

Platte County Juvenile Services

July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2030

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Platte County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Community Plan

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SECTION I: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Platte County, located in Northeast Nebraska, is a growing community with an increasingly diverse population. Notably, of the 8,915 residents aged 18 and under, the percent who are of Hispanic/Latino descent increased from 19.7% in 2010 to 31.3% in 2022. As a whole, families appear generally be stable economically with households in the County having a median income slightly higher than that for the State; also, the overall poverty rate is lower (8.2% versus 11.2%).

Of the data presented in this report, need areas/issues of note are:

- Issues with absenteeism are particularly concerning Hispanic youth as they represent 57% of the chronically absent students
- The number of English Language Learners at the largest school district in the County is significantly higher than the rate for the State
- Although there were also positive changes in arrest data for 2023 versus 2022, arrests for Liquor Laws increased by 212.5%
- Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) results for 2023 reported relatively high numbers for youth experiencing bullying, being depressed, having thoughts of self-harm and/or suicide and not getting enough sleep
- An increase in binge drinking among 12th graders was reported in the YRBS as compared to two years prior
- Also, the YRBS results showed an increase in current marijuana use as compared to 2021 for both 10th and 12th graders
- The Platte County Diversion Program reported an increase in referrals and the number of duplicated clients served

The Platte County Planning Team has identified three priorities and several strategies to pursue over the next several years. The County has operated a successful and comprehensive Diversion Program for youth aged 11 and older for over 20 years; it is evidence-based and works to meet its participants developmental needs by promoting peer involvement, providing adult role models, actively engaging parents/families in educational programming, and offering skill building opportunities. The main priority for Platte County in the next five years is to continue to provide quality programming through the Diversion Program.

The second priority for the Planning Team is that youth are involved in their community and successfully complete their education. The focus is addressing underlying causes related to students' attendance issues such as mental health needs, learning environment, transportation or the family lacking other resources. The third priority involves preventing unhealthy behaviors by youth and enhancing their well-being through community supports. Strategies are related to drug and alcohol use prevention, education on appropriate use of technology, connections to mentoring programs and positive youth activities and peer-to-peer supports.

SECTION II: INTRODUCTION

Community Team: Background, Formation, and Purpose

The Platte County Juvenile Services Team has operated in some capacity for approximately 20 years. Representatives from numerous organizations serving youth have been invited to participate. The purpose of the Planning Team has been identified as to: “Develop and implement a Comprehensive Plan to direct the distribution of the Crime Commission funds allocated to Platte County; assist with evaluating the effectiveness of the programming supported by the funds; identify emerging community issues and needs related to the well-being of youth and families; and provide guidance to the Planning Team members responsible for the backbone organizational support.” Currently, youth development programs, school districts, and agencies involved in law enforcement and juvenile justice are represented on the Team.

The Planning Team currently meets on a quarterly basis, except when additional feedback is needed during the development of the Comprehensive Plan. The Juvenile Services Administrator has acted as the facilitator of the Planning Team with consultation of the Platte County Attorney, Breanna Flaherty.

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Community Description

Platte County is located in the east-central part of Nebraska; its main throughfares are U.S. Highway 30 (running east-west) and U.S. Highway 81 (running north-south) which intersect in Columbus, the largest community in the County and the county seat. Both major highways are now four-lane in Platte County. Interstate 80 is 54 miles south and Interstate 29 is 85 miles east of Columbus. The local economy is primarily based on agriculture and manufacturing.

According to the 2022 Census of Agriculture compiled by the USDA, the County had 902 farms representing 430,831 acres of farmland. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that in 2019, 31.5% of all non-farm employment in the County was in manufacturing industries. Major manufacturing employers include: Becton Dickinson, a medical products company with two facilities in Columbus; Behlen Manufacturing, which produces steel buildings and agricultural equipment; Vishay Dale Electronics which produces electronic components; CAMACO, a manufacturer of automotive seat frames; Archer Daniels Midland, which runs a corn-milling facility; and Cargill Value Added Meats, which produces cooked meats.

Major non-manufacturing employers include Piller Family Farms, Columbus Community Hospital, Columbus Public Schools, Central Community College and Nebraska Public Power District. Columbus is also impacted by the largest employer in the region, the Cargill beef-processing plant, located in Colfax County and just 15 miles away. It has a workforce of approximately 2,000 employees. (Nebraska Public Power District).

