcohol Use
Substance Abuse, Mental Health, or Co-Occurring Assessments (Horizon Recovery)	0-17	Drug/Alcohol Use, anxiety/depression, mental health disorder(s)

Detention and alternatives to detention are also limited not only in our counties but in Nebraska.

SYSTEM POINT: ALTERNATIVES TO DETENTION FOR PRE-ADJUDICATED YOUTH ONLY

(Include any programs that allow youth to remain in the community after any contact with law enforcement)

Program/Agency Name	Eligible Age	Risk or Need
Victim Youth Conferencing (Central Mediation Center)	11-18	Lack of concern for others, inappropriate use of time, lack of supervision, lack of discipline, defiance of authority, and criminal behaviors
Pretrial Diversion (Kearney County)	0-17	Defiance of authority, criminal behaviors, and lack of concern for others
Pretrial Diversion (Phelps County)	0-17	Defiance of authority, criminal behaviors, and lack of concern for others
Pretrial Diversion (Harlan County)	0-17	Defiance of authority, criminal behaviors, and lack of concern for others
Life Skills- Conflict Class (Central Mediation Center)	11-18	Lack of concern for others, defiance of authority, criminal behaviors, and low literacy
Family & Youth Mediation (Central Mediation Center)	0-19	Lack of concern for others, inappropriate use of time, lack of supervision, lack of discipline, truancy, parental hostility
Child Welfare Conferencing (Central Mediation Center)	0-19	Lack of supervision, lack of discipline, low parental warmth, abusive parent(s), parental substance use, family violence

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The main program needed for each community that is not available in Kearney, Phelps, and Harlan County or in close proximity is detention and alternatives to detention. The closest center for youth would be in Kearney, Ne at YRTC (Your Rehabilitation and Treatment Center). It is approximately 30.6 miles from Holdrege, 23.7 miles from Minden, and 54.5 miles from Alma. The average cost to house a youth in YRTC-Kearney campus is \$803.63 per day. The average length of stay per individual is 8 months. The cost of transporting a juvenile, falls on the county unless a court orders otherwise. The cost of travel is not a fixed amount and depends on several factors. Those factors include mileage, escort/driver needs, wheelchair transportation, and meals. Overall, the county where the juvenile petition is filed is responsible for these costs, according the Nebraska law but ultimately, the specific cost will be determined on a case-by-case basis through the juvenile court and responsible county in District 10. The cost for an electric monitor can vary depending on type of monitoring ordered by the court. For house arrest, the fees typically include a \$30 hook-up fee and a \$12 daily monitoring fee. For GPS ankle monitoring, there is a \$50 one-time setup and activation fee, plus a daily monitoring fee of \$10. For continuous alcohol monitoring (SCRAM CAM), Knights Armor Security Training, a private company, advertises a \$90 setup fee and \$12 per day fee for the device. Note that this cost may vary depending on the vendor or specific monitoring program in place within the judicial district. Reports indicate a range of daily fees for SCRAM devices, from \$10-\$15 or more, along with initial installation costs of \$50-\$100.

KNOWN GAPS IN SERVICES		
(Include any programs that allow youth to remain in the community after any contact with law enforcement)		
Program/Agency Name	Eligible Age	Risk or Need
Spanish Language (or bilingual) Prevention/Promotion Programs	0-18	Anti-Social attitudes, inappropriate use of time, lack of supervision, low achievement, low attachment, deviant peer groups, anxiety/depression, mental health disorder(s), truancy, disenfranchised neighborhood, low literacy, previous victimization
Spanish Language (or bilingual) Diversion Services	0-17	Defiance of authority, criminal behaviors, drug/alcohol use, and lack of concern for others
Free Before/After School Programs for Elementary & High School Students	K-12 Grade	Anti-Social attitudes, inappropriate use of time, lack of supervision, low achievement, low attachment, deviant peer groups
Reliable to/from school transportation system	K-12 Grade	Truancy
Shelter Care	11-18	Previous Victimization, lack of supervision, lack of discipline, Abusive parent(s), family violence
Intensive Juvenile probation Services	11-18	Lack of concern for others, inappropriate use of time, lack of supervision, lack of discipline, defiance of authority, and criminal behaviors
Juvenile Intensive Outpatient	0-17	Drug/Alcohol use

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Community Analysis and Response (CAR) Final Worksheet

COMMUNITY ANALYSIS & RESONSE WORKSHEET			
Identified Need	Existing Program, Agency or Resource	Eligible Age	Does this program accomplish the desired change? If no, what is missing?
Low rates in youth who report adult(s) at home and/or school who listen(s)	Mentoring works (SchoolConnect, Career Connect)	Elementary, High School	Yes. Provides reliable, supportive mentors and, because mentorship occurs primarily at the school, also serves as a protective factor against truancy
	Family & Youth Mediation (Central Mediation Center)	0-19	Yes, mediation is evidence-based and focuses on ensuring all parties are heard
Increase in juvenile arrests for other assaults, vandalism, drug possession, & runaway	Victim Youth Conferencing (Central Mediation Center)	11-18	Yes, both proven to reduce recidivism for the same or similar offense.
	Diversion Programs	Under 18	
High rates of youth self-reporting depression, loss of sleep from worry, suicide attempts/consideration	Educational Services Unit 11, (ESU11)	Pre-12 Grades	Yes, but this program still is in process of improving
Youth reporting high substance use (marijuana, alcohol, tobacco, vaping)	SCAR (South Central Area Recovery)	K-12	Yes, but high numbers indicate that students are still participating in substance use in spite of prevention programming.
Chronic Truancy	TIP	K-12 grade	Yes, but in some communities black, native American, & Hispanic youth are disproportionately represented

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	Family & Youth Mediation (Central Mediation Center)	0-19	among chronically truant students Yes, truancy mediation is evidence-based, but more outreach is needed to increase referrals, especially among overrepresented demographics
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Gaps to be Filled Worksheet

GAPS IN THE CONTINUUM			
Brief Data Snapshot	Existing Program, Agency or Resource	Eligible age	Does this program accomplish the desired change? If no, what is missing?
Hispanic, Native American, & Black youth are overrepresented in chronic absenteeism compared to county demographics & school enrollment	TIP School referral welfare checks	K-12 grade	No. Need to expand outreach and bilingual case management
Intensive Juvenile Probation Services	State Probation	11-18	Yes
Juvenile Intensive Outpatient	Adult IOP	0-17	Yes, adult IOP is available but juvenile specific programs are not. We hope to have IOP available for juveniles in the future.

