

# **NEBRASKA COALITION FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE**

## **FY 2012/2013 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR & NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE**

**JULY 1, 2012– JUNE 30, 2013**



**The Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and  
Criminal Justice**

Dave Heineman, Governor

Michael E. Behm, Executive Director

Mark Benne, Chair, Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice

**ISSUED DECEMBER 2013 BY:**

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# Introduction

The **FY 2012/2013 Annual Report to the Governor & Nebraska Legislature** outlines activities and accomplishments of the Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice (Coalition) from July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013.

## Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice

The Coalition is an advisory group to the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice (Nebraska Crime Commission). Members are appointed by the Governor. The Coalition is required to comply with the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP Act) and was established in Nebraska Revised Statute § 43-2411 in 2000 to advise on state and federal juvenile justice grant funds received by the Nebraska Crime Commission. There are five standing subcommittees who meet in addition to quarterly Coalition meetings: Executive, Grant Review, Disproportionate Minority Contact, Youth , Diversion, and County Planning Advisory.

### Goal

The goal of the Coalition is to improve all aspects of the juvenile justice system in the State of Nebraska by assisting communities and the state with the planning and implementation of systemic improvements, advocacy, education, and award recommendations of state and federal funds for such purposes. It is hoped the lives and futures of children, youth, and families involved with the juvenile justice system will be improved.

# Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice

## CHAIRPERSON

**Mark Benne**  
Director of Juvenile Facility  
Madison

## VICE CHAIRPERSON

**Cassandra Rockwell**  
Youth Member  
Lincoln

## MEMBERS

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Public Defender  
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Mental Health  
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**Neleigh Boyer**  
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**Nola Bennett**  
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Secure Youth  
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Department of Education  
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**Symone Sanders**  
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Commissioner of Education  
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**Vanessa Sherman**  
Alternatives to Youth Detention  
Nebraska City

**Kim Hawekotte**  
Foster Care Review Board  
Lincoln

**Kathy Seacrest**  
Region II Human Services  
North Platte

# Message from the Chair

On behalf of the Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice, I would like to take this time to thank the Governor's office for their continuing and ongoing support. It has been an extremely busy year for the Coalition. Many of the Coalition members participated in the Nebraska Juvenile Justice Association's annual conference which had a record of 400 + attendees. The Coalition also coordinated the first Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) statewide stakeholders meeting. This year the Nebraska State Advisory Group (SAG) received a grant which allowed Development Services Group (DSG) to conduct a Strategic Planning Training. The training was conducted by Lisa Hutchinson, Ph.D., who is an experienced trainer for DSG. During the training we reviewed current Nebraska initiatives and generated future action planning items. During this training we also focused on LB561 because the SAG is responsible for reviewing funds for statewide initiatives. The SAG expressed the need for statewide collaboration with key stakeholders in all areas of the juvenile justice system to ensure we are working toward improving the lives and futures of our youth who are impacted by the Juvenile Justice System.

Sincerely,



Mark Benne, Chairperson

# Message from the Youth Committee

Engaging young and emerging leaders is no small task. Over the last year, the Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice has worked tirelessly to further engage emerging leaders and has been wildly successful in gathering the input system involved youth of thanks in large part to the members of the Youth Committee.

First, the Coalition built on the momentum of last year and provided its second Spirit of Youth Award to honor an alumni of the juvenile justice system who has grown as a result of the services provided, shown personal spirit and given back to the community.

Secondly, the Coalition embarked on a listening tour. The ability to receive feedback from young people currently involved in the system is sometimes challenging. The listening tour enabled a true dialogue with system-involved youth to take place. The first was held at YRTC-Geneva in August with all participants (approximately 20) being youth currently placed at the facility. The second session was held in YRTC- Kearney. This session featured two focus groups at YRTC- with all participants (approximately 18) being youth currently placed at the facility. The committee went on to plan for sessions at the Probation Office in Norfolk the Madison County Detention Project Everlast-Omaha office, the Douglas County Detention Center and the LCYC in Lincoln.

In addition to the great work occurring in Nebraska, the Coalition continues to encourage its youth members to engage nationally. This year, the Coalition sent two members to attend the National Coalition for Juvenile Justice (CJJ) 2013 Youth Summit. Nebraska youth members were instrumental in the planning and coordination of the 2013 Youth Summit and contributed to making it the largest summit in the history of CJJ. On a federal level, Nebraska continues to gain recognition with the reappointment of Symone Sanders to the Federal Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice.

Nebraska is making substantial strides in terms of engagement. The input gathered this year, will support our ongoing efforts to impact change and support expanded outreach efforts. We are grateful for the opportunity to serve and the support of our fellow Coalition members.

Respectfully,

The 2013 Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice Youth Members

# Spirit of Youth Award

**Purpose-** The Spirit of Youth Award recognizes a young adult who has made great strides following involvement with the juvenile justice system; has overcome personal obstacles; and is making significant contributions to society.

The award provides the Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice and the public an important opportunity to learn from a young person's direct experience about the hard work and dedication it takes to build a better life, and how juvenile justice professionals and systems can most effectively support the youth they serve.

**Criteria-** The award recipient must be:

- Under 24 years of age,
- A person who was adjudicated delinquent/involved in the juvenile justice system,
- Currently involved, directly or indirectly, in bettering the lives of youth; and
- Nominated by a former system worker or member of the community.

The Nebraska Juvenile Justice Coalition Youth Committee reviews all nominations and makes the decision. The recipient of this award is honored at the Nebraska Juvenile Justice Association (NJJA) Annual Conference. The recipient receives an honorary plaque, small financial award, free conference registration and travel and/or lodging expenses to attend the NJJA Annual Conference.

The Winner of the 2013 Spirit of Youth Award was Nicole Variano from Omaha, Nebraska. The individual who nominated Nicole stated that, "Nicole is a person who has truly demonstrated true need and has an authenticated record of being a good steward of resources provided to her.." Nicole received a full ride scholarship for two years at the University of Nebraska-Omaha and the University of Nebraska Medical Center where she wants to pursue the goal of becoming a nurse.

# Federal Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Act

The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act is a federal law that governs the secure confinement of juveniles in detention and correctional facilities. The JJDP Act declares it a policy of congress to provide necessary resources, leadership and coordination to:

- Develop and implement effective methods of preventing and reducing Juvenile Delinquency.
- Divert juveniles from the justice system, and provide alternatives to institutionalization.
- Encourage parental involvement in treatment and alternative disposition programs; and
- Increase the capacity for, and promote interagency cooperation and coordination of services between state, local, and community based agencies in order to provide juvenile justice, delinquency prevention, rehabilitation programs, conduct research, evaluations and training in delinquency prevention.

Congress originally enacted the JJDP Act in 1974 to require the deinstitutionalization of status offenders and non-offenders as well as the separation of adult and juvenile offenders in detention and corrections. In 1980 Congress passed an amendment to the JJDP Act requiring the removal of juveniles from adult jails and lockups.

## Nebraska's Participation in the JJDP Act

Nebraska's eligibility for receiving Formula Grant Program funding is determined by its compliance with the four core requirements of the JJDP Act.

The Four Core Requirements are:

- Removal of status and non-offenders from secure detention facilities
- Separation of adult and juvenile offenders throughout incarceration
- Removal of juveniles from adult jails and lockups
- The state must collect and analyze data to identify and address any disproportionate numbers of minority youth at specific decision points throughout the juvenile justice system.

The Nebraska' Legislature's passage of LB1073 in April of 1988 brought about much needed consistency from the State Law with respect to the requirements of the Federal JJDP Act.

# Nebraska Juvenile Services Act

The Nebraska Juvenile Services Act was created in July of 1990 with the passage of LB663. The Act is designed to assist communities in providing programs and services that create alternatives to incarceration for juveniles in the justice system. In July of 1992, the responsibility for administration of the Juvenile Services Act was transferred to the Nebraska Crime Commission via LB447. The original Juvenile Services Grant Committee established working groups to develop by-laws, rules and regulations to meet state requirements.

In 2000, this group was combined with the Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice. The Coalition works to focus funding on current juvenile justice issues. The 2012/2013 appropriation for the Juvenile Services Act funds was \$702,190; \$114,378 was retained for administrative costs; \$587,812 was awarded.

## Compliance Monitoring

Nebraska continues to maintain compliance with the JJDP Act. Noncompliance 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. In addition, 50% of the remaining funds must be allocated to rectify the issue of noncompliance. 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, the Nebraska Crime Commission staff work actively with local jurisdictions to remedy potential noncompliance issues through technical assistance, training, juvenile justice planning, and ongoing monitoring.

# Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC)

To successfully address Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC), the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention recommends a five-phase process, whereby jurisdictions: 1) identify whether disproportionality exists and the extent to which it exists; 2) assess the contributing factors, examine minority overrepresentation and explain differences at all contact stages of the juvenile justice system; 3) provide an intervention plan; 4) evaluate the efficacy of efforts to reduce DMC; and 5) monitor and track DMC trends over time .

In 2012 Nebraska completed a Statewide DMC assessment. The goal of the assessment was to identify the factors that contribute to DMC so that Nebraska's juvenile justice system stakeholders can design appropriate intervention strategies. In July 2012, the statewide DMC Subcommittee held a retreat and began to review and prioritize recommendations made in the Nebraska DMC Assessment. In August 2012 a new State DMC Coordinator was hired. The new DMC Coordinator was to strengthen the statewide DMC Committee and its relationships with county DMC committees as well as ensure compliance with the 4 core requirements.

The statewide DMC Committee is currently working on the following:

- Developing Language Access Plan to ensure meaningful access to court services for those with Limited English Proficiency
- Developing an education plan to expand knowledge among juvenile justice system stakeholders about DMC and coordination of cross-agency training opportunities in cultural competence
- Evaluating discretion points for the purpose of appropriately replacing subjective processes with race neutral, objective decision making criteria
- Developing and implementing a plan to improve diversity of the juvenile justice workforce
- Discussing and adopting uniform definitions for each system point in the Relative Rate Index (RRI).

# Comprehensive Community Juvenile Services Plans

The County Planning Advisory Subcommittee was created for the purpose of assisting the Crime Commission in administering the Juvenile Service County Aid program. The subcommittee's focus was to develop approaches for the process of local planning. The subcommittee is comprised of three Juvenile Justice Coalition members and local planners. The sub-committee met throughout the year with coordination from the Crime Commission and assistance from the Juvenile Justice Institute at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. During the year, sub-committee members completed a review of the county plans in February 2013 and an initial review of applications for county aid for the year. Following its review, the sub-committee provided recommendations for the Juvenile Justice Coalition to consider. Later in the year, sub-committee members once again reviewed Juvenile Service Community plans and community based aid applications following the passage of LB 561 (2013).

The sub-committee provided feedback and success stories for the *Juvenile Services, Comprehensive Community Planning User Manual*, a manual created by the Juvenile Justice Institute and a consultant for communities and their planning process. The manual was provided to attendees at sessions offered in Norfolk and North Platte in August. The sessions were intended to provide attendees with resources and suggestions about how successful community planning could occur. As stated in the manual: It is essential that communities have programs to prevent youth from becoming unnecessarily involved in the juvenile justice system. These programs should be available at multiple points throughout the system, providing every opportunity to exit the system.

LB 561(2013) provides that the Administrator of the Community-based Juvenile Services Aid program shall, among other duties, develop and coordinate a statewide working group as a subcommittee of the Coalition of Juvenile Justice to assist in regular strategic planning related to supporting, funding, monitoring, and evaluating the effectiveness of plans and programs receiving funds from the Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program.

