

Cass County Juvenile Services Revised Comprehensive Plan

July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2018

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The community team for Cass County consists of the members of the LB1184 Treatment Team. The team members are representatives from various agencies and other components of the county that deal with juvenile issues. These include the various county school districts, doctors, medical students, nurses, and other medical professionals from local clinics and doctor's offices, law enforcement officers from the Cass County Sheriff's Department and the Plattsmouth Police Department, probation officers, Nebraska HHSS Protection and Safety Workers, Office of Juvenile Services workers, domestic violence victim's advocates, and members of the Cass County Attorney's Office, including the Cass County Attorney and one Deputy Cass County Attorney along with Cass County CASA.

The Community Team has met since County Attorney Nathan B. Cox took office as the Cass County Attorney in 2000. Previous to that time meetings were held but there is no information on the frequency or format of the meetings. Meetings are currently held on the third Monday of each month and are directed by Nathan Cox. He is responsible for the statutory requirements of the meetings.

Community Socio-Economic Factors

Nestled halfway between Omaha and Lincoln and the grassy banks of two mighty and historic rivers, Cass County is one of the earliest settled counties in Nebraska, whose population continues to grow. The county measures approximately 34 miles East to West and 20 miles North to South and has a population of over 25,000. Cass County is comprised of the fifteen towns mentioned above. Cass County has a total of 17 public schools, six high schools, three middle schools and eight elementary schools. Cass County is largely agricultural; however there are a number of manufacturing sites in the county such as Ash Grove Cement, Ox Bow Pet Products, Stock Seed, and Martin Marietta Aggregates.

Plattsmouth is the county seat and serves as a bedroom community for the city of Omaha. Located on the Missouri River at the mouth of the Platte River, Plattsmouth is served by U.S. Highways 34 and 75 and State Highway 66. Only three miles west of Interstate 29 and 18 miles south of Interstate 80, this growing community is conveniently located approximately 20 miles south of Omaha and 50 miles northeast of the State Capitol in Lincoln. Plattsmouth is a city of beautiful parks, historical landmarks, and museums. The Plattsmouth Main Street Historic

District includes 45 buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places, including the Cass County Courthouse, built in 1892.

Snapshot of Demographics (Cass County & State)

	Cass County	Nebraska
Population, 2010	25,241	1,826,341
Population, percent change, 2000 to 2010	3.7%	6.7%
Persons under 5 years, percent, 2010	6.3%	7.2%
Persons under 18 years, percent, 2010	25.3%	25.1%
High school graduates, percent of persons age 25+, 2005-2009	93.1%	89.7%
Persons below poverty level, percent, 2009	7.1%	12.2%

Citation: US Census Bureau website, Cass County NE snapshot

IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES AND STRATEGIES

ORGANIZATIONAL PRIORITY AREAS

MOBILIZATIONAL PRIORITY AREAS

Priority 1

Expand and Enhance Juvenile Programming for Youth and Families involved in the court system in Cass County.

It is imperative to expand and enhance Juvenile Programming in Cass County to maintain proper assistance and services the youth and families served by the court system.

With the passage of LB 561, Nebraska State Probation will begin supervising previously placed youth on probation, and now those youth who have previously been placed with the Department of Health and Human Services under the Office of Juvenile Services. In addition, Nebraska State Probation will have the ability to facilitate and supervise those youth on Pre-adjudication/Pre-disposition court status. Resources and services can be provided to these youth on the front-end to decrease likelihood of further proceedings in the court system. This went into effect on July 1, 2013 with the transition of current delinquency cases being supervised by the Office of Juvenile Service occurring by June 30, 2014.

With the expansion of the Nebraska State Probation, there will be additional resources, services and programming available to assist the youth and the family in the community. Nebraska State Probation will be assisting additional youth and families with new resources and services not previously provided to or by Nebraska State Program. With the increase in numbers of those being supervised under Nebraska State Probation, there will become a need for expansion and enhancements to Juvenile Programming in Cass County.

The following research reflects the risk areas identified by the Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (YLS/CMI). The YLS/CMI identifies the overall risk for recidivism a youth poses. The YLS/CMI also identifies criminogenic factors (crime producing) /risk domain areas to breakdown where to target interventions for those high to moderate risk. The information was gathered on existing youth for the past three years (2010-2012) who had a valid YLS/CMI completed. There was 118 youth with valid YLS/CMI completed while under the supervision of Nebraska State Probation or during the Pre-disposition Investigation Phase of the court process which were also administered by Nebraska State Probation.

The YLS/CMI is administered to the youth with information gathered from the family and collateral contacts. There are eight identified risk domain areas in the YLS/CMI; Prior Offenses, Family Relations, Education/Employment, Peer Relations, Substance Abuse, Leisure/Recreation, Personality/Behavior, and Attitudes/Orientations. Within these risk domain areas, the YLS/CMI identifies the individual risk level of high, moderate or low. In the research provided below, the eight risk domain areas are identified, with the percentage of risk for each risk domain area for the 118 Cass County youth with a valid YLS/CMI completed in the past three years.

Intensive Family Preservation- Cass County is requesting funds for Intensive Family Preservation as a service to utilize with youth and families ordered at a Detention Hearing to assist the youth in the return to the home setting to aid in the least restrictive option. With the passage of LB 464, the county is now responsible for this payment in the pre adjudicated stage.

Intensive Family Preservation services are provided by a team consisting of a licensed mental health professional and a skill builder. They provide the services in the home and/or in another setting familiar to the family. The service is designed to improve family functioning to effect behavior change to reduce the juvenile's criminogenic risk and to increase the family's access to community resources and other informal and formal supports. This family stabilization is available 24/7.

