

# **Lincoln County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Community Plan July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2018**

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# COMMUNITY TEAM

## Description, History, Meeting Schedule of Community Team

With new requirements set forth for the Comprehensive Community Planning process, a list of potential new team members was developed with input from leaders in Lincoln County who work with juveniles (i.e. partners from the previous Comprehensive Community Planning team, judge, Health and Human Service personnel). Team representation meets requirements in the Juveniles Services Comprehensive Community Planning *User Manual* except we are lacking representation from access points “ministry/faith based programs” and “consumers”. Each person on the team below was approached with an explanation, as presented in the *User Manual*, of the new planning requirements including a summary of: the planning process, infrastructure and collaboration suggestions, the Collective Impact approach and timeline, data collection, and priority and strategy development. All individuals agreed to become a member of the new community planning team. The newly created team began to meet in November of 2014 and the team has now met for a total of 13 times. Community Connections has been designated as the “lead agency”. The team included the following individuals:

Access Point/Name	Title/Position	Address	Phone	Email
Public & private K-12 education  Diann Vargas	North Platte Public Schools Truancy Officer	2811 West 3 <sup>rd</sup> Street North Platte, NE 69101	308-539-1624	<a href="mailto:dvargas@hotmail.com">dvargas@hotmail.com</a>
Prevention/ mentoring  Jayna Schaaf	Community Connections Ex. Dir.	PO Box 852 North Platte, NE 69103	308-696-3355	<a href="mailto:ed@communityconnectionslc.org">ed@communityconnectionslc.org</a>
Law enforcement  Rodney Brown	School Resource Officer	201 Lakeview Blvd North Platte, NE 69103	308-660-1755	<a href="mailto:testphi@gmail.com">testphi@gmail.com</a>
Juvenile diversion  Kendra Leonhardt	Family Skill Building Services LLC Manager	903 East C Street North Platte, NE 69103	308-696-0033	<a href="mailto:fsbervices01@live.com">fsbervices01@live.com</a>
Juvenile Probation  Lonnie Folchert	Probation Chief	110 East 3 <sup>rd</sup> Street North Platte, NE 69101	308-534-4350	<a href="mailto:lonnie.folchert@nebraska.gov">lonnie.folchert@nebraska.gov</a>
Juvenile Probation  Jan Johansen	Juvenile Justice Resource Supervisor	110 East 3 <sup>rd</sup> Street North Platte, NE 69101	308-534-4350 ext 290	<a href="mailto:jan.johansen@nebraska.gov">jan.johansen@nebraska.gov</a>
County attorney (juvenile court)  Rebecca Harling	Lincoln County Attorney	301 N. Jeffers, Room 101A North Platte, NE 69101	308-534-4350 ext 320	<a href="mailto:rebecca69101@yahoo.com">rebecca69101@yahoo.com</a>

Access Point/Name	Title/Position	Address	Phone	Email
Public defender/ defense attorneys/guardian ad litem Amanda Speichert	Attorney	1020 South Dewey Street North Platte, NE 69101	308-534-6740	<a href="mailto:aspeichert@flatrocklaw.com">aspeichert@flatrocklaw.com</a>
Health and human services Brenda Brooks	Children and Family Services Interim Administrator	200 South Silber North Platte, NE 69101	308-535-8042	<a href="mailto:brenda.brooks@nebraska.gov">brenda.brooks@nebraska.gov</a>
Juvenile judges/ juvenile court personnel Judge Turnbull	Judge	PO Box 519 North Platte, NE 69103	308-534-4350	<a href="mailto:tbull_1@yahoo.com">tbull_1@yahoo.com</a>
Treatment providers Kris Steinbeck	Counselor	402 South Jeffers North Platte, NE 69101	308-532-4940	<a href="mailto:krissteinbeck@live.com">krissteinbeck@live.com</a>
Treatment providers Moriah Eckoff	Counselor	402 South Jeffers North Platte, NE 69101	308-532-4940	<a href="mailto:moriaheickhoff@live.com">moriaheickhoff@live.com</a>
Post-adjudication services or detention Brandy Buscher	School Liaison and TeamMates Coordinator	1220 West 2 <sup>nd</sup> St. North Platte, NE 69101	308-535-7105	<a href="mailto:bbuscher@nppsd.org">bbuscher@nppsd.org</a>
Community-based organizations Ellie McClymont	Creative Art Council and Community Connections	417 Sandpiper Way North Platte, NE 69101	308-532-8547	<a href="mailto:jgmcclymont@yahoo.com">jgmcclymont@yahoo.com</a>
Other (City) Mayor Dwight Livingston	Mayor	211 West 3 <sup>rd</sup> St. North Platte, NE 69101	308-535-6724	<a href="mailto:livingston@ci.north-platte.ne">livingston@ci.north-platte.ne</a>
Other (County Commissioners) Tammy White	Lincoln County Commissioners Office	301 North Jeffers North Platte, NE 69101	308-534-4350 ext 182	<a href="mailto:whitetj@co.lincoln.ne.us">whitetj@co.lincoln.ne.us</a>
Other (Child Physician) Dr. Dell Shepherd	Pediatrician	210 McNeel Ln #2 North Platte, NE 69101	308-534-9230	<a href="mailto:shepherdd@gphealth.org">shepherdd@gphealth.org</a>
Other (Region II) Bonnie Bauer	Youth Care Coordination Director	307 East 5 <sup>th</sup> St. PO Box 519 Lexington, NE 68850	308-324-6754	<a href="mailto:bonnie@r2hs.com">bonnie@r2hs.com</a>

## COMMUNITY SOCIOECONOMICS

Lincoln County is located in rural, west-central Nebraska. It is the third largest county in the state with 2,564 square miles. July 2013 Census estimates note that of the 36,128 residents of Lincoln County, 24,733 live in North Platte, the county seat. Also based on 2013 Census data, Lincoln County's median household income is \$45,158, which is lower than the state (\$51,672) and national averages (\$53,046); 11.4% of Lincoln County residents live below the poverty level. The median earnings in the past 12 months (in 2013 inflation adjusted dollars) for those with less than a high school diploma is \$19,325 and for those high school graduates (or equivalency) the median earnings are \$25,720 (Fact Finder 2013 table).

Industries providing the most employment in Lincoln County include transportation and warehousing; educational services, health care and social assistance; retail; and arts, entertainment and recreation, accommodation and food services (American FactFinder).

Of the population 25 years of age and older, 91.5% have completed high school or equivalency compared to the state average of 90.5%. (American FactFinder, 2013 table). During the 2012-2013 school year, Lincoln County saw a dropout rate of 0.96% while the state's drop out average was 1.05% (NE Department of Education State of the Schools Report). For the 2013-2014 school year, 104 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade students were truant while 336 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students were truant.

Of children under 18 years of age in Lincoln County households, 17.3% have supplemental Security Income (SSI), cash public assistance income or Food Stamp/SNAP benefits. (American FactFinder, 2013 table). According to the Kids Count data center, there were:

- 144 families receiving aid to dependent children assistance in 2013
- 886 (average monthly) women, infants and children participating in WIC in 2010
- An average of 2,455 free and reduced school lunch meals served daily in 2012

- 40% of students were eligible for free and reduced meals in 2012 compared to 44% at the state level
- There were 29% of children age 17 and under living in poverty who lived in single parent households in 2011 compared to 38% at the state level
- In 2012, 18.2% of children didn't know where their next meal was coming from at any point during the last year compared to 20.7% at the state level
- 3.55% of births were to mothers 17 and younger compared to 3.40% at the state level
- There were 254 youth 19 and younger with sexually transmitted diseases in 2012

Of the Lincoln County population 5 years and over, "only English" is spoken in 96.3% of homes and 98.1% of residents were born in Nebraska while 97.5% were born in the United States (Census American FactFinder). Race, gender, age and ethnicity are shown below:

Gender, Race & Ethnicity	Total Population of Grant Area		Total Population of Lincoln County between 10-17 years of age	
	Number	% of total #	Number	% of total #
Male	17,854	49.4%	2079	52.2%
Female	18,274	50.6%	1904	47.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>36,128</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>3983</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
White	34,173	94.6%	3868	95.8%
Black	288	0.8%		
American Indian and Alaska Native	90	0.2%		
Asian	194	0.5%	35	0.9%
Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander	4	0%		
Other	1,379	3.8%	133	3.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>36,128</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>4036</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Hispanic or Latino	2,721	7.5%	364	9.0%
Not Hispanic or Latino	33,407	92.5%	3672	91.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>36,128</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>4036</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Cities, