

NEBRASKA COMMISSION ON  
LAW ENFORCEMENT AND  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE

2011 ANNUAL REPORT







# NEBRASKA COMMISSION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

## FROM THE DIRECTOR:

### MISSION

The Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice fulfills a leadership role in the statewide coordination of the criminal Justice System.

As the state's justice advocate, the Commission:

- develops comprehensive plans
- facilitates the improvement of criminal and juvenile justice administration
- provides a forum for discussion and problem solving among state, federal, local, and private agencies



As Executive Director, I am pleased to present the 2011 Annual Report of the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice.

We remain committed to our Vision Statement which "strives to be a leader in criminal and juvenile justice progress through the dedication of forward-thinking staff, services provided with integrity, and leadership in the spirit of cooperation."

The Nebraska Crime Commission is proud of our accomplishments and collaborations within Nebraska and nationally. I commend the staff of the Crime

Commission and our commission and coalition members for their dedication and service to the State of Nebraska. I would also like to introduce our new Division of Community Corrections and its Chief Linda Krutz and staff member Jeffrey Beaty.

It is my pleasure to work with a very competent and professional staff who are dedicated to fulfilling our statutory mission and our own mission statement which states how the Crime Commission 'fulfills a leadership role in the statewide coordination of the criminal justice system.' We could not be successful without working in partnerships with allied state agencies, law enforcement, victim advocates and juvenile coalitions from across our state. For all of these groups and individuals, I am extremely grateful. I also want to extend my gratitude to members of

both the Executive and Legislative branches for their continued support.

I hope you find the 2011 Annual report a valuable resource which promotes confidence in our ability to serve our great State of Nebraska.

Respectfully,  
Michael E. Behm  
Executive Director

### VISION

The Crime Commission will strive to be a leader in criminal and juvenile justice progress through the dedication of forward-thinking staff, services provided with integrity, and leadership in the spirit of cooperation.

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**CRIME COMMISSION APPROPRIATIONS FY 11/12**

The Crime Commission’s budget is divided into ten budget programs, with a total staffing in Lincoln of 25.3 positions and 18.0 in Grand Island. The following pages contain a brief description of each budget program, as well as a breakdown by type of funds, operations, and aid.

**JUVENILE SERVICES**

General Funds, Operations	111,832
General Funds, Aid	587,812
<b>Total General Funds</b>	<b>699,644</b>

These funds are distributed to local communities for programs which provide alternatives to juvenile incarceration. The Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice (Committee) makes decisions on awarding these funds, the County Juvenile Services funds, and the federal Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Funds.

**VICTIM-WITNESS ASSISTANCE**

General Funds, Operations	3,821
General Funds, Aid	52,559
<b>Total General Funds</b>	<b>56,380</b>
Federal Funds, Operations	90,209
Federal Funds, Aid	2,632,086
<b>Total Federal Funds</b>	<b>2,722,295</b>

The Commission provides funding for local victim assistance and domestic violence centers. These centers provide follow-up support services to crime victims and witnesses as they proceed through the criminal justice system. Partial funding is provided for 37 centers across the state.

**AGENCY SUMMARY**

General Funds	5,544,708
Cash Funds	1,652,270
Federal Funds	9,100,250*
<b>Total Appropriation</b>	<b>16,297,228</b>

\* Does not include one-time ARRA funds.

**AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA)**

The Commission has received a share of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) federal funds in the following amounts. These are one-time funds and have a two to three year grant period.

Byrne Justice Assistance Act	8,238,012
<b>Violence Against Women Act</b>	<b>1,217,180</b>
Victims of Crime Act	618,000

**CRIME VICTIMS’ REPARATIONS**

General Funds, Operations	7,837
General Funds, Aid	20,000
<b>Total General Funds</b>	<b>27,837</b>
Cash Funds, Aid	194,000
<b>Federal Funds, Aid</b>	<b>128,400</b>

Funding is provided from this budget program to compensate innocent victims of crime who receive bodily injuries and do not have funds available from other sources to pay medical expenses. Funeral costs and lost wages not covered by insurance are also reimbursed. All claims are examined by Commission staff and approved or denied by the Executive Director.

**COUNTY JUVENILE SERVICES AID**

General Funds, Aid	1,477,575
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These funds assist counties in providing services identified in their comprehensive juvenile services plan. Programs funded include diversion, delinquency prevention, intensive juvenile probation, shelter care, assessment/evaluation, and family support services.

**JAIL STANDARDS**

General Funds, Operations	287,524
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The Jail Standards Board is responsible for the enforcement of minimum standards for the operation and construction of local jails. Staff from this budget program conduct annual inspections of local jails and juvenile detention facilities and also provide technical assistance.

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFORMATION SYSTEM (CJIS)**

General Funds, Operations	141,319
<b>Federal Funds, Operations</b>	<b>809,658</b>

The CJIS Advisory Committee has developed a statewide strategic plan for improving the exchange of information among criminal justice agencies. Appropriated funds are used to implement those projects identified in the CJIS strategic plan.



**CRIME COMMISSION APPROPRIATIONS FY 11/12**

**CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION BUDGET**

General Funds, Operations	458,486
General Funds, Aid	13,457
<b>Total General Funds</b>	<b>471,943</b>

Cash Funds, Operations	37,793
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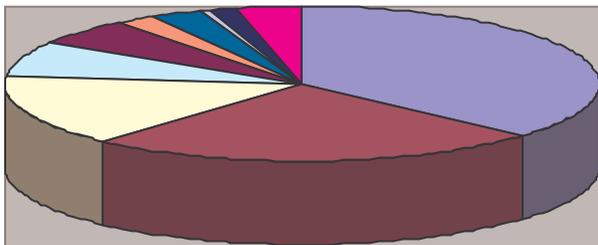
Federal Funds, Operations	861,531
Federal Funds, Aid	4,520,673
<b>Total Federal Funds</b>	<b>5,382,204</b>

This budget program provides the central administrative services for the agency. It also includes most of the major federal grant programs administered by the Crime Commission.