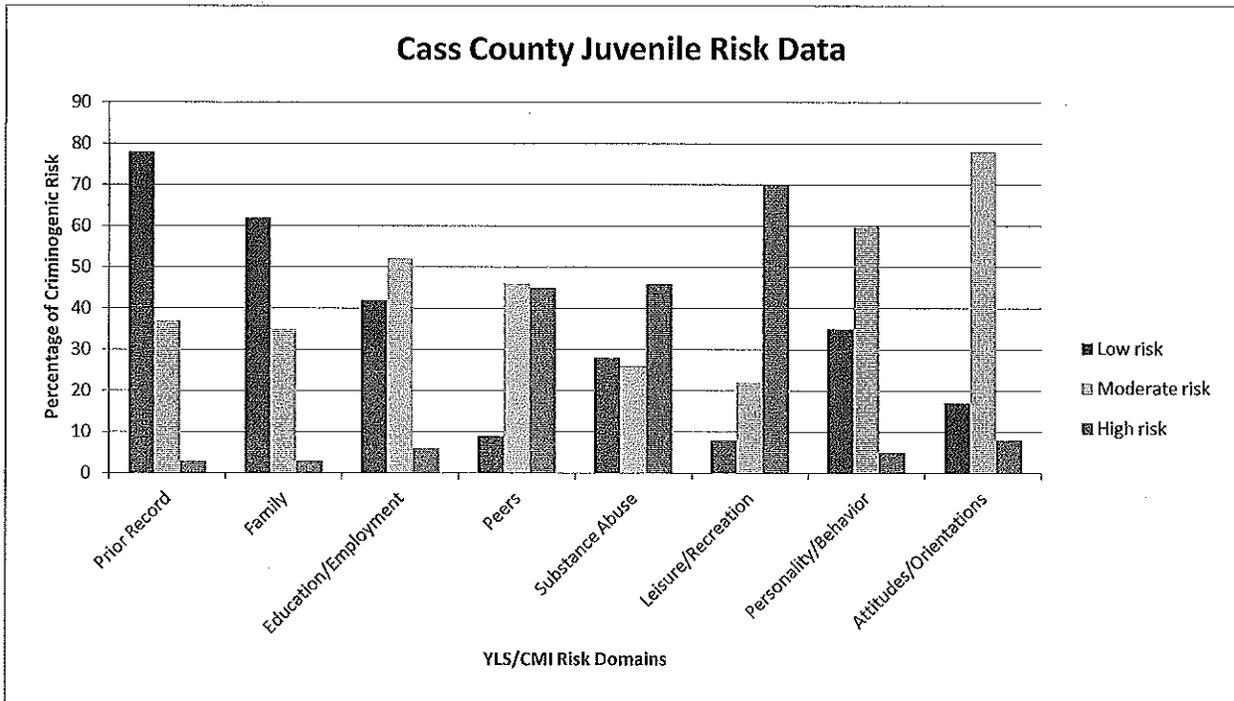
Cass County Juvenile system focus provides juveniles with the least restrictive appropriate environment, becoming incrementally more restrictive only as absolutely necessary. Therefore, alternatives/programming are needed in order to provide youth with services to divert them from detention by offering new and innovative services.

Priority Two of the Comprehensive Juvenile Services Plan states: Cass County will expand and enhance Juvenile programming for Youth and Families involved in the Court System in Cass County.

Cass County is requesting funding to implement a Family Crisis Mediation Response Team. At times, families encounter conflicts that can escalate to the point that an intervention is necessary. By implementing this program, a Family Mediation Crisis Response Team member will be called when situations arise such as children running away, physical altercations, and issues regarding parents and children respecting one another. The Mediation Team's goal is to see a decline in youth being detained or placed in a higher level of care that may not be necessary.

Through services provided by the Family Crisis Mediation Response Team; police officers and probation officers will assist the family in crisis. The project is designed to provide youth who would, in the current system, be placed under the Juvenile Court System or are currently being supervised by a juvenile agency, with services that divert them from the criminal justice or social services systems. Family Crisis Mediation Response team members will assess the nature of the crisis and provide immediate de-escalation and conflict resolution. A safety plan is developed and the family is provided additional community resources and support.

The main goal of this program is to keep the family intact with specific safety measures in place. If the mediation team member assesses that the child is too much of a risk to return home, then they will explore the options of placing the child in an unbiased home, such as a friend or family member's home for the night. If/when this option is unsuccessful it would be the probation officer's job to find immediate placement for the child.



Information provided by Nebraska State Probation District 2

The graph identifies several domain areas with a high percentage of youth in Cass County falling into the high risk and moderate risk areas. There will be an increase of those being supervised by Nebraska State Probation within the next year in need of assistance of expansion and enhancements to programming to reduce risk levels of the risk domain areas. This will decrease the overall risk of a youth and family to create additional safety to the community.

Strategies	Action Steps	Responsible Party	Timeline	Resources Needed	Expected Results
(1) Increase Juvenile Programming	a) Research evidence-based programming for Juveniles	a) Chief Probation Officer/Chief Deputy Probation Officer b) Juvenile Justice Resource Supervisor c) Probation Officer	a) ongoing process throughout	a) Effective research of Juvenile Evidence-Based Programming b) Resources/ costs to obtain Juvenile Evidence-Based Programming	a) Decrease in risk domain areas. b) Increase Public Safety

2) Enhance existing Juvenile Programming	a) Review current juvenile evidence – programming being provided b) Identify which programming is in need of additional materials/training/information	a) Chief Probation Officer/Chief Deputy Probation Officer 2) Juvenile Justice Resource Supervisor 3) Probation Officers	a) Ongoing Process	a) evaluation of the needs of the current Programming	a) decrease risk domain areas b) increase public safety.
3) Evaluate risk areas for those youth and families	a) Review overall risk for YLS/CMI b) Review risk domain areas	a) Chief Probation Officer/ Chief Deputy Probation Officer b) Juvenile Justice Resource Supervisor c) Probation Officer d) Data Analyst	a) Data analyst complete a query on the breakdown of the YLS/CMI on a yearly basis.	a) valid YLS/CMI instruments completed on all youth b) valid YLS/CMI instruments completed on those youth transitioning from OJS c) yearly query run on overall risk level and risk domain areas	a) decrease in risk domain areas b) increase in public safety c) information regarding where resources, services, and programming would be best utilized with youth and family.

Priority 2

Increase Educational Programming through the Diversion Program

The first identified priority for this plan is increase educational programming through the Diversion Program. More specifically, the problems addressed in this priority are two-fold: 1) The need for educational classes to incorporate into the Diversion Program and 2) Educational Classes for the Diversion Program that are easily accessible for youth and their family to transport them to during the weekdays. The primary objective of the Diversion Program is to assist eligible individuals in taking responsibility for their actions in a way beneficial to all those affected, including the community as a whole. Offering courses that are accessible for families in the Cass County area will assist families in being able to participate in the Diversion Program. Educational courses that are offered help the youth and their family to

recognize the behaviors that made them eligible for the program and make any necessary corrections to avoid involvement in the court system in the future.

There is an added element of need for educational programming in recent years, as most courses that are offered in the area are in Sarpy or Douglas County and an increasing number of families in Cass County are having trouble finding resources to transport and pay for their youth to attend these programs, resulting in more youth entering the court system.

Youth are eligible for the Diversion Program for a large amount of offenses. The Cass County Diversion Program allows individuals to participate in the Diversion Program for minor offenses such as: Criminal Mischief, Theft, Shoplifting, Reckless Driving, Minor in Possession of Alcohol, Minor in Possession of Tobacco, Trespassing, Truancy, Assault, Careless Driving, Animal Abuse and Neglect, Disturbing the Peace, and many other offenses. The Diversion Program is a positive alternative to individuals entering the court system. Adolescent brain development research shows that the part of a juvenile's brain that is responsible for risk assessment, consideration of consequences and controlling impulses is not fully developed until the early 20's. Coalition for Juvenile Justice, *Emerging Concepts Brief: What are the Implications of Adolescent Brain Development for Juvenile Justice?* (2006). A high proportion of juveniles who come into contact with the juvenile justice system are not on a path to adult crime, but merely afflicted with adolescence. Mark Lipsey, Keynote Presentation, *Evidence-Based Practice to Meet the Juvenile Justice Challenge* (Nebraska Community Aid and Juvenile Justice Conference, Lincoln, Nebr., October 29, 2014) (copy of PowerPoint presentation on file with Nebraska Crime Commission). Over-involvement with the juvenile justice system can make things worse for those juveniles. *Id.* This understanding that the developmental factors that make adolescents different from adults shows that youth are less culpable for their behavior, are more amenable to change and rehabilitation than adults, and should be treated differently than adults when they commit crimes. Models for Change: Systems Reform in Juvenile Justice, The Resource Center Partnership, Benjamin Chambers & Annie Balck, *Because Kids are Different: Five Opportunities for Reforming the Juvenile Justice System*, (John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation (2014). Well-designed community based programs and evidence based practices can effectively reduce adolescent recidivism without relying on punitive punishments of the criminal justice system.