SYSTEM POINT: COORDINATION PLAN (Enhancement, Development, Expansion Plan)	
Service Type	Enhancement, Development, expansion plan
Alternative Schools	Holdrege High School is the only school out of Kearney, Phelps, and Harlan that has an alternative school.
School Truancy Program	TIP is a school truancy program that covers Kearney, Harlan, Phelps counties in order to prevent chronic absenteeism.
Volunteer Programs	TeamMates is a mentoring program to help steer youth in a positive direction. CASA is another volunteer program that is youth advocacy

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Family Preservation and Counseling	St. Francis Ministry offers family preservation and counseling services that can prevent families from removal of children and to keep the families together.
Drug/Alcohol Counseling	Kroll Counseling along with other counseling agencies in Holdrege are available for this type of service.
Diversion Program	Tri-County Juvenile Service Program is a brand-new program in Kearney, Phelps, Harlan counties to help that lack of concern for others and delinquent behavior. It also helps with keeping lesser offences out of the court system and preventive work for reoffending.
Parents Anonymous	Nebraska Family Helpline offers confidential parent support 24/7 and it is staffed by counselors.
Delinquency prevention efforts and system improvement efforts designed to reduce the disproportionate number of youth members of minority groups who come into contact with the youth justice system	YMCA in Holdrege offers afterschool programs for youth of all background. There is room to grow due to lack of minority focused programs.

Section V: Priorities and Strategies

Priority 1: Mental Health Treatment

Mental Health is a very important subject, topic, and needs for many communities. As shown above, there are multiple mental health and substance use concerns for each county. Across the counties that provided data to the Bureau of Sociological Research for UNL (Level NRPFS Data), Harlan County was the only one with no data available. We would speculate that the same issues affect Harlan County. As shown in table 4, the sections that scored the highest is depression, difficult to concentrate due to mental/emotional problem, and poor mental health. The lowest scoring section is attempted suicide. Even though it is lower, it doesn't mean that this section is less important. Phelps County scored higher than Kearney County for 8th, 10th, and 12th grade in the depression section where 8th grade scored 30.0%, 10th grade scored 44.6%, and 12th grade scored 42.3%. Kearney County scored higher in 8th grade for difficult to concentrate due to mental/emotional problem than Phelps County. However, Phelps County scored higher for 10th and 12th grade at 48.4% and 34.7%. Poor mental health was scored highest in Kearney County for 8th and 12th grade at 38.1% and 28.4% and Phelps scored higher in 10th grade at 36.9%. These numbers are concerning and there are efforts to expand mental health services everywhere not only for our communities.

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Our project design and implemented steps will assist in achieving Mental Health Treatment by providing a contracted mental health provider for all communities along with other mental health courses and workbooks to work through the mental health challenges they are facing. Another strategy for this priority is to alleviate financial and personnel limitations. Other agencies listed above such as Region 3 may be able to be another step in addressing the mental health needs for youth in the communities.

Strategy 1A: Alleviate Financial and Personal Limitations to provide enhanced & expanded access to mental health screenings and, if necessary, care from licensed mental health practitioners

Steps to take for our 5 year plan is to help alleviate financial and personnel limitations is to expand access to mental health screenings and have a licensed mental health practitioner available. These steps can be possible with funding through the CBA grant as well as other additional funding sources. Responsible parties would be the JSO and County Attorneys for Harlan, Kearney, and Phelps. We expect that the results will improve by having those screenings and practitioners available. Most mental health agencies have a waitlist but having one available as soon as possible is important to get the mental health needs for at risk. We will measure this impact by having surveys and recidivism data.

Strategy 1B: Contracted Mental Health Provider

As briefly mentioned on strategy 1A, having a licensed mental health practitioner available is a step to improve mental health needs in our communities for Phelps, Kearney, and Harlan counties. Again, the JSO and County attorneys would be the responsible parties to monitor this step and measure by surveys and recidivism data to keep this priority addressed. This will be part of the 5-year plan and once that 5-year time frame is up, we will re-evaluate what the priorities are and review if our steps were successful. We hope to have a practitioner contracted to work with the youth we serve, and the expected results would be to see an improvement in mental health in each community.

Strategy 1C: Mindfulness Yoga and Meditation Courses

Another strategy to take for mental health treatment is to provide mindfulness yoga and meditation courses through SCARS which is located in Holdrege. SCARS is in the work of improving their program as well. They have goals and plans to increase what is available for their program but for the mindfulness yoga and meditation, they have the space for that to be held at their building. The parties responsible, as mentioned above, are the JSO and County Attorneys. This will be part of our 5-year plan and will be measured by recidivism data and surveys of successful rates. Resources needed are just more information on those classes

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and obtaining a schedule. Expected results to this strategy are to give youth a coping strategy as well as a support group while learning and attending these classes.