**FUNDED PROGRAMS**

- Uniform Crime Reporting
- Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
- Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant
- Statistical Analysis Center
- Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Funds
- Violence Against Women Act Funds
- Residential Substance Abuse Treatment
- Sexual Assault Service
- John R. Justice Loan Program
- VINE (Victim Information and Notification Everyday)
- Hate Crimes Reporting
- Racial Profiling Reporting
- Statewide Crimestoppers Aid

**Crime Commission Grant Programs  
Federal Funds 2011/2012  
\$7,152,759**



- Victim Assistance \$2,632,086
- Byrne Justice Assistance Grants \$1,780,000
- Violence Against Women \$1,073,000
- Juvenile Justice Title 2 \$510,000
- Juvenile Accountability Incentive \$410,590
- Sexual Assault Services \$160,627
- Residential Substance Abuse Treatment \$184,510
- Juvenile Justice Title 5 \$47,500
- John R. Justice Loan Program \$90,000
- All Other \$264,446

**Crime Commission Grant  
Programs  
General Funds 2011/2012  
\$2,117,946**



- County Juvenile Services \$1,477,575
- Juvenile Services, \$587,812
- Victim Assistance, \$52,559

## THE GRANTS DIVISION

The grants division applies and manages 18 different federal and state grant programs of which 1 is a new program. The grants division in 2011 awarded 191 grant programs for the total amount of \$9,411,608. The grant programs administered by the Crime Commission include:

### JOHN R. JUSTICE

The John R. Justice (JRJ) Student Loan Repayment Program is a federal program that encourages lawyers to enter and be retained as full-time public defenders and public criminal prosecutors. Selected applicants receive educational loan repayments if they promise to remain as a public prosecutor or defender in Nebraska for at least three years. In 2011, a total of \$96,919 was awarded to 37 individual applicants to assist in student loan repayment. In adherence to JRJ Federal guidelines and procedures, JRJ applicants were awarded based upon income to student loan debt ratio. In addition, applicants were awarded to ensure a fair distribution between urban and rural geographic representation.

### ARRA EDWARD BYRNE/JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT

The Crime Commission administers one time funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to support and enhance the same purpose areas as the formula JAG grant program. In 2011, the remaining JAG ARRA funds were awarded. These funds have been awarded to support multi-jurisdictional task forces, information technology, truancy court, court innovation, offender mental health pilot project through probation, and training for public defenders.

JAG ARRA funds have allowed the Nebraska Attorney General's Office to provide specialized training to Nebraska's Prosecutors and law enforcement personnel regarding gang related crimes. The trainings have been multi-county regional trainings and were accessible across the state so that all geographic areas had an opportunity to participate.

### RESIDENTIAL SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT

This pass through grant is a federal program that provides support for the residential substance abuse treatment programs housed within the correctional facilities. The Nebraska Department of Corrections with these funds has established a comprehensive treatment program for offenders prior to their being eligible for parole. One additional component to their comprehensive program is an after care treatment component after the offender is released. For the first half of 2011 there were 342 beds and for the second half there were 270 beds. In FY11, 409 inmates entered the program and 384 completed the program.

RSAT funds assisted an inmate who was serving his third felony incarceration in Nebraska and he wanted to parole to a transitional living house in a new community. This particular man has not only successfully completed parole, but is working full-time as a house manager for the transitional living program, pursuing an associate's degree in human services, is active in his recovery in the community and returns to the Substance Abuse Unit program to speak to others about his life and the transitional living program.

### JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION TITLE V

This federal program is focused on Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) issues due to the limited funds available to States. In 2011, three programs addressing DMC issues received funds. A total of \$52,283 was awarded.

### EDWARD BYRNE/JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT

This federal grant program promotes partnership among federal, state and local criminal justice entities in addressing the state's drug and violent crime issues. In 2011, 9 Local Drug and Violent Crime Task Forces, 1 statewide Drug and Violent Crime Task Force, the Drug and Violent Crime Prosecution Unit with the Attorney General's Office, a Program Manager with the Nebraska Criminal Justice Information System, and technical assistance for the Department of Corrections for an investigative software was supported with these funds.

In 2011, Nebraska's task forces made 1,568 arrests for drug activities.

### DISPROPORTIONATE MINORITY CONTACT (DMC)

Nebraska strives to reduce and eliminate the disproportion of minority youth in contact with the juvenile justice system known as DMC or disproportionate representation of minority youth in the juvenile justice system. Nebraska has taken major steps to address this increasing plight. Cherry, Colfax, Dakota, Dawes, Dawson, Douglas, Hall, Lancaster, Madison, Platte, Sarpy, Saunders, Scottsbluff, and Thurston Counties are the 14 counties that were designated and tracked for DMC in 2011.

In 2011, Douglas County was awarded a grant for the Burns Institute to host community engagements events around DMC. The purpose of the technical assistance was to develop a long-term plan for the community partner engagement for addressing racial disparities.

The W. Haywood Burns Institute (BI) is a national non-profit with a history of demonstrated leadership in the field of juvenile justice and ethnic and racial disparities reduction.

In addition to the above noted collaboration, Nebraska was officially launched as a Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) site in February 2011, in Douglas County. JDAI is a nationally renowned reform process that effectively: lowers detention populations, enhances public safety, saves taxpayer money, reduces the over-representation of minority youth, and introduces other overall juvenile justice system improvements. The JDAI Collaborative consists of juvenile justice decision makers focused on improving the effectiveness and efficiency of our juvenile justice system.