# Nebraska's Three Year Plan 2012—2014

The Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice (Coalition) gathers community input on juvenile justice issues by accepting public comment at quarterly Coalition meetings, conducting public forums, reviewing local Comprehensive Community Juvenile Services plans, and from Coalition members' professional experience. The development of the 2012-2014 three-year plan was completed by members of the Coalition, Nebraska Crime Commission staff, and a consultant. The following juvenile justice needs were set forth:

- Nebraska has geographic and resource gaps along with system inefficiencies that result in inconsistent detention practices;
- Organize communities to be proactive in the development of policies and procedures for youth and family;
- Equal access to juvenile diversion programming within the state of Nebraska;
- School engagement and absenteeism to reduce juvenile delinquency;
- Substance abuse issues, particularly in rural areas;
- Gang and gun violence reduction;
- Information sharing and data collection; and
- Address minority youth overrepresentation in the juvenile justice system.

Based on the federal priority areas, Nebraska will continue to focus on maintaining compliance with the Four Core Requirements and remain cognizant of the state juvenile justice needs. Programming with the following focus areas will receive prioritization:

- Alternatives to Detention
- Strategic Community Action Planning
- Diversion
- School Programs
- Substance Abuse
- Gangs
- Juvenile Justice System Improvement

# Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI)

Nationally, the Annie E. Casey Foundation is involved in over 40 jurisdictions working toward juvenile justice systems change through the Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI). JDAI aims to ensure that only the most appropriate youth are held in secure detention. Nebraska has been working with the Foundation to implement JDAI since 2011. Douglas County came on board as the first site, followed by Sarpy County in 2012. In mid 2012, Nebraska Probation Administration was identified as the lead to plan and implement statewide expansion of the initiative.

JDAI's key objectives focus on public safety while reducing unnecessary and inappropriate use of secure detention, minimizing failure to appear and re-offend, and ensuring quality conditions in secure facilities. Historically youth of color have been overrepresented in nearly all system points, but particularly detention. The work of JDAI focuses on identifying and reducing this racial and ethnic disparity. Finally, sites commit to redirecting resources as detention costs decrease toward community based alternatives.

Sites utilize the following core strategies collectively to reach the above stated objectives:

- Collaboration
- Data Driven Decision Making
- Objective Admissions
- Alternatives to Detention
- Case Processing Innovations
- Focus on Racial and Ethnic Disparity
- Addressing special populations (violations, pending placements)
- Improving Conditions.

# Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI)

JDAI is having a significant impact in Nebraska. Since Douglas County began JDAI, they have seen the average daily population in their secure detention center drop from hovering near 200 down to under 100 consistently without an impact to public safety. Douglas County has also worked through their collaborative to enhance the electronic monitoring program run by the detention center to make it available 24 hours a day and to probation at the time of intake. They are now in the process of adding tracker service and other alternatives to that continuum.

Sarpy County has also seen some immediate impact in the last year. Upon analyzing their data through a detention utilization study, it was found that many youth were in the Juvenile Justice Center on weekends as a sanction for their electronic monitoring program. Since then, the program has changed its policy and procedures to ensure detention is not utilized as a sanction. Through collaboration, Sarpy County has made great progress in their ability to collect the data needed to evaluate their work on an ongoing basis.

As a precursor to statewide expansion plans, a delegation of stakeholders attended a model site visit in Trenton, New Jersey in April 2013. Upon returning, a formal State JDAI Collaborative was established. Senator Bob Krist and Court Administrator Janice Walker co-chair the state team. In addition to working on state infrastructure, Nebraska Probation Administration implemented a new statewide Intake Risk Assessment Screening Tool (RAI) with technical assistance from the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

# Grant Review Process

The Nebraska Crime Commission is the designated state agency to facilitate the functions of state funds and federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention funds (Title II and JABG). While each has different guidelines and rules, the process of granting the awards is consistent across funding sources.

Annually, funds are distributed on a competitive basis, with the exception of County Aid Juvenile Services funds and Juvenile Accountability Block Grant funds, which are formula based. An announcement for the availability of funds is released once a year and applicants have approximately two months to complete the required application. After the deadline, applications experience a grant review process. Three levels of review include: Staff Review, Grant Review Subcommittee of NCJJ and ultimately the Nebraska Crime Commission.

Programs receiving funding may be required to attend a Grant Management Training and have a project period of one year. Continuation of funding is not guaranteed and applicants must apply for funds annually. A step-down policy exists for Title II and Juvenile Services Grants. The policy states that contingent upon a program complying with the reporting requirements, meeting goals and objectives and proper management of funds, a program will be recommended for the same level of funding for two years and a step down in funds of 25% increments in the three years to follow.

The Nebraska Crime Commission is working to gather standardized data from all programs. Subgrantees are required to submit key indicators of their evaluation plans on a quarterly basis as well as Federal Performance Measures that are reported to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

# Success Stories

## Golden Warriors

The Golden Warriors Program is a culturally specific program designed for Latino males ages 10 to 18 years old. The program is based on four basic components: knowledge, responsibility, family and education. In addition, the program incorporates self-awareness, the importance of respect for family, the values of community and culture, as well as teaching cultural history.



“Miguel” was one of the first members of the Golden Warriors Program starting with the focus groups in 2009. He was a very polite young man, but he was not very patient and tended to react with aggression. Once he started the program he began to apply the “Living the Moment” technique and relaxation exercises, which helped him learn how to act less aggressive. When he first came to the program he was only a freshman at Lincoln North Star High School. Since then, he has graduated High School and is now attending Southeast Community College, where he is pursuing a career as a respiratory therapist for elderly.