Anticipated outcomes will be to successfully alleviate financial and personal barriers that may stand in the way of receiving our services. The outcomes will also include mental health practitioners available rather than having to be put on a wait list and the availability of yoga and meditation classes for mental health support groups and healing.

Priority 2: Pretrial Diversion for Defiance of Authority, criminal behaviors, and Lack of Concern for others

This priority is new, and these 3 communities are now actively using diversion in Kearney, Harlan, and Phelps counties. This priority meets and identifies juvenile crime problem as to intervene before its too late for the youth in our communities with regard to delinquent behavior. Upon referral, diversion and mediation programs can provide offenders a chance to repair the harm caused by their deviant behavior. There have not been services in place in all three counties to give these juveniles that chance. Juvenile filings and adjudications have increased from 2022-2023 with nearly 90% being adjudicated for misdemeanors and 85% for felonies. Without these services in place, these numbers will continue to increase. Misdemeanor filings increased from 138 in 2022 to 166 in 2023 and adjudications increased from 118 in 2022 to 137 in 2023. Felony filings increased from 16 in 2022 to 27 in 2023 and adjudications increased from 13 in 2022 to 21 in 2023.

Our project sign and implementation steps will assist in achieving the stated priority in providing diversion services and alleviating personal and financial barriers. By providing the diversion program, it gives the opportunity for youth to correct their mistakes and behaviors from criminal delinquencies. The impact of this program will be measured by recidivism data and surveys as well as documenting how many successfully complete the program and how many don't. To help alleviate financial barriers we can waive any fees with the appropriate proof of reduced/free lunch documentation or other financial assistance proof.

Strategy 2A: Diversion

Steps to take are to provide education, counseling and resources to the juvenile and his or her family in order to help address defiance and lack of concern. JSO would help by referring to service providers such as counselors and class providers. Services and resources provided will be tailored to address the identified concerns and reduce recidivism. The expected timeline would be three to six months with expected results of more cordial less hostile encounters of adults with the juvenile and juvenile showing respect to all authoritative figures, as

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well as no future criminal activity. Impact would be measured by no further contact with law enforcement or juvenile services officer, lack of complaints from school officials and others. It also will be measured by surveys. The timeline would be the same as the 5 year plan. Once the 5 years is up, we will reevaluate along with keeping up to date on progress throughout the 5 years.

Strategy 2B: Alleviate financial and personal limitations

Steps to take would be to have gas vouchers ready and available for families traveling for the services needed or required for the program. Another step would be to provide funding for the JSO to be able to travel to the other counties. If travel isn't an option, then funding for a zoom would be able to alleviate financial barriers of traveling for families. These steps can be possible with funding through the CBA grant as well as other additional funding sources. Responsible parties would be the JSO and County Attorneys for Harlan, Kearney, and Phelps. We expect that the results will improve with time and being able to provide that financial assistance for families. We will measure this impact by having surveys and recidivism data.

The anticipated outputs and outcomes of this priority are reduction in criminal behavior and recidivism rates among youth who participate in the diversion program, greater access to educational classes and mental health services for youth enrolled in diversion programs.

Priority 3: Crisis Intervention

In addition to mental health struggles, the number of youths that self-reported substance misuse is alarming. These behaviors include underage alcohol consumption, binge-drinking, vaping, and marijuana and tobacco use. Lifetime alcohol use was reportedly the highest for 12th graders in Kearney County at 52.2%. 8th and 10th graders also reported high in this category, 20% being the lowest. Binge drinking behavior reportedly scored higher in Phelps County at 10.2% for 12th graders. The need to intervene with youth that involve drug or alcohol into their daily life is always increasing. There are many reasons as to why youth may involve themselves with drugs and alcohol and providing the services and programs that can help intervene may teach them more about how alcohol and drugs can affect someone's life. The number of youths that have also self-reported anxiety, depression, or suicide is also alarming.

Our project design and implemented steps will assist in achieving crisis intervention by providing urgent care/training for all communities along with mental health assessments/evaluations. Another strategy for this priority is to alleviate financial and personnel limitations. Other agencies listed above such as Region 3 may be

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able to be another step in addressing crisis intervention needs for youth in the communities as well as others in close proximity to the counties.

Strategy 3A: Urgent Care/Training

Action steps to be taken to provide urgent care/training is to contract with other agencies to be able to provide that quick service that is needed for any urgent matter. Another one would be to send JSO and other willing participants to trainings to have a better understanding of youth and what they might be going through or what they may be feeling. The JSO and County Attorneys will be the responsible parties and the timeline for this strategy will be along with the 5 year plan. Resources needed would be available trainings to participate in and to have referrals for other agencies that can help provide that urgent care with no waitlist. Expected results will include decrease in suicide, anxiety, and depression numbers as well as decrease in drug and alcohol use. The way it will be measured for success would be surveys and recidivism data.

Strategy 3B: Alleviate Financial Barriers

Steps to take would be to have gas vouchers ready and available for families traveling for the services needed or required for the program. Another step would be to provide funding for the JSO to be able to travel to the other counties. If travel isn't an option, then funding for a zoom would be able to alleviate financial barriers of traveling for families. These steps can be possible with funding through the CBA grant as well as other additional funding sources. Responsible parties would be the JSO and County Attorneys for Harlan, Kearney, and Phelps. We expect that the results will improve with time and being able to provide that financial assistance for families. We will measure this impact with surveys and recidivism data within the 5 year period.

Strategy 3C: Mental Health Assessments/evaluations

Steps to take to successfully implement assessments and evaluations would be to along with the contracted medical provider, have those assessments for each youth who have shown signs of mental health need. Responsible party for the assessments would be the JSO, County Attorney's as well as the mental health provider and time period for this step to be implemented would be along with the 5 year plan. Expected results would be to improve mental health and to address and mental health needs that come up in the evaluations/assessments to again get the additional help youth may need. We will measure this by surveys and recidivism data as well as tracking how many youth participate in the evaluations/assessments.