## VICTIMS OF CRIME ASSISTANCE

This federal program ensures that crime victims have access to direct services. Funded through fines and penalties paid by convicted offenders, this program receives a limited amount of state funds. In 2011, 38 projects were funded which consisted of 15 Victim Assistance Units, 21 Domestic Violence and/or Sexual Assault programs and 2 statewide projects, VINE and the Nebraska Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Coalition. Approximately 97,000 victims of crimes were helped through these projects that provided an estimated 449,257 units of service. These important services ranged from assistance with protection orders, advocacy, information and referrals, assistance with filing for compensation benefits to crisis counseling, shelter, transportation, emergency financial assistance and other necessary interventions.

## ARRA VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

The Nebraska Crime Commission received additional funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to support the priorities of the VAWA program statewide. Awarded projects began January 1, 2010 and support the ARRA VAWA implementation plan through Community Response Teams; court, probation and judicial training; victim services; culturally specific services; legal assistance for victims; training for prosecutors; batterer intervention programs; and law enforcement training.

The remaining VAWA ARRA funds were awarded in 2011 and used to fund the Douglas County Attorney Sexual Assault Initiative. This initiative consolidates the prosecution of sexual assault crimes, sexual assault on children crimes, and sex offender registration violations.

## CRIME VICTIM'S REPARATIONS

This federal program, administered by our Budget and Accounting Division, provides financial assistance for innocent victims of crime who suffer physical injuries. With the passage of LB 510 in 2010, more general and cash funds are available for the Crime Victim's Reparations program. The amount of federal matching funds will increase as a result. We anticipate processing 150 claims per year starting in 2011. In years prior to 2011 we were processing 70 claims per year.

## STATE JUVENILE SERVICES

In 2011, 25 juvenile programs were funded; 33 applications were received. Programs across the state included mentoring programs, truancy abatement, gender specific programs, after school programs, academic improvement, and diversion services. The size of award ranged from \$6,250 to \$40,000. A total of \$587,812 was awarded.

## COUNTY JUVENILE SERVICES AID

These state program dollars are accessed by counties through an application process and must address priorities outlined in the County's Comprehensive Juvenile Services Three Year Plan. By Statute, each county is allocated funding based on the population of 12-18 year olds residing in the county. In 2011, a total of \$1,369,762 in County Aid funds were distributed through 38 grant awards. A variety of programs are made possible through these dollars including Juvenile Diversion, after school programs, and mentoring.

## COUNTY JUVENILE SERVICES AID ENHANCEMENT

The remainder of County Aid funds were allocated to the County Aid Enhancement grant applicants. In 2011, 20 programs were funded; 21 applications were received. A total of \$107,813 was awarded.

## STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT (VAWA)

The purpose of this federal grant program is to create comprehensive, positive changes in the response of the criminal justice system to women who are victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking. Nebraska's distribution of these federal funds ensures that 25% of funds support law enforcement efforts, 25% prosecution efforts, 5% courts and 30% for victims services including culturally specific organizations. Among the priorities for these funds are those victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking, who are un-served and underserved. In 2011, 15 programs received VAWA funding of which 3 were statewide projects that operate out of the Nebraska Attorney General's Office, the Nebraska State Patrol and the Administrative Office of the Courts and Probation. The remaining 12 projects funded were Community Response Teams. Through these teams effective partnerships exist between the criminal justice system and victim advocacy organizations. For women who are victims, these partnerships ensure that communities are responsive by leveraging resources in ways that utilize best practice strategies in addressing the multitude of issues associated with violent crimes against women.

## ARRA VICTIMS OF CRIME ASSISTANCE

This federal program is funded through OVC as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Grant awards funded 10 programs to provide direct services to victims of all crime. The remaining VOCA ARRA funds were awarded in 2011. These remaining VOCA ARRA funds were used to provide emergency services to victims of crime including transportation services, lock changes, assistance with emergency food and utilities, storage facilities and hotel stays. VOCA ARRA funds provided an array of services.

- VOCA Victim Assistance ARRA funds provided funding for an African American Case Manager who provides face-to-face and telephone advocacy to primarily African American women, utilizing the Strength Based Intervention service model. The African American Case Manager co-facilitates the African American support group once a week with another VOCA funded agency, Voices of Hope. This individual provides culturally sensitive pre-service training quarterly to other Victim Assistance personnel.
- VOCA Victim Assistance Lancaster County ARRA funds provided a Nurse Practitioner for the Child Advocacy Center. The Nurse Practitioner has conducted 97 medical evaluations since she started in July 2010. Compared to the 29 medical evaluations conducted by their physicians only in 2009. With the support of the stimulus dollars, the Child Advocacy Center was able to enhance the services provided to child victims of abuse. The Child Advocacy Center will be able to sustain this position through medical reimbursement for services provided after the ARRA funds have stopped.

In 2011, VOCA ARRA programs assisted **339** victims and provided **2,250** services to victims of crime.

## JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION TITLE II

This federal program has a broad scope with 34 purpose areas. In 2011, 13 juvenile programs were funded; 16 applications were received in this competitive process. Statewide initiatives funded included a Juvenile Compliance Monitor, a Disproportionate Minority Contact Coordinator, and a Community Planning Coordinator. Across the state, a variety of programs for juveniles were funded including diversion services, gender specific programs, restorative justice, reporting centers, gang prevention/intervention, alternatives to detention, and risk/needs assessments. The size of awards ranged from \$4,168 - \$84,040. A total of \$510,000 was awarded.