The Golden Warriors Program was developed in 2009 and in the four years the program has been running it has served a total of 243 students, with 100 students successfully

graduating the program by completing 100% of all sessions and field trips.



Permission was given to the Crime Commission to re-print photos. The Golden Warriors Program is funded through the Title II Grant # 11-JJ-08.



# Omaha Street School

In 2012 a young man named “Freddy” who was a senior in High School enrolled at the Omaha Street School (OSS). Freddy had truancy issues and was on probation, he was assessed to determine his “future focus”. Freddy’s assessment scores were high including the aptitude for college however, as is also the case with most teens, their arrival at OSS signifies his/her last chance to complete high school. After just a few weeks of school, Freddy was shot several times and left for dead in a church parking lot in North Omaha. He survived, but was left scarred and with a limp. Freddy returned to OSS after 6-7 weeks of rehab and therapy, still verbalizing a strong desire to get his high school diploma. While in the hospital OSS ensured that Freddy caught up with his coursework.

In December 2012, Freddy was taken into custody by his juvenile probation officer. OSS staff worked with the youth center to ensure that Freddy completed his credits towards graduation. When “Freddy” was transferred to Kearney YRTC, OSS staff jumped into action and worked with the Kearney educational center to insure that Freddy’s future was not altered – even by his existing juvenile court case.

Freddy was released on a weekend furlough to attend his high school graduation. Freddy moved to a new neighborhood, has enrolled in college, and is currently employed. His future is brighter, because of the tenacity of many people, but also because he was given the opportunity to see that he had a future.

Permission was given to the Crime Commission to re-print photos. The Omaha Street School Program is funded through the Juvenile Services Grant # 12-JS-417.



# Success Stories

## Destination...Dad

Destination...Dad offers the *Within My Reach* classes at YRTC-Geneva and the Lancaster County Youth Services Center. The Director commented on one young man in particular. This young man sat solemnly during the entire class without interacting at any point. The Director was unable to engage him in anything. During the class on forgiveness, he sat up and began to pay attention. While he said nothing in class, he later told the Director that he had really gotten a lot from the class. He stated that his mother had hurt him deeply and he was going to try to forgive her and move on with his life. The young man was released back to his mother the next day.

Classes and skills are vital, but facilitating family interactions and using these skills in a controlled environment are the keys to making a lasting impact. Destination Dads holds parent/youth workshops with youth and family members to educate and implement conflict resolution techniques. The families are able to eat with one another and talk about issues that have impacted the family. These workshops have been greatly received and the program looks forward to continuing this work.

Permission was given to the Crime Commission to re-print photos. The Lancaster County Destination..Dad Program is funded through the Juvenile Services Grant # 12-JS-424.



# Success Stories

## Refugee Juvenile Justice Advocate



The Refugee Juvenile Justice Advocate program was created in April 2011 by the Douglas County Juvenile Assessment Center (JAC) to help African youth and their parents participate in and successfully complete diversion. The program was created to address the significant number of African youth who did not respond to letters to participate in diversion at the JAC and because Sudanese youth were staying longer in detention than other minority youth.

Ted Lampkin JAC worker, specialized in working with refugee families and made the referrals to the Heartland Family Service (HFS), advocate Elizabeth Ajongo. Together they have achieved exceptional outcomes from April 2011 to December 31, 2012:

- 48 of 49 (98%) of youth and parents attended their first assessment appointment.
- 46 of 49 (94%) of youth successfully completed all diversion requirements.
- 30 of 35 (86%) of youth were crime free six months after completion of diversion.

The \$12,5000 Title V grant awarded to the program included funding to produce the video, “Helping Sudanese Youth Stay Out of Juvenile Court” in Nuer and Arabic language, with English subtitles. This video is regularly shown on Channel 22 public access television. The video has significantly speeded up the process of African families responding to diversion. The program is expanding to serve Bhutanese, Burmese and Somali refugee .

Permission was given to the Crime Commission to re-print photos. The Refugee Juvenile Justice Advocate. Program is funded through the Title V Grant #'s 10-JP-0030 and 11-JP-0032.



The PASS Program is Sarpy County’s initiative to address truancy issues. The Program works in collaboration with the Sarpy County Diversion Program and Juvenile Court System. The Program provides supervision of educational services and attendance, while assisting families in developing the needed internal and external assets to have a successful educational future.

One of the youth, Molly, was placed on the Program in January 2012, to receive assistance with finishing her sophomore year successfully. During this time, Molly’s attendance and academics greatly improved, and she completed the PASS Program in June 2012. In March of 2013, Molly returned to the program. Molly advised she stopped attending school regularly, as she began to feel overwhelmed with being three semesters behind in her credits towards graduation. Graduation to her felt impossible.

Since this time, Molly finished out her junior year at her home school, has attended summer school through the Sarpy County Education Program (SCEP) and is currently attending SCEP for the beginning of her senior year. “The Truancy Program has helped me in many ways. Without being put on this program, I would have not made the improvements that I have made. With the help of the Truancy staff, I went from being upset there was no hope of me graduating on time to being excited and thankful because I will graduate with my class. The Truancy Program has helped me realize the potential I have to do great things and be successful in life, and for that, I am grateful.” Sincerely, Molly.

Permission was given to the Crime Commission to re-print photos. The Sarpy County P.A.S.S. Program is funded through the Title II Grant # 11-JJ-10.



# Executive Summary

In FY 2012/2013, the Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice (NCJJ) and Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice (Nebraska Crime Commission) reviewed and made recommendations on applications requesting funding, **awarding grants for a total of \$2,912,597** in state and federal funds.

The Coalition and the Nebraska Crime Commission are proud to highlight accomplishments from July 1, 2012– June 30, 2013. The projects listed herein were funded by the State of Nebraska and Federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention grant funds administered by the Nebraska Crime Commission.

## **SUMMARY OF SERVICES PROVIDED IN FY 2012/2013**

<b>Grant</b>	<b>Programs Serviced</b>	<b>Amount Awarded</b>
FY 2012 State Juvenile Services	27	\$587,812
FY 2012 County Aid	33	\$1,330,714
FY 2012 County Aid Enhancement	11	\$160,774
FY 2011 Juvenile Accountability Block Grant	6	\$322,477
FY 2011 Title II	14	\$510,820

# Grant Overviews

## Juvenile Accountability Block Grant

### **Lancaster County: \$78,703.00**

Funds were used to hire a part-time attorney to work on expediting Juvenile filings, support for a reporting center, a truancy diversion program and a Juvenile Drug Court Tracker for Juveniles involved for drug offenses.

Contact: Sara Hoyle, 555 S. 10<sup>th</sup> St. Ste. 107, Lincoln, NE 68510 (402) 441-7204

[SHoyle@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:SHoyle@lincoln.ne.gov)

### **Lancaster County JABG Grant: \$47,325.00**

Funds were used to hire a part-time attorney, project hire- employment assistance for youth, and the POWER program to reduce truanancies.

Contact: Sara Hoyle, 555 S. 10<sup>th</sup> St. Ste. 107, Lincoln, NE 68510 (402) 441-7204

[SHoyle@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:SHoyle@lincoln.ne.gov)

### **Omaha/Douglas County JABG Phase 14: 92,631.00**

Funds were used to bring together state and local juvenile justice agencies within Douglas County. The agencies include the Juvenile Assessment Center, Heartland Victim Empathy Group and the Concord Mediation Center Victim Offender Program.

Contact: Gail Braun, 1819 Farnam Street, Ste 300, Omaha, NE 68183 (402) 444-5286

[gbraun@ci.omaha.ne.us](mailto:gbraun@ci.omaha.ne.us)

### **Hall County: \$ 9,016.00**

This money helped fund the position for a Juvenile Accountability Probation Intake Officer. The officer coordinates the Hall County Juvenile Offenders program, supervises a caseload of juveniles on probation, completes court ordered predisposition investigations, and is responsible for training local law enforcement officers on new or updated intake procedures among other duties.

Contact: Clay Schutz, 117 East 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Grand Island, NE 68801 (308) 385-6216

[clay.schutz@nebraska.gov](mailto:clay.schutz@nebraska.gov)

# Grant Overviews

## Juvenile Accountability Block Grant

### **Sarpy County Juvenile Reporting Center: \$ 14,369.00**

The Juvenile reporting center offers various classes for youth which include tobacco cessation classes, cultural awareness classes, overall wellness classes, drug education classes, and character building classes among others.

Contact: Lisa Haire, 1210 Golden Gate Drive, Papillion NE 68406 (402) 593-1565  
[lhaire@sarpy.com](mailto:lhaire@sarpy.com)

### **Horizon Recovery and Counseling Center: \$ 37,907.00**

Funds were used for a Juvenile Intensive Outpatient Treatment Center that offers IOP and OP services. This program also offers day treatment, early intervention, and aftercare services for adolescents aged 12-18.

Contact: Dan Rutt, 835 S. Burlington, Ste 115, Hastings NE 68901 (402) 462-2066  
[dan@horizonrecoverycenter.com](mailto:dan@horizonrecoverycenter.com)

### **Nebraska Office of Probation Administration: \$ 55,000.00**

These funds were used for a JDAI Statewide Coordinator who works to help build and sustain community collaboration through proper community representation and relationships. These funds helped develop and validate objective criteria and a risk assessment instrument to ensure un-biased detention admissions decisions.

Contact: Corey Steel, 521 South 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Rm. 220, Lincoln, NE 68508 (402) 471-4976  
[corey.steel@nebraska.gov](mailto:corey.steel@nebraska.gov)

### **UNO Statewide Data Collection: \$ 35,000**

Funds were used for the web-enabled Juvenile Diversion Case Management Project which enhances data collection, data sharing and accountability. This system also establishes and maintains interagency information-sharing programs.

Contact: Ann Fruhling, 6001 Dodge Street- PKI 280 A, Omaha, NE 68182 (402) 554-4968  
[afruhling@unomaha.edu](mailto:afruhling@unomaha.edu)

# Grant Overviews

## Title II

### **Lancaster County- Centralized Risk/Needs Assessment Project: \$ 14,095.00**

The funds were used for a program offered through Cedars Youth Services to ensure consistent processing of juvenile offenses, especially for very young offenders, and to ensure that youth were matched to the most appropriate early intervention.

Contact: Sara Hoyle, 555 S. 10<sup>th</sup> St. Ste. 107, Lincoln, NE 68510 (402) 441-7204

[SHoyle@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:SHoyle@lincoln.ne.gov)

### **Sarpy County Juvenile Justice Center: \$ 33,553.00**

Funds were used for the Sarpy County Sheriff Juvenile Services Truancy Program including three part-time truancy staff to monitor the program focusing on absenteeism and truancy contributing to failing grades, criminal behavior, alcohol and drug usage .

Contact: Lisa Haire, 1210 Golden Gate Drive, Papillion, NE 68406 (402) 593-1565

[lhaire@sarpy.com](mailto:lhaire@sarpy.com)

### **Sarpy County Juvenile Justice Center: \$ 25,000.00**

Funds were used for the Sarpy County Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative. The Juvenile Justice Center in collaboration with the Annie E. Casey Foundation is working to analyze system inefficiencies and ineffective policies in order to implement reforms in the overall juvenile justice system in Sarpy County.