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Anticipated outcomes of this priority is reduction in alcohol and drug use as well as suicide, anxiety, and depression. Another outcome would be increase service with no waitlist services for youth in urgent need of assistance or help.

Priority 4: Family/Life Skills

Describe how the provision of this activity/service/project(s) meets an identified juvenile crime problem and/or juvenile justice, and delinquency prevention need of the community or Indian Tribe based on the information provided in the crime analysis.

Family and Life skills is a priority that not only could improve in our counties, but in other counties as well. Many things could be involved in family and life skills but youth who reported having supportive adults in their homes and at school is important for youth. Kearney and Phelps County had 8th, 10th, and 12th graders reported above 80% for adults at home who listen except for in Phelps County for 10th graders, they reported that 78.5% have adults at home who listen which is the lowest of all three. The highest would-be 10th graders in Kearney County at 94.3%. Adults at home who know where the youth are going or whom they are with also scored above 80% except for 12th graders in Kearney County at 79.1%. Just like before, the highest was 94.3% for 10th graders in Kearney County. Adults who listen at school also is above 80% except for 10th graders in Phelps county at 78.5%. The highest reporting of adults who listen at school is 12th graders in Kearney County at 91.0%. This priority will also be able to help youth improve their everyday life skills and help them learn additional life skills they may not even know.

The project design and implementation steps chosen below will help assist in achieving the stated priority. Expanding access to parenting classes by having on hand resources and class schedules will be able to give families and youth more chances to participate in these classes that may be required in programs set through each county. Having travel vouchers and virtual support to alleviate financial barriers is another way to help improve the stated priority by being able to get rid of barriers of traveling to any service or agency needed to help improve family life. Finding classes that families and youth may take online will also help alleviate those financial barriers. Expanding access to life skills education classes by again having on hand resources or recommended class schedules with agencies will be able to give families and youth more chances to participate.

Strategy 4A: Expand Access to Parenting Classes

Steps to take to implement this strategy is to having on hand resources to provide families and youth when recommended they participate in a parenting class. Another step would be to also have a list of class schedules

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and locations for parenting classes as well as a referral process to family support. The party responsible would be the JSO and appropriate County Attorney within the 5 year plan time period. Resources needed are the updated resources and class schedules with other agencies. Results that are expected would be to improve family and life skills for both families and youth whether that be improving life situations that youth may not know how to handle or improve families being supportive and parenting skill for youth with behaviors. Surveys and recidivism data will be how we measure impact.

Strategy 4B: Travel vouchers or virtual support to alleviate financial barriers

Steps to be taken to successfully implement this strategy would be to obtain CBA funding or any additional funding to provide travel vouchers for young people and families who don't have the means to get to a location. Another strategy would be to obtain all information about classes or supports virtually if vouchers were not obtainable. With these two steps, the expected results may include improvement in family support and family life. We plan to see results within the 5-year plan period and measure these results with surveys and recidivism data.

Strategy 4C: Expand Access to Life Skills education classes

Steps to be taken to successfully implement this strategy is again having on hand resources or recommended class schedules with agencies. The parties responsible for this strategy will be the JSO and appropriate County Attorney. Along with the time frame of this plan this timeline will also be 5 years for the strategy. The expected results are to improve family and life skills for both families and youth whether that be improving life situations that youth may not know how to handle or improve families being supportive and parenting skill for youth with behaviors. Measures of impact will be with surveys and recidivism data.

Anticipated outcomes of this priority and strategies are to improve family life and everyday life skills for families and youth and alleviate the financial barriers for additional services.

Priority 5: School Education Needs

Describe how the provision of this activity/service/project(s) meets an identified juvenile crime problem and/or juvenile justice, and delinquency prevention need of the community or Indian Tribe based on the information provided in the crime analysis.

The **TIP** program is available to all students in Kearney, Phelps, and Harlan counties. TIP works with truant and chronically absent students. The program design includes meetings with students and their families to address attendance concerns as well as investigating the causes behind their absences. Central Mediation Center

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also offers Truancy Mediation which is at no cost and is an alternative to court that is intended to identify unidentified needs and attendance barriers, develop mutually satisfactory options to resolve truant behavior, develop a plan for regular attendance, and facilitate communication between the home, the school, and the community.

Specifically, and concretely, describe how the project design and implementation steps will assist in achieving the stated priority and strategy(s) and how this impact will be measured.

The project design and implantation steps will assist in achieving the stated priority by improving the new truancy program and including a contracted central mediation program for family support, youth support, and much more. These will all be measured by surveys and recidivism data.

Strategy 5A: TIP Program

The steps to be taken to successfully implement this strategy will be to prevent chronic absenteeism by meeting with the kids or youth referred to the program as many times as they need to be met with. That will be determined by what the absences are for or why they aren't coming to school. If additional resources are needed, then the family and youth will be referred to other agencies for that additional assistance to help their child succeed. We will also collaborate between truancy programs to more efficiently utilize resources and serve youth. The parties responsible will be the JSO and appropriate County Attorney for the 5 year plan period. The expected results include a decrease in chronic absenteeism in Kearney, Phelps, and Harlan counties and increase in education success. This will be measured by recidivism data.

Strategy 5B: Contract with Central Mediation

Steps to be taken to successfully implement this strategy will be to contract with Central Mediation to work with youth and families. The parties responsible for this strategy will be again the JSO and county attorneys to help implement this step within the 5 year plan period. The expected results to this strategy will be to help intervention with families and youth that make it hard or harder to be successful with school and in school. This will allow the child to successfully complete school and decrease absentee. Measurements of impact include surveys and recidivism data.

