Colfax County
Amended Juvenile Services
Comprehensive Community Plan
July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2021
Amendment Date: November 30, 2018

Prepared By: Denise J. Kracl
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Chair of Team: Denise J. Kracl
Project Coordinator

Council/ Board Chair: Jerry Heard
Colfax County Board of Commissioners Chair
SECTION II

COMMUNITY TEAM
Community Team:

The Colfax County Juvenile Services/Community Team (hereafter referred to as the “Colfax County Team”) includes relevant stakeholders in the community, many of whom have participated in a systems analysis of the juvenile justice system in Colfax County with an eye toward identifying gaps, beginning to identify disproportionate minority contact and identifying needs of the youth in Colfax County.

The Colfax County Team also includes several individuals who serve on the Colfax County LB1184 Team, which meets monthly to address issues of child abuse, neglect, delinquency, and treatment resources. Several individuals on the Colfax County Team are also members of the Colfax County Community Team who have been meeting on and off for the last several years with the goal of preventing youth from entering the juvenile justice system. Finally, several members of this Colfax County Team are also members of the CHI Behavioral Health Coalition. The CHI Behavioral Health Coalition is sharing resources with the Colfax County Team to help fund and accomplish joint goals listed in the report below such as addressing bullying issues in Colfax County.

In prior reviews of the Colfax County Plan it was recommended that mental health professionals, members of the public and clergy be added to the Colfax County Team. We have made efforts to add all of those members to our community team. It should further be noted that the Colfax County Team is taking efforts to add more diverse members.

Initially the Colfax County Team met on at least a monthly basis incidental to the LB1184 Team meetings. Since 2015 the Colfax County Team has met at least quarterly during times other than the LB1184 team meetings. The Colfax County Community Team meets at the Schuyler Middle School and the LB1184 team meets at the Colfax County Courthouse. Each Colfax County Team meeting contains a training component which allows Colfax County to provide lunch. Each meeting is held from approximately 11:45 a.m. until 12:45 p.m. Informally the Colfax County Team interacts on a daily or weekly basis at their various jobs.
Team Members:

- Denise J. Kracl; Colfax County Attorney; 412 East 11 Street, Schuyler, NE 68661; (402) 352-8502
- Tonia M. Soukup; Deputy Colfax County Attorney; 412 East 11 Street, Schuyler, NE 68661; (402) 352-8502
- Sidnee Pavel; Colfax County Diversion Coordinator; Colfax County Attorney School Interventionist; 412 East 11 Street, Schuyler, Ne 68661; (402) 352-8502
- Amy Johnson; Schuyler Central High School; 401 Adam Street, Schuyler, NE 68661-2400; (402) 352-3527
- Jackie Ferrell; Schuyler Economic Development; 1103 B Street, Schuyler, NE 68661-2400; (402)615-3179
- Stephan Grammar; Principal, Schuyler Central High School; 401 Adam Street, Schuyler, NE 68661-2400; (402)352-2421
- Michelle Burton; Principal, Schuyler Middle School; 200 West 10 Street, Schuyler, NE 68661-2400; (402) 352-5514
- Jesse Zavadil; Assistant Middle School Principal, Schuyler Community Schools; 200 West 10 Street, Schuyler, NE 68661-2400; (402)352-5514
- Paul Kruse; Colfax County Sheriff; 1184 Team Member; 411 East 11 Street; NE 68661; (402) 352-8526
- Tony Hemmer; Sergeant, Colfax County Sheriff’s Department; 411 East 11 Street, Schuyler, NE 68661; (402) 352-8526
- KC Bang; Chief of Police, Schuyler Police Department and 1184 Team Member; 1020 A Street, Schuyler, NE 68661; (402)352-2415
- Alejandra Dimas; Schuyler High School Staff, Student Advisory Council Member, and Schuyler Teammates Coordinator; 401 Adams Street; Schuyler, NE 68661; (402)352-5514
• Sarah Heller-Glen; Human Resources Manager, Cargill Meat Solutions; 590 Road 9; Schuyler, Schuyler, NE 68661; (402)352-5411

• Kim Parsons; Educator; Cargill Resource Center; West Highway 30; Schuyler, NE 68661

• Ingrid Rodriguez; Counselor, Schuyler Elementary School; 2404 Denver Street; Schuyler, NE 68661; (402)352-9940

• Meredith Riha; Counselor, Schuyler Elementary School; 2404 Denver Street; Schuyler, NE 68661; (402) 352-9940

• Bill Comley; Principal; Schuyler Elementary School; 2404 Denver Street; Schuyler, NE 68661; (402)352-9940

• Colleen Wigington; Public Representative, Local Business Owner; 210 East 17th Avenue, Schuyler, NE 68661; (402)615-1805

• Carrie Rodriguez, Chief Probation Officer, District 5 Probation; 2610 14 Street Columbus, NE 68601 (402) 641-9732

• Shelby Sterup; East Central Health District; Clinical Therapist, 401 Adams Street Schuyler, NE 68661

• Paula Kment; Counselor, Schuyler Middle School; 200 West 10 Street, Schuyler, NE 68661; (402)352-5514

• Carrie Hastreiter; Professional Partners, 2610 14 Street, Columbus, NE 68601; (402)562-7205

• Jeff Banholzer; Deputy Chief Probation Officer; District 5 Probation; 2610 14 Street, Columbus, NE 68601; (402) 562-7205

• Dan Prochaska; Juvenile Probation Officer, District 5 Probation, 411 East 11 Street, Schuyler, NE 68661; (402) 352-8513

• Keisha Moore; Juvenile Probation Officer, District 5 Probation, 411 East 11 Street, Schuyler, NE 68661; (402) 352-8513

• Rev. Sarah Gengler; First Presbyterian Church; 802 A Street Schuyler, NE 68661
• Senator Bruce Bostelman; Nebraska Senator; District 23; Room #1118; P.O. Box 94604; Lincoln, NE 68509; (402) 471-2719

* Claudia Lanuza; CHI Hospital Foundation Director and Interpreter; 104 West 17 Street, Schuyler, NE 68661; (402)352-2441

* Nina Lanuza; Comite Latino, 1119 B Street, Schuyler, NE 68661; (402)615-9115
Section III

Juvenile Justice System Analysis Tool
Due to time constraints and personnel changes, Colfax County stakeholders did not go through the entire Juvenile Justice System Analysis Tool by decision point. The Colfax County Team is willing to do re-address each point in the Juvenile Justice System Analysis Tool. The Colfax County Team brought in Dr. Anne Hobbs to Schuyler in March of 2018 to work out final goals and priorities for this Colfax County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Community Plan.

