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Sarpy County

Juvenile Services

Comprehensive Community Plan

July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2030



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Section I: Executive Summary

Sarpy County is the fastest growing county in Nebraska with a population of 191,272 (UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, 2022). The average age of a Sarpy County resident is 35.3. Approximately 26.1% of the total population in the county is made up of juveniles between the ages of 0-17.

Sarpy County is located just south of the Omaha metropolitan area, adjacent to Douglas County. Sarpy County is comprised of the rapidly growing cities of La Vista in the north, Papillion in the center, Bellevue to the east, and Gretna and Springfield to the west and south.

Sarpy County law enforcement agencies include the Sarpy County Sheriff's Office and the Police Departments of Bellevue, Papillion, and La Vista. The Sarpy County Sheriff's Office, headed by Sheriff Jeff Davis, is located in Papillion, Nebraska. Community Coalitions assisting youth and families in Sarpy County include Lift Up Sarpy Foundation, the Bellevue Mayor's Task Force and Gretna's Community Based Coalition. All Coalitions are comprised of concerned citizens and stakeholders including school officials, faith community members, law enforcement, parents, youth, civic and business representatives, and County personnel that work to develop community-based programs to prevent delinquency and alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use by youth.

Sarpy County has historically been proactive with juvenile justice. In 1976, a unique juvenile justice system was established when the Sarpy County Separate Juvenile Court and Juvenile Probation Office were created. In 1979, the Sarpy County Attorney's Office implemented the Juvenile Diversion Program as a way to divert juveniles from formal court processing. Juvenile Diversion is a voluntary pre-trial/pre-adjudication program for youth who are referred by the County Attorney's Office. Juvenile Diversion offers classes, drug testing, referrals to mental/behavioral health services and an opportunity for youth to participate in Teen Court.

In 2003, The Sarpy County Sheriff's Office opened the Patrick J. Thomas Juvenile Justice Center, which is a staff-secured juvenile detention center for youth to be held while waiting for a court hearing or court ordered placement. The Juvenile Justice Center includes a Juvenile Reporting Center that runs an electronic monitoring/tracker program called CARE (Children at Risk Education) program. The Juvenile Reporting Center offers court ordered supervision including classes such as, Making Appropriate Decisions, Substance Abuse, Mentoring and Life Skills, and Anger Management. Additionally, in 2010, the Juvenile Reporting Center implemented a Truancy Program for youth. The Sarpy County Truancy Program's goal is to determine the root cause of a student's poor attendance and assist in creating a solution to the issues. The Truancy Program receives youth from both Juvenile Diversion as well as through the Juvenile Court System.

The Sarpy County Juvenile Justice System provides restorative justice programming. Restorative justice programming assists youth with being held accountable for their actions while gaining skills necessary for them to fully participate in society. Today, the Sarpy County Juvenile Court, the Sarpy County Juvenile Diversion Program, the Sarpy County Juvenile Drug Treatment Court, Nebraska State Juvenile Probation, the Juvenile Reporting Center, and the Juvenile Justice

Center work together to ensure that youth are appropriately served when they enter the Sarpy County juvenile justice system. Together, these agencies provide youth involved in the juvenile justice system access to thorough assessments, substance abuse, education, tutoring, mentoring, and mental health services, and referrals.

Sarpy County has several juvenile justice committees and sub-committees, including the large collaborative called, Through the Eyes of a Child. This collaborative meets quarterly to get updates from juvenile justice departments and child welfare agencies as well as discuss new initiatives, legislation, trainings, and trends. The Collaborative has several smaller working groups and sub-committees. A smaller juvenile justice working group had the responsibility of drafting the priorities and strategies for the new community plan. In May 2024, the group met and began working to review and update the 2021-2025 Juvenile Services Comprehensive Plan. The group identified four (4) system recommendations for 2025 – 2030.

1. Identify, implement, and maintain appropriate mental health, behavioral health, substance abuse, and crisis intervention services for youth in Sarpy County.
2. Monitor the number of youths entering detention in Sarpy County and explore alternatives to detention programs and services.
3. Expand, enhance, and maintain juvenile justice services and programs in Sarpy County.
4. Improve system operation, collaboration, and coordination for juvenile justice services in Sarpy County.

Sarpy County’s mission of creating a balanced and restorative approach to juvenile justice includes initiating programs that allow juvenile justice systems and agencies to improve their capacity to protect the community and ensure accountability of youth offenders. Juvenile offenders who come within the jurisdiction of the court should leave the system capable of being productive and responsible members of the community.

Section II: Introduction

Community Team: Background, Formation, and Purpose

Description of Team:

The Sarpy County Community Team began as the Sarpy County SAFE Committee. The SAFE Committee was established in the spring of 1991. The goal of the SAFE Committee was to bring administrators of schools, law enforcement, prosecution, and probation together to present a process and method of information sharing, cooperation and coordination leading to improved public policy regarding youth in the community, schools, and the Sarpy County Juvenile Justice System.

The mission of the SAFE Committee was to create and maintain a county-wide network of school, law enforcement, juvenile justice, social service, business, private agencies, and medical personnel for the purpose of developing a process of prevention, intervention, cooperation, sharing of information, and coordination of services for endangered, troubled, and delinquent youth.

During 2011, Sarpy County began working with the Casey Foundation's Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI). As a result, a JDAI Steering Committee was formed with several subcommittees and working groups. Because of this large endeavor and the requirement by the Casey Foundation that the JDAI Steering Committee meet on a regular basis, Sarpy County Juvenile Justice Agencies decided that the JDAI Steering Committee and the SAFE Committee be combined into the JDAI Collaborative. Many of the same members from the SAFE Committee were also attending the JDAI Steering and Collaborative and smaller sub-committees of the JDAI Steering and Collaborative. It became difficult for people to attend multiple meetings discussing the same issues. Therefore, the JDAI Steering and Collaborative took the place of the SAFE Committee.

The JDAI Steering Committee and Collaborative formed a working group for the purpose of writing Juvenile Services Community Plans. The smaller working group is made up of Deputy County Attorneys, Juvenile Justice Center Director, Deputy Director, and other JJC staff, Juvenile Diversion, Juvenile Probation, staff from the Public Defender's Office, and Administration.

In July 2017, several committee members, along with the Juvenile Court Judges, County Attorneys, and the Court Improvement Project, discussed combining the JDAI Collaborative with the Through the Eyes of the Child Initiative in Sarpy County. The Through the Eyes of the Child members include the same members meeting with the JDAI Collaborative. The JDAI Steering Committee discussed working with the Through the Eyes of the Child group and to incorporate the Eyes of the Child discussions into the JDAI Collaborative. This new collaborative met for the first time on July 17, 2017, and was a success with a record 50 people in attendance.

In early 2024, the JDAI Steering Subcommittee met and discussed expanding the focus of the group to juvenile justice instead of a heavy focus on detention. Sarpy County's detention

numbers had dropped dramatically since 2010 and there was a growing need to include other departments and agencies in the group. The Committee approved changing the name to the Juvenile Justice Sub-committee, taking the place of the JDAI Steering Committee. This is a sub-committee of the Through the Eyes of the Child Collaborative. The Juvenile Justice sub-committee has a smaller working group that is specific for drafting priorities and strategies for the community plan.

It is the intention of the Through the Eyes of the Child Collaborative to build upon the County’s strengths to address the problems and gaps in services still facing youth and families in the community. The Juvenile Justice Sub-committee is a part of the larger Through the Eyes of the Child Collaborative.

Description of the Planning Process:

The smaller working group of about eight members met in early May 2024 to review the previous community plan and discuss priorities and strategies. Draft priorities and strategies were sent for feedback and further discussion. The coordinator attended the UNO Community Planning Meeting in June 2024 and began writing the narrative and researching data for the plan. In August 2024, the working group was sent another draft of priorities and strategies to analyze and finalize based on previous discussion and data. The coordinator continued writing the plan and a draft was sent to the full sub-committee in September 2024. Feedback was requested by October 15, 2024. After feedback was received, another draft was sent out for final review on November 15, 2024, and placed on the County Board’s December 10th agenda for approval.

List of Members/Contributors

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Community Description

Sarpy County is located in the greater Omaha metropolitan area, adjacent to Douglas County. Sarpy County is comprised of the rapidly growing cities of La Vista in the north, Papillion in the center, Bellevue to the east, and Gretna and Springfield to the west and south. The County has experienced a substantial population increase during the last 20 years.

Sarpy County is surrounded on three sides by water with its western and southern boundaries being formed by the Platte River and the eastern border along the western bank of the Missouri River. The County is comprised of 236 square miles of rich agricultural land and a rapidly growing urban population. The County’s population growth is primarily due to the expanding private sector economy and the opening of the Kennedy Freeway in 1994 and developments along Hwy 370.

The major highways serving Sarpy County include Interstate I-80 running from the north center county line to the southwest corner of the county which connects Sarpy County with both Omaha and Lincoln. U.S. Routes 73/75, 6, and the Kennedy Freeway run north-south along with Nebraska Routes 50 and 85. The major east-west thoroughfare is Nebraska Hwy 370.

Railroad transportation for Sarpy County is provided by the Union Pacific Railroad and the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad. Air transportation for Sarpy County residents is offered by the Eppley Airport located in Omaha.

Population

The average age of a Sarpy County resident is 35.3 and approximately 26.1% of the total population in the County is made up of juveniles between the ages of 0-17. The following table shows the breakdown of population by the number of adults, gender, race, and ethnicity.

Gender & Ethnicity	Total County Population	
	Number	%
Male	96,252	50.5
Female	94,345	49.5
White	168,106	88.2
White Non-Hispanic or Latino	149,428	78.5
Black	8,767	4.0
Native American/Alaskan Native	191	0.2
Asian	5,337	2.5
Hispanic	21,537	10.5
Multiple Races	6,480	3.5
Foreign Born		5.8

Source of data: 2022 Census Data Center for Public Affairs Research Nebraska State Data Center.

The table below shows the breakdown of population by number of juveniles, gender, race, and ethnicity.

Gender & Ethnicity	Total Juvenile Population	
	Number	%
Male	28,807	51.5
Female	27,080	48.5
White	39,986	71.5
Hispanic	8,681	15.5
Multiple Races	3,213	5.8
Black	2,369	4.2
Asian/ Native American	1,441	2.6
American Indian/Alaskan	197	0.4
Total	55,887	

Source of data: 2022 Census Data Center for Public Affairs Research Nebraska State Data Center.

The Economy

Household Income Distribution	Percent
Under \$10,000	2%
\$10,000-\$14,999	1.6%
\$15,000-\$24,999	4.5%
\$25,000-\$34,999	6.3%
\$35,000-\$49,999	9.2%
\$50,000-\$74,999	15.4%
\$75,000-\$99,999	14.6%
\$100,000-\$149,999	22.2%
\$150,000-\$199,999	12.5%
Over \$200,000	11.7%

Source of data: MAPA 2022

Population below Poverty

Under age 5	7.2%
Under age 18	5.8%
Age 65 or older	5.4%

*Source of data: Kids Count

According to the Metropolitan Area Planning Agency (MAPA), the total number of employees in Sarpy County in 2022 was 96,195 and the unemployment rate was 1.8%. The poverty rate in Sarpy County was 5.9%. The following table shows income levels for Sarpy County households.

Total Employees	96,195
Median Household Income	\$98,600
Average Wages	\$52,700
Percent Poverty	5.9%
Unemployment Rate	1.8%

Source of data: MAPA 2022

Major employers in Sarpy County include Offutt Air Force Base. Offutt Air Force Base is a joint command staffed by members from all branches of the military that employs over 10,000 people. Other major employers include Amazon, Werner Enterprises, PayPal Inc., Oriental Trading, The Waldinger Corporation, and Hillcrest Health Systems.

Bellevue, the state's oldest city, enjoyed a building boom during the 2000-2010 decade. The City of Bellevue saw its population grow by an impressive 47.5% between 2000-2010. The City of LaVista continues to expand, adding shopping, restaurants, and entertainment venues. LaVista is home to Cabela's World's Foremost Outfitter. The store sits right off Interstate 80 near the new Embassy Suites and Conference Center. Cabela's boasts a huge inventory of hunting, fishing, and camping supplies. A new \$9.5 million combination movie theater and restaurant opened near Cabela's with eight (8) screens and seating for more than 800. In 2023, La Vista opened the Astro theatre and Amphitheatre on 84th Street. The Astro is in the heart of La Vista's new City Centre. The Astro is a premier music venue that brings world class entertainment to the local community. The new City Centre boasts new restaurants, businesses, and an upscale apartment community.

The cities of Gretna and Papillion have also enjoyed substantial growth which has been spurred by their location near Interstate 80, and improvements made to State Highway 370. In 2013, the city of Gretna opened Nebraska Crossing, a large outlet mall along Interstate 80. Nebraska Crossing features several outlet stores and eating establishments such as: Nike, Under Armor, American Eagle, Ann Taylor, Bose, Coach, Scooters, Subway and many more. A new park and entertainment district was opened in 2023 featuring a waterpark, YMCA, trails, and soccer and baseball fields. In addition, the city of Papillion has witnessed an increase in business growth with the construction of Shadow Lake Towne Center Mall located on Hwy 370 and 72nd Street, Werner Park located on Hwy 370 and 126th Street.

The City of Springfield sits in the southern portion of the county and has seen developments occur consistently off Hwy 50. Over the last 10 years, Facebook has constructed several data centers near Capehart Road and Hwy 50 which has helped add to Springfield's recent growth.

Recreation

Each of the major communities offers a wide variety of activities for youth and their families. The County is served by over 70 different clubs, organizations, and sports leagues. The Sarpy County Fair, Springfield Days, and the famous Soda Fountain Shop are just a few of the activities found in Springfield.

Bellevue is home to one of the Midwest's largest events - the Offutt Air Force Base Open House and Air Show. People gather to watch fighter planes grace the sky and to get a hands-on look at

America's military might. Bellevue is also home to Fontanelle Forest Nature Center. Fontanelle Forest is a 1,400-acre forest located near Bellevue. Features include hiking trails, nature center, children's camp, gift shop, and picnic facilities.

The Papillion Community offers Sarpy County youth and families the opportunity to play together at the Papio Bay Aquatic Center that includes five acres of swimming and outdoor water activities. Halleck Park offers an arboretum, four ball diamonds, and a fishing pond. Papillion is the home of the metro area's Triple A Baseball team, the Storm Chasers, located at Werner Baseball Stadium on Hwy 370 and 126th Street.