The U.S. Census Bureau 5-Year American Community Survey data for 2022 reports the homeownership rate for Platte County is 74.8% compared to 66.0% for Nebraska. The median household income for the same time period was \$69,943, slightly above that of the State (\$69,597). The Census Bureau's overall poverty rate for Platte County and Nebraska was 8.2% and 11.2% respectively. Residents aged 25+ in Platte County have a lower level of educational attainment than the State as a whole with 34.8% having earned an Associate degree or higher as compared to 46.2% for Nebraska (American Community Survey for 2022).

The Census Bureau's Population Estimates reports the 2023 total population for the County as 34,609. The breakdown race is:

Race/ Ethnicity of Total Population	Percent
White	93.6%
American Indian/Alaska Native	2.2%
Black/African American	1.7%
All Other	2.5%
Hispanic Ethnicity*	24.3%
White only, not Hispanic or Latino	72.7%

*The Hispanic categorization is listed here as an ethnicity and can be of any race, so are also included in applicable race categories.

The age 17 and under population for Platte County is 8,915 with 51.0% being male and 49% female. Of note is that the percentage of Hispanic/Latino children and youth increased from being 19.7% in 2010 to 31.3% in 2022 (U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 5-Year estimates). The specific race and ethnicity breakout is displayed in this table.

Race/Ethnicity	Total Children/Youth Population	
	Number	% of Total
White	6,927	77.7%
Black or African American	62	0.7%
American Indian and Alaska Native	18	0.2%
Asian	53	0.6%
Two or More Races	1,418	15.9%
Some Other Race	437	4.9%
Total	8,915	100%
Hispanic*	2,790	31.3%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	5,786	64.9%

*The Hispanic categorization is listed here as an ethnicity and can be of any race, so are also included in applicable race categories.

SECTION III: YOUTH CRIME ANALYSIS AND NEEDS

Education

The Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) data shows that the rate for high schoolers in Platte County graduating within four years is 86%; this compares to 87% for the State (taken from the Voices for Children *Kids Count* report data for 2023). The Department also reported that of the 5,090 students enrolled in Platte County schools, 757 (8.3%) were deemed as being chronically absent for the 2023-24 school year which is defined as “a student missing 10% or more time and participation in the school day”. Issues with absenteeism were particularly concerning for the Hispanic population as they represented 57% of chronically absent students although they are just over 33% of the County’s school membership (data for the 2022-23 school year). The two largest high schools in the County experienced that highest rate for chronically absent students with rates of 17.9% and 12.3% for the 2023-24 school year.

Data on English Language Learners (ELL) for the two largest public school districts was available from NDE for the 2022-23 school year and both were above the State level, with Columbus Public Schools being significantly higher.

Columbus Public – 17%

Lakeview Community Schools – 9%

State of Nebraska – 8%

(Humphrey Public Schools is the only other Platte Co. school district and due to low number of students, this data isn't reported as students could be individually identified)

Economic Need

The Census Bureau reports that the poverty rate for the under 18 years old population in Platte County is 10.4% as compared to 13.8% for Nebraska. The poverty rate for the population as a whole was 8.2% although minorities were more likely to be in poverty. Those identifying as of Hispanic origin (of any race) had a rate of 20.8% (all rates are from 2022 U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 5-Year estimates).

Another indicator of economic need within Platte County is the number of students who qualify for the Federal Free/Reduced Lunch Program. The 2023-24 rates for the public school districts and several private schools with populations large enough to report data, range from 4.0% to 56.8% for the largest district – Columbus Public Schools (CPS) - as reported by the NDE. These rates compare to 49.7% for the State as a whole (the most current year available was 2022-23).

As reported by the *Kids Count Report for 2023* that is compiled by Voices for Children, Platte County children are uninsured at a higher rate than the State as a whole – 7% versus 5.2%. The County's children are also covered by public health insurance at a higher rate – 35% versus 26.9%.

Child Maltreatment/Out of Home Placement

According to the *Kids Count Report*, Platte County's rate for child welfare system involvement (per 1,000 population) was 13 with the children receiving out-of-home services being 8 (rate/1,000). The comparable rates for the State were 16.6 and 11.2 per 1,000 population.

Juvenile Justice

Arrest data for those aged under 18 years has shown some improvement and areas of concern when looking at the data for 2022 and 2023. In the table below, data compiled by the Nebraska Crime Commission for Platte County and submitted by local law enforcement, the total number of arrests only increased by 29 from 2022 to 2023, but there were several significant differences with some offenses.