Anticipated outcomes of this priority is that chronic absenteeism will decrease with the help and services put in place for youth to be successful in a school setting. Another outcome will be to address any additional issue or

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home problems that may be getting in the way of the youth successfully attending school and getting good grades.

Closing Comments

Kearney County, Phelps County, and Harlan County have a variety of services and providers that help support youth and families in each community. We also have many services that are in close proximity to our counties that may be useful to youth and their families. In reality, the priorities listed and mentioned are ones that our team concluded the most important based on data found throughout the process as well as past data.

Kearney, Phelps, and Harlan Counties apply for and utilize the Community-based Juvenile Service grants to support/fund diversion and truancy services increase timely access to mental health services and providers and increase life skills. These programs\services include in-home truancy meetings, family support services, mental health assessments and services, life skills, decision-making classes, youth coordination services, and alternatives to detention as well as financial resources to help all juveniles and families access these services. This is a collaborative effort which will continue and be re-assessed on a quarterly and yearly basis to look at ways to improve the quality of life for the youth, young adults, and families within Kearney, Phelps, and Harlan Counties, Nebraska.

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Appendix

A. Comprehensive Youth Services Plan Checklist

Comprehensive Youth Services Plan Checklist

Each county shall develop a Comprehensive Youth Services Plan (Community Plan). Plans may be developed by individual counties, multiple counties, federally or state-recognized Indian tribes, or by any combination of the three. Plans must be submitted to the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice and must be updated no less than every five years.

Pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stats. §43-3504, §43-3505, and §43-2404.01, and Title 75, Chapter 1, 005.02, these are the elements that must be included in a Community Plan.

Community Team Members (§43-3505):

Juvenile justice system stakeholder representation, including but not limited to:

Stakeholder Representation:	Name(s):
<input type="checkbox"/> Courts	
<input type="checkbox"/> Law enforcement	
<input type="checkbox"/> Community service providers	
<input type="checkbox"/> Schools	
<input type="checkbox"/> Detention or shelter care	
<input type="checkbox"/> County elected and administrative officials	
<input type="checkbox"/> Probation officials	
<input type="checkbox"/> Health and human services representatives	
<input type="checkbox"/> State officials or agency representatives	
<input type="checkbox"/> Similar committee or group of individuals	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	
Page number(s) in the plan:	

Plan Components

1. Data (43-2404.01)	
Notes:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Data is relevant to juvenile and family issues
<input type="checkbox"/>	Includes an examination of racial and ethnic disparities
Page number(s) in the plan:	
2. Identification of the County Risk Factors (43-3504)	
Notes:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Risk factors for delinquency that exist in the county or counties
<input type="checkbox"/>	Services needed to address risk factors
Page number(s) in the plan:	
3. Identification of juvenile services available within the county or counties, including, but not limited to (§43-3504):	
Notes:	

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<input type="checkbox"/>	Programs for assessment and evaluation	
<input type="checkbox"/>	The prevention of delinquent behavior	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Diversion	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Detention	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Shelter care	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Intensive juvenile probation services	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Restitution	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Family support services	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Community centers for the care and treatment of juveniles in need of services	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:	

Page number(s) in the plan:

4. Identification of Services in close proximity of the county or counties that may be utilized if community-based programs are not available within the county or counties (§43-3504):

Notes:

Page number(s) in the plan:

5. Identification of juvenile detention or alternatives to detention the county primarily uses (§43-3504):

Notes:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Juvenile Detention programs, services, facilities, and providers	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Alternative to detention programs, services, facilities, providers	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Costs associated with use of such programs, services, facilities, and providers	

Page number(s) in the plan:

6. Identify needed community-based programs not available within, or in close proximity to, the county or counties.

Notes:

Page number(s) in the plan:

Coordination Plan and Priorities

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.

1. Coordination Plan: Enhancement, development, and expansion plan of community services, including, but not limited to (§43-3504):

Notes:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Alternative schools	
<input type="checkbox"/>	School truancy programs	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Volunteer programs	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Family preservation and counseling	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Drug and alcohol counseling	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Diversion programs	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Parents Anonymous	

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<input type="checkbox"/>	Delinquency prevention efforts and system improvement efforts designed to reduce the disproportionate number of youth members of minority groups who come into contact with the youth justice system.	
Page number(s) in the plan:		
2. Priorities: Identify community priorities that includes defining a problem, or set of problems, that affects juveniles at risk or those already involved in the criminal justice system (Title 75, Chapter 1, 005.02);		
Notes:		
Page number(s) in the plan:		
3. Strategies: Identify Implementation Strategies (§43-2404.01)		
Notes:		
<input type="checkbox"/>	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.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Identify clear implementation strategies that are S.M.A.R.T.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Identify how the impact of the program or service will be measured.	
Page number(s) in the plan:		

The plan shall be submitted to the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice.

Following or in conjunction with the development of a comprehensive youth services plan, each county may develop regional service plans and establish regional juvenile services boards when appropriate. The regional service plan shall be submitted to the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice.



B. Memorandum of Understanding

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING COMMUNITY-BASED JUVENILE SERVICES AID FOR THE TRI-COUNTY JUVENILE SERVICES

(KEARNEY, PHELPS, AND HARLAN COUNTIES)

Kearney County is serving as the lead organization in the assessment, distribution, and evaluation of the Nebraska Community Based Juvenile Justice Aid funding from the Nebraska Crime Commission. It is the desire of the following counties: Harlan, Kearney, and Phelps, to begin this arrangement for the funding requested for 2025 — 2026

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By previous agreement, Phelps and Kearney Counties agreed that Kearney County should be the lead county in this funding effort to work with juveniles from ages 12 -18, who are already in the juvenile justice system, or are at risk of entering the juvenile justice system. The Comprehensive County Juvenile Services Plan has been approved pursuant to recent data and analysis in our tri county collaborative. We continue to work toward those identified goals and objectives in the three counties. The Plan was developed with input from the Juvenile Justice Institute, as well as representatives from each of the three counties.