## JUVENILE COMPLIANCE MONITORING

Under the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act, Nebraska is required to maintain an adequate system of compliance monitoring for the four core requirements of the Act. These requirements are: 1) removal of status and non-offenders from secure detention facilities; 2) separation of adult and juvenile offenders; 3) removal of juveniles from adult jails and lockups; and 4) disproportionate minority contact. The Crime Commission's full-time juvenile compliance monitor is responsible for overseeing the compliance monitoring program including the development of policies and procedures, classification and inspection of secure and non-secure facilities, and data collection and verification on all juveniles confined or securely detained. Nebraska continues to maintain compliance with the JJDP Act. Compliance with the Act resulted in Nebraska's eligibility for the full Title II federal award of \$600,000 in 2010. Non-compliance with one or more of the four core requirements would result in the state losing 20% of the allocation for each requirement not found in compliance. Compliance equates to a significant amount of dollars for the state and, more importantly, it means that Nebraska has raised the standard for how youth are treated in the juvenile justice system. To promote and maintain Nebraska's compliance with the JJDP Act, Nebraska Crime Commission staff work actively with local jurisdictions to remedy potential non-compliance issues through technical assistance, training, juvenile justice planning, and ongoing monitoring. Thirty-one compliance monitors were complete as of December 31, 2011 with all facilities found to be in compliance.

## SEXUAL ASSAULT SERVICES PROGRAM

This federal program is designed to provide intervention, advocacy, accompaniment (i.e., accompanying victims to court, medical facilities, police departments), support services and related assistance to those victimized by sexual assault. The Nebraska Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Coalition is the pass through grant agency for SASP funds. Nebraska's network of domestic violence/sexual assault programs use SASP funding to enhance goals and strategies for working with sexual assault victims, including people who are victims of sexual assault within the context of domestic violence. During 2011, over 900 primary survivors and over 350 secondary survivors received services through SASP funding. There were over 4,000 related hotline calls. (Note: These statistics only reflect people who received services through SASP funding. The actual number of sexual assault victims that received services from the program is much greater).

In most local programs SASP funds support staff positions focused on sexual assault. In many cases, these positions would not exist without this funding or services would be much more limited. These positions have worked to increase the services available, provide outreach services and build relationships with other organizations (i.e. law enforcement, hospitals, social services, college). One program stated "In general with the funding we receive from the SASP Program, we are able to empower victims/survivors and their families and give them a voice. We help them to reclaim the power that was taken away from them."

A barrier described by programs is the lack of awareness of sexual assault and what it is, and the belief that it doesn't happen in rural Nebraska. SASP funded programs work to address barriers and provide support to victims and survivors. Funds help create information materials that are distributed to victims, friends/family of victims, general public and other organizations. One program expressed "We have made lasting improvements in many areas, but are continually reminded that...Nebraska needs more education, resources and a stronger commitment to care and support for sexual assault victims and to hold their perpetrators responsible for criminal offenses."

## JUVENILE ACCOUNTABILITY BLOCK GRANT

This federal program has seventeen (17) Purpose Areas to address the growing problem of juvenile crime by encouraging accountability-based reform at the state and local level. The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) determine which cities and counties are eligible to apply for predetermined levels of funding. This funding determination is based on Nebraska's juvenile population and crime data. Cities and counties eligible to apply for the predetermined 2011 amounts included Sarpy County (\$19,077), Douglas County/City of Omaha (\$118,886), Lancaster County/City of Lincoln (\$78,703), and Hall County (\$11,110). A total of \$227,776 was awarded to the predetermined cities and counties.

State retained dollars must be awarded to fund projects with a statewide impact. In 2011, the funds were awarded to Nebraska Health and Human Services, Division of Children and Family Services - Office of Juvenile Services (NHHS/OJS), to support five School Intervention Worker programs in the state (Columbus, Fremont, Grand Island, Lexington, and North Platte). School Intervention programs provide adjudicated youth, who are unsuccessful with regular community supervision, a structured sanction program in the school setting. A total of \$182,815 was awarded to NHHS/OJS.

## JAIL STANDARDS DIVISION

The primary responsibility of the Jail Standards Division is the implementation and administration of the Jail Standards program. Major activities related to this function in 2011 are listed below.

### TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Jail Standards staff provide assistance, where possible, to assist jails in meeting Standards. During 2011, technical assistance was provided in the following areas:

- The Division has the responsibility for review of plans and specifications in jail facility construction and renovation. The Board must give final approval for all projects before they can be built. Staff establishes ongoing working relationships with architects, consultants and local officials through the duration of such projects, providing input into needs assessment, preliminary planning, pre-architectural programming and design development. Lancaster County, Antelope County and Thurston County currently have new facilities under construction or in planning.
- The Division regularly provides problem solving and technical assistance to jails related to provision of medical services, policy and procedure development and legal issues.



### DATA COLLECTION

In 2011, the Division continued to collect data on the characteristics and flow of inmates through local jails. This provides an ongoing database that is critical to both state master planning and planning at the local facility level. For communities planning construction of new jail facilities, this data is essential in determining appropriate size and design characteristics.

### THE JAIL STANDARDS BOARD

The Jail Standards program as established in 1975 under Chapter 81, Sections 4,124 - 4,134 of the Revised Statutes of Nebraska, provides for an eleven-member Jail Standards Board appointed by the Governor. This Board is responsible for the promulgation and enforcement of minimum standards for adult and juvenile detention facilities and for the maintenance, operation and construction of all local criminal detention facilities. Staff support to the Board is provided by the Jail Standards Division of the Nebraska Crime Commission. The Board meets quarterly to consider inspection reports, address local facility requests and consider approval of facility construction or renovation plans.

### RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Staff continually develop and update resource documents, prepare reports, respond to information requests and sponsor workshops related to relevant topics such as Inmate Behavior Management, sharing of inmate medical information and policy and procedure development. Some resources that were provided during 2011 include:

- Model Policy and Procedures
- Model Jail Records
- Policy and Procedure Resource Manual and Inmate Handbook
- The Jail Planning and Construction Manual
- Jail Bulletin Training Modules
- And a wide variety of National Institute of Corrections materials.