Colfax County would like to review the System Analysis and undertake a Community Capacity Inventory in the next 12 months to update the Comprehensive Plan. The goal of the System Analysis and Community Capacity Inventory is to determine the gaps that need to be filled to make a seamless continuum of services for juveniles, and to make sure resources are being utilized in the most effective and efficient way possible. It should be noted that all points on the Colfax County Juvenile Court make a concerted effort to work together to improve the lives of all system-involved youth.

If a youth is detained by law enforcement for a serious crime or multiple crimes with the possibility of detention, and the youth is under 18, District Five Probation is contacted and a Probation Officer completes an assessment or Intake to determine an appropriate level of placement for that juvenile. Juveniles are not detained unless the Probation screening instrument or Probation Officer determines that the juvenile is a risk to society or determines that the juvenile is an obvious flight risk (typically this is happening when a juvenile has fled a different jurisdiction and has been located in Colfax County).

Colfax County contracts with the Northeast Nebraska Juvenile Detention Facility to house juveniles who are detained in Madison, Nebraska.

Colfax County has applied for and received Community Based Aid Grant dollars to add pre-adjudication alternative to detention services such as electronic monitoring (EM) and tracker services which allow juveniles to return to their home and continue attending school while a juvenile court case is pending. Colfax County also recognizes that many youth and their families face mental health challenges. Colfax County would like to find more wrap-around services to provide immediate wrap around services to juveniles and families who are immediately in crisis and to help youth and families with mental health issues.

Due to the large diverse and ethnic population in the City of Schuyler, including Hispanic and African-based population in the City of Schuyler, there are some significant cultural and language barrier issues which that cause concern, especially in
Schuyler. Disproportionate minority contacts are an issue that needs to be addressed by training and educational resources available at a state level and the Colfax County Team is open to examining each step in the juvenile justice process to determine where disproportionate minority contacts are taking place. Further, the Colfax County Team would welcome any additional data, training, or other resources that can be offered to work on the disproportionate minority contact issue in Colfax County.
Section IV

Community Socio-Economics
Colfax County:

Land Area: 411.66 Square Miles

Persons Per Square Mile: 25.7 miles

Population (2017 Estimate): 10,585
Towns and Approximate populations:
Clarkson 623, Howells 547, Leigh 401, Richland 72, Rogers 93

(Source: 2017 Census from the United States Census Bureau)

Schuyler 6,212
(Source: 2017 Census from the United States Census Bureau)

Public School Districts Serving Colfax County: Clarkson Public Schools, Clarkson, District 501- Colfax County, District 505-Colfax County, Fisher’s Public School, Schuyler, Howells-Dodge Public Schools, Howells; Leigh Community Schools, Leigh; Richland Public Schools, Richland, Schuyler Central High School, Schuyler; Schuyler Middle School, Schuyler, and Schuyler Grade School, Schuyler.

Private Schools in Colfax County: Howells Community Catholic Schools, Howells; St. John Neumann Elementary School, Clarkson.

Colfax County
Demographics: White (2017) 52.5%
    Hispanic Descent (2017) 43.8%
    Native American (2011) 2.9%
    Black (2017) 2.6%
    Asian/Pacific Islander (2016) .3%

Demographics

2016 Population Ages 7-17 Breakdown
### 2016 Colfax County Youth Ethnicity Population Estimates for Youth Ages 7-17

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>White</th>
<th>Black</th>
<th>Am. Indian</th>
<th>Asian</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>4,782</td>
<td>318</td>
<td>199</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>5,587</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>4,600</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>5,027</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>9,382</td>
<td>498</td>
<td>360</td>
<td>174</td>
<td>10,414</td>
</tr>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Non-Hispanic</th>
<th>Hispanic</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>2,927</td>
<td>2,460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>2,799</td>
<td>2,228</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>5,726</td>
<td>4,688</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Percentage of Colfax County Households that speak other than English in the home, 2012-2016: 87.7%

Percentage of Persons Living Below Poverty Level- 2012-2016: 42.7%

Population 2017 Estimate: Colfax County- 10,585
(http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/31/31037.html)

Population 2016 Estimate: Colfax County- 10,414
(http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/31/31037.html)

Population 2017 Estimate: Schuyler- 6,212
(http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/31/3144035.html)

Persons under 5 years, 2016 Colfax County 8.5%
(http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/31/31037.html)

Persons under 5 years Schuyler-2016 11.7%
(http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/31/3144035.html)

Persons under 18 years, 2016 Colfax County 30.6%
(http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/31/31037.html)

Persons under 18 Years, 2016 Schuyler 35.2%
(http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/31/3144035.html)

Persons 65 years and older and over, in 2016 Colfax County 13.1%
(http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/31/31037.html)

Persons 65 years and older and over, 2016 Schuyler 9.7%
(http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/31/3144035.html)

2016 Female Population in Colfax County 48.3%
(http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/31/31037.html)
2016 Female Population in Schuyler 47%
(http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/31/3144035.html)

2016 Colfax County Population Statistics

2016 Population that Identified Themselves as White Alone, Colfax County 89.4%
(http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/31/31037.html)

2016 Black or African American alone, percent, 2013, Colfax County 24.4%
(http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/31/31037.html)

2016 Population that Identified Themselves as American Indian and Alaska Native Colfax County 3.4%
(http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/31/31037.html)

2016 Population that Identified Themselves as Asian, Colfax County 1.2%
(http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/31/31037.html)

2016 Population that Identified Themselves as Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, Colfax County 0.5%
(http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/31/31037.html)

2016 Two or More Races, percent, Colfax County 1.2%
(http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/31/31037.html)

2016 Hispanic or Latino, percent, Colfax County 45%
(http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/31/31037.html)