Jody Payne, Kearney County Treasurer, serves as the fiscal agent. Morgan Wicht, Juvenile Services Officer, together with the County Attorneys of each respective county,

coordinates the application, facilitates all program requests for funding from local non-projects, businesses, and individuals working with juveniles in the three-county region reports, and making contact with County Boards in each of the three counties as requested.

All quarterly and annual reports are submitted for the Nebraska Crime Commission through the NJJI. An audit of all reports is conducted annually by NCC. Award period is July 1, 2025 -June 30, 2026.

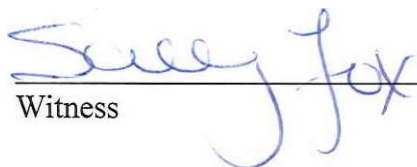
This memorandum of understanding is to be signed by the County Board Chair in each of the counties in order for said to be a part of this tri-county community based juvenile services grant. for both the CB (community based) and EB (enhancement based) funding as requested by the Juvenile Services Officer.



County Board Chair



County



Witness



Date

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
COMMUNITY-BASED JUVENILE SERVICES AID
FOR THE TRI-COUNTY JUVENILE SERVICES
(KEARNEY, PHELPS, AND HARLAN COUNTIES)

Kearney County is serving as the lead organization in the assessment, distribution, and evaluation of the Nebraska Community Based Juvenile Justice Aid funding from the Nebraska Crime Commission. It is the desire of the following counties: Harlan, Kearney, and Phelps, to begin this arrangement for the funding requested for 2025 — 2026

Kearney, Phelps, Harlan Counties
Comprehensive Juvenile Services Community Plan (2025-2030)

By previous agreement, Phelps and Kearney Counties agreed that Kearney County should be the lead county in this funding effort to work with juveniles from ages 12 -18, who are already in the juvenile justice system, or are at risk of entering the juvenile justice system. The Comprehensive County Juvenile Services Plan has been approved pursuant to recent data and analysis in our tri county collaborative. We continue to work toward those identified goals and objectives in the three counties. The Plan was developed with input from the Juvenile Justice Institute, as well as representatives from each of the three counties.

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This memorandum of understanding is to be signed by the County Board Chair in each of the counties in order for said county to be a part of this tri-county community based juvenile services grant. for both the CB (community based) and EB (enhancement based) funding as requested by the Juvenile Services Officer.



County Board Chair



Witness



County



Date

**Kearney, Phelps, Harlan Counties
Comprehensive Juvenile Services Community Plan (2025-2030)**

C. Approval Letter/minutes from County Board

**HARLAN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISOR'S
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

From November 19th, 2024

The Harlan County Board of Supervisor's met in regular session Tuesday, November 19th, 2024, in the Community Room of the Harlan County Courthouse in Alma, NE, as advertised in the Harlan County Journal and posted on the County website harlancounty.ne.gov, with Supervisor's Joe Schnuerle; Max Schultz; Mike Clements; Cindy Boehler; Jeff Bash; George Scott and Janice Miller-Boston present. Also, present were Clerk, DaLynn Burgeson; Deputy County Attorney, Whitney Schroeder; and Highway & Weed Superintendent, Tim Burgeson.

At 9:32 a.m., Chairman Boehler called the meeting to order, announced that there is a copy of the Open Meetings Act posted at the south end of the room which will be followed by the Board and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Treasurer Artz provided, for the Board's review, account balances, Account Trial Balance, Delinquent Tax Listings and Pledged Securities Reports.

The Board reviewed and discussed claims. A motion was made by Clements to approve the claims as presented. Seconded by Schnuerle. Roll call votes: Schnuerle-yes; Schultz-yes; Clements-yes; Boehler-yes; Bash-yes; Scott-yes; Miller-Boston-yes. Motion carried.

Chairman Boehler asked the Board if they had reviewed the Minutes from the November 6th, 2024, regular Board meeting and called for any additions or corrections. A motion was made by Scott to approve the regular meeting minutes from November 6th, 2024, as presented. Seconded by Miller-Boston. Roll call votes: Schnuerle-yes; Schultz-abstain; Clements-abstain; Boehler-yes; Bash-yes; Scott-yes; Miller-Boston-yes. Motion carried.

Chairman Boehler asked the Board if they had reviewed the Minutes from the November 6th, 2024, public hearing and called for any additions or corrections. A motion was made by Bash to approve the public hearing minutes from November 6th, 2024, as presented. Seconded by Schnuerle. Roll call votes: Schnuerle-yes; Schultz-abstain; Clements-abstain; Boehler-yes; Bash-yes; Scott-yes; Miller-Boston-yes. Motion carried.

Devin Obrien and Sheldon Mausbach from Bristol Windows came before the Board, introduced themselves and explained they were here for questions and to provide further information pursuant to the bid proposal submitted on October 29th, 2024, for the courthouse upper window replacement project. Mr. Obrien provided details regarding the window type, materials, workmanship and design. Sketch drawings were provided for the Board to view as with documentation showing other commercial building client references, a bank letter and bid bond check. After questions and discussions held, the board tabled this matter to allow time to consider the information presented.