### ANNUAL INSPECTIONS

Staff completed an annual inspection of all 74 adult jails and four juvenile detention centers in the state during 2011. Written reports of these inspections were prepared and submitted to the Jail Standards Board for review and official action on a quarterly basis. At the end of 2011, six detention centers in Nebraska were officially out of compliance with the Standards. Adult facilities are inspected for compliance with Standards regulating personnel, records and statistics, admission and release of inmates, classification, security and control, library materials, rehabilitative services, mail, visiting and telephone service, health services, food services, inmate's rights, inmate behavior, discipline and grievance processes and existing and new facility design and construction.

## JAIL STANDARDS DIVISION (CONTINUED)

### TRAINING

Jail Standards staff provide a variety of training opportunities for detention facility staff across the State.

- In 2011, Jail Standards staff participated in providing Initial Jail Training for 142 new detention center staff in jails throughout Nebraska. This included training at the Law Enforcement Training Center, Hall County, Scottsbluff County, Lancaster County, Platte County, and Thurston County.
- In 2011, staff continued an update of the curriculum materials for the Juvenile Detention Caregivers Initial Training for staff who serve juveniles., and for the Initial Jail Training Program for new employees of adult jails.
- In conjunction with the Nebraska Correctional Administrators and Managers Association, Jail Standards staff presented the 14th Annual Spring Conference for detention and corrections professionals. The 2011 Conference, held in Kearney, included 284 participants, 33 vendors and two full days of excellent and relevant presentations designed to continue the professionalization of corrections and detention in Nebraska.
- In 2011, staff provided a Training-for-Trainers course for 16 new jail training officers.

## INFORMATION SERVICES DIVISION

The Information Services Division consists of six individuals. They provide support in three primary areas: research and statistics, support of criminal justice integration and meeting the agency's internal IT needs. Given the advances in technology, the power of automation and the goal of reducing redundancy for our agency as well as the many entities that the Crime Commission works with, there is a great deal of interaction in the projects and duties addressed by the Division. Statistical projects overlap with local law enforcement automation. Data integration provides opportunities for data collection. These efforts help make for cost effective, long term solutions instead of stand-alone projects.



### NEBRASKA CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFORMATION SYSTEM (NCJIS)

NCJIS is a secure portal providing access to a variety of data to certified users. It provides a cornerstone for sharing data among agencies as searches allow users to see all activity related to a particular individual. In 2011,

- There were 8,000 users from 423 agencies.
- 5,299,131 searches were conducted across criminal histories, probation, corrections, jail, court and other systems;
- 985,837 court pages were displayed;
- 1,299,022 DV=MV driver histories were viewed
- New services were added including direct access to State Patrol citations by County Attorneys.

Information Services staff are continually working to increase the collection and sharing of data among criminal justice and related agencies. Accomplishments include:

1. Operating NCJIS (Nebraska Criminal Justice Information System), a secure internet based data portal providing access to criminal justice and related data.
2. Providing NDEN (Nebraska Data Exchange Network) as a resource with limited views of NCJIS, primarily non-restricted data, to non-criminal justice users. Over 1,300 Department of Health and Human Services users access NDEN. Also, users from the Child Advocacy Centers use this tool to help in the investigation of child abuse cases.
3. Providing victim notification and detainee information through VINE (Victim Information and Notification Everyday), a service available since May 2000. Individuals can either obtain information on someone being held in jail or prison or request to receive information by phone or email of a release. In 2011, there were 6,068 new registrations by people wanting to be notified of the release of an arrestee or offender, an average of over 500 people per month, an increase of 20% over 2010. The public can call or check online for the status of an offender, saving calls that otherwise may have gone directly to County Attorneys or corrections staff. Almost 134,000 online searches for offender information were also conducted.
4. Increasing online access to data by providing both reports and searchable data on the Crime Commission website. This includes details on crimes as well as about 500,000 traffic stops in Nebraska. People are able to create their own queries to get detailed information about either statewide or city and county level detail on reported offenses, arrests, juvenile court data and crime rates.

## INFORMATION SERVICES DIVISION (CONTINUED)

Data is produced in various forms and is also available for user defined searches on the Crime Commission website. Statistics and research programs include:

- UCR/NIBRS (Uniform Crime Report / Nebraska Incident Based Reporting System) - These provide the basis for looking at reported crime and arrests by law enforcement.
- Traffic Stops - Law enforcement contacts are collected to provide an annual report relating to the nature of stops and the possibility of racial profiling.
- Jail Hold - Data from local facilities is gathered to support the needs of the Jail Standards Division as well as local planning.
- Juvenile Court Reporting
- Offender Populations - The Crime Commission provides statistical support for the Community Corrections Division.

Data integration efforts of the CJIS Advisory Committee focus on two main areas.

1. Increased access to data - This is driven by NCJIS, a secure data portal providing access to a wide variety of justice and related datasets to users at their desks, in their cars or using mobile devices. Data includes criminal histories, jail and corrections holds, probationers, court cases and mug shots. NDEN provides a limited view of NCJIS for non-criminal justice entities such as juvenile service providers and schools.
2. Improved data through the criminal justice cycle - Efforts to help local automation have included sponsoring local automation for law enforcement, jails, electronic citations and prosecutors. After the data is captured locally, it is also being moved across agencies, such as from the prosecutors to the courts, to improve availability as well as eliminate duplicate data entry.

## NEBRASKA LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING CENTER (NLETC)

### Mission

The Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center is dedicated to educate, train, and evaluate law enforcement officers; as well as regulate statewide training academies and mandated programs, to ensure all meet state certification requirements as established by the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice through the Police Standards Advisory Council.