Papillion's large shopping mall, Shadow Lake Towne Center, opened in 2007. Shadow Lake Towne Center is an outdoor lifestyle center consisting of 880,000 square feet which includes national retailers, specialty fashion, sporting goods, electronic, grocery, restaurants, and discount stores. Special events and live music are scheduled on the weekends and during the summer months.

Youth and their families have the opportunity to enjoy the natural beauty of Nebraska at the Schramm State Park that is located off Highway 31 just south of Gretna and includes scenic hiking trails overlooking the Platte River. Haworth Park is a 153-acre park with a public boat launch access to the Missouri River, picnic tables, playgrounds, soccer fields, and many other fun activities. Wehrspann Lake is in the Chalco Recreation Area and offers boating, fishing, hiking, bike trails, and the scenery of the beautiful recreation area in western Sarpy County.

Walnut Creek Lake and Recreation Area is in Papillion off 96th and Hwy 370 and features, hiking/biking trails, boat dock and ramp, picnic and play area, fishing pier, equestrian trail, and RV and tent camping. During the spring of 2015, Nebraska's Natural Resources District opened the Prairie Queen Recreation Area near 132nd Street and Cornhusker Road in Papillion. The Recreation Area is a 335-acre park featuring a 135-acre lake, hiking/biking trails, boating, fishing, picnic shelters, wildlife viewing, and more.

The City of Gretna has seen a dramatic increase in population over the last five years and there was increasing demand for recreational areas in the western portion of the county. In spring 2024, Gretna Crossing Park opened an aquatic park with waterslides and a lazy river. The park is 157-acres located at the Interstate 80 and Hwy 31 interchange. The park has an amphitheater with seating for 1,200 people boasting a stage for concerts and other outdoor events. There is a disc golf course, twelve athletic fields which include four baseball fields, four softball fields, and four soccer field. The fishing pond is stocked with largemouth bass, channel catfish and bluegill. There are playgrounds and a trail system with a two-mile perimeter. Also in the park is a new YMCA building featuring an indoor competition pool.

The City of Springfield hosts the annual Sarpy County Fair which draws large crowds each August. Families enjoy the rodeo, food, and amusement park rides during the Fair which also showcases youth 4-H displays and other presentations. Soaring Wings Vineyard is located off 138th and Pflug Road and is a family friendly musical venue where visitors can enjoy the outdoors while listening to artists from around the area perform on an outdoor stage.

Education

Sarpy County offers quality education for youth and families in all communities. The Gretna School District and Papillion-La Vista have gained national recognition and a reputation for providing fine educational opportunities. Those opportunities are complemented by honors in academic accreditation, high graduation rates, and a disciplined learning environment.

Sarpy County School Districts include:

- **Bellevue Public Schools** serve approximately 9,498 students annually with 2 high schools, 3 middle schools, 15 elementary schools, a center for suspended students, and a program for behavior disordered students housed in a separate building. The district also has an evening program for credit recovery for high school students and an adult education program for those seeking a GED.
- **Papillion-La Vista Public Schools** serve approximately 11,565 students annually with 2 high schools, 3 middle schools, 16 elementary schools, and 1 alternative high school. Papillion-La Vista Public School District is the 4th largest district in the state. In 2009, Papillion-La Vista School District engaged in a long-range facility study conducted by an outside consultant. The study concluded that the district will continue to grow, reaching a final enrollment of over 17,000 students within 30 years.
- **The Gretna School District** serves approximately 6,529 students annually with, 2 high school, 2 middle school, and 8 elementary schools.
- **Springfield-Platteview** serves approximately 1,203 students annually with, 1 high school, 1 middle school, and 2 elementary schools.
- **OPS-** Sarpy County students are also served by Bryan High School, Bryan Middle School, Chandler View, Pawnee, and Gilder Elementary Schools.
- **Private Schools** - Sarpy County is also served by Omaha Gross, Bellevue Christian Academy and 4 Catholic elementary schools.

Agencies and Support Services

Sarpy County has historically been proactive with juvenile justice. In 1976 a unique juvenile justice system was established when the Sarpy County Separate Juvenile Court and Juvenile Probation Office was created. Today the Sarpy County Juvenile Court System, the Sarpy County Juvenile Diversion program, the Sarpy County Drug Court, Nebraska State Juvenile Probation, the CARE (Children at Risk Education) Program, and Juvenile Justice Center work together to ensure that youth are appropriately served when they enter the Sarpy County juvenile justice system.

The agencies provide youth involved in the juvenile justice system access to quality, thorough assessments, substance abuse and mental health treatment services. The Sarpy County juvenile justice system also provides restorative justice programming. Restorative justice programming assists youth in being held accountable for their actions while gaining skills necessary for them to fully participate in society.

The Sarpy County Sheriff's Juvenile Services Division is credited with running an effective electronic monitoring program for Sarpy County youth. It is known as the CARE. (Children at Risk Education) program. The Sarpy County Sheriff's Juvenile Services Division also runs a staff secure detention center for youth who need be held while waiting for a court hearing or court ordered placement.

The need for a juvenile justice center was identified during the comprehensive planning process. In late March 2000, the Sarpy County Board of Commissioners initiated a Pre-Architectural Juvenile Justice Center Planning Study to determine the feasibility and cost of constructing a new juvenile justice center. Space requirements for two additional components, including an assessment center, reporting center, and alternative school, were developed.

In 2010, the Sarpy County Juvenile Justice Center began a pilot Truancy Program housed at the Evening Reporting Center. The Truancy Program began working with several students from area schools. In December 2010, Sarpy County applied for a grant in order to enhance operations of the Truancy Program and was awarded funding for Truancy Staff beginning July 2011. In addition, during 2014, a Day Reporting Center was opened to serve youth during daytime hours. The Day Reporting Center gives youth suspended from school a place to study and complete homework while absent from school. Youth receive tutoring and credit recovery assistance. A teacher is available to help with homework and to assist students with completing missed assignment/projects. The Center is also available for youth who need alternatives to detention and daily supervision services.

Sarpy County law enforcement agencies include the Sarpy County Sheriff's Office and the Police Departments of Bellevue, Papillion, and La Vista. The Sarpy County Sheriff's Office, headed by Sheriff Jeff Davis, is in Papillion, Nebraska.

Section III

Analysis of Juvenile Delinquency Problems and Needs

Mental/Behavioral Health

Number of youths detained at the JJC requiring psychotropic medications				
Year	2020	2021	2022	2023
# of youth	77	68	140	129
# of medications dispensed	184	155	447	384

*Source: Sarpy County Juvenile Justice Center

Number of juveniles detained at the JJC with mental health needs (high, med, low)			
Year	High Need	Med. Need	Low Need
2020	5	83	1
2021	1	61	2
2022	9	112	0
2023	0	119	5

*Source of data: Sarpy County Juvenile Justice Center

**High Need – receiving 2 or more direct service hours/week
 Med. Need – receiving 1-2 direct service hours/week.
 Low Need – receiving 1 or less direct service hours/week.

Number of youths in Sarpy County Diversion utilizing grant funds for counseling		Number of evaluations completed	Total number of sessions provided
2020	7	6	25
2021	12	7	71
2022	15	15	55
2023	11	11	42

Source of data: Sarpy County Juvenile Diversion

Mental Health Providers

Sarpy County Mental Health Providers: there are 799 residents for every 1 mental health care provider in Sarpy County. <https://stacker.com/nebraska/sarpy-county-ne/what-access-mental-health-care-looks-sarpy-county-nebraska>.