For each offense that has more than 10 arrests listed in at least one of the years, the percentage change is listed in the column on the right. These changes are of particular note:

- Other Assaults decreased by 48.3%
- Drug Violations for Possession decreased by 65.7%
- Vandalism increased by 150%
- Arrests for Liquor Laws increased by 256.3%

Platte County Arrests for Youth (under 18 years)

<i>Arrest Offense</i>	<i>2022</i>	<i>2023</i>	<i>2022-23 Growth %</i>
Rape	0	1	-
Robbery	0	1	-
Larceny - Theft	35	32	-8.6%
Motor Vehicle Theft	3	5	66.7%
Burglary	0	1	-
Other Assaults	29	16	-48.3%
Vandalism	6	15	150%
Fraud	0	1	-
Weapons: Carrying, Possessing, etc.	2	2	-
Sex Offenses (Except Rape & Prostitution)	2	1	-
Drug Violations – Sale/Manufacturing	1	1	-
Drug Violations - Possession	35	12	-65.7%
Driving Under the Influence	2	8	-
Liquor Laws	16	57	256.3%
Disorderly Conduct	1	5	-
All Other Offenses (Except Traffic	40	43	7.5%
Curfew and Loitering Law Violations	1	2	-
Offenses Against Family & Children	1	0	-
TOTAL	174	203	16.7%

Racial and Ethnic Distribution of System Points

System Point	N	American Indian/ Alaskan Native	Asian/ Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander	Black	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic	Multiple Races/ Other	Unspecified/ Missing	White
2020 Census Number of Youth by Race/Ethnicity	9,673	35	94	128	3,139	-	125	0	6,152
Percent of Youth by Race/Ethnicity	-	0.4%	1.0%	1.2%	32.5%	-	1.3%	0%	63.6%
Law Enforcement Contact/ Cited	801	0, 0%	3, 0.4%	5, 0.6%	232, 29.0%	-	0, 0%	19, 2.4%	542, 67.6%
Youth Referred to Diversion (CY 2022)	119	1, 0.8%	1, 0.8%	1, 0.8%	8, 6.7%	-	3, 2.5%	14, 11.8%	91, 76.6%
Filed in Juvenile Court	75	1, 1.3%	0, 0%	0, 0%	34, 45.4%	-	1, 1.3%	9, 12.0%	30, 40.0%
Filed in Adult Court	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0
Adult Transfer	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0
Youth Placed on Probation ⁴	59	2, 3.4%	0, 0%	1, 1.7%	-	-	24, 40.7%	0, 0%	32, 54.2%
<i>Hispanic/non-Hispanic</i>					27, 45.8%	32, 54.2%			
Satisfactory Release	30	2, 6.7%	1, 3.3%	1, 3.3%	-	-	5, 16.7%	0, 0%	21, 70.0%
<i>Hispanic/non-Hispanic</i>					7, 23.3%	23, 76.7%			
Motions to Revoke	8	0, 0%	0, 0%	0, 0%	-	-	1, 12.5%	0, 0%	7, 87.5%
<i>Hispanic/non-Hispanic</i>					2, 25.0%	6, 75.0%			
Probation Revoked	2	0, 0%	0, 0%	0, 0%	-	-	0, 0%	0, 0%	2, 100%
<i>Hispanic/non-Hispanic</i>					1, 50.0%	1, 50.0%			
Youth Booked into Detention	21	0, 0%	0, 0%	0, 0%	5, 23.8%	-	0, 0%	0, 0%	16, 76.2%

Sources: Court and probation data (2022) came from the Nebraska Judicial Branch Juvenile Justice Annual Statistic Report, https://nebraskalegislature.gov/FloorDocs/108/PDF/Agencies/Supreme_Court/567_20230718-094145.pdf; Law enforcement citations, diversion, and detention booking data (2022) came from the Nebraska Crime Commission Juvenile Court Reports, <https://ncc.nebraska.gov/data-and-reports>.⁵

Over the last three years, the Platte County Diversion Program has reported a jump in referrals; the number of youths enrolled in the program over the time period has also increased. The program data is listed in the table below. The main reason for the increase in enrollment is due to youth being offered Diversion more often and more than once.

Platte County Diversion Program Service Information by Fiscal Year

	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
# of Youth Referred	127	151	161
# of Youth Enrolled	126	130	172
Total # of Unduplicated Youth Served	151	157	182
Total # of Unduplicated Youth NOT Completing Program	16	14	10

For calendar year 2023, District 5 Probation reported filing 95 petitions for Platte County youth aged 14 – 17 years old. The filings by offense type were:

- Traffic - 6 (Distracted driving, such as texting, speeding, failing to stop, running red lights, improper passing, etc.)
- Status – 38 (truancy, violating curfew, underage drinking or tobacco use, and uncontrollable behaviors)
- Misdemeanor – 48 (a criminal act that is less serious than a felony and is committed by a person under the age of 18 including alcohol possession and violation of a state law,
- Felony – 3 (any crime that carries more than a year and up to life in prison)

Males were represented at a slightly higher rate than females (55% versus 29%; 16% did not have the data collected). Hispanic youth were also overrepresented as this group was 45% of all filings. It should be noted that no youth were prosecuted as an adult in 2023.