2016 Schuyler Population Statistics

2016 Population that Identified Themselves as White Alone, Schuyler 86.1%
2016 Population that Identified Themselves as Black or African American alone, Schuyler 3.5%
(http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/31/3144035.html)

2016 Population that Identified Themselves as American Indian and Alaska Native alone, Schuyler 1.1%
(http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/31/3144035.html)

2016 Population that Identified Themselves as Asian Alone, Schuyler 0.2%
(http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/31/3144035.html)

2016 Population that Identified Themselves as Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone, Schuyler 0%

2016 Population that Identified Themselves as Two or More Races, Schuyler 2.8%
(http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/31/3144035.html)

2016 Hispanic or Latino, Schuyler 71.8%
(http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/31/3144035.html)

2016 Residents who Identify Themselves as White, Not Hispanic or Latino, Colfax County 50.4%
(http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/31/31037.html)

2016 Residents who Identify Themselves as White, Not Hispanic or Latino, Schuyler 24.7%
(http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/31/3144035.html)

Economics: Median Household Incomes (2016) $52,712
Largest Employers 2016

Manufacturing 34.8%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, Hunting 10.2%
Retail Trade 9.0%
Healthcare & Social Assistance 7.7%
Accommodation & Food Service 5.2%
Educational Services 4.9%
Construction 4.7%

Total number of students at Colfax County Schools (including Headstart): 2,076
Total number of students that qualify for free lunch: 1,305
Total number of students that qualify for reduced lunch: 321
Total number of students that do not qualify: 450

(Source: Schuyler Community Schools Data Collection)

Schuyler, Colfax County, Nebraska is the home to the Cargill Meat Solutions Plant. Cargill employs nearly 2,200 employees and is the largest employer in northeast Nebraska. Over the last two decades Schuyler has become a port-of-first-entry according to the Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials. Schuyler has seen waves of immigrants arriving in northeast Nebraska to work in packing plants like Cargill.
The first wave of employees to come to Schuyler from another country were from Mexico and Latin American countries and arrived in the late 1990’s. In the early 2000’s Colfax County began to see immigrants from Iran, Iraq, Egypt and South America. In the mid-2000’s immigrants began to arrive from war-torn countries such as Sudan, Somalia and The Congo.

With each new wave of immigrants Colfax County has faced challenges of new languages, new religions, different cultural mores, and new cultural beliefs. Colfax County has addressed issues such as the treatment of women and children as a sub-class of citizens, women and children not allowed to answer the door, not allowed to answer the telephone without a male present, challenges in personal hygiene issues, and women not being allowed to seek medical care without a male in their presence, etc. An example of recent cultural challenges include: male teachers are not allowed to touch female Muslim students even if they are touching the students to break up an all-girl fight.

During the 2017-2018 school year over 25 different dialects or languages were spoken in the Schuyler Community Schools. Due to current immigration the newest language to be added to that list is French which is the language spoken by our residents from The Congo. While the Congolese have very large families (due to the childhood death rate in their native country) it should be noted that, to date, no children of Congolese families have ever been a part of the juvenile justice system in Colfax County. While this is a newer group to Colfax County, this trend, is believed by the Colfax County Team, is one worth further study.

These cultures make Colfax County a unique melting pot of different races, languages, and cultures. Colfax County has identified five priorities to drive juvenile justice services in the next three years:

1. Mental Health Issues of Youth and their Families
2. Truancy from School
3. Diversion and Electronic Monitoring
4. Bullying
5. Improve Law Enforcement Data Collection and Reporting

**Regarding Priority 1:** The Colfax County Team has seen an increased number of youth with mental health issues and mental health diagnoses. The Colfax County Team is also seeing youth being diagnosed with serious mental illness issues at a younger age. The Colfax County Team recognizes that many of our youth and/or their families are not properly educated about what mental illness is, families are not educated about how mental health symptoms manifest themselves, and some families do not have the correct
documentation that will allow the family to receive assistance in paying for medical care and medications.

Through the CHI Behavioral Health Coalition a partnership was formed between the East Central Health Department Good Neighbor Clinic located in Columbus, Nebraska and the Schuyler Community Schools. Many members of the CHI Behavioral Health Coalition and representatives from the Schuyler Community Schools also sit on our Colfax County Community Team. As a result of this partnership a therapist now comes to Schuyler Central High School one day per week when school is in session and comes to the Schuyler Middle School one day per week when school is in session. This program began in 2016 and it allows the youth of Colfax County to receive mental health services without having to miss an excessive amount of school. Colfax County currently has no mental health providers who work or have offices in Colfax County.

Regarding Priority 2: Colfax County Team members recognize that our schools are the front line in the effort to prevent and reduce juvenile delinquency issues. Colfax County Schools and especially Schuyler schools have substantial issues with lack of parental involvement, lack of childcare for high school students who are caring for their own children; lack of childcare for younger siblings of students; and gang related behaviors.

One of the most important and significant ways to keep students out of the criminal justice system is to make sure they are attending school regularly. With the rise of the Colfax County Truancy Program the number of students who are regularly truant or habitually tardy from school is decreasing. Colfax County Team members believe that a school resource officer or a truancy officer is an important part of the delinquency prevention team and can provide a missing link in the chain of communication between a child’s life in school and life at home.

The goal of the truancy officer or school resources officer is to help families identify the barriers that prevent a student from getting to school on time and succeeding in school. The truancy officer or school resources officer’s job is to provide referrals to local resources in an effort to eliminate those barriers. The truancy officer or school resource officer would ideally have access to the school’s Infinite Campus computer system to log when he or she has contact with students, the nature of the contact, the barriers to education, and solutions offered to the families regarding those barriers. It is the goal of the Colfax County Team that the school resources officer will work with families in a spirit of cooperation and assistance and not in an adversarial or law enforcement role.

The Team believes that there are actions our community can take even after a juvenile has been accused of breaking the law, which will be beneficial to both the juvenile and
the community as a whole. Team members recognize that, based on current studies swift and concise action when a juvenile has initially been caught committing a criminal act can significantly decrease the likelihood of that juvenile offending again. The Team also recognizes that it is moving toward more evidence-based practices to increase a juvenile’s chances at success in the Diversion Program.