Well-designed community based programs and evidence based practices can effectively reduce adolescent recidivism without relying on punitive punishments of the criminal justice system. The justice system should not exempt youth from punishment, but should consider the developmental stage of adolescents when juveniles are facing criminal prosecution. Programs and practices should teach youth about the consequences of their wrongdoing in a developmentally informed way, give youth opportunities to restore damage they have caused, and the tools to learn from their mistakes and make better choices in the future. *Id.* The most effective programs seek to meet the youth's development needs by promoting contact with prosocial peers and adult role models, actively engaging parents and family members, offering tools to deal with negative influences, and engaging youth in educational programming and employment that will prepare them for adulthood. *Id.*

Sources

http://nebraskalegislature.gov/FloorDocs/104/PDF/Agencies/Crime_Commission/527_20150330-083533.pdf

The issue of truancy is also affecting the number of children coming into care (especially age 10-17). Nebraska's approach to truancy has increased costs and pressures on prosecutors, juvenile courts and child welfare providers. According to a recent article in the Omaha World Herald more truancy cases have meant more children becoming state wards. Children can wind up in the system if they are charged with being truant, a status offense, or if their parents are charged with educational neglect. Statewide numbers on truancy cases in the child welfare system are unavailable. But KVC, the state's private child welfare contractor serving southeast Nebraska, saw its truancy cases quadruple from the summer of 2010 to this summer. Cases averaged eight per week this year, compared with two per week previously. Sandra Gasca-Gonzalez, president of KVC's Nebraska operations, said she was surprised at the numbers. In other states where she has worked, truancy is an issue handled by schools, not the juvenile court system, she said.

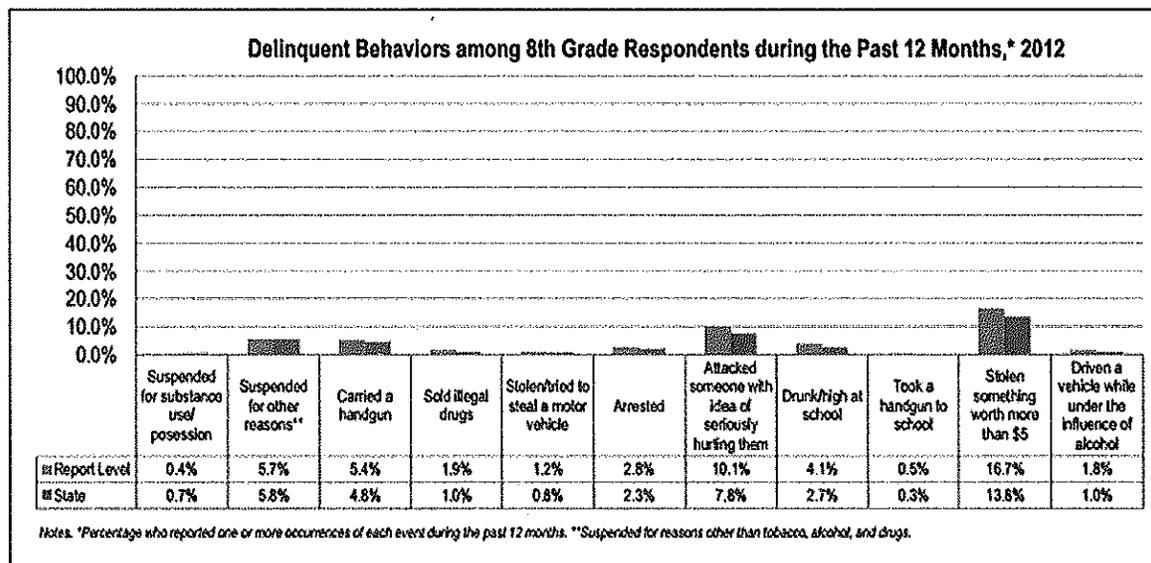
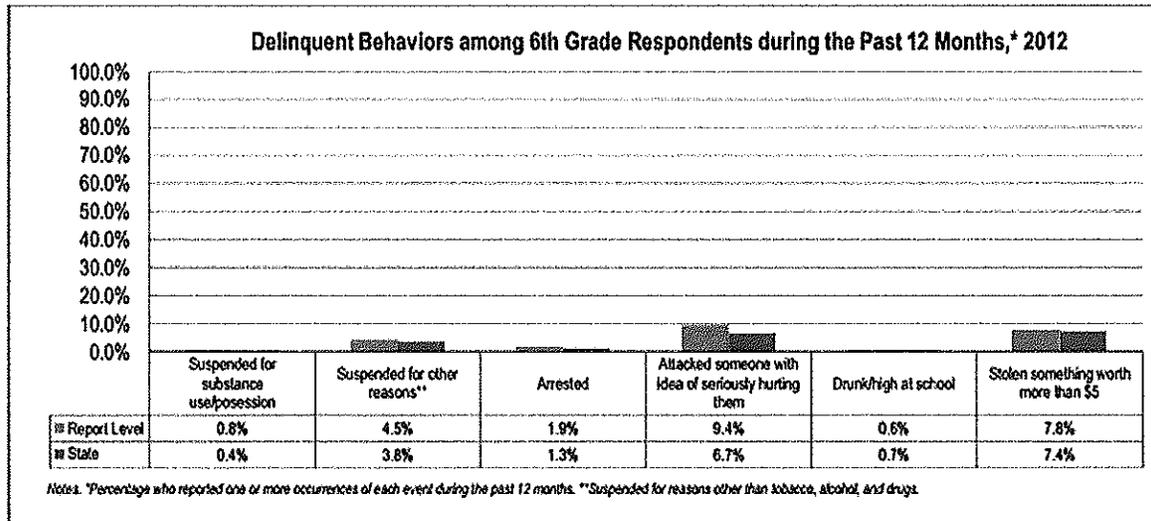
Priority 2: Increase Educational Programming through the Diversion Program

Strategy	Action Steps	Timeline	Responsible Parties	Resources Needed	Evidence-Based Practice
<p>1) Implement more educational classes through the Diversion Program.</p>	<p>Obtain educational curriculum for Minor in Possession of Alcohol courses.</p> <p>Renew educational curriculum for Why Try Program</p> <p>Attend Nebraska Juvenile Justice Association's (NJJA) Conference to obtain information on more educational programs available.</p>	<p>July 2016- July 2017</p> <p>Research Minor in Possession of Alcohol Curriculum once a year.</p> <p>Renew Why Try Curriculum in May yearly.</p> <p>Attend NJJA yearly conference in May 2016 and May 2017.</p>	<p>Diversion Director & County Attorney</p>	<p>Funds</p> <p>Curriculum</p> <p>Law Enforcement Center for meetings</p>	<p>Outcomes:</p> <p>From July 1, 2014 through December 1, 2015, 80 individuals were served by our Diversion Program. Out of the 80 individuals, 75 of these were children ages 12-18 (93.75%). During this timeframe, out of the 75 children: 65 were successfully released from the program and have not committed additional offenses as of December 2, 2015; 10 were unsuccessfully released from the program or returned to the County Attorney for further prosecution.</p> <p>* Program participates in a self-assessment process, which measures their compliance with County Attorney's guidelines and is measured once a month.</p>