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Risky Behaviors by Youth

The table below displays selected data from the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS which is sponsored by the Nebr. Department of Health and Human Services and administered by the University of Nebraska – Lincoln’s Bureau of Sociological Research) which was provided to Platte County students in 2023. The YRBS report includes data from students in grade levels for 8th, 10th and 12th grade levels. The survey was administered to 615 students in those grade levels (8th – 66; 10th – 308; 12th – 241).

Behavior	8 th Grade	10 th Grade	12 th Grade
Current Alcohol Use	1.5%	16.4%	26.7%
Current Binge Drinking	0.0%	5.6%	12.6%
Current Marijuana Use	0.0%	6.2%	9.2%
Current Electronic Vape Use	3.0%	7.2%	15.8%
Rode in Vehicle with Someone Who Had Been Drinking Alcohol in Past 30 Days	16.7%	21.6%	24.6%
Texted or Used an App while Driving	35.9%	70.0%	84.4%

The Planning Team is particularly concerned with these issues reported in the survey results:

- Binge drinking for 12th graders which increased over the rate reported in the results of the 2021 Risk & Protective Factor Survey (12.6% versus 10.1%), especially when considering the increase in arrests related to alcohol use.
- Both 10th and 12th graders also recorded increases in current marijuana use as compared to 2021 – for 10th graders it was 4% higher and for 12th graders it was 3.8% higher; concerns have been voiced about the use of Delta 8 products in both gummy and vaping products and whether youth realize the negative effects of the THC contained in them
- The significant use of apps while driving, although the Planning Team questioned the definition of an app as many may consider using a navigation tool and music as an app which may not necessarily be a source of distraction.

Mental Health

Data on the number of youth with crisis contacts and placed in Emergency Protective Custody (EPC) due to a mental health crisis in 2021 - 2023 was collected from both the Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services and Crisis Response Line operated by the Well with funding provided by the Region 4 Behavioral Response System. The data for 2023 shows a marked decrease in the number of contacts from the prior two years as displayed in the tables below and on the next page.

In recent years, the community has put forth a number of efforts to ensure that struggling youth are able to access mental health counseling and are hopeful that the decrease in youth crisis situations will continue to decline. Local school districts and the Educational Service Unit are providing services with mental health professionals at school sites. Students are often able to see a counselor during the school day.

Additionally, vouchers for up to eight sessions with community mental health professionals can be requested by families with no insurance or a high deductible making services cost prohibitive. The vouchers are provided by the Community & Family Partnership collaborative operated by the Columbus Area United Way with funding provided by the Nebraska Children & Families Foundation. During a recent 12-month reporting period, 41 youth received assistance for counseling services with almost \$21,000 expended.

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS CONTACTS WITH YOUTH

YEAR	CONTACTS WITH YOUTH	NUMBER HOSPITALIZED
2021	13	12
2022	22	19
2023	13	5

CRISIS RESPONSE LINE – THE WELL
MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS CONTACTS WITH YOUTH

YEAR	CONTACTS WITH YOUTH	NUMBER HOSPITALIZED
2021	31	18
2022	38	20
2023	18	6

However, information collected from students in the County shows a need for further efforts to address mental health concerns. The table below displays additional data taken from the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) and are either directly related to the state of students' mental health or can have an impact on their mental health. The relatively high numbers reported for bullying, depression, self-harm, thoughts of suicide and getting regular sleep are all reasons for concern that need additional attention from the community.

Behavior	8 th Grade	10 th Grade	12 th Grade
Bullied (any type)	45.5%	52.2%	46.9%
Verbally Bullied	33.3%	46.8%	34.3%
Physically Bullied	19.7%	19.5%	9.9%
Socially Bullied	33.3%	37.9%	38.4%
Depressed During the Past 12 Months	22.7%	38.4%	41.2%
Inflicted Self-Harm During the Past 12 Months	6.1%	16.2%	13.6%
Considered Attempting Suicide	12.1%	16.2%	15.6%
Less than 7 hours of Sleep on Average School Night	21.5%	42.9%	43.6%

