

South Central Nebraska Youth Task Force

Comprehensive Youth Services Plan

July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2030

ADAMS, CLAY, FILLMORE, FRANKLIN, NUCKOLLS & WEBSTER COUNTIES

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Section I: Executive Summary

The South Central Nebraska Comprehensive Juvenile Services program supports youth aged 12-18 across six counties: Adams, Clay, Fillmore, Franklin, Nuckolls, and Webster. Initially led by Clay County in 2001, Adams County assumed leadership in 2018. The program addresses challenges such as chronic absenteeism, substance use, and juvenile diversion through coordinated efforts informed by data and community input. Chronic absenteeism, particularly among Hispanic youth, is linked to transportation barriers and financial hardships, prompting objectives like expanding bilingual case management and improving truancy programs. Youth substance use exceeds state averages in several counties, with prevention efforts focusing on evaluating current programs and improving outreach to underserved youth. Diversion programs are standardized across counties, with financial support ensuring accessibility, and new initiatives like warning letters for low-risk youth are a goal that will aim to reduce justice system involvement. Transportation limitations and rural geography pose challenges to accessing services, as the region relies on personal vehicles with little public transit. Anchored by Adams County, which houses the majority of services and schools, the plan emphasizes collaboration, community engagement, and evidence-based strategies to meet youth needs through 2030.

Risk Factors & Objectives

1. Chronic Absenteeism

- High absentee rates, particularly among Hispanic youth, are linked to transportation challenges and financial barriers.
- **Objectives:** Expand bilingual case management, collaborate with Hispanic communities, and improve truancy program efficiency.

2. Substance Use

- Youth report higher-than-average rates of cigarette, alcohol, and marijuana use, with perceptions of acceptability influencing behavior.
- **Objectives:** Evaluate substance prevention programs and create targeted outreach for youth not yet in formal treatment.

3. Juvenile Diversion

- Diversion programs vary but include consistent criteria and financial support across counties.
- **Objectives:** Standardize diversion processes, expand warning letters for low-risk youth, and strengthen inter-agency collaboration.

Community Engagement & Priorities

The 2025-2030 plan created with community input, emphasizes evidence-based strategies to address youth needs, enhance service accessibility, and reduce justice system involvement. Collaboration with schools, attorneys, and local agencies remains a cornerstone of the plan.

Education & Population

The region includes 17 school districts and two post-secondary institutions. Adams County, the most populous, anchors services for the predominantly rural surrounding counties, where agriculture dominates the economy.

By identifying and addressing these key risk factors, the plan aims to create a cohesive and efficient system for supporting youth across South Central Nebraska.

Key Components

- **Leadership & Coordination:** Adams County serves as the fiscal agent, with Virginia Long as Treasurer and Katie Kulhanek as Fiscal Contact. The Community Planning Team develops strategies based on data and surveys to address youth concerns and needs.
- **Funding:** The Youth Task Force manages and distributes Community-Based Juvenile Services funds provided by the Nebraska Crime Commission, supporting local nonprofits and organizations working with juveniles.
- **Transportation Barriers:** Limited public transportation and reliance on personal vehicles hinder youth access to services in this largely rural region.

Section II: Introduction

Community Team: Background, Formation, and Purpose

Description of Team:

In October 2001, four original counties (Adams, Clay, Nuckolls, & Webster) agreed to make Clay County the lead county in a funding effort to serve juveniles ages 12 to 18 who become involved in the juvenile justice system. Adams County became the lead county in 2018. In 2022 Kearney, Phelps and Harlan counties left the collaborative to develop their own individual collaborative and South Central Nebraska Comprehensive Juvenile Services continued youth services across the following six county area: Adams, Clay, Fillmore, Franklin, Nuckolls and Webster.

Community planning efforts consist of input from the Juvenile Justice Institute, as well as voluntary representatives from each of the six counties. The 2025-2030 South Central Nebraska Comprehensive Juvenile Services Community Plan will be implemented over a four year period. The 2025-2030 plan was written by Community Planning Coordinator, Katie Kulhanek in collaboration with a Community Planning Team consisting of representatives from agencies & organizations throughout the six counties. The team members consist of Through The Eyes of a Child members in participating counties in the collaborative.

The Youth Task Force (YTF) serves as the organization responsible for the management, distribution, & use of the Community-Based Juvenile Services funds from the Nebraska Crime Commission. Adams, Clay, Fillmore, Franklin, Nuckolls, and Webster counties have joined together to apply and utilize this funding across their region. Through the Eyes meetings are attended as available and when held. Remote participation via email and surveys will continue in future to allow for participation from counties to reduce travel barriers to outside counties, increasing participation.

Virginia Long, Adams County Treasurer, serves as the fiscal agent. The Project Director coordinates the application, reports, and makes contact with County Boards in each of the six counties. Katie Kulhanek will serve as the Fiscal Contact, facilitating all program requests for funding from local non-profits, businesses, and individuals working with juveniles in the six county region. Effective July 1, 2021, the Juvenile Services Community Based Grant will switch to a two year application (one year budget) cycle in order to simplify and streamline its relationship to the Comprehensive Juvenile Services Community Plan.

Description of the Planning Process:

Discussion of youth needs occurs year-round as Through the Eyes of the Child meetings are attended, as well as other community meetings where community based needs are covered. Data was provided by JJI, and a survey was distributed to all listed team members which asked about youth concerns and needs in our communities. County attorneys receive quarterly updates regarding services available and any pending changes. Most members attend Through the Eyes of a Child meetings routinely. Priorities and strategies were based off the data provided and the survey that was offered to every team member.