Substance Use/Abuse

Number of youths that participated in Sarpy County Diversion for an alcohol or drug related charge	
2020	41
2021	59
2022	64
2023	46
Number of youths that participated in Sarpy County Diversion involved in drug use	
2020	95
2021	72
2022	97
2023	89
Percentage of youth participating in Sarpy County Diversion with substance abuse issues (positive alcohol or drug tests)	
2020	10.1%
2021	9.46%
2022	14.8%
2023	12.8%
Total number of youths referred to Sarpy County Diversion	
2020	371
2021	541
2022	651
2023	489
Total number of youths served in Sarpy County Diversion	
2020	250
2021	340
2022	415
2023	375

*Source of data: Sarpy County Juvenile Diversion

Number of youths that participated in Sarpy County Diversion for an alcohol or drug related charge	
2020	41
2021	59
2022	64
2023	46
Number of youths that participated in Sarpy	

County Diversion involved in drug use	
2020	95
2021	72
2022	97
2023	89
Percentage of youths participating in Sarpy County Diversion with substance abuse issues (positive alcohol or drug tests)	
2020	10.1%
2021	9.46%
2022	14.8%
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Total number of youths referred to Sarpy County Diversion	
2020	371
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Total number of youths served in Sarpy County Diversion	
2020	250
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2023	375

*Source of data: Sarpy County Juvenile Diversion

Number of youths in the Sarpy County involved in Juvenile Drug Treatment Court	
2020	27
2021	19
2022	13
2023	9

*Source of data: Sarpy County District II Probation

Teen Court	2020	2021	2022	2023
Number of youths participating in the Sarpy County Teen Court Program	34	42	47	44
Number of youths participating in Teen Court for a drug or alcohol charge	22	20	21	16

Source of data: Sarpy County Juvenile Diversion

Truancy

Number of juveniles involved in Sarpy County Truancy Program at the Reporting Center	
2020	60
2021	69
2022	110
2023	88

*Source of data: Sarpy County Juvenile Justice Center

Truancy	2020	2021	2022	2023
Number of youths participating in Sarpy County Diversion for truancy	47	97	150	38

Source of data: Sarpy County Juvenile Diversion

Truancy: Youth Chronically Absent from School

Absenteeism	Total	Am. Indian /Alaskan	Asian/Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander	Black	Hispanic	Multiple Races	Unspecified	White
# Enrolled	31,410	123 (0.4%)	714 (2.3%)	1,495 (4.7%)	4,081 (13%)	1,888 (6%)	0 (0%)	23,109 (73.6%)
Chronically Absent	5,344	36 (0.7%)	80 (1.5%)	394 (7.4%)	1,059 (19.8)	403 (7.5%)	24 (0.5%)	3,348 (62.6%)

*Nebraska Department of Education 2022/23 Student Absence Counts by District, www.education.ne.gov/dataservices/data-reports

Sarpy County Juvenile Reporting Center Programs

Number of juveniles involved in Sarpy County CARE Program	
2020	119
2021	66
2022	85
2023	59
Number of juveniles involved in Sarpy County Reporting Center Programs	
2020	180
2021	241
2022	327
2023	371

*Source of data: Sarpy County Juvenile Justice Center

Crossover Youth (both 3a and delinquency)

Number of youths identified for the Crossover Youth Initiative in Sarpy County	
2020	2
2021	2
2022	3
2023	11

*Source of data: District 2 State Probation

Education

High School Degree/GED	20.4%
Bachelor’s Degree or higher	41.2%

*Source of data: Voices for Children, 2023 County Data Fact Sheet, U.S. Census Bureau, 2022 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates
Voices for Children 2023 County Data Fact Sheet

*Feeding America, Map the Meal Gap 2021, Child food Insecurity in Nebraska by County.

Food Insecurity and Poverty

Food insecure children in households below federal poverty line	56%
Child food insecurity rate	9%
Children of color in poverty	11%

*Source of data: Voices for Children, 2023 County Data Fact Sheet, U.S. Census Bureau, 2022 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates
Voices for Children 2023 County Data Fact Sheet

*Feeding America, Map the Meal Gap 2021, Child food Insecurity in Nebraska by County.

Risk and Protective Factors Student Survey

Risk Factors	Grade	Sarpy % Current Use
Smoke Cigarettes	8 th	1.5%
	10 th	2.6%
	12 th	10.6%
Drink Alcohol	8 th	7.2%
	10 th	25.0%
	12 th	34.6%
Smoke Marijuana	8 th	3.5%
	10 th	13.2%
	12 th	26.0%

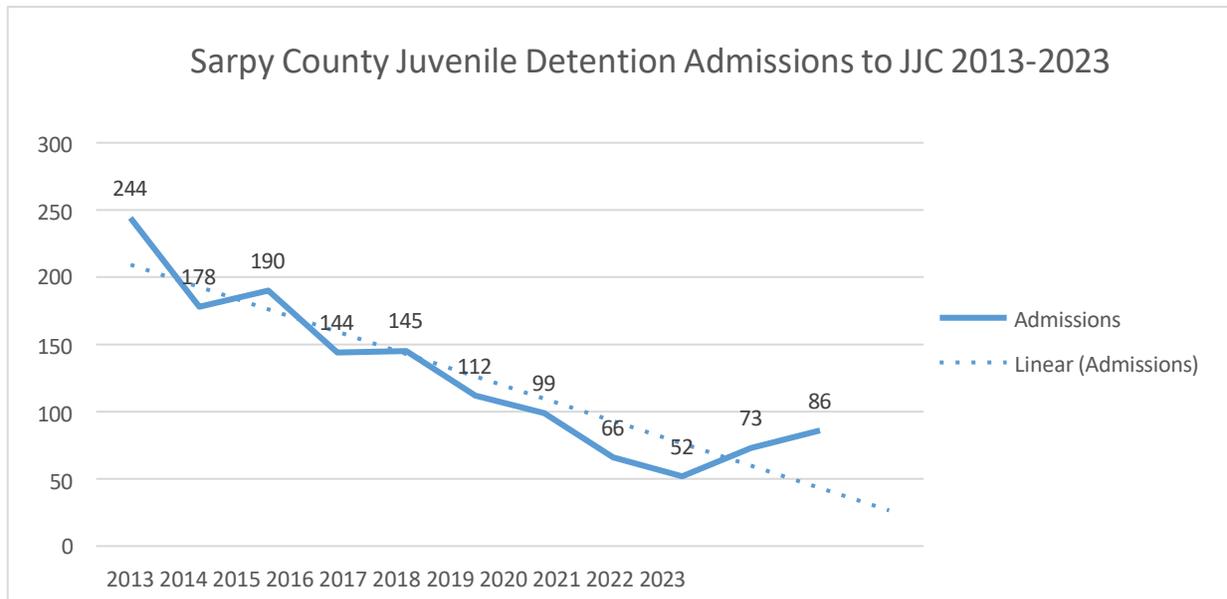
Risk Factors	Grade	Sarpy % Perceive as Wrong
Smoking Cigarettes	8 th	97.1%
	10 th	89.7%
	12 th	83.2%
Drink Alcohol Once or Twice per Month	8 th	89.4%
	10 th	68.8%
	12 th	43.7%
Using Smokeless Tobacco	8 th	97.1%
	10 th	91.0%
	12 th	76.5%
Smoking Marijuana	8 th	92.5%
	10 th	78.2%
	12 th	56.9%
Misusing Prescription Drugs	8 th	96.1%
	10 th	92.3%
	12 th	92.2%
Using Other Illegal Drugs	8 th	97.8%
	10 th	97.4%
	12 th	94.1%