SECTION IV: SERVICES & PROGRAMS

System Point	Local Program/Agency	Issues/Barriers	Cost of Services
1. Prevention of delinquent behavior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drug/Alcohol Education • Diversion • Teammates • Big Pal/Little Pals • Community Response • Youth and Families for Christ (YFFC) • Community Treatment Aid (CTA) • Attendance Monitor • Center for Survivors • Probation • Educational Service Unit 7 • Hopeful Horizons • Communities Against Substance Misuse (CASM) • Professional Partner Program – Norfolk but will come to Columbus (46 miles) • Mental Health and Substance Abuse Providers • Banisters Leadership Academy • Girl and Boy Scouts • 4 H • YMCA • Church Youth Groups • Nebraska VR • DHHS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bilingual Services • Payment Sources • Transportation • Education/Training • Lack of mentors for programs • Waitlists • No interlocal agreements • Lack of parent engagement • No Peer-to-Peer services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CTA \$65.00/hr; 20 hrs. • Medication Management \$92.00/session • Mental Health Day Treatment \$156.00/individual session • Mental Health Intensive Outpatient Counseling \$156.00/individual session • MST \$51.00/15 minute unit Intensive Family Preservation (IFP) \$554.00/week per case; 28 days • Co-Occurring Evaluation \$448/evaluation • Psychiatric Evaluation \$424/evaluation/ \$522.00/evaluation if detained and conducted at facility • Psychological Evaluation \$204.00/evaluation (IDI) • Substance Evaluation \$278.00 /evaluation • Alcohol Education \$55-125/class • Parenting Class \$40-60/class • Why Try Class \$95

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central Plains Center for Services – Broken Bow but have services around the area that will come to the consumer • Time 4 Change (T4C) • Mediation Center – Fremont but will come to Columbus (54 miles) • SmartGen – Omaha (90 miles) • School activities 		
2. Family/ Youth Crisis (Family support services)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crisis Response – Norfolk but will come to Columbus (46 miles) • DHHS • 988 • NE Family Helpline • 211 • Migrant Ed (ESU7) • YFFC • Community Response • Law Enforcement • Center for Survivors • The Mission • LOSS Team • Hopeful Horizons • Northeast NE Suicide Coalition – Norfolk but will come to Columbus (46 miles) • Emergency Relief • Food Pantry • Platte County General Assistance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bilingual Services • Family Service Providers • Payment Sources • Transportation • Education/Training 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> American Red Cross Columbus Community Hospital Mental Health Providers Child Advocacy Center SmartGen – Omaha (90 miles) Local Schools Comfort Closet Churches 		
3. Mental Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 988 Boys Town National Hotline United Way Crisis Response Therapy providers CTA (Community Treatment Aid) Goodwill Columbus Community Hospital YFFC Center for Survivors LOSS Team Telehealth In-House mental health providers at schools Psychiatric providers Law Enforcement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bilingual Services Transportation Payment Sources Wait lists Inpatient services More providers Education/Training Support Groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CTA \$65.00/hr; 20 hrs Medication Management \$92.00/session Mental Health Day Treatment \$156.00/individual session Mental Health Intensive Outpatient Counseling \$156.00/individual session MST \$51.00/15 minute unit Intensive Family Preservation (IFP) \$554.00/week per case; 28 days
4. Programs for assessment and evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Therapy providers Psychiatric providers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bilingual services Payment sources No inpatient locally (90 miles or more) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Co-Occurring Evaluation \$448/evaluation Psychiatric Evaluation \$424/evaluation/ \$522.00/evaluation if detained and conducted at facility Psychological Evaluation \$204.00/evaluation (IDI)

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Substance Evaluation \$278.00
5. Alternatives to Detention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foster Care Electronic Monitoring Shelters – Omaha (90 miles), Lincoln (90 miles) Community Coaching Family Placement In-Home Family Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of foster homes in county Lack of shelters Lack of appropriate family members for placement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foster Home \$102.74-211.36/day Shelter \$274/day; Crisis Stabilization \$306/day Community Coaching \$25/15 minutes Electronic Monitoring \$16-26/day
6. Intensive juvenile probation services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Electronic Monitoring Community Coaching Shelters – Omaha (90 miles), Lincoln (90 miles) Foster Homes Detention Centers – Madison (30 miles) Groups/classes In-Home Services CASA Connection DHHS Guardian ad Litem (GAL) Mediation Center – Fremont but will come to Columbus (54 miles) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IOP (46 miles) Transportation Bilingual Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Coaching \$25/15 minutes Electronic Monitoring \$16-26/day Detention \$341/day Shelter \$274/day; Crisis Stabilization \$306/day GAL \$125/hr Foster Home \$102.74-211.36/day
7. Diversion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Platte Valley Juvenile Diversion 		

8. Culturally Responsive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Centro Hispano • Diversion • T4C • Law Enforcement • Language Line • Court Interpreters • Migrant Education Program ESU7 • Nebraska Appleseed – Lincoln (90 miles) • Consulates – Omaha (90 miles) • Churches • United Way • Center for Survivors • Center for Rural Affairs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bilingual • Transportation 	
9. Detention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JDC – Madison (30 miles) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No local detention center 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$180/day but if on probation approximately \$334/day • \$0.70/mile for sheriff transport
10. Shelter Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Omaha (90 miles) • Lincoln (90 miles) • Winnebago (103 miles) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • no local shelter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shelter \$274/day; Crisis Stabilization \$306/day
11. Restitution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victim's Assistance • Diversion • County Attorney 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth/parents aren't always able to pay due to financial situation 	
12. Community centers for the care and treatment of juveniles in need of services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Advocacy Center 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need more centers for more needs 	

Coordination Plan:

Platte County is fortunate to have a variety of services and programs within the county. The coordination plan will address the following community services and how they could assist in decreasing delinquency:

- **Alternative Schools:** There are alternative school options in Platte County. There are more options needed due to wait lists and the needs of the youth. Relationships between the alternative schools and home schools seem to work well. Increased bilingual providers is a need for alternative schools.
- **School Truancy Programs:** Platte County has an Attendance Monitor and Truancy Diversion program through the Platte Valley Juvenile Diversion Program. An inter-local agreement between the diversion program and the schools may help youth missing school be linked with services and provide for an earlier intervention. There is not enough support at school to assist those who are monitoring attendance and gaps exist for providing early intervention to address the underlying causes for a student missing school. The schools and the diversion program have good working relationships in helping improve truancy.
- **Volunteer Programs:** Platte County has gaps in the volunteer programs with bilingual access.
- **Drug and Alcohol Counseling:** Platte County has providers, but the providers often have a wait list. Platte County could benefit from more providers and bilingual providers. There are minimal bilingual providers that are not able to meet the demand needed.
- **Diversion Programs:** Platte County has a juvenile diversion program that can provide bilingual services. There are now Spanish classes available online to meet the Spanish speaking youth that cannot attend the in-person English classes. The diversion program has a good working relationship with providers in the county to assist youth in being successful.
- **Parents Anonymous:** All that is available in our county is the hotline. The hotline information will be distributed as needed.
- **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:** Platte County offers the Triumph Builders Club (TBC) that is funded by the county to work with minority males at risk. Diversion offers online classes to Spanish speaking youth that come into diversion. The diversion program offers the Attendance Monitor program for middle school to high school youth to identify early on those who may be at risk for truancy and assist them with solutions to improve attendance. The Migrant Education Program through ESU7 assists educationally to help reduce delinquency by helping minorities complete their education to become contributing members of society.

PRIORITIES AND STRATEGIES

In consideration of the data and information presented on the proceeding pages that provide a picture of youth in Platte County and the concerns of the community, priorities and strategies were voted on and the Planning Team came to an agreement after three planning meetings by the Team. The following priorities and associated strategies present the work that the Planning Team will pursue over the next five years.

Priority 1: Youth offenders have the opportunity for accountability and have successful outcomes without entering the Juvenile Justice System.

Strategy	Action Steps	Responsible Party	Timeline	Resources Needed	Expected Results	Measurements of Impact
1. Maintain quality services provided by the Platte County Diversion Program as an impactful alternative to involvement in the juvenile justice system.	Continue to provide quality case management services to program youth and their families	Platte County Juvenile Services Administrator, Diversion Program Staff & PVDP Advisory Board	Ongoing	Continuation of current resources	Successful completion of program	Maintain a reoffense rate of below 30% for the program over a 5 year time period
	Utilize the Nebraska Screening and Assessment Tool (N-SAT) to determine risk level of further involvement in the juvenile justice system.	Platte County Juvenile Services Administrator, Diversion Program Staff	Ongoing	Continuation of current resources	Appropriate referrals for each youth to ensure success in Program	Maintain a reoffense rate of below 30% for the program over a 5 year time period
	Continue to provide community service opportunities for youth to fulfill requirements and learn through meaningful opportunities to give back to the community.	Diversion Program Staff & Community Service Supervisor	Monthly	Continuation of current resources	Completion of service hours	80% of program graduates complete as documented by case managers over a 5 year time period
	Continue the Social Boundaries Class for program participants with social behavior issues to teach social skills and what appropriate boundaries are.	Diversion Program Staff, contracted facilitator	Bi-monthly	Continuation of current resources	Increase number of youth identified by NSAT to attend class	Sign in sheet
	Continue the "Why Try?" Class to help build resilience and positive outlook in program participants	Diversion Program Staff, contracted facilitator	Monthly	Continuation of current resources	Increase number of youth identified by NSAT to attend class	Sign in sheet
	Continue the Substance Abuse Class to educate teens on the negative impacts of substance use.	Diversion Program Staff, contracted facilitator	Bi-monthly	Continuation of current resources	Increase number of youth identified by NSAT to attend class	Sign in sheet

Strategy	Action Steps	Responsible Party	Timeline	Resources Needed	Expected Results	Measurements of Impact
Priority 1, Strategy 1 (continued)	Provide youth reentering the Diversion Program and Spanish speaking participants meaningful skill building activities via on-line classes (alcohol education, vaping & nicotine awareness, life skills, truancy intervention, character building, conflict management, anger management and more).	Diversion Program staff	Ongoing (as needed for participants reentering Diversion or Spanish speaking)	Continuation of current resources	Increased knowledge in subject area for classes completed	Certificate of completion
2. Provide youth with connections to resources, as appropriate, that will help them to build skills and resiliency (i.e. substance abuse classes, counseling, mentoring, youth development services, etc.).	Continue to provide middle school aged boys identified as being at-risk of system involvement a leadership program that incorporates group activities and promotes service in the community (Triumph Builders Club).	Platte County Juvenile Services Administrator, Triumph Builders Club Facilitator	Ongoing	Diversion Program Staff and local programs serving youth & families; continuation of funds from Platte County	Increase in leadership skills	Program evaluation tool
	Maintain information on community resources and provide direct referrals to other programs.	Diversion Program Case Managers	Ongoing	Juvenile Services Staff	Families are connected to other resources in the community	Referrals noted by Case Managers

Priority 2: Youth are engaged with their community and school and successfully complete their education.

Strategy	Action Steps	Responsible Party	Timeline	Resources Needed	Expected Results	Measurements of Impact
1. Decrease the number of youth defined as being truant by providing problem-solving support, connections and/or an alternative educational setting.	Continue to provide early intervention services at multiple school sites in partnering with the County's school districts to address attendance issues.	Platte Co. Juvenile Services Administrator, Truancy Officer, and staff at schools responsible for monitoring attendance	Ongoing during the school year	Continuation of current resources	Increase of 2% in school attendance and graduation rates over a 5-year time frame	Data released by the Nebraska Dept. of Education

Strategy	Action Steps	Responsible Party	Timeline	Resources Needed	Expected Results	Measurements of Impact
Priority 2, Strategy 1 (continued)	Continue to provide an alternative educational site staffed by a certified teacher for students under suspension or who have mental health or behavior problems for either a short-term basis or to complete credits to earn their diploma.	Youth & Families for Christ (YFFC) staff, Platte Co. Juvenile Services Administrator and staff at schools	Ongoing during the school year	Nebr. Crime Commission grant funding and Youth & Families for Christ funds, additional source of funding	Increase of 2% in school attendance and graduation rates over a 5-year time frame	Data released by the Nebraska Dept. of Education
2. Provide connections to community resources that can help address issues that may be the cause of poor school attendance.	Assist struggling students and their families with accessing mental health counseling, especially those unable to afford services; includes promotion of 988, local United Way's "How Are You Really" and Boystown's "Your Life, Your Voice".	School Mental Health Providers and School Social Workers and Counselors, Diversion Program Staff	Ongoing during the school year	Continuation of current resources	Increase of 2% in school attendance and decrease in self-reported mental health issues over a 5-year time frame	Data released by the Nebraska Dept. of Education and YRBS bi-annual survey
	Provide resources to families to address transportation needs (gas vouchers, connections for carpooling, etc) and advocate for additional public transit services that can be accessed by families as an option for school transport.	Platte Co. Juvenile Services Administrator, Attendance/Truancy Officer, School Staff	Ongoing	Community Transportation Task Force, Platte County Juvenile Services Administrator, Attendance/Truancy Officer, School Staff, continuation of current Program funding	Increase of 2% in school attendance over a 5-year time frame	Data released by the Nebraska Dept. of Education

Priority 3: Youth avoid unhealthy behaviors and have access to supports that will enhance their well-being.