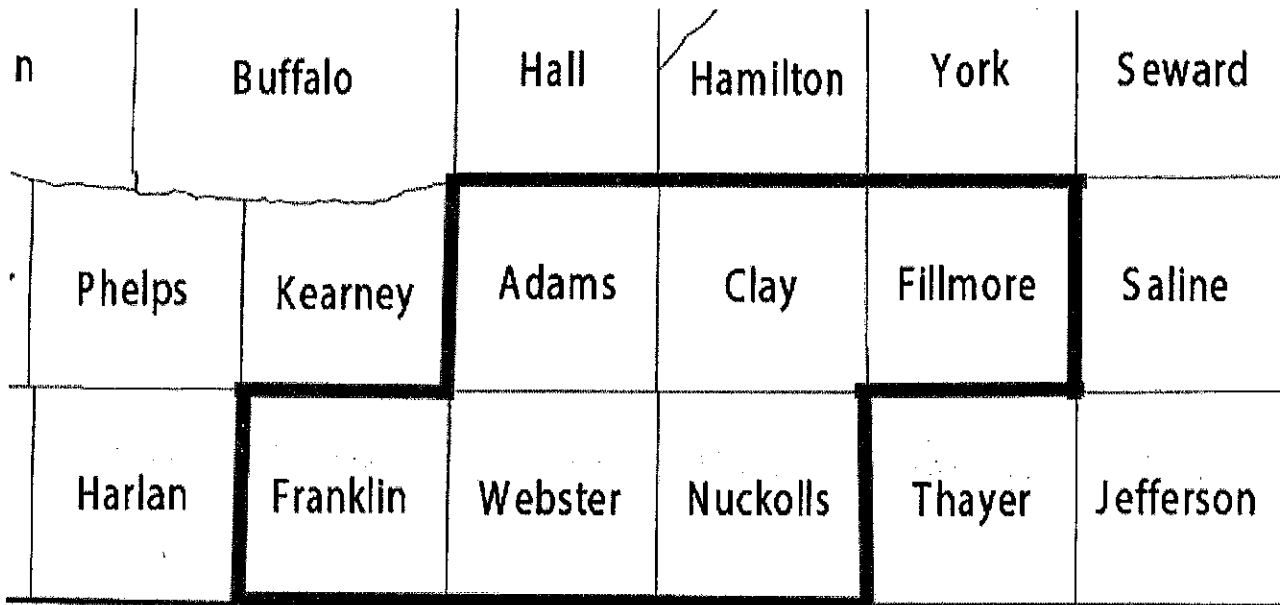
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Community Description

Adams, Clay, Fillmore, Franklin, Nuckolls & Webster Counties make up the six county South Central Nebraska region included in this plan. Adams County is the most populous by a large margin and is therefore home to many of the programs & services that serve the other five surrounding counties. However, the majority of the communities that make up the six county service area are rural and located more than a 60 minute drive from Adams County’s central hub, Hastings. Limitations on time and transportation may present a significant barrier to some youth and families when attempting to access the programs and services described in this document. The primary mode of transportation is individually owned vehicle with little to no public transportation including bussing, taxi, lyft/uber etc. The primary economies are largely agricultural with Hastings offering some industry and health facilities.



Statistical Summaries:

Included in the table below is community demographic and economic information for each of the six counties:

Census Data 2020- All	Total Population	American Indian/Alaskan Native	Asian/Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander	Black	Hispanic	Multiple Races/Other	White
Adams	30,899	1.4%	1.4%	1.4%	12.7%	1.5%	83.1%
Clay	6,116	1.8%	0.3%	0.9%	10.0%	1.4%	87.5%
Fillmore	5,548	0.8%	0.7%	0.6%	3.9%	1.1%	93.4%
Franklin	2,825	0.7%	0.2%	0.8%	3.8%	1.8%	93.5%
Nuckolls	4,095	0.4%	1.5%	0.3%	3.9%	1.4%	92.7%
Webster	3,351	0.7%	0.4%	0.7%	6.3%	2.1%	89.6%

Census Data 2020-Youth	Number of Youth per County	American Indian/Alaskan Native	Asian/Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander	Black	Hispanic	Multiple Races/Other	White
Adams	8,254	0.6%	1.2%	1.4%	20.3%	2.0%	74.4%
Clay	1,629	0.5%	0.1%	1.4%	14.1%	1.7%	82.2%
Fillmore	1,126	1.0%	0.7%	0.6%	7.3%	1.9%	88.5%
Franklin	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Nuckolls	894	0.1%	1.7%	0.8%	6.9%	1.2%	89.3%
Webster	822	1.0%	0.4%	0.4%	9.7%	3.0%	85.5%

Census Data 2020	Median Income	Age 25 years+ with a Bachelors Degree+
Adams	\$ 65,680	27.1%
Clay	\$ 75,938	21.6%
Fillmore	\$ 76,354	22.8%
Franklin	\$ 57,692	20.0%
Nuckolls	\$ 70,201	26.8%
Webster	\$ 65,197	21.5%

Schools in this region include Hastings Public Schools, St. Cecilia & St. Michael’s Catholic School, Adams Central School District, Silver Lake, Kenesaw, Harvard, Clay Center, Sandy Creek, Sutton, Blue Hill, Red Cloud, Superior, Lawrence-Nelson, Geneva, and Franklin. Two institutions of postsecondary education, Hastings College and the Hastings Campus of Central Community College, are located in Adams County. Central Community College also has a learning center in Holdrege.

Total school enrollment in Adams County for the 2022-2023 school year was 5,737. Clay County had 664, Fillmore County had 938, Franklin County had 290, Nuckolls County had 1,124 and Webster County had 587.

Identify Risk Factors:

Risk Factor: Negative attitude toward school: Chronic Absenteeism

Adams County has 20.3% of chronically absent youth, Clay 15.7%, Fillmore 10.4%, Nuckolls 17.6%, and Webster 12.1%. Without bussing or local public transportation many youth find it difficult to arrive to school either on time or entirely, especially when weather conditions are harsh. Public transportation or increased bussing by schools would be needed to eliminate this barrier to attendance. Local schools have found it increasingly difficult to employ bus drivers who often have a split schedule (morning hours, and late afternoon ours only) not only because of lack of appealing schedule, but background requirements such as remaining drug free. Financial hardships in school districts also make this barrier difficult to address.

Objective: Address racially/ethnically disproportionate chronic truancy, particularly among Hispanic youth, by 1) investing in and expanding bilingual case management & outreach 2) consulting with stakeholders & members of Hispanic communities in each county to identify potential causes and solutions and 3) increase collaboration between Truancy programs to more efficiently utilize resources & serve youth.

Risk Factor Substance Use: Rates of Youth use of alcohol, marijuana and other drugs. Youth perceptions of harm from substance use.

Youth in the six county area are reporting higher than Nebraska State average for current use of smoking cigarettes. Youth in Adams county report higher than Nebraska State average for Alcohol use, as well as 10th and 12th graders in Nuckolls and Webster counties. Marijuana use is higher than Nebraska State average for 10th and 12th graders in both Adams and Clay counties, as well as Fillmore county 8th graders, 12th grade Nuckolls, and 10th grade Webster county youth. Youth in these counties seem to have a correlation between young people perceiving a behavior as acceptable and their level of engagement in the activity. Services like substance use/abuse education and early prevention are key, evidence based education is important to provide reliable information to youth.

Objective: Resolve the apparent disconnect between substance misuse prevention programming and self-reported behaviors/community attitudes by 1) evaluating current curricula for effectiveness and 2) exploring ways to reach and serve youth who currently use substances like alcohol, marijuana, or tobacco, but not often/severe enough to be referred for treatment by school counselors or parents/guardians.

Risk Factor Juvenile Diversion: Youth being offered warning letters or diversion programs

Youth across the six county area are offered Diversion based on each individual County Attorney's criteria, although Adams County does automatically seal juvenile records which was an improvement from past years. Diversion criteria for successful completion is uniform across all six counties. All youth are offered scholarship or no fee based on financial barriers, no youth is turned away from any county due to lack of ability to pay a Diversion fee.

Objectives: 1) Work with each County Attorney's office to establish a process, in compliance with statute when necessary conditions have been met, to establish a consistent process for offering juvenile diversion 2) examine the feasibility of sending warning letters for lowest risk youth as an alternative to intervention, as well as not filing on all unsuccessful cases if the juvenile has completed part of their diversion plan (as suggested by JJI). 3) Increase collaboration and inter-agency referrals between Mediation & Diversion programs to more efficiently utilize resources & serve youth. 4) Encourage or introduce Warning Letters as an option and alternative to justice system enrollment 5) Continue utilization of Two Tier Diversion program to better address youth needs in alignment with their offense and reduce risk of youth being overserved (developed 2023)

Section III: Youth Crime Analysis and Needs

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

Absenteeism by County	Enrolled	Chronically Absent	Percentage of Chronically Absent	American Indian Alaskan Native	Asian Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander	Black	Hispanic	Multiple Races Other
Adams	5,737	1163	20.3%	40.0%	1.1%	1.0%	18.8%	3.3%
Clay	664	104	15.7%	20.0%	0.0%	50.0%	50.0%	0.0%
Fillmore	938	98	10.4%	0.0%	0.0%	1.0%	5.1%	0.0%
Franklin	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Nuckolls	1,124	198	17.6%	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%	15.2%	1.0%
Webster	587	71	12.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	15.5%	2.8%

Law Enforcement Contact by County	Number of Youth	Number of Youth Cited	American Indian Alaskan Native	Asian Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander	Black	Hispanic	Multiple Races Other	White
Adams	8254	737	0.0%	1.5%	6.2%	17.1%	0.0%	74.2%
Clay	1629	43	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	11.6%	0.0%	88.4%
Fillmore	1126	19	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	10.5%	0.0%	84.2%
Franklin	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Nuckolls	894	22	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Webster	822	68	0%	0%	1.5%	2.9%	0%	94.1%

Law Enforcement Warnings	Number of Youth	Number of Youth Cited	American Indian Alaskan Native	Asian Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander	Black	Hispanic	Multiple Races Other	White
Adams	8254	43	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
Clay	1629	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Fillmore	1126	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Franklin	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Nuckolls	894	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Webster	822	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

Youth Referred to Diversion	Number of Youth	Number of Youth Cited	American Indian Alaskan Native	Asian Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander	Black	Hispanic	Multiple Races Other	White
Adams	8254	58	3.5%	1.7%	1.7%	19.0%	17.2%	55.2%
Clay	1629	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Fillmore	1126	1	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Franklin	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Nuckolls	894	3	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Webster	822	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

Filed in Juvenile Court	Number of Youth	Number of Youth Cited	American Indian Alaskan Native	Asian Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander	Black	Hispanic	Multiple Races Other	White
Adams	8254	171	0.0%	1.2%	5.3%	18.1%	0.0%	63.2%
Clay	1629	12	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	75.0%
Fillmore	1126	3	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	33.0%
Franklin	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Nuckolls	894	5	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Webster	822	11	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	9.1%	0.0%	63.6%

Youth Placed on Probation	Number of Youth	Number of Youth Cited	American Indian Alaskan Native	Asian Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander	Black	Hispanic	Multiple Races Other	White
Adams	8254	65	3.1%	1.5%	12.3%	*	16.9%	66.2%
Clay	1629	7	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%

Fillmore	1126	3	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Franklin	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Nuckolls	894	5	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Webster	822	3	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	*	33.0%	66.7%

Currently Smoke Cigarettes	8th	10th	12th
Adams	6.8%	2.5%	2.2%
Clay	0.0%	2.9%	0.0%
Fillmore	6.7%	5.3%	21.3%
Franklin	*	*	*
Nuckolls	0.0%	12.1%	16.2%
Webster	3.3%	11.1%	26.9%
Nebraska Total	1.2%	1.8%	3.8%

Currently Drink Alcohol	8th	10th	12th
Adams	9.5%	22.7%	37.3%
Clay	8.6%	17.6%	31.0%
Fillmore	3.3%	10.5%	19.7%
Franklin	*	*	*
Nuckolls	4.5%	39.4%	51.4%
Webster	0.0%	18.5%	42.3%
Nebraska Total	9.2%	18.2%	31.9%

Currently Smoke Marijuana	8th	10th	12th
Adams	0.0%	12.8%	13.8%
Clay	0.0%	9.1%	14.3%
Fillmore	3.3%	7.0%	9.8%
Franklin	*	*	*
Nuckolls	0.0%	6.1%	13.5%
Webster	0.0%	11.1%	3.8%
Nebraska Total	2.2%	7.6%	12.5%

Youth Perceive as Wrong- Smoking Cigarettes	8th	10th	12th
Adams	88.6%	88.2%	81.1%
Clay	88.6%	94.1%	78.6%
Franklin	*	*	*
Nuckolls	97.7%	88.1%	67.6%
Webster	100.0%	77.8%	75.0%
Nebraska Total	94.4%	88.9%	80.5%

Youth Perceive as Wrong Smokeless Tobacco	8th	10th	12th
Adams	88.6%	84.4%	77.4%
Clay	91.4%	85.3%	81.0%
Fillmore	90.0%	89.5%	65.6%
Franklin	*	*	*
Nuckolls	93.0%	75.8%	64.9%
Webster	100.0%	81.5%	68.6%
Nebraska Total	94.2%	87.2%	77.3%

Youth Perceive as Wrong- Drinking Alcohol (1-2x per month)	8th	10th	12th
Adams	79.5%	58.6%	48.9%
Clay	67.6%	76.5%	72.1%
Fillmore	93.3%	79.4%	63.9%
Franklin	*	*	*
Nuckolls	79.5%	63.6%	35.1%
Webster	100.0%	74.1%	55.8%
Nebraska Total	85.8%	69.3%	53.5%

Youth Perceive as Wrong- Smoking Marijuana	8th	10th	12th
Adams	90.9%	69.5%	66.0%
Clay	97.1%	79.4%	81.4%
Fillmore	93.3%	82.8%	75.4%
Franklin	*	*	*
Nuckolls	92.3%	78.1%	64.9%
Webster	100.0%	74.1%	88.5%
Nebraska Total	93.1%	77.6%	64.3%

Parents Perceive as Wrong- Smoking Cigarettes	8th	10th	12th
Adams	97.4%	95.0%	94.7%
Clay	100.0%	97.1%	97.7%
Fillmore	96.7%	96.5%	80.3%
Franklin	*	*	*
Nuckolls	97.7%	90.6%	91.9%
Webster	*	*	*
Nebraska Total	98.1%	97.1%	96.2%

Parents Perceive as Wrong- Using Smokeless Tobacco	8th	10th	12th
Adams	97.4%	94.6%	94.7%
Clay	100.0%	94.1%	100.0%
Fillmore	96.7%	94.7%	83.3%
Franklin	*	*	*
Nuckolls	97.7%	90.9%	89.2%
Webster	*	*	*
Nebraska Total	98.0%	96.7%	95.1%

Parents Perceive as Wrong- Drinking Alcohol (1-2 drinks per day)	8th	10th	12th
Adams	97.4%	89.1%	82.5%
Clay	88.6%	85.3%	88.1%
Fillmore	93.3%	96.5%	72.1%
Franklin	*	*	*
Nuckolls	97.7%	84.8%	86.1%
Webster	*	*	*
Nebraska Total	94.1%	90.2%	84.1%

Parents Perceive as Wrong- Smoking Marijuana	8th	10th	12th
Adams	100.0%	87.0%	87.7%
Clay	97.1%	97.1%	88.4%
Fillmore	93.3%	94.7%	88.5%
Franklin	*	*	*
Nuckolls	97.7%	87.9%	89.2%
Webster	*	*	*
Nebraska Total	96.9%	91.9%	88.3%

Youth Bullied in the last 12 Months- Physically	8th	10th	12th
Adams	20.5%	11.1%	7.8%
Clay	31.4%	11.8%	9.3%
Fillmore	33.3%	19.3%	13.1%
Franklin	*	*	*
Nuckolls	15.9%	15.2%	8.1%
Webster	*	*	*
Nebraska Total	27.5%	15.3%	10.3%