Regarding Priority 3: The Colfax County Team believes that there are actions that our community can take after a youth has been accused of breaking the law. These actions can benefit both the juvenile and the community. The Colfax County Team recognizes when a juvenile is caught committing a crime that fast and concise action act can significantly decrease the likelihood of that juvenile re-offending. Moving towards more evidence-based practices is important to the Colfax County Team to increasing a juvenile’s chances at success in the Diversion Program.

Further, the Colfax County Team believes that placing a youth into detention may, in fact, increase the youth’s propensity towards criminal thinking. Studies show that placing youth of different risk levels can, in fact, cause more harmful than good. Therefore, Colfax County would like to devote money and resources into a variety of ways to keep youth out of the juvenile justice system and out of detention. Finally, the Colfax County Team acknowledges that Colfax County continues to have a disproportionate number of youth of color being detained and placed on Diversion. The Colfax County Team is again devoting itself to studying the juvenile justice system points to try and learn why we have more youth of color in detention and on Diversion.
Section V

Identified Priority Areas & Corresponding Strategies
Priority #1: Increased Mental Health Supports for Colfax County Youth and Families

Many parents in Colfax County lack the funding, education, and resources to deal with a child who is suffering from mental illness. The Colfax County Team recognizes the importance of identifying mental illness early, providing early interventions and supporting families as they seek assistance for their children.

DATA:

Number of Students Referred to In-School Therapy
(First Two Years of Service in Schuyler)

Fall, 2016 – Spring, 2017

- Schuyler Central High School Referrals: 12 students
- Schuyler Central High School Therapy Visits: 114 visits

Spring, 2017 – Fall, 2018

- Schuyler Central High School: 3 students
- Schuyler Middle School: 6 students
- Schuyler Elementary School: 1 student

Total visits for all students: 339 visits

 Strategy 1: Locate and identify sources of mental health data, information, and statistics for the Colfax County Team to learn how to best serve youth and families in Colfax County.

 Responsible Parties: Mental Health Providers, School Personnel, CHI Mental Health Coalition members, County Attorney’s Office, Region IV, East Central Health District, Law Enforcement, Probation.

Timeline: Ongoing
**Resources Required:**

* Commitment from all offices involved to cooperate with mental health data collection;

* A way to share information and data without breaking privacy laws such as HIPPA;

* Possible changes in policies regarding how all entities report or categorize symptoms related to mental illness so that all data collection entities involved are using the same way to measure and interpret data;

* A forum for exchange of ideas that will allow all parties to speak freely about a youth who may have mental illness without increasing the stigma of mental illness or without “branding” a youth prior to diagnosis;

* Strict confidentiality to protect the youth, families, and the person reporting the possible mental illness issues;

* Better educated school staff to spot and deal with signs of mental illness quickly and in the proper manner;

* A better trained law enforcement to spot and train for how to handle signs of mental illness and document data regarding the mental illness issue;

* Training for the entire Colfax County Team to understand how to work with youth who suffer from mental illness;

**It should be noted that all law enforcement in Colfax County were offered Mental Health First Aid for Law Enforcement by Region IV Mental Health Services in 2017. Nearly all law enforcement officers in Colfax County took this training. Due to staffing turn over not all current officers have taken this class.**

**Expected Results:**

* Better data collection will help to see trends or patterns in culture, ethnic background, race or medical condition helping to get earlier interventions to youth.

* All parties dealing with youth will work better together to a common goal of improving lives of youth who are suffering with mental illness.
* Better data collection will help providers to pinpoint what parts of the juvenile justice system or pre-adjudication will help to provide earlier interventions for youth of color.

* An increased sense among all stakeholders that the whole community is responsible for supporting youth with mental illness and their families;

**Strategy 2:** Bring in training and education for law enforcement and school personnel to better identify mental health crisis and how to de-escalate situations due to mental health crisis.

**Responsible Parties:** Law Enforcement, School Personnel, Mental Health Trainers, County Attorney’s Office, Community Team Members, Probation, East Central Health District, CHI Behavioral Health Coalition and Region IV Mental Services.

**Timeline:** This goal should be accomplished by July 1, 2020. Etc.

**Resources required:**

* Funding for training or free training;
* Location for training;
* Cooperation from law enforcement and school personnel;
* Location of proper resources to refer families to once a child in crisis is identified;

**Expected Results:**

* Law enforcement and school personnel will learn skills to identify symptoms of youth in mental illness crisis.
* Law enforcement and school personnel will learn skills of how to handle youth who they know are experiencing mental health crisis.
* Law enforcement and school personnel will broaden their education and knowledge about mental health symptoms and illness in youth to eliminate negative pre-conceived ideas and notions about youth with mental health issues.
* Empower law enforcement and school personnel to identify youth with mental health issues earlier and providing interventions to prevent an acute mental health crisis.
Strategy 3: Provide resources to families, law enforcement, and school personnel to assist families of youth with mental health issues.

**Responsible Parties:** Law Enforcement, School Personnel, County Attorney’s Office,
Community Team Members, Probation, CHI Behavioral Health Coalition, and Region IV Mental Services.

**Timeline:** This goal should be accomplished by July 1, 2019.

**Resources Required:**

* Funding to print or create pamphlets of resources for parents, law enforcement, school personnel;

* Information regarding resources must be collected;

* A plan or policy to keep mental health resources information up-to-date;

* Website space to make resources publicly accessible;
* Interpreters to make information available in multiple languages;

* Cooperation from law enforcement and school personnel to use the brochures or information that is created;

**Expected Result:**

* Increased knowledge of mental health resources for local law enforcement, school personnel, and parents.