### Vision

To be the premier law enforcement training facility with highly qualified instructors and staff capable of meeting the needs and expectations of the Citizens of Nebraska for developing highly trained and competent law enforcement officers.



The Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center was created by Nebraska State Statute 81-1402 to (1) test all law enforcement candidates on behalf of the Police Standards Advisory Council to ensure that they meet pre-certification and certification requirements, (2) oversee and monitor other training schools and training academies to ensure that they meet pre-certification and certification requirements, and (3) conduct certification programs and advanced law enforcement training as directed by the Council.

The Training Center is under the supervision and control of the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice (81-1403 & 81-1406). The Training Center Director (81-1404) is directly responsible to the Executive Director for compliance with the duties prescribed in the statutes and reports on all activities pertaining to the Training Center. The Police Standards Advisory Council (81-1403) provides recommendations to the Commission and the Training Center Director on all matters pertaining to Center operations. The Council, subject to review by the Commission, promulgates rules for the operation of the Training Center. Additionally, the Council promulgates rules for certification and training requirements for all law enforcement officers in the State of Nebraska. The Council also serves as the fact-finding board for officer revocation actions, and it makes recommendations pertaining to an officer's certification status to the Commission. The Commis-

sion reviews the Council's recommendation and makes a final determination regarding the officer's certification status. Through the efforts of the Director, Council and Commission, the public is assured that Nebraska Law Enforcement Officers are competent and professional.

The Training Center is home for two law enforcement academies. The Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Academy (NLETA) services every Nebraska agency requiring law enforcement certification training except Omaha and Lincoln police departments who operate their own academies under the guidance of the Council in their respective jurisdictions. The Nebraska State Patrol Training Academy (NSPTA) is collocated at the Training Center with the NLETA. The NSPTA trains both entry-level law enforcement troopers as well as in-service and training for all NSP sworn and civilian employees.

The Training Center is located on a 40 acre campus adjacent to the Grand Island Airport. The two academies share administrative office and classroom space, 104 double-occupancy dorm rooms, a driving track, outdoor firearms range, police service dog facility, carrier enforcement training building, on-site dining facilities and a host of other police training facilities. The budget of the Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center as administered by the Commission, supports both the Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Academy and the Nebraska State Patrol Training Academy.

## NLETC TRAINING FOR FISCAL YEAR 11/12

A Total of 120 courses were offered with nearly 1,600 students and 74,590 training hours delivered in calendar year 2011.

### SPECIALIZED COURSES (69 COURSES OFFERED, 776 STUDENTS FOR 14,656 TRAINING HOURS)

Specialized offerings included: Basic Dispatcher Training, Enhancing Courtroom Communication, Defensive Tactics Instructor & Recertification, Escape & Evasion, Emergency Medical Dispatcher, Emergency Vehicle Operations Instructor, Firearms Instructor & Recertification, Field Training Officer, Grade Crossing Collision, Glock Armorer Training, Use of Force Instructor Development course, NCIC Tele-communicator, New Sheriff's Seminar, Sheriff's Continuing Education, NSP Armorer Course, NSO Post Crash Inspection, Police Service Dog, Pills and Potions of Abuse, Patrol Rifle Instructor Course, and Rapid Response to Active Shooter.

### HIGHWAY SAFETY GRANT COURSES (25 COURSES OFFERED, 413 STUDENTS, 6,980 TRAINING HOURS)

Under the Nebraska Office of Highway Safety Grant, regional and NLETC hosted training included: Advance Accident Investigation, Intermediate Accident Investigation, CAD Zone Basic and Advance, In-Car-Video, Laser Radar, DataMaster and Preliminary Breath Testing, Radar Instructor & Recertification, Standardized Field Sobriety Testing, Regional SFST update training in North Platte, and IPTM Traffic Crash Reconstruction. Regional SFST Update training in Alliance, Bellevue and Auburn were canceled due to low enrollment

### BUILDING DIVISION

The Department of Administrative Services hired Advanced Engineering Systems of Lincoln to implement the HVAC and energy upgrades to the original 1980 portion of the training facility. The 309 Task Force is funding the project. Ferris Construction of Grand Island is the general contractor and construction is underway on the \$3.5M project. The project is expected to be completed by the end of August, 2012.

### DRUG GRANT COURSES (11 COURSES OFFERED, 183 STUDENTS, 2,924 TRAINING HOURS)

Under the Crime Commission drug grant, offerings included: Advanced Homicide Investigation, Criminal Interview and Interrogation, Drug Interdiction, Intro to Drugged Driving, Knife Defense Instructor, Rapid Response to Active Shooter Instructor, Basic Spanish for LE.



Photo by Steven Gobel

**Mandatory Courses** (15 courses, 50,030 training hours, 217 graduates)

**Basic Officer Certification** (608 hours, 14 week basic training program)

*Three basic sessions were held, starting with 114 seats and graduating 85 basic students.*

**Basic Jail Certification** (80 hours, 2 weeks)

*Two basic jail sessions were held, graduating 37 students.*

**Management Certification** (24 hours, 3 days)

*Two management sessions were held, graduating 36 students*

**Reciprocity/Reactivation/Reserve/Tribal Certification** (180/212 hours, most via on-line courses)

*Two courses were held, starting with 32 seats and graduating 26*

**Supervision Certification** (24 hours, 3 days)

*Two courses were offered, graduating 33 students.*



### NEW LICENSES ISSUED

121 New Law Enforcement Certificates were issued this fiscal year

Lincoln Police Academy	10
NLETC Basic Academy	114
Reactivation	16
Reciprocity	6
Reserve Officer	4
Licenses Revoked	3

### MODEL POLICY PROJECT

Nebraska now has a law enforcement **model policy handbook** specific to Nebraska statutes and case law thanks to the efforts of the League of Nebraska Municipalities and the League Association of Risk Management. Train the Trainer workshops were held with over 125 law enforcement administrators attending. Individual locations/totals: Scottsbluff/Gering-14, North Platte-27, Hastings-14, LaVista-41, and Norfolk-29. The training and model policy handbook was provided to law enforcement management attending at no cost to the law enforcement agency.