% Sort of Easy or Easy to Obtain	Grade	Sarpy % Prevalence
Beer, Wine, or Hard Liquor	8 th	31.2%
	10 th	60.3%
	12 th	70.7%
Marijuana	8 th	12.6%
	10 th	41.0%
	12 th	59.6%
Prescription Drugs	8 th	25.9%

for Non-Medical Use	10 th	29.5%
	12 th	28.6%
Bullied within Past 12 Months	Grade	Sarpy % Prevalence
Physically	8 th	22.5%
	10 th	15.6%
	12 th	4.9%
Verbally	8 th	49.4%
	10 th	39.0%
	12 th	30.1%
Socially	8 th	45.3%
	10 th	36.8%
	12 th	34.0%
Electronically	8 th	19.3%
	10 th	16.9%
	12 th	19.4%

*Source of all risk factor data: Bureau of Sociological Research, Nebraska Risk and Protective Factor Student Survey Results, 2018.

Sarpy County Juvenile Justice Detention Center



*Source of data: Sarpy County Juvenile Justice Center and JDAI data (Pro Phoenix)

JDAI Goal = Less than 10 days

Average Length of Stay (ALOS) for Sarpy County youth	
2020	27
2021	36
2022	24
2023	21

*Source of data: Sarpy County Juvenile Justice Center

Racial and Ethnic Distribution of System Points

	Total	Am. Indian /Alaskan Native	Asian/ Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander	Black	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic	Multiple Races	Unspecified	White
2022 Census Number	55,887	197	1,441	2,369	8,681	- - - - - - - _	3,213	0	39,986
% of Youth by Race/Ethnicity	-----	0.4%	2.6%	4.2%	15.5%	-----	5.8%	0%	71.5%
System Point									
Law Enforcement Contact/Cited	2,466	0 (0%)	27 (1.1%)	338 (13.7%)	481 (19.5%)		0	87 (3.5%)	1,553 (62.2%)
Youth Referred to Diversion (CY 2022)	651	5 (0.8%)	5 (0.8%)	99 (15.2%)	23 (3.5%)		8 (1.2%)	179 (27.5%)	332 (51.0%)
Filed in Juvenile Court	265	0 (0%)	2 (0.7%)	33 (12.5%)	10 (3.8%)		4 (1.5%)	0 (0%)	216 (81.5%)
Filed in Adult Court	14	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	3 (21.4%)	1 (7.1%)		0 (0%)	0 (0%)	10 (71.5%)
Youth Placed on Probation	151	1 (0.7%)	0 (0%)	18 (11.9%)	31 (20.5%)	120 (79.5%)	32 (21.2%)	0 (0%)	100 (66.2%)
Satisfactory Release	75	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	12 (16%)	19 (25.3%)	56 (74.7%)	21 (28%)	0 (0%)	42 (56%)
Motions to Revoke	44	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (2.3%)	12 (27.3%)	32 (72.7%)	0 (0%)	43 (97.7%)	0 (0%)
Probation Revoked	1	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (100%)	0 (0%)	1 (100%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)

Sources: Court and Probation data (2022), Nebraska Judicial branch Juvenile Justice Annual Statistic Report and Law enforcement citations, diversion, and booking data from (2022) Nebraska Crime Commission Juvenile Court Reports.

- There is a disproportionate number of Black and Hispanic youths with law enforcement contact/cited.
- Asian/Native American, Hispanic, and White youths are under referred to Diversion compared to Black youths.
- There is a larger number of Black and White youths filed on in juvenile court.
- There is a disproportionate number of Black youths filed on in adult court.
- There is a disproportionate number of Black and Hispanic youths placed on Probation.
- There is a disproportionate number of Hispanic youths who have a Motion to Revoke filed.
- White youths have a larger number of Satisfactory Releases.

Section IV: Services and Programs

PREVENTION		
Program/ Agency Name	Eligible age	Risk or need
Sarpy County Education Program (SCEP)	12-18	Expelled youth. No cost for youth. In Sarpy County.
ASAP (Crisis Mediation)	All youth and families	Youth and families in crisis. No cost. Within 5 miles.
Outpatient Treatment	All youth	Substance use, Mental health, Antisocial Attitudes, Trauma, Family Circumstances. Cost: \$156/session. Within 10 miles.
GOALS Program	K through 12 grades	Truancy Cost: N/A. Within 5 miles.
Family Support	0-18 under DHHS 12-18 under Probation	Family Circumstances which could include lack of structure, low parenting skills, family violence and abuse, lack of supervision, lack of family resources. Cost: \$68/hour. Within 10 miles.
Region 6 Services – Professional Partners	3 - 26	Mental Health, family circumstances, lack of community resources working with the family, educational circumstances, planning for transitional age youth. Cost: Various depending on program/service provided. Within 10 miles.
Cognitive Based Therapy	8 - 18	Type of psychotherapeutic treatment that helps people learn how to identify and change destructive or disturbing thought patterns that have a negative influence on behavior and emotions. Various providers. Within 10 miles.
Community Treatment Aides	All youth but mainly school aged K-12	Used to help clients remain in the home. The CTA works with the family and client on maintaining safety in the home while teaching skills to the client and caregiver. Cost: \$65/hour. Within 10mi.
School & Family Enrichment (SAFE)	Early childhood - youth	SAFE serves children and their families from kindergarten through middle school. Children are referred to the program by school personnel based on the youth's behavior at school, attendance, and other individual challenges. Parents can approach school personnel and request referral to the program. No cost.

TYPP – Lift Up Sarpy	13-18	Education and support for teen parents, help those at risk for dropping out of school, help them access medical care. In Sarpy County – less than 5 miles.
Trauma Focused Therapy	All ages	In home trauma focused therapy. Cost \$200/session. Within 10 miles.
Boys Town Family Homes	10 to 18	Mental Health, Substance use, family dynamics, lack family structure or behavioral issues within the family setting, defiance across settings, child welfare concerns. Cost \$132 - \$176/day. Within 10 miles.

DIVERSION SERVICES

Program/ Agency Name	Eligible age	Risk or need
Sarpy County Diversion	11-18	Drug/alcohol use, lack of supervision, lack of concern for others, inappropriate use of time, Truancy. Cost: \$100 - \$300/youth depending on offense. Waivers are granted. Less than 5 miles.
Mediation	11-18	Lack of concern for others. Cost: \$192/hour. Within 10 miles.
Mental Health Services - referral	11-18	Youth with mental health concerns. Cost: \$57 - \$156/session. Within 10 miles.
Victim Empathy	11-18	Lack of concern for others, lack of remorse (part of Diversion costs). Less than 5 miles.
Teen Court	11-18	Lack of concern for others, divert from formal court processing. No Teen Court direct cost - reduced Diversion fee.
Diversion Classes	11-18	Drug/alcohol, empathy, Young Women’s and Young Men’s classes, Class Action Education and Inclusion, Anger Management. Cost: Same as Diversion costs above. Included in Diversion program. Less than 5 miles.
Sarpy County PASS (Truancy) Program	11-18	Truancy, tutoring, mentoring. No cost for youth. Less than 5 miles.

Sarpy County Day and Evening Reporting Center	11-18	Supervision services, mentoring referrals, structured program classes (Substance abuse/Anger/Tobacco/Decision Making, Cultural Diversity), education assistance with credit recovery, tutoring, medical or mental health referrals, clothing assistance. Youth suspended, Supervision Services and Classes. Cost \$179/day. Less than 5 miles.
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ALTERNATIVES TO DETENTION FOR PRE-ADJUDICATED YOUTH ONLY

Program/ Agency Name	Eligible age	Risk or need
Sarpy County CARE	11-18	Alternative to Detention, lack of supervision, mentoring, referrals for additional resources provided by the Reporting Center. Cost is \$38/day but actual cost to operate = \$172.17/day. Less than 5 miles.
EM	11-18	Alternative to Detention, lack of supervision or youth's defiance of supervision. Cost: \$26/day. Within 10 miles.
Community Youth Coach	11-18	Alternative to Detention, antisocial thinking patterns, family circumstances of youth struggling with structure and expectations, educational digression and/or truancy, negative peer group, lack of prosocial activities or use of time. Cost: \$221/15 minutes. Within 10 miles.
Sarpy County Day and Evening Reporting Center	11-18	Alternative to Detention, supervision services, mentoring referrals, tutoring, structured program classes, Substance Abuse/Anger/Tobacco/Decision Making, Cultural Diversity), education assistance with credit recovery, tutoring, medical or mental health referrals, clothing assistance. No cost for youth. Cost: \$179/day. Less than 5 miles.
IFP	11-18	Family circumstances to include lack of supervision and lack of family engagement, educational digression, mental health, family lacks community resources, abuse/neglect/family violence. Cost: \$554/week. Within 10 miles.
In Home Family Services (previously Ecological Model)	11-18	Family circumstances to include lack of supervision, lack of family structure, inappropriate or lack of family expectations, abuse/neglect family violence, lack of family community resources. Cost: \$106/hour. .
MST	11-18	Family circumstances to include lack of parenting skills, structure or supervision, lack of multi-system planning, mental health, family lacks community resources. Cost: \$51 per 15-minute unit. Within 10 miles.

Detention

Facility Name	Eligible age	Risk or need
Sarpy County Juvenile Justice Center	13 -18	Staff Secured Detention Facility based on RAI score and/or judge order. \$235/day for out of county youth. \$334/day for Probation. Actual costs for JJC to operate = \$814.99/youth/day.
Douglas County Youth Center – 28 minutes from Sarpy County.	13-18	Secured Youth Detention Facility – based on RAI score and/or judge order. Costs are based on contract with Douglas County. Cost: \$400 per youth/day
Lancaster County Juvenile Detention Center – 47 minutes from Sarpy County.	13-18	Secured Youth Detention Facility – based on RAI score and/or judge order. Costs are based on contract with Lancaster County. Cost: \$334 per youth/day
Northeast Nebraska Juvenile Service Center – 1 hour 55 minutes from Sarpy County.	13-18	Secured Youth Detention Facility – based on RAI score and/or judge order. Cost: \$265 per youth/day.

Needed Programs/Services		
Program or Service	Eligible age	Risk or need
Excessive Absenteeism – All youth with a focus on Black/Hispanic youth absenteeism rates	11-18	Truancy, mental/behavioral health, substance abuse, lack of discipline, tutoring, mentoring, credit recovery for graduation. Need more collaboration with schools.
Ungovernable Behaviors	All youth	Truancy, Crisis Intervention, Alternatives to detaining, anxiety, mental/behavioral health issues, substance abuse, lack of discipline.
Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment	11-18	Mental/behavioral health, co-occurring, anxiety, referral for treatments, assessments.
Appropriate services and therapy for Mental Health Issues (i.e., suicide prevention, depression, substance abuse, co-occurring)	All youth	Mental/behavioral health, depression, co-occurring, substance abuse, family situation, victimization and prior trauma, crisis intervention.
Physiological Needs (such as access to internet, transportation, language barriers, food/clothing, social services, healthcare/wellness)	All youth	Hidden poverty, cost of wi-fi, healthcare/wellness, lack of resources to access online services and educational materials, access to information regarding available services.
Access to service providers – lack of providers systemwide.	All youth	Youth awaiting evaluations due to lack of providers. Case processing delays for youth awaiting certain evaluations/assessments.
Access to high need placements	All youth	Youth awaiting placements due to lack of

(mental/behavioral issues)		providers, case processing delays and youth in detention awaiting placement.
Detention Alternatives (such as an Assessment Center)	11-18	Need for additional alternatives to detention for unique situations, lack of supervision, lack of discipline, youth in crisis, mental/behavioral health.
System Backbone (staff, case processing, training, equipment, supplies)	All youth	Need for a Juvenile Resource Coordinator to manage data, funding, coordinate meetings, implement changes system-wide, and organize system resources.

COORDINATION PLAN

Alternative Schools	There are several alternative school options within the county to address a variety of needs and behavioral levels. The alternative schools and home schools collaborate well together.
School Truancy Programs	Sarpy County has the PASS Program that offers services to youth and family in the county via Diversion or court order. The program collaborates with several school districts to streamline communication and continues to strengthen relationships with professionals. PASS reaches out to community for resources for youth such as clothing, alarm clocks, school supplies, mentors and utilizes Sarpy Lift Up to assist families with financial needs. The program continues to work on developing new resource options for youth and family.
Volunteer Programs	Sarpy County has a variety of volunteer programs available, but services are typically limited to English or Spanish speaking participants. Expansion to include other languages would be ideal.
Drug and Alcohol Counseling	Sarpy County has several providers but the wait time to get an evaluation can be lengthy. Sarpy County could benefit from having more providers that do Intensive Outpatient. While there are bilingual providers in the area there is a need to expand to reduce wait time and address the growing population of the county.
Diversion Programs	Sarpy County has a juvenile diversion program that can provide services to clients speaking any language. Interpreters are provided at intake and appointments, and programming is tailored to that youth's needs. There are various resources utilized in the community including the Latino Cener, Juan Diego Center, Charles Drew, etc. to assist those youth.
Parents Anonymous	Sarpy County has the Sarpy Lift Up program as well as other community resources that can help families with homeless, rental assistance, car repair, etc.
Delinquency prevention efforts and system improvement efforts designed to reduce the disproportionate number of youth members of minority groups who encounter the youth justice system	Many schools offer DARE, Teammates, and other mentoring programs to youth to prevent delinquency.

Section V: Priorities and Strategies

(Please see the next page for chart)

- Priority Area #1:** Identify, implement, and maintain appropriate mental health, behavioral health, substance abuse, and crisis intervention services for youth in Sarpy County.
- Sarpy County has experienced a significant increase in youth with mental and behavioral health issues coming into contact with the juvenile justice system.
 - Data from the Juvenile Justice Center shows the number of youths detained at the JJC requiring psychotropic medications has increase over the last four years from 77 in 2020 to 129 in 2023.
 - The number of youths detained at the JJC with mental health needs (high, med, low) has increased from 89 in 2020 to 124 in 2023.
 - Data from the Risk and Protective Factor Student Survey shows that 34.6% of 12th graders use alcohol and 26% of 12th graders smoke/use marijuana.
 - For every 799 residents in Sarpy County, there is only 1 mental healthcare provider.
 - Data also shows youth participating in Sarpy County Diversion exhibit significant alcohol and substance abuse/use. In 2023, there were 46 youth participating in Diversion with an alcohol or drug related charge and there were 89 youth participating in Juvenile Diversion that were involved in drug abuse.

Strategies	Action Steps	Responsible Party	Timeline	Resources Needed	Expected Results	Anticipated Barriers
Establish services for developmentally disabled youth.	<p>Assess current needs and gaps in service for developmentally disabled youth in Sarpy County.</p> <p>Collaborate with local and state organizations specializing in developmental disabilities to develop a comprehensive service plan.</p> <p>Advocate for funding and resources to support services.</p>	<p>Sarpy County Juvenile Justice Center, DHHS, Local Developmental Disability organizations, Probation, CA, PD, Diversion, Juvenile court, JDAI and other juvenile justice agencies in the area.</p> <p>Measurement: Compile information and resources list. Number of collaborative meetings. Development of services plan.</p>	2026 - ongoing	Funding, partnerships with specialized outside service providers, staff training.	<p>Developmentally disabled youth involved in delinquency cases in Sarpy County will have access to appropriate services that meet their specific needs with the goal of reduction or elimination of offending behaviors.</p> <p>Reduction in the number of developmentally disabled youth entering the juvenile justice system due to a lack of services. .</p>	Funding limitations, availability of specialized service providers, public awareness, and support.
Implement a process for faster mental/behavioral health evaluations and services for youth in Sarpy County.	Coordinate with providers in the surrounding area and build relationships including a main point of contact for each agency.	<p>Providers and all juvenile justice agencies in Sarpy County (JJC, Diversion, Probation, Courts)</p> <p>Measurement: Will analyze data for length between order and evaluation.</p>	1 year (2025-2026)	Staff time, outside service providers.	Partnerships will result in evaluations being done in a timely manner, initiating services faster resulting in better outcomes for youth.	Initial paperwork process, insurance, etc.

<p>Establish additional upfront mental health service providers and amplify services for higher needs youth.</p>	<p>Reach out to current providers to determine service options.</p> <p>Recruit new providers through networking opportunities</p>	<p>Probation, DHHS, CA, PD, Diversion, Juvenile Court, JDAI and other juvenile justice agencies in the area.</p> <p>Measurement: number of new providers and networking data.</p>	<p>2026 - 2029</p>	<p>Time, networking opportunities, outside service providers.</p>	<p>Additional mental health services to assist youth in the community without lengthy waits.</p>	<p>Limited providers, wait lists, funding.</p>
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Priority Area #2: Monitor the number of youths entering detention in Sarpy County and explore alternatives to detention programs and services.

- Sarpy County has significantly lowered the number of youths in detention through JDAI work however, in the last two years the numbers have slowly increased, and the Average Length of Stay (ALOS) remains high.
 - Sarpy County’s detention data decreased significantly from 2011 to 2021 with the implementation of JDAI. However, recent detention data has been trending up. In 2021, there were 52 total Sarpy County detentions. In 2022, there were 73 and in 2023, there were 86.
 - The Average Length of Stay (ALOS) remains high for Sarpy youth who are detained at the Juvenile Justice Center. ALOS for 2021 was 36. In 2022, ALOS was 24 and in 2023, ALOS was 21.
- Training is needed for law enforcement and other juvenile justice agencies in Sarpy County.
 - Data shows there is a disproportionate number of Black and Hispanic youth with contact/cited by law enforcement.
 - There are a disproportionate number of Black and Hispanic youth placed on Probation.
- Services and programs are needed for court-involved youth.
 - There is a disproportionate number of Black youths filed on in both juvenile and adult court.
 - There is a disproportionate number of Hispanic youths who have a Motion to Revoke filed.

Strategies	Action Steps	Responsible Party	Timeline	Resources Needed	Expected Results	Anticipated Barriers
Decrease Average Length of Stay for youth in detention.	Track reasons for youth with over 10 days stay. Work with Case Processing sub-committee on flowchart for cases.	Steering Committee, Case Processing, Probation, Juvenile Court, CA, PD.	2025 - 2030	Staff time and outside service providers.	Lower ALOS to goal of 10 days or less. Will look at detention data over 10 days. Measurement: Analyze data for over 10 days. Get baseline and begin to lower the number.	Time
Explore additional shelter level of care.	Inventory all shelter care in immediate area. Are we utilizing them all? What are roadblocks to utilization of current shelters? Are there others that have not been utilized and why?	Probation, CA, PD, Juvenile Court, JDAI and other juvenile justice agencies in the area.	2025 – ongoing.	Staff time and outside service providers.	Compile a list of all area shelter care options and look at other options that could potentially be used. Measurement: List of new options and # of meetings.	Time, agency silos and funding.
Expand services for court involved youth.	Identify services currently available. Research EB programs in other areas.	Probation, DHHS, CA, PD, Diversion, Juvenile Court, JDAI, and other juvenile justice agencies in the area.	2025- ongoing	Time and outside service providers	To provide targeted services that are evidence based (EB) or best practices for youth in Sarpy County.	Funding, providers, lack of communication.
Build and amplify training and education for law enforcement in Sarpy County.	Work with area law enforcement to train regarding detention and DMC issues.	Collaborative, CA, PD, Law enforcement, Probation.	2025 – ongoing.	Staff time, law enforcement time, Trainer and training materials needed.	Better communication and coordination with LE in Sarpy County. Lower DMC issues.	Law enforcement time. Trainer needed.

Priority Area #3: Expand, enhance, and maintain juvenile justice services and programs in Sarpy County.

- Sarpy County has several juvenile and juvenile justice programs and services that have helped lower detention numbers while also keeping the community safe, these programs will need to be maintained and expanded to continue successfully serving the youth in Sarpy County.
 - Sarpy County Reporting Center Data – 371 youth in 2023
 - Sarpy County CARE Data – 59 youth in 2023
 - Sarpy County Truancy Data – 88 youth in 2023
 - Sarpy County Juvenile Diversion/Teen Court Data -
- There were 489 referrals to Juvenile Diversion in 2023 and there were 375 youth served in Juvenile Diversion in 2023.
- In 2023, there were 44 youth who participated in Sarpy County Teen Court.
- Data shows there is a disproportionate number of Black and Hispanic youth chronically absent from school indicating additional Truancy services are required for Black and Hispanic youth.
- Data shows Hispanic, Asian/Native American, and White youth are under referred to Diversion.
- There is a disproportionate number of black and Hispanic youth placed on Probation.