* Provide a physical and tangible resource (pamphlet) that can be interpreted into multiple languages to give law enforcement, school personnel, and parents immediate resources for youth in mental health crisis or youth who are experiencing mental health symptoms.
Priority #2: Decrease the Number of Youth Who Are Truant or Absent from School on a Regular Basis (Truancy)

DATA:

The Colfax County Truancy Program was created in 2013. As of May 1, 2018 Schuyler, Central High School served 551 students and the Schuyler Middle School served 399 students. On average the Colfax County Truancy Program worked with the following youth:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quarter</th>
<th>Students Served</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Quarter 2017-2018</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Quarter 2017-2018</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third Quarter 2017-2018</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fourth Quarter 2017-2018</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

85 Female students served
80 Male students served
(Source: Schuyler Central High School, May 1, 2018)

### Age of Schuyler students with 10+ Absences as of May 1, 2018

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Number of Children with 10+ Absences</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>43</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>38</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

![Pie chart showing the distribution of students with 10+ absences by age as of May 1st, 2018.]

(Source: Schuyler Central High School, May 1, 2018)
Cultural Breakdown of Students with Ten or More Unexcused Absence

![Pie chart showing racial breakdown of students with ten or more unexcused absences]

- Hispanic: 96%
- American Indian: 3%
- African American: 2%
- White: 1%
High truancy and low graduation rates are often correlated. During the 2015-2016 school year the Truancy Officer started working at Schuyler Central High School full time. Since that time the graduation rate of Schuyler Central High School has been slowly increasing. According to the Nebraska Department of Education 2016-17 State of the Schools Report:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years</th>
<th>Average graduation rate for schools in Nebraska</th>
<th>Average graduation rate for Schuyler Community Schools</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015-2016</td>
<td>89.27%</td>
<td>82.73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016-2017</td>
<td>89.11%</td>
<td>86.72%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Finally, another challenge for many of the parents and guardians of children who attend school at the Colfax County schools is an innate distrust of any form of governmental authority including the public-school system.
According to the 2017-2018 Schuyler Central Schools Enrollment Roster, grades 9-12:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Schuyler High School</th>
<th>Schuyler Middle School</th>
<th>Schuyler Elementary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic/Latino</td>
<td>452</td>
<td>347</td>
<td>697</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African American</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White/Caucasian</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two or more Races</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Enrollment</td>
<td>551</td>
<td>399</td>
<td>789</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Schuyler Preschool is also maintained by the Schuyler Community Schools and serves an additional total of 109 students who are not included in these numbers.

The Colfax County Team defines a student missing 10 days or more of school as a significant truancy issue. The Colfax County Team believes that home visits and regular interaction with truancy students will decrease the amount of anxiety that some parents...
have of schools and increases a child’s knowledge that if he or she skips school that the Truancy Officer will come looking for them has decreased the truancy rates at all of the Schuyler Community Schools.

Finally, in the last three years, the Colfax County Team has seen an increase in the number of youth who are arriving at Schuyler Central High School without the basic necessities of life. Basic necessities include warm coats and warm clothing in the winter months, food, proper shoes, and basic hygiene items. As a result, the Colfax County Team created a “Truancy Closet” that contains personal hygiene items, food, alarm clocks, clothing, socks and underwear, dress clothes for school events such as speech, graduation and for job interviews. On average 60 youth a month use items from this Truancy Closet.

**Strategy 1: Empower law enforcement and teachers with the ability to identify and refer at-risk students to the Truancy Program before the youth reaches over 10 absences.**

**Responsible Parties:** School personnel, Truancy Personnel, Law Enforcement, Probation, CHI Behavioral Health Coalition, Probation, and the Colfax County Attorney’s Office.

**Timeline:** Ongoing but additional training will be provided by January 1, 2021.

Training regarding at-risk youth offered to law enforcement and school personnel along with pamphlets and brochures regarding the characteristics of at-risk youth who have higher risk of truancy. This training will better educate law enforcement and school personnel about how and when to properly refer the youth to the truancy program.

**Resources Required:**

* Interpreters;

* Increased cultural awareness on the part of truancy and school personnel;

* Materials in multiple languages to help law enforcement and school personnel talk to and work with parents in order to identify barriers for school attendance;

* Materials in multiple languages to help law enforcement or school personnel to talk to parents about the importance of school attendance;
* Increased training for law enforcement and school personnel in different cultures and religions that they will work with regarding truancy issues;

**Expected Results:**

* Earlier intervention and services to youth who are at risk of being truant or habitually tardy in school.
* An increase in youth receiving local interventions such as mental health treatment.
* An increase in graduation rates for Schuyler Central High School.
* Increased lines of communication between law enforcement, school personnel and parents.

**Strategy 2: Educate parents and youth about the expectations that exist for all youth in the United States regarding school attendance and education laws.**

**Responsible Parties:** School personnel, Truancy Personnel, Law Enforcement, Probation, CHI Behavioral Health Coalition, Probation, the Colfax County Attorney’s Office, and Community Team members.

**Timeline:** Ongoing. In the last year the Truancy Program/School Resource Officer has worked with an average of over 60 youth a month.

The Colfax County Team will also work to educate parents about expectations and laws that exist in the United States regarding compulsory education, the importance of education, and laws of the United States. This will be an ongoing goal with a goal of increased parental education beginning by December, 2018.

**Resources Required:**

* Interpreters;

* Increased cultural awareness on the part of Truancy and School Personnel;

* Volunteers who are willing to meet with and talk to parents;
* Additional cultural and religious training to make all law enforcement, school personnel, the County Attorney’s Office and other professionals more educated about the families we have in the Colfax County community;

* Home visits and telephone communications to encourage parents to attend or communicate with the Colfax County Team about the importance of education, compulsory education laws and the laws of the United States.

* Cooperation from local employers like Cargill and its contractors to talk to parents.

**Expected Results:**

* Increased attendance and participation of both youth and parents at school functions and events because people who feel welcomed and a part of the community are more likely to attend school events.

* Alter thinking patterns of parents regarding socially acceptable reasons for a youth to be absent from school.

* Increase the knowledge of parents regarding laws of the United States regarding compulsory education.

* Decrease in the number of truant and habitually tardy students.

**Strategy 3: Eliminate physical barriers that prevent youth from attending school.**

**Responsible Party:** Community Team, County Attorney’s Office, Truancy Personnel, Probation, Law Enforcement and School Personnel.