## NEBRASKA LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING CENTER (NLETC)

### NLETC FY 11/12 BUDGET

General Funds, Operations	1,849,979
Cash Funds, Operations	804,060
Federal Funds, Operations	57,693

The NLETC, located in Grand Island, is administered by the Crime Commission. The Police Standards Advisory Council is consulted on all matters pertaining to the Training Center and acts as a subcommittee of the Crime Commission governing body. A renovation and expansion of the Training Center facility was completed in 2005 at a cost of \$11,385,000. This project added classrooms, a gymnasium, weight room, dorm rooms, office space, a firearms simulator, a vehicle inspection building and a dog kennel. In addition, the dining room and kitchen were expanded, and improvements made to the firearms range, driving track, and student lounge. The State Patrol Training Academy is now co-located at the expanded Training Center facility.

### FACEBOOK PAGE

This Training Center now has a Facebook page to draw attention to our mission and serve as a recruiting tool for our programs for tuition students. Because of the very public nature of Facebook, we instituted a photo waiver policy for our students in the event some may not want their photo on Facebook. While the waiver is the student's responsibility, an agency may direct their employee on how to proceed with the waiver and offer guidance regarding any agency social media policy that they have in place. It is our goal to honor the request of our students if their desire is to not have their photo on Facebook.

### JOB TASK ANALYSIS PROJECT 2011

The Police Standards Advisory council through the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice contracted with Systems Design Group to conduct a Job Task Analysis (JTA) for the position of entry-level law enforcement officer for the state of Nebraska. By state law, the Council has a legal mandate to conduct a job validation study every eight years. The last study was delivered in 2003.

The purpose of the study is to identify the job content of entry-level law enforcement officers and validate the content to the current training curriculum used in all Nebraska basic academy training. The current curriculum is then evaluated to see what is missing and prepare learning objectives for any missing content or any needed revisions to current objectives.

The first phase of the study involved identifying law enforcement officers to take the survey. A list of law enforcement agency personnel who graduated over the last eight years was identified. Similarly, a list of patrol supervisors for each agency was developed. From this information, we drew the list of those line-officers/deputies/troopers and supervisors to take the survey.

The final phase of the project was an analysis of the information gained from the survey and comparison to current training curriculum. A representative law enforcement committee was formed for this purpose. From there, the Council will update curriculum in 2012.

Project task force members are NLETC Director William Muldoon; Deputy Director Brenda Urbanek; Plattsmouth Police Department Chief Steve Rathman; Dawson County Chief Deputy Mark Montgomery; Lincoln Police Department Captain Genelle Moore; Nebraska State Patrol Sergeant Jim Stover and Stephanie Schulte; and Val Lubans of System Design Group.

This project is very important to Nebraskans as our end goal is graduating law enforcement officers from our academies who are able to perform the duties of a law enforcement officer as shown through validated academy curriculum.

### CAFETERIA VENDOR

A new three-year contract with Consolidated Management Company (CMCo) of Des Moines for our on-site cafeteria service was issued in March. The previous vendor, Afternooners of Grand Island, did not bid the new contract. One major difference will be that agencies/students will be billed after meals are consumed, not billed for the entire basic class in advance. This will be a substantial change for agencies who are accustomed to receiving a bill for an entire 14 week training program in advance of the basic class. It is our hope that there will be some savings to agencies with being billed only for meals consumed and not needing refunds of meal plans when students withdraw.

### CLASSROOM UPGRADES

Classroom A, B and J were upgraded with ceiling mounted projectors and sound, new presentation podiums, and new presentation computers. This brought these last three classrooms into alignment with the technology found in classrooms D & E, the main classrooms used by NSPTA and NLETA. Along with the technology upgrades, cables were buried in those rooms and the Library to eliminate tripping hazards previously presented by extension cords and cabling running from the old presentation carts. Classroom A is being updated with new carpet, chairs and paint. It was the only classroom not remodeled during collocation.



**OFFICE OF VIOLENCE PREVENTION**

The primary responsibility of the State Office of Violence Prevention is to help promote and assess statewide violence prevention programs in the State of Nebraska.

The Office of Violence Prevention (OVP) aids privately funded organizations, local government subdivisions, and other community leaders and advocacy groups in developing proven and cutting-edge Prevention, Intervention, and Enforcement theories and techniques.

Through a competitive grants process administered by the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice (Crime Commission), the OVP recently awarded \$350,000 to five separate organizations in Nebraska that have shown a history of documented success in helping to reduce violent crime in Nebraska. Two of the recipients are located and operate within the Omaha metropolitan area.

The grant recipients are required to develop goals, objectives and performance indicators in order to help evaluate the success of the financial distribution. Upon awarding of the funds, grantees will be required to submit quarterly activity and cash reports to the Office of Violence Prevention/Crime Commission. Also, grantees will be required to provide an evaluation report and a portion of the grant funds must be used for a professional evaluator. The report must provide a comprehensive review of the program’s overall effort, and measurable results during the grant cycle. Those results must be provided to the Office of Violence Prevention.

**OBJECTIVES**

One of the objectives of the office is to break down the issues regionally throughout Nebraska. A goal of the Office of Violence Prevention is to help outline the project operation for organizations throughout Nebraska that work in the areas of crime prevention, intervention, enforcement and diversion.