Youth Bullied in the last 12 Months- Verbally	8th	10th	12th
Adams	52.3%	34.7%	33.6%
Clay	54.3%	41.2%	37.2%
Fillmore	53.3%	50.9%	44.3%
Franklin	*	*	*
Nuckolls	59.1%	54.5%	45.9%
Webster	*	*	*
Nebraska Total	51.3%	42.3%	37.4%

Youth Bullied in the last 12 Months- Socially	8th	10th	12th
Adams	50.0%	33.3%	35.2%
Clay	40.0%	41.2%	39.5%
Fillmore	43.3%	38.6%	34.4%
Franklin	*	*	*
Nuckolls	41.9%	42.4%	40.5%
Webster	*	*	*
Nebraska Total	43.4%	39.1%	37.8%

Youth Bullied in the last 12 Months- Electronically	8th	10th	12th
Adams	22.7%	18.9%	19.4%
Clay	20.0%	29.4%	18.6%
Fillmore	20.0%	28.1%	18.0%
Franklin	*	*	*
Nuckolls	16.7%	21.2%	29.7%
Webster	*	*	*
Nebraska Total	22.5%	21.4%	8.9%

Youth in School- Feeling Safe	8th	10th	12th
Adams	97.7%	86.4%	89.8%
Clay	100.0%	88.2%	90.7%
Fillmore	96.7%	87.9%	96.7%
Franklin	*	*	*
Nuckolls	88.1%	87.9%	91.9%
Webster	*	*	*
Nebraska Total	88.6%	86.7%	89.4%

Youth in School- Adult in School Who Listens	8th	10th	12th
Adams	79.5%	82.1%	89.7%
Clay	88.6%	91.2%	88.4%
Fillmore	90.0%	86.2%	83.6%
Franklin	*	*	*
Nuckolls	93.0%	69.7%	86.5%
Webster	*	*	*
Nebraska Total	85.8%	83.7%	88.7%

Family: Adult at Home Who Listens	8th	10th	12th
Adams	82.1%	82.4%	83.4%
Clay	85.7%	82.4%	88.4%
Fillmore	86.7%	87.7%	93.4%
Franklin	*	*	*
Nuckolls	95.0%	78.8%	83.8%
Webster	*	*	*
Nebraska Total	85.2%	83.4%	83.2%

Family: Help for Personal Problems	8th	10th	12th
Adams	82.1%	82.4%	83.4%
Clay	85.7%	82.4%	88.4%
Fillmore	90.0%	89.5%	86.9%
Franklin	*	*	*
Nuckolls	90.2%	78.1%	83.8%
Webster	*	*	*
Nebraska Total	85.2%	83.4%	83.2%

*No data available for County

Highlight indicates percentage higher than Nebraska state average

Community Planning Data provided University of Nebraska at Omaha Juvenile Justice Institute

Section IV: Services and Programs

SYSTEM POINT: PREVENTION (includes programs that aim to intervene before and after problematic behaviors are identified)		
Program/ Agency Name	Eligible age	Risk or need
Zone After School Program (YWCA Adams County)	Middle School	Anti-social attitudes, inappropriate use of time, lack of supervision, low achievement, low attachment, deviant peer groups, low literacy
CareerConnect (MentoringWorks)	High School	Anti-social attitudes, truancy, low engagement, low attachment
SchoolConnect (MentoringWorks)	Elementary	Anti-social attitudes, truancy, low engagement, low attachment
Teen Outreach Program at Hastings Middle School (YWCA)	Middle School	Anti-social attitudes, lack of concern for others, inappropriate use of time, deviant peer groups
Maryland Living Center	16-21	Previous victimization, lack of supervision, lack of discipline, abusive parent(s), family violence
Title One Migrant Education Program (Head Start Child and Family Development Program) Serves Adams Central, Hastings, Kenesaw, Silver Lake, Harvard, Sutton, Clay Center/Sandy Creek, Doniphan-Trumbull, Lawrence/Nelson, Superior, Blue Hill, and Red Cloud school districts.	3-21	Low achievement, low attachment, low literacy
EnCourage Advocacy Center	0-18	Abusive parent(s), family violence, previous victimization
STARS (Serves Adams, Webster, Clay, Nuckolls, Franklin)	K-12 Grades	Truancy
Substance Abuse, Mental Health, or Co- Occurring Assessments (Horizon Recovery)	0-17	Drug/alcohol use, anxiety/depression, mental health disorder(s)
CASA of South Central Nebraska (Serves Adams, Clay, Fillmore, Franklin, Nuckolls, & Webster Counties)	0-17	Abusive parent(s), family violence, parental substance abuse, low parental warmth, lack of supervision, previous victimization
TeamMates (Chapters in Hastings, Harvard, Sandy Creek, Sutton, Alma, Exeter-Milligan, Fillmore Central, Franklin, Minden, Axell, Wilcox-Hildreth, Superior, Holdrege, & Red Cloud school districts)	3-12 Grades	Anti-social attitudes, truancy, low engagement, low attachment, low achievement
Area Substance and Alcohol Abuse Prevention - ASAAP (Serves Adams, Clay, Nuckolls, & Webster Counties)	K-12 Grades	Drug/alcohol use
Family & Youth Mediation (Central Mediation Center)	0-19	Lack of concern for others, inappropriate use of time, lack of supervision, lack of discipline, truancy, parental hostility

Child Welfare Conferencing (Central Mediation Center)	0-19	Lack of supervision, lack of discipline, low parental warmth, abusive parent(s), parental substance use, family violence
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SYSTEM POINT: DIVERSION SERVICES
(diversion and services available to youth on diversion)

Program/ Agency Name	Eligible age	Risk or need
CASA Diversion (Serves Adams, Clay, Fillmore, Nuckolls & Webster Counties)	0-17	Defiance of authority, lack of concern for others
Victim Youth Conferencing (Central Mediation Center)	11-18	Lack of concern for others, inappropriate use of time, lack of supervision, lack of discipline, defiance of authority
Life Skills-Conflict Class (Central Mediation Center)	11-18	Lack of concern for others, defiance of authority, low literacy
Family & Youth Mediation (Central Mediation Center)	0-19	Lack of concern for others, inappropriate use of time, lack of supervision, lack of discipline, truancy, parental hostility
Child Welfare Conferencing (Central Mediation Center)	0-19	Lack of supervision, lack of discipline, low parental warmth, abusive parent(s), parental substance use, family violence

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

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

Program/ Agency Name	Eligible age	Risk or need
Victim Youth Conferencing (Central Mediation Center)	11-18	Lack of concern for others, inappropriate use of time, lack of supervision, lack of discipline, defiance of authority
CASA Diversion (Serves Adams, Clay, Fillmore, Nuckolls & Webster Counties)	0-17	Defiance of authority, lack of concern for others
Life Skills-Conflict Class (Central Mediation Center)	11-18	Lack of concern for others, defiance of authority, low literacy
Family & Youth Mediation (Central Mediation Center)	0-19	Lack of concern for others, inappropriate use of time, lack of supervision, lack of discipline, truancy, parental hostility
Child Welfare Conferencing (Central Mediation Center)	0-19	Lack of supervision, lack of discipline, low parental warmth, abusive parent(s), parental substance use, family violence

KNOWN GAPS IN SERVICES

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

Program/ Agency Name	Eligible age	Risk or need
Spanish Language (or bilingual) Prevention/Promotion Programs	0-18	Anti-social attitudes, inappropriate use of time, lack of supervision, low achievement, low attachment, deviant peer groups, anxiety/depression, mental health disorder(s), truancy, disenfranchised neighborhood, low attachment, low literacy, previous victimization
Spanish Language (or bilingual) Diversion Services	0-17	Defiance of authority, drug/alcohol use, lack of concern for others
Free Before/After School Programs for Elementary & High School Students	K-12	Anti-social attitudes, inappropriate use of time, lack of supervision, low achievement, low attachment, deviant peer groups
Reliable to/from school transportation system	K-12	Truancy
Parenting Support Services	K-12	Defiance of authority, drug/alcohol use, lack of concern for others Anti-social attitudes, inappropriate use of time, lack of supervision, low achievement, low attachment, deviant peer groups, anxiety/depression, mental health disorder(s), truancy, disenfranchised neighborhood, low attachment, low literacy

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Section V: Priorities and Strategies

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

Priority Area #1: Recognize signs of Mental Health Distress and provide appropriate interventions and access to services						
Strategies	Action Steps	Responsible Party	Timeline	Resources Needed	Expected Results	Measurements of Impact
Assessment of Youth Mental Health	Youth in Diversion Tier II or Truancy receive Juvenile Inventory for Functioning to identify mental health need	*Diversion *STARS Truancy	Current	Staff trained in JIFF as well as access to JIFF online platform. Available mental health provider in case of crisis intervention need Bilingual accessibility	*Youth will receive immediate connection to mental health services *Reduced elevated mental health crisis *Youth feel heard and learn coping skills	Ideally youth will have lower mental health needs upon the exit JIFF assessment
Addressing Poor Behavioral Conduct due to Mental Health	Youth committing misdemeanor crimes referred to restorative practices	*Central Mediation *Diversion *Mental Health Service Providers	Current	Community partnership between law enforcement and county attorneys prior to assignment to Mediation or Diversion	*Prevent or Reduce formal court involvement *Youth gain understanding of appropriate conduct/reduction in recidivism *Increase in pro-social connections	Fewer youth recidivate after being connected to mental health services

Offering alternatives to traditional settings for youth with mental health needs	Addressing youth identified as having existing mental health needs and creating a plan to meet or adjust environment to reduce mental health stressors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Local Schools *Mental Health Service Providers *Mediation / Conflict Resolution *STARS Truancy 	Current Some improvements needed	Increased facility capacity for alternative learning options Mental Health services within the school systems Mental Health services available without long wait lists	*Reduce anxiety and lack of interest in school attendance. *Increased youth attendance	Reduction in reported youth anxiety, depression and overall increase in mental health wellness. Increased school attendance- less chronic absenteeism
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Priority Area #2: Reduction in Violence and Law Violations and increase education to align youth perceptions and actions

Strategies	Action Steps	Responsible Party	Timeline	Resources Needed	Expected Results	Measurements of Impact
Provide Evidence Based Education for youth	Classes or Education provided to youth in schools or community platforms	*ASAAP *District Health Department *Local Schools	Current	Access to evidence based curriculums Local school involvement, time set aside for substance education Bilingual services	Less youth cited for law violations Less youth utilizing substances when surveyed	Number of youth cited for law violations fewer than previous years Data showing youth perceptions and actions more in alignment
Reduce Truancy	Increase engagement and attendance. Case management for individual plan for youth school success	*STARS Truancy *Diversion *Local Schools	Current	Bilingual Services Transportation to school or Case Management appointments	Increased school attendance	Reduction in the number of truant youth. Reduction in Hispanic absenteeism
Reduce youth law violations and entrance into the juvenile justice system	Educate youth on basic law knowledge Provide access to diversion services	*Diversion *School based education *County Attorney *Law Enforcement	Current	Transportation to diversion offices/access Evidence based curriculum Bilingual Services	Fewer youth entering into the traditional justice system Fewer youth with permanent criminal records Fewer youth cited for law violations	Data reflecting a reduction in number of youth with permanent criminal records