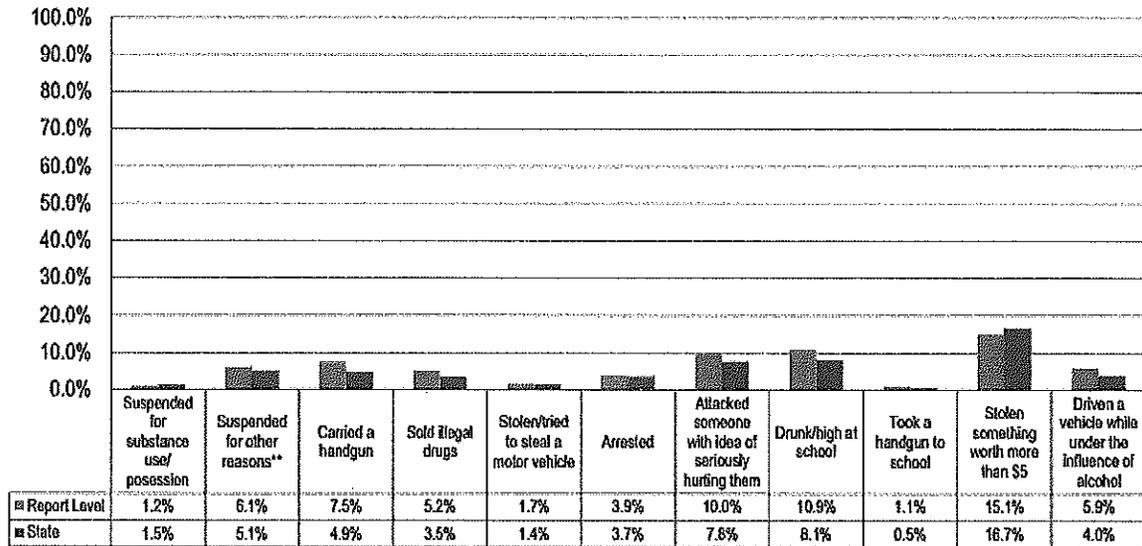
Delinquent Behaviors and Bullying

This section contains information on delinquent behaviors (i.e., behaviors that are illegal, violent, and/or highly unacceptable in society) as well as recent bullying behavior among 6th, 8th, 10th, and 12th grade students in Nebraska. There are 11 delinquent behaviors presented in this section, including behaviors that occur both on and off school property. Bullying questions were added to the 2010 surveys in response to interest from school and community leaders.

Delinquent Behavior during the Past 12 Months

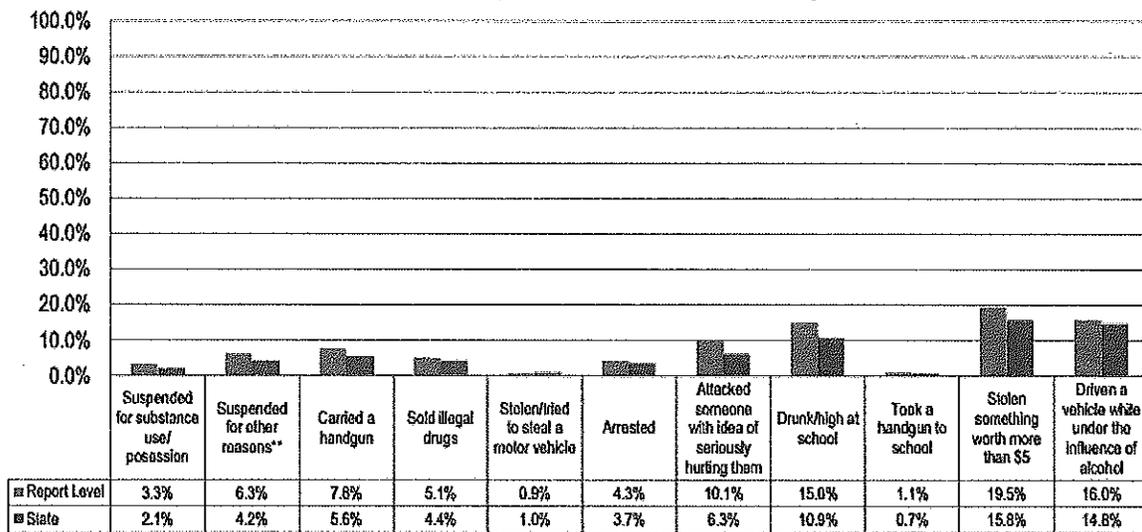


Delinquent Behaviors among 10th Grade Respondents during the Past 12 Months,* 2012



Notes: *Percentage who reported one or more occurrences of each event during the past 12 months. **Suspended for reasons other than tobacco, alcohol, and drugs.

Delinquent Behaviors among 12th Grade Respondents during the Past 12 Months,* 2012



Notes: *Percentage who reported one or more occurrences of each event during the past 12 months. **Suspended for reasons other than tobacco, alcohol, and drugs.

Surveys show that over recent years, there has been a widening of the net for offenses that land young people in the Juvenile Justice System. Why does net widening happen? One reason is that some of the behaviors that we now criminalize in our juvenile justice system are behaviors that used to be tolerated to some degree by society (American Psychological Association, 2008; Dupper, 2010; Snyder 1998). Many researchers cite the myth of juvenile violent offenders, perpetuated by the media, as the underlying reason for the rapid increase in juvenile court processing (Dembo, Wareham, & Schmeidler, 2005; Haegerich, Salerno, & Bottoms, 2012; Greene & Evelo, 2013; Muschert, 2007; Snyder, 1998). More recent legal cases and reform efforts point to a systemic misunderstanding of adolescent development as the source of this net widening. For example, a recent study conducted by Allen, Trzcinski, & Kubiak (2012) found that not only were participants' views of adolescent development predictive of how they believed juveniles should be treated in the justice system, but attitudes toward adolescent development explained more variance in how juveniles should be treated than any other demographic construct. Taking adolescent development into account, evaluators and stakeholders should inquire whether: (a) the youth requires any intervention or whether the process brings juveniles into the system unnecessarily, and (b) whether the intervention is a developmentally appropriate response designed to reduce recidivism

Research also shows that offenses such truancy, fighting, property crimes and drug abuse violations, are the types of crimes that have widened the net for juvenile offenses, when intervention, community enaggement and/or therapeutic options would be a more viable choice. The 2013 Crime Commission reports for Nebraska specific to Cass county for such offenses are as follows:

YEAR(s): 2013
 COUNTY: Cass
 AGE: JUVENILE (0-17 yrs.)