Another objective is to establish sustainability in order to aid communities throughout Nebraska into the future. To accomplish this goal, the OVP is also seeking to develop continuous and reliable funding sources that will aid in continuing this collaborative effort.

**THE OFFICE OF VIOLENCE PREVENTION ADVISORY COUNCIL**

In May of 2009, the Nebraska Legislature passed LB 63, establishing the Office of Violence Prevention within the Nebraska Crime Commission. A provision within LB 63 provided for the establishment of the Advisory Council to the Office of Violence Prevention. The Council is to meet quarterly and is directed to recommend – to the Crime Commission – rules and regulation regarding fundraising, program evaluation, coordination of programs, and criteria used to assess and award funds to violence prevention programs.

General Funds, Operations	\$101,209
Cash Funds, Operations	\$10,500
General Funds, Aid	\$150,000
Cash Fund, Aid	\$200,000

**ESTABLISHING A BLUEPRINT FOR SUSTAINABILITY**

2011 was a year of transition for the Office of Violence Prevention (OVP). Early in the year Mike Friend resigned as the first director for the office. In April /May, L. James Wright was appointed by Governor Heineman as the new director for OVP. Additionally, the passage of LB390 gave the Executive Director of the Nebraska Crime Commission responsibility for any future appointments and oversight of the activities of the office.

"Prevention is an active process of creating conditions and fostering personal attributes that promote the well-being of people." (Lofquist, 1989) To that end, the Office of Violence Prevention has been working to foster local community collaborative initiatives that address the risk and resiliency factors related to violence based on the Collective Impact Model. Communities such as Dawson County, Hall County, Platte County, and the City of Omaha have submitted grant applications to establish broad-cross sector partnerships and implement measurable strategies to address their specific community needs. Previous OVP grantees, who have employed similar efforts, have seen marked decreases in delinquency behaviors in targeted populations.

Mirroring efforts to encourage local collaboration to address violence, the Office of Violence Prevention has been partnering with other Nebraska state agencies such as the Latino American Commission, Department of Education, Health and Human Services, State Patrol, Game and Parks Commission, and the University of Nebraska– Omaha. OVP is in the process of creating a publication that will identify currently available resources within state government that can be utilized by local communities to empower themselves to address conditions which foster violence.

## COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS DIVISION

In 2011 the Nebraska Legislature passed LB390 which created the Community Corrections Division of the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice. LB390 also eliminated the Community Corrections Council and transferred the Council's duties to the new division. The mission of the Community Corrections Division is to continue the work initiated by the Council and promote the establishment and use of community corrections programs as alternatives to incarceration for non-violent offenders.

The primary mandate of the Division is to support the continued development and implementation of a statewide network of community corrections programs as a means to reduce prison overcrowding. This mandate is part of a collaborative effort involving both criminal justice agencies and community stakeholders. The role of the division in this effort is to evaluate and recommend improvements to existing community corrections programs, improve the data collections and analysis capabilities of community corrections programs, and provide objective research and information on community corrections issues to policy-makers, stakeholders and the public.

The development of an integrated community corrections data system, public education, and program evaluation are three priorities the Division has identified for 2012. Grants from the Uniform Data Analysis Fund are funding the development of improved case management systems for Probation and Parole which are essential to program evaluation and making the case that these programs work. The Division is also coordinating with Probation to conduct an outcome study of the Specialized Substance Abuse Services program, which should begin during the next fiscal year. Lastly, planning is underway for a Criminal Justice/Providers Conference in the fall of 2012. This conference will target policymakers, criminal justice agencies and substance abuse treatment providers, three essential components of effective community corrections programs. In addition to educating policymakers on recent developments in community corrections, the conference will offer continuing education for providers focusing on the special needs of criminal justice clients as well as training for supervision officers in the latest evidence based practices.

The final responsibility of the Division for 2012 is to report annually to the governor and the Legislature on the development and performance of community corrections facilities and programs. The report, required by statute, is to include a description of community corrections programs which includes the following: the target populations and geographic area served, eligibility requirements, number of offenders using the facility, services provided, total cost to operate the program and the cost per offender, funding sources, recidivism rates and outcome data. The report will detail any progress in expanding community corrections statewide, analyze the need for additional community services and evaluate the impact of community corrections programs on the inmate population within the Department of Correctional Services.

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The Community Corrections Division has the following budget.

### Breakdown of Funds

General Funds, Operations	281,298
Cash Funds, Operations	405,917

**Standing Committees:**  
Crime Victim's Reparations Committee  
Education/Research/Planning Committee  
Grant Review Committee  
Data Processing Committee  
Police Standards Advisory Council

**Advisory Groups:**  
Coalition for Juvenile Justice  
County Attorney Standards Advisory Council  
Criminal Justice Information Systems  
Advisory Committee  
Office of Violence Prevention Advisory  
Council  
Racial Profiling Committee

**Jail Standards Board**  
Budget/ Administration

The Crime Commission staff  
provides support for

**Law Enforcement Training Center**  
Fiscal Planning and  
Administrative Support

**Community Corrections Division**  
Budget/Administration

**Office of Violence Prevention**  
Budget/ Administration

**LEGISLATIVE CHANGES TO CRIME COMMISSION STATUTES - 2011**

- LB 390**
- Provides that the Director of the Law Enforcement Training Center, the Director of the Office of Violence Prevention, and the Director of the Community Corrections Division are supervised by the Crime Commission's Executive Director
  - Eliminates the Community Corrections Council and transfers the funding for community corrections projects to the Supreme Court.
  - Provides that nationally certified correctional facilities are not subject to the supervision of the Jail Standards Board.
  - Removes the duty for the Crime Commission to annually review, analyze, and update a report of all homicide cases in the state.
  - Clarifies the structure and operation of the Community Trust.

**Effective Date: May 27, 2011**







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