April Einspahr and Bryon Guthrie appeared on behalf of Harlan County Health Systems, DBA Harlan County Public Transit. Discussion was held regarding the transit requirements for ADA compatible signage for the office located in the Courthouse and the requirements for transferring ownership of the transit vehicles. The signage will be addressed in the upcoming Safety committee meeting this Thursday. Upon conferring with Deputy County Attorney Schroeder and County Attorney Bellamy via phone, a motion was made by Clements to sign the vehicle titles today to transfer ownership. Seconded by Miller-Boston. Roll call votes: Schnuerle-yes; Schultz-yes; Clements-yes; Boehler-yes; Bash-yes; Scott-yes; Miller-Boston-yes. Motion carried.

Deputy County Attorney Schroeder provided an explanation for the Memorandum of Understanding Community-Based Juvenile Services Aid for the Tri-County Juvenile Services (Kearney,

Kearney, Phelps, Harlan Counties
Comprehensive Juvenile Services Community Plan (2025-2030)

Phelps, and Harlan counties) and the Kearney, Phelps, Harlan Comprehensive Youth Services Plan for July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2030, presented for the Board to act on. County Attorney Bellamy was present via the phone and provided further information. A motion was made by Bash to approve the Kearney, Phelps, Harlan Comprehensive Youth Services Plan for July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2030, as presented. Seconded by Schnuerle. Roll call votes: Schnuerle-yes; Schultz-yes; Clements-yes; Boehler-yes; Bash-yes; Scott-yes; Miller-Boston-yes. Motion carried.

A motion was then made by Bash to approve the Memorandum of Understanding CommunityBased Juvenile Services Aid for the Tri-County Juvenile Services (Kearney, Phelps, and Harlan counties). Seconded by Schnuerle. Roll call votes: Schnuerle-yes; Schultz-yes; Clements-yes; Boehler-yes; Bash-yes; Scott-yes; Miller-Boston-yes. Motion carried.

Supervisor Schnuerle provided an update on the planning and zoning commission board and County board processes in which Schnuerle, Bash and County Attorney Bellamy will meet to further discuss.

County Attorney Bellamy and Deputy County Attorney Schroeder provided an update on the status of the union contract negotiations. The County is awaiting a written response from the president of the Nebraska Public Employees Local 251.

Building and grounds committee update was provided by Clements. The Courthouse keys from the Courthouse interior renovations contractor have not been returned. Deputy County Attorney Schroeder will prepare a letter. Architect Ryan Stearns is currently working on pricing for Courthouse exterior lighting and costing to add handrails along the steps and new ramp on the south side of the Courthouse. Further discussion was held regarding safety options for the new steps and the Courthouse upper window replacement project. The above matters were tabled until the next board meeting.

Chairman Boehler recessed the meeting at 12:15 p.m. for an hour lunch.

At 1:12 p.m., Chairman Boehler reconvened the meeting. Supervisor Clements left the meeting.

Highway & Weed Superintendent, Tim Burgeson came before the Board and presented a Preliminary Services Agreement for the BNSF and Harlan County F Road bridge project. A motion was made by Schnuerle to approve the Preliminary Services Agreement as presented. Seconded by Schultz. Roll call votes: Schnuerle-yes; Schultz-yes; Clements-absent; Boehler-yes; Bash-yes; Scott-yes; Miller-Boston-yes. Motion carried.

Highway & Weed Superintendent Burgeson provided an Engineering Agreement between Miller and Associates Consulting and Harlan County for the road department office's septic system. Discussion was held. A motion was made by Schnuerle to approve and enter into the Engineering Agreement with Miller and Associates. Seconded by Schultz. Roll call votes: Schnuerle-yes; Schultz-yes; Clements-absent; Boehler-yes; Bash-yes; Scott-yes; Miller-Boston-yes. Motion carried.

Highway & Weed Superintendent Burgeson provided updates on equipment, attachments, road crew, projects, and gravel status. A noxious weed update was provided also.

Supervisor Schnuerle brought questions and citizen concerns to the Board pursuant to the results of the election in which the Village of Huntley received the majority votes by ballot to unincorporate Huntley. Discussions were held. Deputy County Attorney Schroeder provided an overview of the statutory requirements and deadlines for the unincorporating of Huntley and will contact the village attorney to discuss this matter.

IT Committee did not have any updates. The committee will meet to review the Pinpoint internet/fiber proposal and Applied Connective proposals for Courthouse phone system and will report back to the County Board.

Clerk Burgeson provided the Board with information that was included in their packets and discussion was held regarding the Courthouse closing for inclement weather. The Safety committee will further discuss the closing of the Courthouse due to inclement weather at the Safety meeting this Thursday.

Kearney, Phelps, Harlan Counties
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The Board tabled any action on the bid proposals submitted by Duncan Theis and Bristol Windows for the Courthouse upper window replacement project.

Supervisor Schnuerle provided some upcoming agenda items for the Boards information. A brief discussion was held.

Public Forum: No comments.

With no further business, a motion was made by Bash to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Schnuerle. Roll call votes: Schnuerle-yes; Schultz-yes; Clements-absent; Boehler-yes; Bash-yes; Scottyes; Miller-Boston-yes. Motion carried. Chairman Boehler adjourned the meeting at 2:06 p.m.

The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 3rd, 2024, commencing at 9:30 a.m. for consent agenda items and 10:00 a.m. for business agenda items.