Contact: Lisa Haire, 1210 Golden Gate Drive, Papillion, NE 68406 (402) 593-1565

[lhaire@sarpy.com](mailto:lhaire@sarpy.com)

# Grant Overviews

## Title II

### **Nebraska Crime Commission: \$ 69,909.00 & \$ 34,220.00**

These funds are used to fund the Juvenile Specialist DMC Coordinator who facilitates Nebraska's compliance with all four core requirements of the JJDP Act and monitor secure and non-secure facilities across the state.

Contact: Lisa Stamm, PO BOX 94946, Lincoln, NE 68509 (402) 471-3687

[lisa.stamm@nebraska.gov](mailto:lisa.stamm@nebraska.gov)

### **Madison County Juvenile Services: \$ 5,940.00**

Funds were used for the Madison County Diversion Program for further education regarding drugs, alcohol and having responsible relationships for youth in the Madison County area.

Contact: Sherry Peterson, P.O. BOX 269, Madison, NE 68748 (402) 454-3311

[speterson@madisoncountyne.com](mailto:speterson@madisoncountyne.com)

### **Madison County Juvenile Services: \$ 18,632.00**

These funds were used for a bi-lingual Juvenile Accountability Officer who works with at risk youth who are struggling with attendance issues, criminal activity, and drug/alcohol abuse with the goal of keeping youth out of the juvenile court system.

Contact: Sherry Peterson, P.O. BOX 269, Madison, NE 68748 (402) 454-3311

[speterson@madisoncountyne.com](mailto:speterson@madisoncountyne.com)

### **Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska: \$ 10,318.00**

Funds were used for the Winnebago Juvenile Recreation & Cultural Activities Program. Services provided in this program focus on the prevention of drug use.

Contact: Vivian Thundercloud, PO Box 626, Winnebago, NE 68071 (402) 878-2570

[vtc@winnebago-tribe.com](mailto:vtc@winnebago-tribe.com)

# Grant Overviews

## Title II

### **Seward County: \$ 23,665.00**

Funds were used for the Seward County truancy program which focuses on early identification of children of all ages that are at risk of court involvement for truancy.

Contact: Denise Janssen, 322 S. 14<sup>th</sup> St, Seward, NE 68434 (402) 643-3055

[sewardcountydiversion@gmail.com](mailto:sewardcountydiversion@gmail.com)

### **Douglas County: \$ 65,000.00**

Funds were used for the Truancy Diversion Program Enhancement which is intended to increase awareness of truancy and decrease its incidence through a combined effort between schools, service providers, and law enforcement.

Contact: Ashley Strader, 1819 Farnam St, Omaha, NE 68183 (402) 444-1782

[Ashley.strader@dc4dc.com](mailto:Ashley.strader@dc4dc.com)

### **Sherman County Prevention Coalition: \$ 17,819.00**

Funds were used for the Sherman County Diversion program. The goal of this program is to offer juvenile pre-trial diversion to all individuals referred by the Sherman County Attorney in order to prevent first time offenders from progressing through the legal system.

Contact Kris Hervert, PO Box 391, Loup City, NE 68853 (308) 745-0127

[krishervert@yahoo.com](mailto:krishervert@yahoo.com)

### **Lancaster County-Golden Warriors: \$ 28,643.00**

The Latino Youth Intervention and Prevention Program addresses the priority of reducing the overrepresentation of Latino males in the juvenile justice system by offering a program that focuses on Latino empowerment, positive role models, and parental involvement through family support groups.

Contact: Sara Hoyle, 555 S. 10<sup>th</sup> St. Ste. 107, Lincoln, NE 68510 (402) 441-7204

[SHoyle@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:SHoyle@lincoln.ne.gov)

# Grant Overviews

## Title II

### **Douglas County Board of Commissioners: \$ 54,874.00**

Funds were used for the Juvenile Alternative to Detention program which offers early mental health assessments, behavioral health, and truancy awareness.

Contact: Chris Rodgers, 1819 Farnam Street, Omaha, NE 68183 (402) 444-7025  
[crodgers@douglascounty-ne.gov](mailto:crodgers@douglascounty-ne.gov)

### **City of Omaha, Office of the Mayor: \$ 40,000.00**

Funds were used for a gang prevention and intervention program. This program targets high at-risk youth, gang members, and offenders, providing direct gang intervention and prevention, crisis and emergency response, court assistance, school intervention and neighborhood canvassing.

Contact: Gail Braun, 1819 Farnam Street, Ste 300, Omaha, NE 68183 (402) 444-5286  
[gbraun@ci.omaha.ne.us](mailto:gbraun@ci.omaha.ne.us)

### **UNO- Board of Regents: \$ 55,000**

Funds were used to fund community planning. The Juvenile Justice Institute provided technical assistance to communities to complete their Juvenile Services Comprehensive Community Plan.

Contact: Anne Hobbs, 6001 Dodge Street, Omaha, NE 68182 (402) 472-4234  
[ahobbs@mail.unomaha.edu](mailto:ahobbs@mail.unomaha.edu)

### **Lancaster County-Sudanese Advocate Project: \$ 23,650.00**

Funds were used to assist ongoing efforts across Lancaster County to strengthen Sudanese families and reduce delinquent and violent behavior in Sudanese youth. The funds were used to support two part-time advocates, supplies, mileage, and youth activities.

Contact: Sara Hoyle, 555 S. 10<sup>th</sup> St. Ste. 107, Lincoln, NE 68510 (402) 441-7204  
[SHoyle@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:SHoyle@lincoln.ne.gov)

# Grant Overviews

## Juvenile Services

### **Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska, Inc: \$ 17,500.00**

Funds were used for the Five County Juvenile Diversion Program. Providing pre-trial juvenile services for Dundy, Furnas, Hayes, Hitchcock and Red Willow counties.

Contact: Dave Lund, 120 E. 12<sup>th</sup> St, North Platte, NE 69101 (308) 532-0587

[dlund@lfsneb.org](mailto:dlund@lfsneb.org)

### **People United For Families: \$ 21,873.00**

Funds were used for the Rockets after School Program to provide after school activities for local children in a safe and supervised setting.