**Timeline:** Ongoing

**Resources Required:**

* Increased education among youth, parents, staff and law enforcement about the importance of personal hygiene and how person hygiene impacts a youth’s ability to attend and succeed at school;

* Increased education of youth and their parents to help newcomers to Colfax County understand that female students should be allowed to attend school all month long (some cultures require girls to stay at home during their menstruation period);
* New funding for the Community Closet used to provide youth coats, warm clothes, food, personal hygiene products, etc.

**Expected Results:**

* Improved communication between parents of youth, law enforcement, and school personnel, to understand the barriers that keep a youth from attending school.

* Help youth to meet their basic physical needs therefore keeping youth in school or helping youth to attend school.

* The Colfax County Team will gain a better understanding from talking to parents and guardians of how outside pressures such as finances, resources, child care, etc. affect a youth’s ability to attend school.

**Strategy 4: Improve data collection to address disproportionate minority contacts that youth of color experience within the juvenile system specifically addressing truancy issues and cultural issues that prevent youth from attending school.**

**Responsible Parties:** Interpreters, School personnel, Truancy Personnel, County Attorney’s Office, Law Enforcement, and Community Team.

**Timeline:** Parent surveys and small-group meetings will begin by June 1, 2019. Data collection will be ongoing. Data processing will also be ongoing.

**Resources Required:**

* Communication and cooperation between partners at every point in the juvenile justice system such as law enforcement, school personnel, County Attorney’s Office, and probation to evaluate where, in the truancy process, opportunities exist to decrease disproportionate minority contacts (DMC) at all stages of the truancy spectrum.

* Communication and cooperation between community partners at every point in the juvenile justice system to evaluate how to keep from pushing minority youth further into the juvenile justice system.

* Better data collection from law enforcement, schools, the County Attorney’s Office and Probation regarding disproportionate minority contacts with the juvenile justice system points.
* Assistance in understanding the data that is provided to best implement changes in policy.

* An agreement of all partners to work to improve data collection.

**Expected Results:**

* Better data collection resulting in earlier interventions for youth at a higher risk of truancy earlier in the juvenile justice system.

* The Colfax County Team will be able to better target education efforts and interventions aimed at families taking into consideration their preferred cultural background and language.

* The Team can use more culturally sensitive language, tactics, and lessons to better communicate with families about the importance of children regularly attending school.

* Provide a more effective intervention to youth who are at a higher risk of truancy.

**Priority #3: Continue Pre-Adjudication Services to Decrease the Number of Youth involved in the Juvenile Justice System or in Detention (Diversion/EM)**

**Data:**

The Diversion Program began approximately ten years ago and serves approximately 30 to 40 youth annually. The current Diversion Program uses evidence-based tools such as the YLS, the EARL, the Arizona Risk Assessment Instrument and Why Try. The Diversion Program partners with local resources such as the Center for Survivors Domestic Violence Shelter in Columbus, Nebraska to create and present a Health Relationships class; a Responsible Decision-Making Class which is offered on a quarterly basis in Schuyler; and the BEST Class (Bettering Employment and Soft Skills Training) in cooperation with Nebraska Workforce Development.

**Strategy 1: Enhancing Opportunities for Youth who Participate in the Colfax County Diversion Program.**
**Responsible Parties:** Colfax County Attorney’s Office, Diversion Personnel, Colfax County Community Team, Probation, CHI Behavioral Health Coalition, Region IV Mental Services, Center for Survivors, Community Partners and Community Team.

**Timeline:** Ongoing. Colfax County will continue to seek out or create new programs that will bring more services to youth on diversion in Colfax County.

**Resources Required:**

* Better data collection regarding what is age-appropriate for different ages of youth on diversions. For instance, what may be age-appropriate for a seventeen-year-old may not be age-appropriate for a thirteen-year-old.

* New and creative partnerships with local entities who are willing to work with youth.
* Identify or create programs that educate youth and their parents on laws of the United States while remaining culturally sensitive.

**Expected Results:**

* Youth will gain life and employment skills that will keep them from being pushed further into the juvenile justice system.

* All youth, no matter what language they speak, will have an opportunity at different programs that take into account their culturally-specific needs.

* Change society’s view of children of color so that everyone sees youth of color as positive members of society.

* Added opportunities for Diversion youth to learn skills that make them feel more connected to the Colfax County community.

**Strategy 2: Take efforts to make the Diversion and Electronic Monitoring programs fair and equitable to all youth.**

**Responsible Parties:** Law Enforcement, County Attorney’s Office, School Personnel, Probation, and Community Team.

**Timeline:** Our goal is to begin looking at this issue by January of 2020.

**Resources Required:**
* A person or entity to assist Colfax County in examining and understanding how disproportionate minority contacts and culturally-specific data applies to youth before and while youth are on Diversion or Electronic Monitoring;

* Policies and communication to encourage Colfax County law enforcement to collect better data, specifically about ethnic origin or cultural background of youth they encounter.

* Community discussion and research to gain a better understanding of how youth identify themselves (we are seeing more youth identify themselves as being more than one race) and how to classify those youth;

* As a team and as a community demonstrate a willingness to examine our own implicit biases and to address those issues.

* Address and train any professional who comes in contact with minority youth about implicit bias and train on ways to overcome implicit bias.

**Expected Results:**

* Obtain a better understanding of where disproportionate minority contact for youth of color or ethnic origin occurs within the Colfax County Diversion and Electronic Monitoring programs.

* Develop policies and procedures as a community team to address disproportionate minority contacts for youth of color within the Colfax County Diversion and Electronic Monitoring programs.

* Identify and work with professionals in the area of data collection and data interpretation to obtain a better understanding of the meaning of the data that Colfax County currently has and learn how to collect better data in the future.

* Discuss disproportionate minority contact issues among all stakeholders but most importantly among law enforcement, Diversion personnel, Probation, school officials and the County Attorney’s office to be more aware that these issues exist and that we need further examination of these issues.
Priority #4: Anti-Bullying and Kindness Campaign

**Strategy 1:** Begin to collect data regarding bullying activities and societal views of bullying in Colfax County.

**Data:** Additional data collection is needed to really ascertain the level of issues that Colfax County has with bullying.

**Responsible Parties:** School Personnel, Law Enforcement, Community Team members, East Central Health District, CHI Behavioral Health Team, Region IV Personnel, and Local Service Providers.

**Timeline:** Ongoing but Colfax County would like to ask students to complete pre-tests and post-tests about bullying commencing in the Fall of 2018 and ending in the Spring of 2019. Colfax County is hoping to use funds from the CHI Behavioral Health Team to begin addressing the issue of bullying and to begin data collection about bullying.

**Resources Required:**

* Outside funding;

* Assistance from agencies such as JJI and other researchers to understand how to interpret the data;

* Assistance in turning the data into attainable goals for the Colfax County Team to use;

**Expected Results:**

* A better understanding of what the Colfax County community considers bullying.

* An increase the Colfax County Team’s understanding of where to target resources and education to stop bullying.

* To start a dialogue between all stakeholders about what bullying is in our communities.

* To promote a better understanding of how to identify and help victims of bullying.

* Use data collected from pre-tests and post-tests to target community conversations about bullying in a manner that moves Colfax County towards a community that does not tolerate bullying of any kind.
**Strategy 2:** Bring in national-level speakers that reflect multiple languages and multiple cultural backgrounds to bring bullying awareness to Colfax County.

**Data:** In conjunction with Strategy 1 of this Plan, Colfax County intends to bring in speakers and then have pre-tests and post-tests of students, parents, and the public regarding their beliefs and perceptions of bullying in Colfax County. It is also hoped that this speaker will encourage a dialogue in the community about bullying and how it affects Colfax County.

**Responsible Parties:** School personnel, CHI Behavioral Health Coalition, Law Enforcement, County Attorney’s Office, District Five Probation Office, Community Input

**Timeline:** The national-level speaker along with pre-tests and post-tests will be during the 2018-2019 school year.

**Resources Required:**

* Funding is required to bring in the national level speaker;

* A speaker must be located who is bi-lingual and can appeal to many cultures and religions;

* A location for the speaker will be needed;

* Cooperation from the school district regarding the pre-tests and post-tests of youth and their beliefs in bullying;

* Assistance in mining the data from pre-tests and post-tests;

* School and law enforcement policy changes resulting from the data that we learn regarding bullying.

**Expected Results:**

* Increased awareness of what bullying is and that it will not be tolerated in our community among students, parents, and the community as a whole.
* Policy changes as a result of data obtained from the bullying pre-tests and post-tests and community discussion.

* Changes to how we, as a juvenile justice system, address youth who are exhibiting bullying behaviors including possible additional education in the Diversion Program and addressing students who are truant from school because they are being bullied.

* Changes in how law enforcement handles bullying situations in our community.

* Based on this new information Colfax County hopes to educate law enforcement, school personnel, youth and the public about how to recognize and immediately respond to bullying.

**Priority #5: Improved Data Collection**  
*Organizational Priority*

**Strategy 1:** The Colfax County Team intends to meet with all law enforcement who serve Colfax County to try to educate and encourage law enforcement to provide accurate data to the Nebraska Crime Commission on a regular basis.

**Responsible Parties:** Community Team members, Colfax County Attorney, Law Enforcement.

**Timeline:** The Colfax County Team is currently inviting members of law enforcement to the team meetings. The Colfax County Sheriff’s Department now regularly attending community team meetings. The Colfax County Team will personally reach out to the Schuyler Police Department to discuss better data reporting by October 1, 2018.

**Resources Required:**

* Law Enforcement cooperation;

* Better data collection materials;

* Better communication among all community team members;

* Possible law enforcement policy changes;
* Possible state law changes (at the present time we have no way to require law enforcement to report data).

**Expected Results:**

* More accurate data collection will help our Community Team to ascertain at what points in the juvenile justice process that disproportionate minority contact occurs.

* More accurate data collection will help our Community Team to try to change policies and procedures regarding how youth of color and other minority youth are treated in the legal process.

* More accurate data will assist the Community Team in setting appropriate goals and using limited resources to use limited resources to help as many youth as possible.
Appendix

A. Juvenile Systems Analysis Tool
B. Approval Letter/minutes from County Board
C. Other Appendix as identified
June 12, 2018
Commissioners Meeting
Minutes

A meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Colfax County, Nebraska was held in the Commissioners Room of the County Courthouse, Schuyler, Nebraska on the 12th day of June, 2018. The County Board of Commissioners met at 8:30 a.m. Present were: Jeffrey L. Bauman, Jerry Heard and Gil Wigington, County Commissioners and Rita M. Mundil, County Clerk. Notice of this meeting was given in advance thereof by posting written notice in at least three different public places as shown by the Certificate of Posting Notice. Availability of the proposed agenda was communicated in the advance notice and in the notice to the board. Copies of the Open Meetings Act were posted and available to the public. All proceedings shown were taken while the meeting was officially convened and open to the public.

The chairman stated a copy of the Open Meeting Act statute is posted and available to the public.

Motion Heard; second Bauman to approve the agenda. Voting YES: Bauman, Heard and Wigington. Voting NO: None. Motion carried.

Motion Wigington; second Heard to approve the minutes of 5/22/18. Voting YES: Heard, Wigington and Bauman. Voting NO: None. Motion carried.

Chairman Wigington announced that he will be stepping down as county board chair effective immediately. Motion Heard; second Bauman to accept the resignation of Gil Wigington to serve as county board chair. Voting YES: Wigington, Bauman and Heard. Voting NO: None. Motion carried.

Motion Wigington; second Heard to appoint Jeffrey L. Bauman to serve as county board chair and authorize Jerry Heard and Gil Wigington to sign documents in absence of county board chair. Voting YES: Bauman, Heard and Wigington. Voting NO: None. Motion carried.

No report from the general assistance clerk.

The clerk provided the board with a copy of her monthly fees, STOP Revenue received, change of safekeeping receipt with Pinnacle Bank and the NIRMA/NIRMA II 2018-19 Billing Statement.

The board received a copy of the monthly fee report from the district court clerk.

The sheriff provided a copy of his monthly report to the board and it will be placed on file.

The board reviewed the Internal Controls of the following offices: Attorney, Clerk, Clerk of District Court, Road Department, Planning and Zoning, Sheriff, Treasurer, Veterans’ Aid Service and Noxious Weed.

The vet service officer provided his monthly May report.

The treasurer provided a change of safekeeping receipt from Pinnacle Bank.

Public comment was made on a private survey completed on Road 15.

Motion Wigington; second Heard to enter executive session at 8:57 a.m. for legal protection of Colfax County. Voting YES: Bauman, Heard and Wigington. Voting NO: None. Motion carried.

Motion Heard; second Wigington to exit executive session and resume regular session at 9:17 a.m. Voting YES: Heard, Wigington and Bauman. Voting NO: None. Motion carried.

The chairman stated no action was taken while in executive session.

The county attorney provided a written report where she stated she does not have the final papers for Grant 18-CB-0531 and to defer action until June 26th meeting. The 2018-2021 Three Year Juvenile Comprehensive Plan is completed and needs approval.

Motion Wigington; second Heard to table the grant award from the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice until June 26, 2018. Voting YES: Heard, Wigington and Bauman. Voting NO: None. Motion carried.

Motion Wigington; second Bauman to approve the 2018-2021 Three Year Juvenile Services Comprehensive Community Plan for Colfax County. Voting YES: Wigington, Bauman and Heard. Voting NO: None. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on the Villages of Richland and Rogers entering into law enforcement contracts with Colfax County (the Villages of Leigh, Clarkson and Howells currently have law enforcement contracts with the County). The sheriff provided the cost of an additional deputy and a vehicle that would need to be included in the sheriff’s 2018-2019 year budget. The sheriff will provide the contracts at our June 26th meeting. Motion Wigington; second Heard to table the Village of Richland and Rogers law enforcement contracts with Colfax County until our June 26th meeting. Voting YES: Bauman, Heard and Wigington. Voting NO: None. Motion carried.
The public defender provided the board with a new contract that the board reviewed. Motion Bauman; second Wiginton to approve the position of public defender with Bryan C. Meismer of Register Law Office; a two year agreement in the amount of $64,000.00 per year ($5,333.33) monthly installments; effective date July 1, 2018. Voting YES: Heard, Wigington and Bauman. Voting NO: None. Motion carried.

The board provided an opportunity for county employee’s to attend an “Agenda-less meeting”.

Public comment was made on the status of the Letter Of Map Revision.

Recessed at 9:50 a.m. to resume at 10:00 a.m.

The Zoning/Flood Plain administrator gave a report of the activities of her department; she will be attending a workshop on July 19th in Kearney.

Motion Heard; second Wiginton to allow CASA Connection the amount of $10,000.00 for budget year 2018-2019. Voting YES: Wigington, Bauman and Heard. Voting NO: None. Motion carried.

Motion Bauman; second Wiginton to approve Colfax County’s 2018 Safety Manual. Voting YES: Bauman, Heard and Wigington. Voting NO: None. Motion carried.

Motion Wigington; second Heard to approve Mary Bailey/District Court Clerk as the signatory for 2018 Child Support documents that are signed by the board so they can be completed online. Voting YES: Heard, Wigington and Bauman. Voting NO: None. Motion carried.

Motion Wigington; second Bauman to recommend approval for a special designated liquor license on The Claramont Steak & Chop House/Knuckleheads Bar for an event on June 30, 2018 to be held at the Leigh Fair Grounds. Voting YES: Wigington, Bauman and Heard. Voting NO: None. Motion carried.

The highway superintendent and apprentice gave a report of the activities of their department; an update on road/bridge projects was given. The on-site monitoring review of Colfax County’s 2017 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) stated that Colfax County’s records are well maintained and are in compliance. The commissioners are invited to attend a Shell Creek Watershed Improvement Group meeting June 15th. The bid letting date for the building addition project at the Schuyler road shop will be June 26, 2018 at 10:30 a.m.

Discussion was held on purchasing a motor grader by state bid. Motion Wigington; second Heard to authorize the purchase of a 2018 motor grader by state bid for the amount of $246,500.00. Voting YES: Bauman, Heard and Wigington. Voting NO: None. Motion carried.

The clerk summarized the day’s agenda and action taken.

Motion Heard; second Wigington to adjourn BOC at 11:00 a.m. and to meet again June 26, 2018. Voting YES: Heard, Wigington and Bauman. Voting NO: None. Motion carried.

A meeting of the Board of Equalization of Colfax County, Nebraska was held in the Commissioners Room of the County Courthouse, Schuyler, Nebraska on the 12th day of June, 2018. The County Board of Equalization met at 11:03 a.m. Present were: Jeffrey L. Bauman, Jerry Heard and Gil Wigington, County Commissioners, Rita M. Mundil, County Clerk and Viola Bender, County Assessor. Notice of this meeting was given in advance by posting written notice in at least three different public places as shown by the Certificate of Posting Notice. Availability of the proposed agenda was communicated in the advance notice and in the notice to the board. A copy of the Open Meetings Act was posted and available to the public. All proceedings shown were taken while the meeting was officially convened and open to the public.

The practice and procedures of the county assessor’s office were made available for all hearings.

The board confirmed June 26, July 5, July 10, July 12 and July 17, 2018, to conduct any hearings on form 422 completed by taxpayer as filed with the clerk. July 25th is the final day for equalization hearings.

The board conducted one hearing on appeals filed on personal property at 11:15 a.m. After reading and discussing the appeals with the assessor, the board denied the requests to waive the 10% penalty on the personal property protests filed with the clerk. The owners of the personal property did not attend the hearing.

Motion Wigington; second Bauman to deny the request to waive the 10% penalty on the one personal property protest filed with the clerk. Voting YES: Wigington, Bauman and Heard. Voting NO: None. Motion carried.

Motion Bauman; second Heard to adjourn BOE at 11:27 a.m. and to meet again June 26, 2018. Voting YES: Bauman, Heard and Wigington. Voting NO: None. Motion carried.

I, Rita M. Mundil, duly elected and qualified County Clerk of said county, do hereby state that the above minutes were recorded by me, are true and correct to my knowledge, are recorded in the Commissioners Records and were completed for public inspection and publication on the 13th day of June, 2018.

Rita M. Mundil, County Clerk