Strategies	Action Steps	Responsible Party	Timeline	Resources Needed	Expected Results	Anticipated Barriers
Juvenile Diversion/Teen Court	Continue to explore evidence based best practices to serve youth involved in Diversion. Measurement: List of EB practices and process for implementation if appropriate.	Diversion Staff	Ongoing	Look at trends with the youth being served to see if any gaps exist.	Possible expansion of educational classes offered. Continue to address risk/needs of youth served, ultimately reducing recidivism	Time, financial barriers, accommodations for space, etc.
Juvenile Reporting Center	Continue to collaborate with current providers and seek additional providers/resources for youth referred to the Reporting Center. Such as additional programs for mental health, substance abuse, trauma, and mentors. Measurement: List/number of additional programs to implement. Provide training to juvenile court professionals on opportunities offered at Center. Measurement: Number of trainings attended.	Juvenile Justice Center Staff	2025-ongoing	Current staff Additional classes/providers in local community Funding sources for class/provider opportunities Donations to clothing closet such as school supplies,	Stronger community relationships. Additional providers and resources for youth and families. Additional referrals to Center for services	Funding for additional classes, and resources for families. Volunteer availability.

				clothing, and hygiene items		
Truancy	<p>Establish additional community-based services for truant youth.</p> <p>Improve communication and collaboration with school districts for truant youth.</p> <p>Seek additional resources to assist families by their individual needs such as resources for transportation, parenting support groups, financial support, and /or mental and physical health assistance. Measurement: List of additional resources and new partnerships.</p> <p>Assist parents and encourage involvement with these services that will benefit youth and family. Measurement: #of Meetings with parents.</p> <p>Continue to educate youth, parents, juvenile court, and educational professionals on the program and services offered. Measurement: Compile list and contact information for parents/families and number.</p>	Juvenile Justice Staff	2025-ongoing	<p>Current staff</p> <p>Training for staff on services available and new services as they develop.</p> <p>Education or training for parents on the benefits and outcomes of youth education and attendance.</p> <p>Mentors for youth that can assist in encouragement of school attendance & extracurricular activities to effectively maintain positive community ties.</p>	<p>School districts and juvenile court collaboration with a better understanding of what Truancy Program has to offer.</p> <p>Stronger community resources.</p> <p>Parent by in and support.</p> <p>Additional referrals to the Truancy Program.</p> <p>More youth completing the</p> <p>Truancy Program successfully.</p>	Parent involvement.

<p>CARE</p>	<p>Seek additional resources to assist families by their individual needs such as resources for transportation, parenting support groups, financial support, and /or mental and physical health assistance.</p> <p>Assist parents and encourage involvement with these services that will benefit youth and family.</p> <p>Continue to educate youth, parents, juvenile court and educational professionals on the program and services offered.</p> <p>Measurement: Number of contacts with parents/families and list of resources and all options for families.</p>	<p>Juvenile Justice Center Staff</p>	<p>2025-ongoing</p>	<p>Current staff</p> <p>Training for staff on services available and new services as they develop.</p> <p>Education or training for parents on the benefits and outcomes of youth education and attendance. In addition, the importance of communication & encouragement, knowing where their child is and tools to assist with ungovernable behaviors.</p> <p>Mentors for youth that can assist in encouragement of school attendance & extracurricular activities to effectively maintain positive community ties.</p>	<p>School districts and juvenile court collaboration with a better understanding of what CARE Program has to offer.</p> <p>Stronger community resources.</p> <p>Parent by in and support.</p> <p>Reduce recidivism.</p> <p>Youth attachment to positive role models, better use of idle time and increase of self-esteem.</p>	<p>Parent involvement.</p>
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Priority Area #4: Improve system operation, collaboration, and coordination for juvenile justice services in Sarpy County.

- Sarpy County has seen the number of attendees at the Collaborative decrease over the last few years with many stakeholders unable to attend regular meetings.
- Sarpy County faces duplication of work and services without a designated team leader to help coordinate all juvenile justice agencies, funding requests, data, and information flow.

Strategies	Action Steps	Responsible Party	Timeline	Resources Needed	Expected Results	Anticipated Barriers
Seek opportunities to consolidate services, office spaces and programming to eliminate duplication of services.	Work with agencies to inventory services, space, programs, and other resources that could be shared. Measurement: Compile list of all current services/programs.	Juvenile Justice Steering Committee, Collaborative, Probation, Diversion, JJC staff, County Attorney, Public Defender, CASA, Juvenile Court.	2025 – ongoing.	Funding for office space consolidation. Staff time for inventory of services and programs.	Less duplication of services, closer office spaces for juvenile services and better coordination of data. Measurement: Analyze list and make recommendations.	Funding and various agency/departmental silos.
Establish the position of Juvenile Resource Coordinator.	Work with juvenile justice agencies to secure funding for FT position. Measurement: Funding options and a possible position funded.	Juvenile Justice Steering Committee and Collaborative, Juvenile Court, Probation, CA, PD, CASA.	July 2025 - ongoing until position is funded and filled.	Federal, state, local and other funding will be needed.	Juvenile Resource Coordinator hired.	Funding
Assist parents and encourage active involvement in services and programming that will benefit their child and family.	Work with school districts and other juvenile justice agencies to engage parents and provide information to them regarding services and programs offered in Sarpy County. Measurement: Number of school reps in attendance at collaborative.	Juvenile Justice Agencies, Collaborative, Steering Committee, SCEP school, Lift-Up Sarpy, Diversion, JJC, CASA, Juvenile Court, CA, PD, Region 6, Heartland Family Service, DHS, Probation.	July 2025 – ongoing.	Staff and other agencies time, collaboration, and information coordination.	Increase in parent involvement and better distribution of information regarding services and programs.	Staff time is already limited. Juvenile Resource Coordinator is needed to help coordinate information.
Improve communication and collaboration with school districts, educational programs, and law enforcement.	Gather and coordinate contact information from school districts and local law enforcement. Measurement: # LEO at collaborative. Invite to Steering/Collaboratives Measurement: # of meetings LEO/Schools invited, who, dates.	Juvenile Justice Agencies, school districts, all local law enforcement agencies.	July 2025 – ongoing.	Staff time	Increase in school district and law enforcement participation in meetings. Better communication.	Staff time and lack of a designated Juvenile Resource Coordinator.

Appendix

A. Community Plan Checklist

B. Approval Letter/minutes from County Board

C. Sarpy County Continuum of Care

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	Dennis Marks, Andrew Erickson, Joni Scheef, Judge Moore
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Law enforcement	Tami Steensma represents the Sheriff's Office
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community service providers	Heartland Family Service and Lift Up Sarpy are in the collaborative
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Schools	All school districts in Sarpy County are included in the collaborative
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Detention or shelter care	Tami Steensma, Michelle Siders, Kelly Robidoux
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County elected and administrative officials	Lisa Haire for Administration
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Probation officials	Jeff Jennings, Melanie Berry, Nicole Mercer, Tiffany Bolter
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Health and human services representatives	Human Services is included in the collaborative
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State officials or agency representatives	Jeff Jennings
<input type="checkbox"/> Similar committee or group of individuals	
Other	
Page number(s) in the plan: 5 and 6	

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: Pages 13 - 20	
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: Pages 13 - 20	
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: Pages 21 - 24	
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: All community based services and programs listed are within 20 miles of Sarpy County.	
Page number(s) in the plan: pages 21 - 24	

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: Page 23 and 24	
6. Identify needed community-based programs not available within, or in close proximity to, the county or counties.	
Notes: NA	
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Alternative schools
<input 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 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:	
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: Pages 27 - 32	
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 checked="" 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.

Sarpy County Continuum of Care

For all community-based Detention Alternative options, a Juvenile can be placed in an alternative community setting with any of the above Detention Alternatives imposed. The current Juvenile Detention Alternative Committee is working on gaining data and information to expand for further services to be available. Services being reviewed are Emergency Foster Care and Kinship Placements.