Strategy	Action Steps	Responsible Party	Timeline	Resources Needed	Expected Results	Measurements of Impact
1. Reduce and prevent alcohol and substance misuse through education and enforcement.	Conduct alcohol and tobacco compliance checks at local retailers to discourage sales to underage individuals.	Communities Against Substance Misuse coalition (CASM) and law enforcement	Quarterly or at least annually	Continuation of current resources	Decrease in Substance Use	Arrest Data and Risk & Protective Factor Survey
	Conduct awareness activities at local middle and high schools (Alcohol Literacy Challenge, "Keepin' it Real" workshop, etc.) and participate in community events to distribute promotional materials.	Communities Against Substance Misuse community coalition	Ongoing during the school year	Continuation of current resources	Decrease in Substance Use	Arrest Data and Risk & Protective Factor Survey
2. Provide positive relationship building opportunities for at-risk youth to develop coping skills.	Continue to provide scholarships for activity fees for youth who would not otherwise be able to participate in activities.	Platte Co. Juvenile Services Administrator and Time for Change Coalition, YMCA	Ongoing	Juvenile Services Staff, Funding from Platte County	Increase in participation of low-income youth in at least one activity	Number of youth awarded scholarships from each organization
	Promote local youth mentoring and leadership development programs for students most in need of having supportive adults in their lives.	Platte County Juvenile Services Planning Team, Mentoring Program staff, School staff	Ongoing	Continuation of current resources of Big Pals/Little Pals, YFFC, Banisters Leadership Academy & TeamMates	Youth attend school and are engaged	Number of youth in programs remains at current levels or increases
	Continue to provide peer-to-peer programming on healthy relationships in local schools.	Revolution Group, Program Administrator and school staff	Ongoing during the school year	The Center for Survivors	Increase in knowledge about healthy relationships	Survey of attendees at presentations
	Investigate peer-to-peer programming for youth and/or support group models to teach mental health coping skills, healthy behaviors and the responsible use of technology.	Platte County Juvenile Services Team members working with Hopeful Horizons, Smart Gen Society and school districts	Decision made by June 30, 2026 for pilot project implementation	Additional sources of grant funding	Improved scores that relate to mental health and bullying	Risk & Protective Factor Survey

APPENDIX

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Courts	see pages 4-7 for all checked boxes
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Law enforcement	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community service providers	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Schools	
<input type="checkbox"/> Detention or shelter care	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County elected and administrative officials	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Probation officials	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Health and human services representatives	
<input type="checkbox"/> State officials or agency representatives	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Similar committee or group of individuals	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other	
Page number(s) in the plan: 4-7	

Plan Components

1. Data (43-2404.01)	
Notes:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Data is relevant to juvenile and family issues
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Includes an examination of racial and ethnic disparities
Page number(s) in the plan: 8-14	
2. Identification of the County Risk Factors (43-3504)	
Notes:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Risk factors for delinquency that exist in the county or counties
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Services needed to address risk factors
Page number(s) in the plan: 8-14	
3. Identification of juvenile services available within the county or counties, including, but not limited to (§43-3504):	
Notes:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Programs for assessment and evaluation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The prevention of delinquent behavior
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Diversion
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Detention
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Shelter care
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Intensive juvenile probation services
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Restitution
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Family support services
<input checked="" 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: 15-19	
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:	

5. Identification of juvenile detention or alternatives to detention the county primarily uses (§43-3504):		
Notes:		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Juvenile Detention programs, services, facilities, and providers	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Alternative to detention programs, services, facilities, providers	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Costs associated with use of such programs, services, facilities, and providers	
Page number(s) in the plan: 15-19		
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: 15-19		

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Alternative schools	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	School truancy programs	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Volunteer programs	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Family preservation and counseling	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Drug and alcohol counseling	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Diversion programs	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Parents Anonymous	
<input checked="" 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: 20		
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: 21-24		
3. Strategies: Identify Implementation Strategies (§43-2404.01)		
Notes:		
<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Identify clear implementation strategies that are S.M.A.R.T.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Identify how the impact of the program or service will be measured.	
Page number(s) in the plan: 21-24		

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.

Platte County Clerk I Board of Supervisors

JE JEFFER E. BROW



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November 21, 2024

Carrie Hastreiter
Platte Valley Diversion
1465 27th Ave
Columbus, NE 68601

Dear Carrie:

This is to inform you that the following motion was made and passed by the Platte County Board of Supervisors at their meeting held on November 19, 2024 regarding Comp Youth Services Plan:

Motion, Supervisor Micek, seconded Supervisor Trouba, to approve the Comp Youth Services Plan effective July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2030 as presented.

If you have any questions regarding the above motion, please feel free to contact me at anytime.

Sincerely,

PLATTE COUNTY, NEBRASKA

Jennifer E. □
Clerk of the County Board

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