Conflict Resolution solutions for youth	Youth learning resolution and widening their view to include the other parties perceptions and feelings	*Central Mediation *Diversion * STARS Truancy	Current	Access to Mediation services Access to Diversion services Transportation to access point	Youth gain skills on proper conflict resolution without violating the law	Increase youth participation in mediation services. Increased school attendance
Supportive Adult or Mentor	Youth receiving ongoing connection and support through mentorship	*TeamMates *Mentoring Works	Current	Availability of adult volunteers Access to mentorship program	Youth build report with an adult and have a person that they can confide in that will guide them to resources and appropriate behaviors	Youth report increased number of adults who listen Youth increase school attendance

Priority Area #3: Increase Family and Community Stability

Strategies	Action Steps	Responsible Party	Timeline	Resources Needed	Expected Results	Measurements of Impact
Help Alleviate Poverty for youth and families	Connect families to community based resources to meet immediate needs and work with family to address ongoing needs to become self sustaining	*United Way / CIN *DHHS *CASA *Diversion *STARS Truancy	Current	Access to emergency stability funds Food scarcity elimination programs Utility and Rent assistance programs	Reduction in homelessness Reduction in law violations due to theft of need based items Reduction in youth removed from homes Increase school attendance due to housing stability	Number of reported homeless/near homeless persons within community population Increase in voluntary DHHS cases/ less out of home placements Reduction in citations/law violations of theft Increased school attendance

Address Domestic Violence occurrences	Provide education on preventing, identifying, and addressing domestic violence. Connecting to resources and supports	*EnCourage Advocacy Center *DHHS *CASA *Central Mediation Center *Diversion *STARS Truancy	Current	Evidence based education on domestic violence Transportation to support services and mental health services Financial assistance for persons fleeing from domestic violence	Early intervention and identification of domestic violence. Reduction in violent assaults and crimes Fewer youth removed from home/ placed in out of home care	Reduction in domestic violence related law violations Fewer out of home placements for youth Increased community education on domestic violence
Increased Knowledge of Conflict Resolution	Provide education and intervention regarding conflict resolution and mediation	*Central Mediation Center *Diversion *STARS Truancy *DHHS *CASA	Current	Access to mediation services Transportation	Reduction in law violations stemming from arguments such as assault, vandalism, destruction of property etc	Higher utilization or assignment of conflict resolution classes

Priority Area #4: Coordination of data and responses among Youth Task Force partners to assess and develop continuous improvement to community priorities and strategies

Strategies	Action Steps	Responsible Party	Timeline	Resources Needed	Expected Results	Measurements of Impact
Increased coordination of YTF meetings	Quarterly meetings held in person or via zoom expanded beyond current community members	Youth Task Force Team Grant/Community Plan Coordinators	Current-4 years	Organizational support and coordination. Data access for collection	Improved community plan and application presenting informed decision making	Cohesive Community Plan
Increased data collection of outlying counties without current information available	Coordinate with JJI for any potential surveys or upcoming data collections that could be helpful	Youth Task Force Grant/Community Plan Coordinator	Current- 4 years	Training to understand and filter data that is relevant Access to community to collect data where is it lacking	Increased data from counties currently lacking sufficient information	A more collaborative plan that can utilize data from all counties within the collaborative

Appendix

Examples

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

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

South Central Nebraska Youth Task Force

COMPREHENSIVE YOUTH SERVICES PLAN

JULY 1, 2025- JUNE 30, 2030



ADAMS, CLAY, FILLMORE, FRANKLIN, NUCKOLLS, AND WEBSTER COUNTIES

The Youth Task Force is serving as the lead organization in the assessment and distribution of the Juvenile Services Community Based Grant funding from the Nebraska Crime Commission. It is the desire of the following counties: Adams, Clay, Fillmore, Franklin, Nuckolls, and Webster to continue this arrangement for the community plan requested for 2025-2030.

On October 31, 2001, the original four counties (Adams, Clay, Nuckolls, and Webster) agreed that Clay County should be the lead county in this funding effort to work with juveniles from ages 12-18 who are already in the juvenile justice system. This was changed to Adams County on May 1, 2018. In 2022 the Youth Task Force reorganized to a six county team rather than the previous nine county team (Kearney, Phelps, and Harlan resigned from the South Central YTF collaboration to form their own local task force). This present Comprehensive County Juvenile Services Plan has been updated with input from the Juvenile Justice Institute, as well as representatives from each of the nine counties for 2025-2030. All six counties' data are being used in updating the new plan.

Virginia Long, Adams County Treasurer, will serve as the fiscal agent. As such, she will handle all financial transactions including income and expenses. Katie Kulhanek, Project Director, will oversee the grant requests, finalize reporting, and make contact with County Boards in each of the six counties. Diversion of South Central Nebraska will serve as the backbone agency within the Youth Task Force.

All quarterly reports are submitted to the Nebraska Crime Commission and reviewed by the Project Director. An audit of all reports is conducted annually.

<u>Adams</u>	
County Board Chairman	County
	12.17.24
Witness	Date

**Agenda for Meeting
of Adams County Board of Commissioners
County Board Room, Courthouse, 2nd Floor**

* Date of Meeting, December 17, 2024 at 9:30 A.M.

Chairman to request a motion that this is an open public meeting of the Adams County Board of Commissioners
Announce location of Agenda & Open Meetings Law postings

Reminder to turn off all cell phones

Pledge of Allegiance

Conflicts of Interest

Roll call:

Committee Reports:

Approval of consent agenda items:

- Minutes from previous meeting
- Claims
- Monthly Report of Single Bank Pooled Collateral
- Recognize disbursement of HRA funds from the Healthcare Fund (1275) for First Concord for deductible buydown
- ACOB meeting room rental requests
- Miscellaneous Receipts
- Officer Reports

Receive Comments from the Public:

Casey Muzic – Recognition of Commissioner Glen Larsen’s service on the Midland Area on Aging Board

Katie Kulhanek – Present for possible approval: an amendment to the supplemental grant approved on 11/19/2024
The five year Comprehensive Youth Services Plan
The Community Based Aid Juvenile Services grant application

Personnel Committee – present for possible approval, a revised Adams County Employee Handbook

Lee Hogan – Discussion and possible action on the possible closure or reduced hours of operation for Tuesday, December 24, 2024

Michael Stromer - discussion and possible approval the obligation of LATCF funds in the amount of \$100,000 and the obligation of \$400,000 in ARPA funds for the radio project

Discussion and approval of the expense of \$249,451.85 in ARPA funds for Adams County radio project

Ramona Thomas – Present for possible approval, the 2025 County Commissioner and Board of Equalization meeting calendar

This agenda is subject to amending until 9:30 AM on the Monday preceding the Board meeting.-

Note to Citizens: Any agenda item may be moved down at any time at the discretion of the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners.

Last updated on December 5, 2024 at 11:52 am

For non-English speaking attendees wishing to arrange for a sign language or foreign language interpreter, please call or fax the County Attorney's office at Phone: 402-461-7240 or Fax: 402 461-7241. For hearing-impaired individuals or individuals with other special needs call or fax the County Clerk's Office at Phone: 402 461-7107, or TTY: 402 461-7166 or Fax: 402-461-7185. When requesting an interpreter or services for the hearing impaired, please provide at least forty-eight (48) hours advance notice to allow time for making the accommodations.

The Board reserves the right to go into executive session if such session is clearly necessary for the protection of the public interest or for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of an individual.

Adams County Board of Commissioners
County Board Room, Courthouse, 2nd Floor

December 17, 2024 at 9:30 A.M.

Katie Kulhanek- Present for possible approval:

Correction to grant #25-EB-0624

Motion made by Chuck Neumann, seconded by Michael Stroemer

All approved, motion carried

South Central Nebraska Youth Task Force Comprehensive Youth Service Plan 2025-2030

Motion made by Chuck Neumann, seconded by Tim Reams

All approved, motion carried

FY2026 Community-Based Juvenile Services Aid Grant. CB Grant

Motion made by Chuck Neumann, seconded by Tim Reams

All approved, motion carried

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	Donna Daiss, Cassie Baldwin, Michael Burns, Patrick Caulkins, Jill Cunningham, Jaclyn Daake, Pierce Fiala, John Hodge, Timothy Hoeft, Jennifer Fleischer, Henry Schenker, Sara Bockstadter, Michelle Oldham, Ramona Thomas, Terrin Williams, Katie Kulhanek, Dawn Conant, Melissa Maggart, RuAnn Root, Lucinda Glen
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Law enforcement	Brad Cunningham
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community service providers	Jo Bair, Heather Bolte, Jodi Graves, Kristine Kasperbauer, Jenifer Knuth, Laura Stutte, Jody Stutzman, Amy Swayze,
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Schools	Nicole Adams, Jeff Bittfield, Charla Brant, Jennier Engel, Stephanie Furrer, Stephanie Jacobson, Michele Kimle, Susan Lindbland, Jill Hoppe
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Detention or shelter care	Jennifer Knuth, Becky Schernikau
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County elected and administrative officials	Lee Hogan, Ramona Thomas
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Probation officials	Scott Hinrichs, Sue Kissinger, Joe Budnick
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Health and human services representatives	Stacia Henderson, Kim Krueger, KaCee Zimmerman, Susan Henrie, Heather Hunt, Chris Junker, Jill Schubauer
<input type="checkbox"/> State officials or agency representatives	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Similar committee or group of individuals	Brady Rhodes, Zayra Navarrete, Erin Trausch
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	
Page number(s) in the plan:	

Plan Components

1. Data (43-2404.01)		
Notes:		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Data is relevant to juvenile and family issues	Data includes juvenile delinquency information, stastics and demographics
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Includes an examination of racial and ethnic disparities	Breakdown of populations included in data
Page number(s) in the plan: p7-8		
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	Absenteeism, Substance Use, Diversion
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Services needed to address risk factors	Bilingual Services, Substance Education, Diversion warnings and programming
Page number(s) in the plan: p9 - 10		
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: p 17-20

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

Notes:

Page number(s) in the plan: p17-20

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 type="checkbox"/>	Costs associated with use of such programs, services, facilities, and providers	

Page number(s) in the plan: p17-20

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: p 20

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 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: p17-20

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: p 20-27

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: p 20-27		

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.