ATTEST:

is/ DaLynn Burgeson, County Clerk

Is/ Cindy Boehler, Chairman

Agenda & Minutes can be found on the County website: harlancounty.ne.gov

GENERAL: Applied Connective Tech-IT Services \$7932.72; Melodie Bellamy-Mileage/dues \$263.01; Business World-Office Supplies \$256.09; Dianne Calkins-Jail Supplies \$8.96; Capital City Transfer Services-Coroner TranspoWmileage \$664.00; City of Alma-Utilities \$890.00; Combined Public Communications-Jail supplies \$400.00; Bryan Crowder-Maintenance/phone/mileage \$223.99; Crowne Plaza-Clerk Conference Lodging \$247.90; CVSOAN-Veteran Dues \$100.00; Duke Law Office-court appt'd attorney \$149.50; Dewald, Deaver Law-Court appt'd attorney \$1146.32; Dr Jesse Neal Dental-inmate Dental \$133.90; Duncan Theis-Courthouse remodel \$48,203.50; Duncan, Walker, Schenker & Daake-Court appt'd attorney \$1225.00; Eakes Office Solutions-Supplies \$1831.40; Election Systems & Software-General Election expenses \$4467.38; First National Bank-Office Supplies/FueVMeals/Postal Services \$4405.95; Franklin Chronicle-publishing \$104.25; Tana Fye Henry Law-Court app'd Attorney Fees \$ 1868.55; Galls-Sheriff Uniforms \$ 126.89; Graham Tire-Sheriff vehicle tires \$306.16; Gray Law Firm-Court appt'd attorney \$667.00; Harlan County Court-Court Costs \$215.00; Harlan County Health Systems- Prisoner Meals \$780.00/Transit 18,044.00; Harlan County Journal- Publishing S 1064.65;

Harlan County Sheriff-Sheriff's fees \$115.20; Hays Pharmacy-Inmate Medical \$39.04; Kevin Heft-Right of Way \$665.50; Hogeland Market- Extension Supplies \$25.30, Sheriff-Jail Supplies \$132.89; Holdrege Daily CitizenPublishing \$187.50; Dennis Hruska-custodian mileage \$7.23; Intellicom-IT Services \$72.25; Jeff's Electric-

Electrical \$712.00; Johnson Controls-Boiler Repairs \$5892.35; Kearney County Treasurer-TriCounty JV services \$2000.00; Klein, Brewster, Brandt Law-Court appt'd Attorney Fees \$723.50; Main Street Variety-supplies \$93.43;

Marvin Planning Consultants-Planning/Zoning Contractual services \$4350.00; Mid-American Benefits-Insurance

\$ 168.00; WPS-Data Processing \$1448.91; NACO-Meeting dues/JPH postcards \$2363.62; NAPA Auto Parts-Supplies \$9.93; Nebraska Public Power District-Utilities \$664.46; Nebraska Sheriff's Association-Dues \$175.00; Phelps County Sheriff-Safekeeping of Inmates \$55.00; Platte Valley Communications-Equipment Repair \$2193.99; Quill-Office Supplies \$1764.91; Region Ill Behavioral Health Services-Mental Health Services \$2005.38; Republican Valley Animal Center-Stray cat boarding \$40.50; Das State Accounting-Teletype Service \$537.60; Thomas S. Stewart Attorney-Court appt'd Attorney fees \$290.75; Those Blasted Signs-Sheriff Vehicle graphics \$170.00; TNT Tracy Weak-Lawn Maintenance \$100.00; Tripe Motor-SheriffVehicle \$6318.87; Trustworthy Hardware-Maintenance/Extension supplies \$129.87; Twin Valleys Public Power-Utilities \$239.40;

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USDA, APHIS, Wildlife Services-Predator control \$346.75; Verizon Wireless-Phone \$243.32; Viaero-Phone \$ 107.00; Vyve Broadband-Phones and Internet \$2676.41 ; Kelly Winz-Right of Way \$665.50; 136 Auto BodySheriff Vehicle repair \$830.00; General Claims Total \$134,267.48.

ROAD: Alma Auto Parts-Supplies \$10.05; B.H. Hesemann Shop-Nuts & Bolts \$69.84; Bear Frame & AlignmentEquipment repair \$8994.75; Black Island Material LLC-Gravel & Rock \$13,755.04; Bosselman Energy-Fuel

\$8759.65; Bosselman Enterprises-Fuel \$1699.33; City of Alma- Garbage \$64.50; Cooperative Producers-Fuel \$818.75; Jim Dietz-Retirement \$25.00; Garrett Tires-Grader tires \$5603.60; Harlan County Journal-publishing \$134.13; Hogeland Market-Supplies \$78.06; Jim's OK Tire Store-Grader Tires \$8407.00; Lacal Equipment-Grader blades \$2995.74; Landmark Implement-Parts/repairs \$4393.10; M.J Lubeck-Rent \$300.00; MIPS-Data Processing \$127.16; NMC Exchange-Repairs \$14,625.73; Nebraska Weed Control Assoc.-Annual Dues \$235.00; Overhead Door-Building repairs \$478.50; Paulsen Inc-Gravel \$40,558.17; Reliable Pest Control Services-Pest Control \$265.00; Rudy's Tire-supplies \$1289.10; S&W Auto Parts-Supplies \$5035.72; Sappa Valley Farm and Auto-Fuel \$181.45; Titan Machinery-Parts/repairs \$4569.00; Tripe Motor-Equipment Repair \$577.69; Trustworthy Hardware-Supplies 20.98; Twin Valley PPD-Utilities \$268.24; Verizon-Cell phone \$66.08; Village of

Republican City-Water \$35.00; Road Claims Total \$124,441.36. TOURISM- Nebraska Rural Radio Assoc.-Media/advertising \$1320.00; Orleans Hotel-Applefest entertainment \$1400.00. covid AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FUND- Duncan Theis Construction - Courthouse exterior project \$47,913.05. E911- City ofH01dregeEmergency Maintenance \$402.71. HOSPITAL BOND FUND- First State Bank-Interest/wire fee \$2165.00. CLAIMS GRAND TOTAL: \$311 ,909.60