County	Agency	Larceny	Simple Assault	Fraud	Stolen Property	Weapons	Drug Abuse Violations	Total
Cass	Plattsmouth P.D.	3	3	1	6	2	6	21
Cass	Nebraska State Patrol	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Totals		3	3	1	6	2	7	22

What we know is that across America an estimated 8.5 million youth (about 20%) do not have caring adults in their lives. Those from disadvantaged homes and communities are over-represented in this number.

Young persons who lack a strong relationship with a caring adult while growing up are much more vulnerable to a host of difficulties, ranging from academic failure to involvement in serious risk behaviors. Research finds that resilient youth—those who successfully transition from risk-filled backgrounds to the adult world of work and good citizenship—are consistently distinguished by the presence of a structured community programming and a caring adult in their

lives. The programming proposed under this Priority 1 project addresses these issues and outcomes for the families, communities and the individual youth are positive.

Appendixes

CASS COUNTY

JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM POINTS ANALYSIS

Updated Juvenile Data

The Juvenile Justice System Analysis Tool (Tool) was developed by the Juvenile Justice Institute at the University of Nebraska at Omaha in conjunction with the Nebraska Crime Commission to assist in County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Planning.

The Tool consists of twelve areas of decision points that make up the formal juvenile justice system in Nebraska. Various factors are present at each decision point—oftentimes changing from year to year based on state or county dynamics within the system such as changes in policies, programs, and/or personnel.

There are formal factors dictating certain decision points in the system, such as statutory authority. In addition, each county or community has unique factors surrounding certain decision points within the local county juvenile justice system. Identifying such informal factors helps to understand and assess juvenile justice needs and issues in individual locales.

Cass County

Cass County is updating its Juvenile Justice System Analysis Tool with more current data. This document represents the most current juvenile data available for Cass County to date.

**Cass County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Community Plan
2012 – 2015**

Cass County Data

Juvenile court offense data for Cass County is provided for years 2007, 2008, and 2009 (Juvenile Court Reporting—Nebraska Crime Commission)¹ appears below. Arrest numbers for each year represent arrests made of 0 – 17 year-olds in the county and are given for 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010.

In 2010, according to OJJDP at http://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezapop/asp/profile_selection.asp, Cass County had a juvenile population (ages 0 – 17 years old) of 15,977, with the following breakdown of race and ethnicity:

Race →					
Ethnicity ↓	White	Black	American Indian	Asian	Total
Non Hispanic	5,973	72	30	42	6,117
Total	6234	76	40	43	6,393

Cass County Data

1

Juvenile Court Reporting (JCR)

The Nebraska Crime Commission's Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) collects information from the courts on juveniles processed through the juvenile justice system. Approximately 8,000 juvenile cases a year receive final disposition or judgment which are reported to the Crime Commission by paper forms and by the computerized court system JUSTICE. Various statistics are compiled from these data by the SAC for use in juvenile justice planning. Data are provided back to local and state agencies, policy makers, the courts, National Center for Juvenile Justice and federal Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Nebraska Juvenile Court Data Set

Juvenile court information has been submitted to the Crime Commission on an ongoing basis for over 20 years. When a case reaches a disposition, meaning finality with concern to the court proceedings, a data collection form is completed and forwarded to the Crime Commission. The reported information is collected within the county court or by the probation office. There data typically include cases which have been handled with a formal petition having been filed. The statistics reported here by the Crime Commission only contain information on cases handled through a formal petition. The terms, cases, petitions and referrals may all be used describe the same group of juveniles processed. This does not necessarily represent all cases filed in juvenile court during those times; rather only those that received final a disposition or judgment. Information on pending cases is not included.

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NEBRASKA JUVENILE COURT REPORT - CASS COUNTY

	2007	2008	2009	2010
ARRESTS	49	37	29	59
OFFENSES				
3rd Degree Assault	6	6	2	
Sexual Assault - 1st	1	1	0	
Sexual Assault - 2nd	0	0	0	
Burglary	0	4	1	
Drug - Felony	0	0	0	
Theft < \$1500	1	0	1	
Theft < \$500	9	3	5	
Theft < \$200	11	2	1	
Crim Mischief - Felony	0	1	0	
Crim Mischief - Misd	6	7	3	
Major Trespass	1	4	1	
Forgery - Misd - Major	1	0	0	
Weapon - Misd	0	0	0	
Disturbing Peace	11	2	0	
Other Felony	2	1	0	
Other Misdemeanor	20	16	1	
Truancy	0	0	1	
Ungovernable Behavior	14	3	1	
Possession of Alcohol	17	7	3	
Other Status	0	0	0	
Neglect	23	7	0	
Dependent	1	3	0	
Other/Unknown	17	21	116	
TOTAL	141	88	136	

Appendix B Community Capacity Inventory

CASS COUNTY

COMMUNITY STABILIZING EFFORTS REVIEW

The Community Stabilizing Efforts Review incorporates the information gathered from various sources, such as the community's Community Capacity Inventory survey, in order to better identify the state of juvenile services available in your local area. This process helps reveal ways to work towards a community framework in which your juvenile justice system and juvenile services can best be integrated for optimal impact on youth in your community.

Collective Impact

*Collective impact*¹ is the commitment of a group of important parties from different sectors in the community to a common agenda for solving a specific problem. The quality of the cooperative action and the nature of the problem being addressed is what distinguishes collective impact from "regular" collaboration. Collaboration is not new as there are many examples of partnerships, networks, and other types of joint efforts. Collective impact initiatives are unique in that they involve five conditions for success. These include a structured process that leads to

- a common agenda,
- shared measurement systems,
- mutually reinforcing activities among all participants,
- continuous communication, and
- a centralized infrastructure or backbone organization.

The Community Planning process assists communities in reaching collective impact over time in order to successfully impact the local pressing needs and under-served regarding youth.

Developing a Common Framework

The initial goal within the community with regard to juvenile justice is to talk with the same language and look at the same things; in other words, to develop a common framework. This will help in developing a common agenda. There may be lots of programming available within a community, for example, but no integration or shared ideas. A solution to that

¹ *Collective Impact* by John Kanla & Mark Kramer. Stanford Social Innovation Review, Winter 2011

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challenge would be to coordinate efforts and ideas. First, a community must share a common framework.

Questions to ask the community might be:

- Are you currently focused on specific program ideas and priorities?
- Are you taking into consideration community priorities?

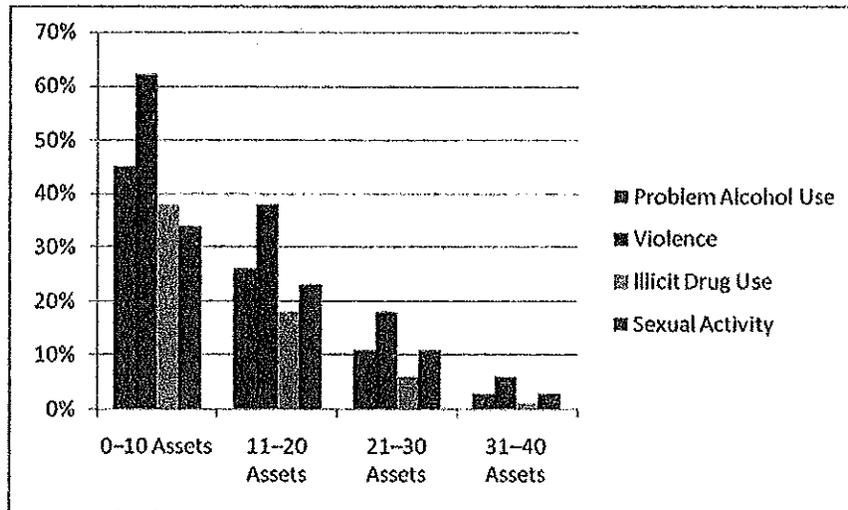
Until the community identifies priorities that in turn become individual program priorities, then the community is not organized around what is best for kids. Again, it is important to identify a framework that is based in research and shows what works with kids. "What works" is the 40 Developmental Assets that are applicable to all youth and the 43 YLS/CMI Risk-Need Factors that if not addressed, kids will continue to get in trouble. This is the beginning of developing a common framework.