Contact: Jacki Schmitz, 917 Wildwood Lane STE H, Nebraska City, NE 68410 (402)

873-6343 [puffnc@windstream.net](mailto:puffnc@windstream.net)

### **People United For Families: \$ 12,500.00**

Funds were used for the Otoe County CASA program which offers trained CASA advocates who speak in juvenile court for the best interests of children involved with abuse/neglect cases in Otoe County.

Contact: Jacki Schmitz, 917 Wildwood Lane STE H, Nebraska City, NE 68410 (402)

873-6343

[puffnc@windstream.net](mailto:puffnc@windstream.net)

### **Sherman County Prevention Coalition: \$ 15,000.00**

Funds were used for maintaining the current after school and summer school program. This program is intended to reduce behavioral problems for youth as well as Juvenile Delinquency.

Contact Kris Hervert, PO Box 391, Loup City, NE 68853 (308) 745-0127

[krishervert@yahoo.com](mailto:krishervert@yahoo.com)

# Grant Overviews

## Juvenile Services

### **City of Omaha: \$ 28,875.00**

Funds were utilized for the program Future Focus. This program focuses on addressing truancy, mental/behavioral health, early assessment, Juvenile Re-integration, youth violence, and DMC in the Omaha area.

Contact: Gail Braun, 1819 Farnam Street, Ste 300, Omaha, NE 68183 (402) 444-5286  
[gbraun@ci.omaha.ne.us](mailto:gbraun@ci.omaha.ne.us)

### **Cuming County- Diversion: \$ 7,812.00**

These funds were used to partially pay for counseling sessions for youth who are unable to afford counseling, and are involved in the diversion program.

Contact Daniel Bracht, 127 E. Walnut St, West Point, NE 68788 (402) 372-5500  
[bracht@cableone.net](mailto:bracht@cableone.net)

### **Community Connections: Across ages mentoring: \$ 7,500.00**

Funds were used towards the mentoring program offered to children kindergarten through Middle School. The children are matched with a mentor, and participate in activities after school hours.

Contact: Jayna Schaaf, 301 West F St, North Platte, NE 69103 (308)-696-3355.  
[ed@communityconnectionsnc.org](mailto:ed@communityconnectionsnc.org)

### **CASA of South Central Nebraska: \$ 29,000.00**

These funds were used for the S.T.A.R.S. program (Strategic Targeted Attendance Reporting System). This program works with students in grades K-12 in Adams County with truancy and chronic absenteeism.

Contact Amy Swayze, 1100 West 14h St, Hastings, NE 68901 (402) 469-5744  
[aswayze@esu9.org](mailto:aswayze@esu9.org)

# Grant Overviews

## Juvenile Services

### **Kids Plus Inc. \$ 30,000.00**

These funds were used for the support of the No Limits after school and summer camp programs as well as the implementation of the ALL STARS prevention program for Middle and High school students.

Contact Cassie Challburg, PO Box 296 Sidney, NE 69162

[cdchallburg@hotmail.com](mailto:cdchallburg@hotmail.com)

### **Panhandle Partnership for Health & Human Services, Inc: \$ 14,380.00**

Funds were used for a Juvenile prevention system in the Middle and High Schools. The goal of the program is to reduce recidivism in the Juvenile Justice System, and regional collaboration.

Contact: Joan Frances, PO BOX 669, Chadron, NE 69337

[joanontheroad@gmail.com](mailto:joanontheroad@gmail.com)

### **Girl Scouts Spirit of Nebraska: \$ 37,000.00**

Funds were utilized for an after school prevention program for middle and high school girls in underserved areas of Omaha addressing sexual activity, self-esteem, issues of crimes committed during peak after-school hours, leadership building, and truancy.

Contact: Lisa Hiatt; 2121 S. 44<sup>th</sup> St, Omaha, NE, 68105 (402) 476-7539

[lhiatt@girlscoutsnebraska.org](mailto:lhiatt@girlscoutsnebraska.org)

### **Area Substance & Alcohol Abuse Prevention (ASAAP): \$ 25,000.00**

Funds were used for Youth Leadership/Mentoring services through ASAAP. Services address caring school climate, youth as resources, school boundaries, positive peer pressure, and resistance skills. Contact: Scott Stempter; 835 S. Burlington Ave Ste# 114, Hastings, NE 68901 (402) 463-0524

[scott@asaap-ne.org](mailto:scott@asaap-ne.org)

# Grant Overviews

## Juvenile Services

### **Otoe County: \$ 12,375.00**

Funds were used for the Otoe County CARE (Children at Risk Education Program) Program. This program is offered to at least 12 juveniles per year who might otherwise be placed in a juvenile detention facility in another community.

Contact: Jacki Schmitz, 917 Wildwood Lane, Ste H, Nebraska City, NE 68410 (402) 873-6343 [puffnc@windstream.net](mailto:puffnc@windstream.net)

### **GLW Children's Council, Inc: \$ 39,871.00**

Funds were used for the GLW Diversion Program to establish an effective alternative method to detention.

Contact: Trisha Crandall, 455 Grand Avenue POB 310, Burwell, NE 68823 (308) 346-4284 [tlc@nctc.net](mailto:tlc@nctc.net)

### **Saunders County: \$ 27,074.00**

Funds were used for CASA (Court appointed special advocate) which offers trained CASA advocates who speak in juvenile court for the best interests of children involved with abuse/neglect cases in Saunders County.

Contact: Pam Lausterer, 354 West 4<sup>th</sup> St, Wahoo, NE 68066 (402) 443-8169  
[plausterer@co.saunders.ne.us](mailto:plausterer@co.saunders.ne.us)

### **Region 3 Behavioral Health Services: \$ 26,250.00**

These funds were used for a Buffalo County Juvenile Facilitator. The facilitator conducts intervention programs that would be accessible by several agencies.

Contact Kay Glidden, PO Box 2555, Kearney, NE 68848 (308) 237-5113  
[kglidden@region3.net](mailto:kglidden@region3.net)

# Grant Overviews

## Juvenile Services

**Lancaster County: \$ 29,635.00**

Funds were used for the Destination Dad Program. This program allows incarcerated fathers the opportunity to participate in sessions to learn parenting skills and develop a re-entry plan to connect with their children which is the final step upon re-entry.

Contact: Sara Hoyle, 555 S. 10<sup>th</sup> St. Ste. 107, Lincoln, NE 68510 (402) 441-7204

[SHoyle@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:SHoyle@lincoln.ne.gov)

**Lancaster County: \$ 8,000.00**

Funds were used for the program “The Artist Inside”. This program adds art to the curriculum at youth detention centers. This program utilizes a strengths based approach to help youth attain success and self-confidence in other academic subjects.

Contact: Sara Hoyle, 555 S. 10<sup>th</sup> St. Ste. 107, Lincoln, NE 68510 (402) 441-7204

[SHoyle@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:SHoyle@lincoln.ne.gov)

**City of Omaha; Office of the Mayor: \$ 22,500.00**

Funds were utilized for the African American Youth Leadership Development Experience program. This program draws on culturally relevant principles of Kwanzaa to help youth affected by the juvenile justice system.

Contact: Gail Braun, 1819 Farnam Street, Ste 300, Omaha, NE 68183 (402) 444-5286

[gbraun@ci.omaha.ne.us](mailto:gbraun@ci.omaha.ne.us)

**City of Omaha; Office of the Mayor: \$ 18,047.00**

Funds were utilized for the Teen Girls Chat; Real Life Situations program. This program offers guidance for youth in developing positive health planning and decision-making strategies.

Contact: Gail Braun, 1819 Farnam Street, Ste 300, Omaha, NE 68183 (402) 444-5286

[gbraun@ci.omaha.ne.us](mailto:gbraun@ci.omaha.ne.us)

# Grant Overviews

## Juvenile Services

### **Lancaster County- BUILD: \$ 12,500.00**

The funds were used for BUILD (Building Up Interdependence and Leadership Development). This program provides 15-20 youth with counseling services in a group setting.

Contact: Sara Hoyle, 555 S. 10<sup>th</sup> St. Ste. 107, Lincoln, NE 68510 (402) 441-7204

[SHoyle@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:SHoyle@lincoln.ne.gov)

### **Lancaster County: \$ 21,000.00**

Funds were used for the Children in Shelter Project Enhancement program. This program offers services to children and youth through the Friendship home to decrease truancy, runaways, and over-representation of minorities in the Juvenile Justice System.

Contact: Sara Hoyle, 555 S. 10<sup>th</sup> St. Ste. 107, Lincoln, NE 68510 (402) 441-7204

[SHoyle@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:SHoyle@lincoln.ne.gov)

### **Sherman County Prevention Coalition: \$ 10,000.00**

Funds were used for the Trojans after school program. The focus is to develop an after school program in Litchfield Elementary School and monitor the outcomes of the program through evaluation.

Contact Kris Hervert, PO Box 391, Loup City, NE 68853 (308) 745-0127

[krishervert@yahoo.com](mailto:krishervert@yahoo.com)

### **Lancaster County: \$ 10,000.00**

Lincoln Education and Academic Program (LEAP). This program assists youth in accessing community resources and furthering their education in the form of a GED.

Contact: Sara Hoyle, 555 S. 10<sup>th</sup> St. Ste. 107, Lincoln, NE 68510 (402) 441-7204

[SHoyle@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:SHoyle@lincoln.ne.gov)

# Grant Overviews

## Juvenile Services

### **City of Omaha, Nebraska: \$ 29,120.00**

These funds were used for the Refugee Community Juvenile Empowerment Program (RCJEP) in Douglas County. This program provides culturally specific after school programming for refugee youth as a way to mitigate youth violence and DMC.

Contact: Gail Braun, 1819 Farnam Street, Ste 300, Omaha, NE 68183 (402) 444-5286

[gbraun@ci.omaha.ne.us](mailto:gbraun@ci.omaha.ne.us)

### **City of Omaha; Office of the Mayor: \$ 60,000.00**

Funds were utilized for the Ladies in Training Everyday (LITE) program. This program offers mentors for incarcerated females, incorporating anger management and life skills training in Douglas County.

Contact: Gail Braun, 1819 Farnam Street, Ste 300, Omaha, NE 68183 (402) 444-5286

[gbraun@ci.omaha.ne.us](mailto:gbraun@ci.omaha.ne.us)

### **Lancaster County: \$ 15,000.00**

Funds are being utilized to support a weekend reporting center. The Cedars reporting center is providing the weekend service. The goal is to reduce the citations and poor choices that occur on weekends by youth.

Contact: Sara Hoyle, 555 S. 10<sup>th</sup> St. Ste. 107, Lincoln, NE 68510 (402) 441-7204

[SHoyle@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:SHoyle@lincoln.ne.gov)

### **Lancaster County- Police Officers working with educational referrals (POWER): \$3,065.00**

Resource Officers facilitated the Why Try support group for youth as an alternative to citations. Officers visited with students and parents outside of the program to discuss concerning behavior and attendance. Unfortunately, this program is no longer receiving Title V funding and is being discontinued due to lack of funding and facilitators.

Contact: Sara Hoyle, 555 S. 10<sup>th</sup> St. Ste. 107, Lincoln, NE 68510 (402) 441-7204

[SHoyle@lincoln.ne.gov](mailto:SHoyle@lincoln.ne.gov)