40 Developmental Assets

According to the Search Institute, "The Developmental Assets represent the relationships, opportunities, and personal qualities that young people need to avoid risks and to thrive." Assets have ability to protect youth from many different harmful or unhealthy choices. Youth with the most Assets are least likely to engage in patterns of high-risk behavior, based on surveys of almost 150,000 6th- to 12th-grade youth in 202 communities across the United States in calendar year 2003 (Search Institute at www.search-institute.org).

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Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (YLS/CMI) Risk-Need Factors

The YLS/CMI assesses a juvenile’s risks and needs, then provides an indication of whether the youth might be socially unstable and whether the youth is likely to exhibit delinquent behavior. Most juvenile justice practitioners across the state of Nebraska are familiar with the YLS/CMI factors, particularly Probation, the Office of Juvenile Services, and many diversion programs.

Community Capacity Inventory

As part of the Cass County Community Planning process, the Community Capacity Inventory (CCI) survey was administered to programs and services available to youth in order to gain an understanding of how the 40 Developmental Assets and YLS risk-need factors are being addressed in your community. The CCI provides insight into the community’s availability of juvenile services. Specifically, it helps the community understand how the 40 Developmental Assets and the YLS/CMI risk-need factors are addressed in Cass County.

8 programs working with youth in Cass County responded to the CCI survey. Those who responded include:

- Plattsmouth Healthcare/Urgent Care

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- Plattsmouth Public School
- Cass County CASA
- KVC
- Conestoga Jr/Sr High School
- Plattsmouth Schools Health Services
- Child Advocacy Center
- Weeping Water School

The following results are based on those that responded, with full knowledge that a broader array of programs and services may be available to youth in Cass County.

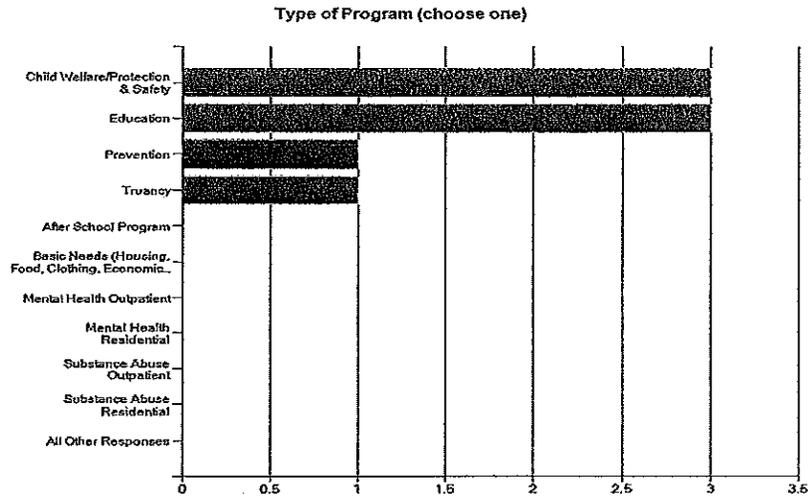
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Survey Findings

The survey asked the respondents to identify themselves by type of program. The choices were as follows:

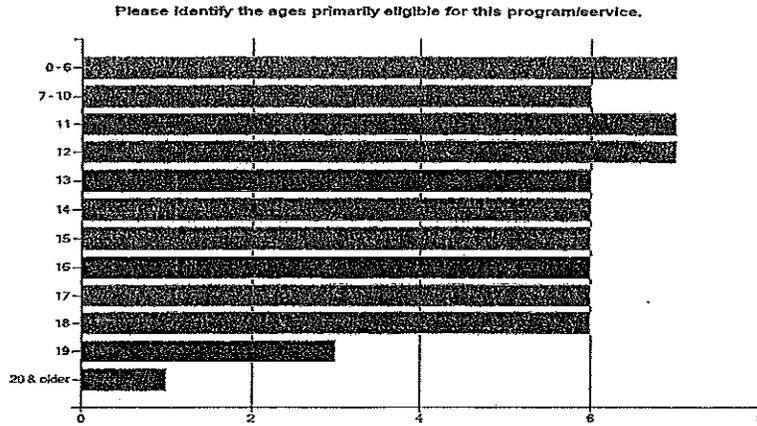
- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| After School Program | Legal Services |
| Basic Needs | Parenting |
| Behavioral Health | Prevention |
| Child Welfare | Residential |
| Community Service | Domestic Violence |
| Culture Specific | Mentoring |
| Early Education | Truancy |
| Education | Job Skills |
| Employment & Job Skills | Gender Specific |
| Juvenile Justice | Mediation |

The following table shows the distribution of survey respondents by Type of Program.

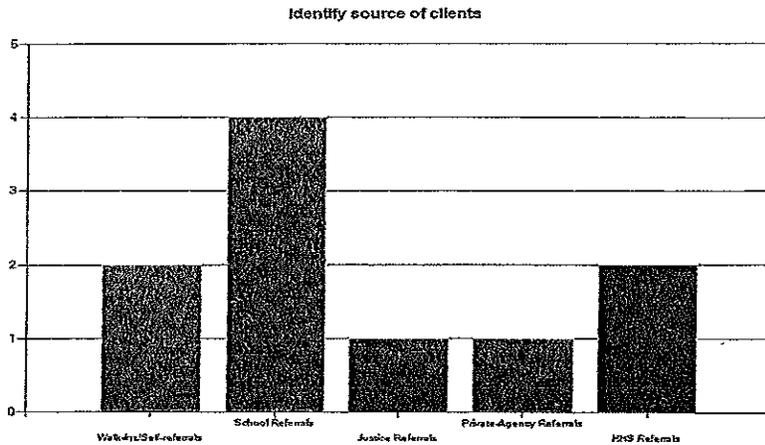


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The table above indicates the Ages Primarily Eligible for the Programs/Services in Cass County. In addition, 3 programs reported serving the Non-Hispanic population, while the rest reported serving both Non-Hispanic and Hispanic. 1 program serve females; the rest serve males and females. In terms of Source of Clients, School Referrals is where most respondents get their referrals from, as this table indicates.

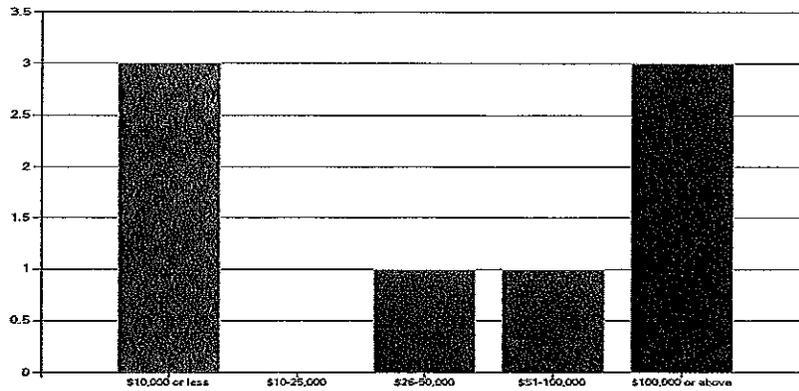


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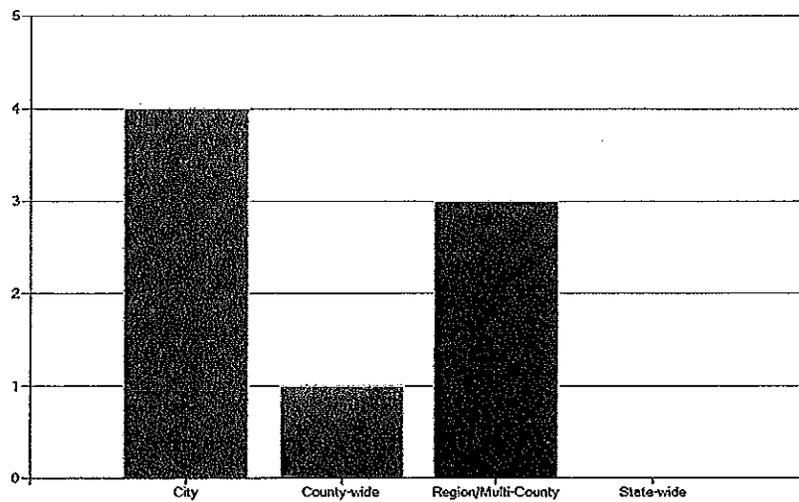
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Respondents were asked to select the estimated annual budget of their program or service. They were also asked to indicate the approximate size of their primary service area, where they receive one-third or more of the funding for their program or service, and the number of youth served per year. The following 4 tables indicate the response for those questions.

Please select the approximate annual budget of your program/service.



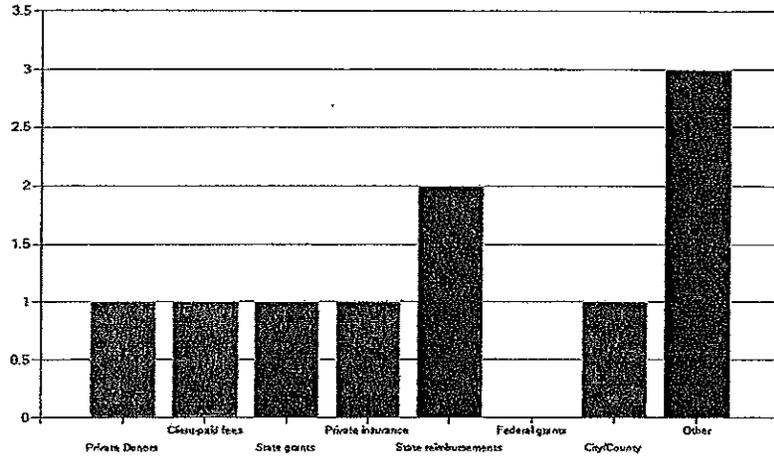
Identify approximate size of primary service area.



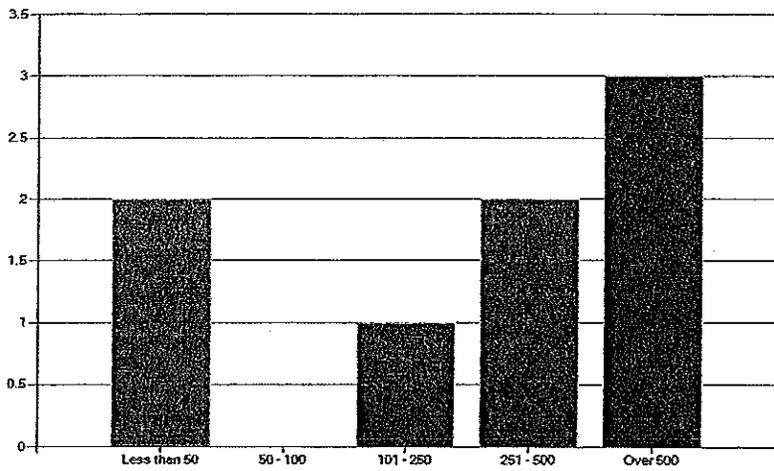
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Which of the following provides one third or more of the funding for your program/service? (check up to 3 boxes)



How many youth does your program/service serve per year?



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Developmental Assets Cultivated

"The Developmental Assets are 40 common-sense, positive experiences and qualities that help influence choices young people make and help them become caring, responsible adults. Grounded in extensive research in youth development, resiliency, and prevention, the Developmental Assets represent the relationships, opportunities, and personal qualities that young people need to avoid risks and to thrive. Because of its basis in research and its proven effectiveness, the Developmental Assets framework has become the single most widely used approach to positive youth development in the United States". (www.search-institute.org, 2009)

The CCI asked each program/service to select the Assets that it cultivates among youth. These are the 40 Developmental Assets:

External Factors

1. FAMILY SUPPORT—Family life provides high levels of love and support.
2. POSITIVE FAMILY COMMUNICATION—Young person and her or his parent(s) communicate positively, and young person is willing to seek advice and counsel from parents.
3. OTHER ADULT RELATIONSHIPS—Young person receives support from three or more nonparent adults.
4. CARING NEIGHBORHOOD—Young person experiences caring neighbors.
5. CARING SCHOOL CLIMATE—School provides a caring, encouraging environment.
6. PARENT INVOLVEMENT IN SCHOOLING—Parent(s) are actively involved in helping young person succeed in school.
7. COMMUNITY VALUES YOUTH—Young person perceives that adults in the community value youth.
8. YOUTH AS RESOURCES—Young people are given useful roles in the community.
9. SERVICE TO OTHERS—Young person serves in the community one hour or more per week.
10. SAFETY—Young person feels safe at home, school, and in the neighborhood.
11. FAMILY BOUNDARIES—Family has clear rules and consequences and monitors the young person's whereabouts.
12. SCHOOL BOUNDARIES—School provides clear rules and consequences.
13. NEIGHBORHOOD BOUNDARIES—Neighbors take responsibility for monitoring young people's behavior.
14. ADULT ROLE MODELS—Parent(s) and other adults model positive, responsible behavior.
15. POSITIVE PEER INFLUENCE—Young person's best friends model responsible behavior.
16. HIGH EXPECTATIONS—Both parent(s) and teachers encourage the young person to do well.
17. CREATIVE ACTIVITIES—Young person spends three or more hours per week in lessons or practice in music, theater, or other arts.
18. YOUTH PROGRAMS—Young person spends three or more hours per week in sports, clubs, or organizations at school and/or in the community.

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- 19. RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY—Young person spends one or more hours per week in activities in a religious institution.
- 20. TIME AT HOME—Young person is out with friends “with nothing special to do” two or fewer nights per week.

Internal Factors

- 21. ACHIEVEMENT MOTIVATION—Young person is motivated to do well in school.
- 22. SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT—Young person is actively engaged in learning.
- 23. HOMEWORK—Young person reports doing at least one hour of homework every school day.
- 24. BONDING TO SCHOOL—Young person cares about her or his school.
- 25. READING FOR PLEASURE—Young person reads for pleasure three or more hours per week.
- 26. CARING—Young person places high value on helping other people.
- 27. EQUALITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE—Young person places high value on promoting equality and reducing hunger and poverty.
- 28. INTEGRITY—Young person acts on convictions and stands up for her or his beliefs.
- 29. HONESTY—Young person “tells the truth even when it is not easy.”
- 30. RESPONSIBILITY—Young person accepts and takes personal responsibility.
- 31. RESTRAINT—Young person believes it is important not to be sexually active or to use alcohol or other drugs.
- 32. PLANNING AND DECISION MAKING—Young person knows how to plan ahead and make choices.
- 33. INTERPERSONAL COMPETENCE—Young person has empathy, sensitivity, and friendship skills.
- 34. CULTURAL COMPETENCE—Young person has knowledge of and comfort with people of different cultural/racial/ethnic backgrounds.
- 35. RESISTANCE SKILLS—Young person can resist negative peer pressure and dangerous situations.
- 36. PEACEFUL CONFLICT RESOLUTION—Young person seeks to resolve conflict nonviolently.
- 37. PERSONAL POWER—Young person feels he or she has control over “things that happen to me.”
- 38. SELF-ESTEEM—Young person reports having a high self-esteem.
- 39. SENSE OF PURPOSE—Young person reports that “my life has a purpose.”
- 40. POSITIVE VIEW OF PERSONAL FUTURE—Young person is optimistic about her or his personal future.

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According to the CCI findings, the *highest* identified Assets being cultivated among youth in Cass County's programs and services include the following:

8 programs selected:

#10 – SAFETY— Young person feels safe at home, school, and in the neighborhood.
36 programs selected:

5 programs selected:

#5 – FAMILY SUPPORT—Family life provides high levels of love and support.

Zero programs identified the following Assets:

#4 – CARING NEIGHBORHOOD—Young person experiences caring neighbors.

#9 - SERVICE TO OTHERS—Young person serves in the community one hour or more per week.

#13 – NEIGHBORHOOD BOUNDARIES—Neighbors take responsibility for monitoring young people's behavior.

#19 - RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY—Young person spends one or more hours per week in activities in a religious institution.

#20 - TIME AT HOME—Young person is out with friends "with nothing special to do" two or fewer nights per week.

#34 - CULTURAL COMPETENCE—Young person has knowledge of and comfort with people of different cultural/racial/ethnic backgrounds.

YLS/CMI Risk-Need Factors Addressed

"The Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory is a combined and integrated risk/needs assessment instrument for use with general populations of young offenders. The YLS/CMI has shown to be a reliable predictor of recidivism for young males and females, and to also predict the risk of future violent conduct by male youths. It is also increasingly being used to provide data about risk and need to help inform decisions about the design and delivery of services to young offenders". (Hoge & Andrews, 2008)

The CCI asked each program to identify the YLS/CMI factors that are being addressed by their particular program or service. These are the YLS/CMI factors, organized into subject matter categories:

FAMILY CIRCUMSTANCES/PARENTING

Inadequate supervision
Difficulty controlling behavior
Inconsistent parenting
Inappropriate discipline

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Poor relations with parent(s)
EDUCATION/EMPLOYMENT
Disruptive behavior at school
Low achievement
Problems with peers/teachers
Truancy
Unemployed
Not seeking employment

PEER RELATIONS
Some delinquent acquaintances/friends
Negative peer interactions
Lack of positive peers

SUBSTANCE ABUSE
Occasional drug use
Chronic drug/alcohol use
Substance abuse interferes with life and/or linked to offense(s)

LEISURE/RECREATION
Limited organizational activities
Could make better use of time
No personal interests

PERSONALITY/BEHAVIOR
Inflated self-esteem
Physically aggressive
Tantrums
Short attention span
Poor frustration tolerance
Inadequate guilt feelings
Verbally aggressive/impudent

ATTITUDES/ORIENTATION
Antisocial and/or procriminal attitudes
Not seeking help
Actively rejecting help
Defies authority
Callous
Little concern for others

According to the CCI findings, the *highest* identified YLS/CMI factors being addressed by Cass County's programs and services (with 4 programs each selecting such YLS/CMI factors) are:

- Poor Relations with Parent(s)

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- Problems with Peers/Teachers
- Negative Peer Interactions
- Substance Abuse Interferes with Life
- Physically Aggressive
- Short Attention Span
- Poor Frustration Tolerance
- Verbally Aggressive/Impudent
- Little Concern for Others

On the opposite end, the YLS/CMI factors with the *zero* of the responding programs/services addressing such are:

- Unemployed
- Not Seeking Employment

Cass County Common Community Framework

Based on information in the Juvenile Justice System Points Analysis and the Community Capacity Inventory, establishing the Cass County community framework in which your juvenile justice system and juvenile services operate is realized. Considering these questions help frame the next steps:

What are we doing that is working that we want to do more of?

What are we doing that is working that we need to do less of?

What should we stop doing because it is not working or harmful?

What do we need to start doing that we are not doing at all?

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Appendix C – County Board of Commissioners

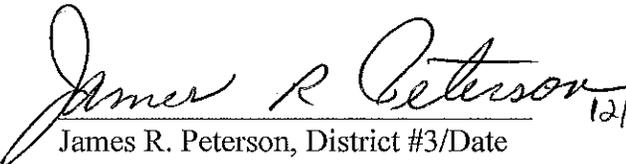
Appendix "C"

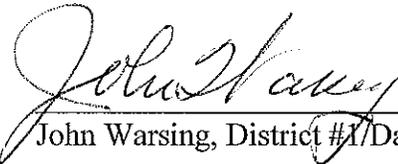
Cass County Board of Commissioners' Approval

The Chair of the Cass County Board of Commissioners, do hereby approve the Cass County Nebraska Juvenile Justice Services Amended Comprehensive Plan. The three year plan date is July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2018.

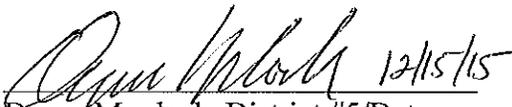
Signed:

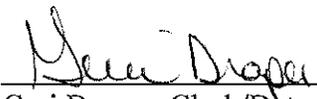

Janet McCartney, Chair/Date 12/15/15


James R. Peterson, District #3/Date 12/15/15


John Warsing, District #1/Date 12/15/15


Dan Henry, District #4/Date 12/15/15


Duane Murdoch, District #5/Date 12/15/15


Geri Draper, Clerk/Date 12/15/15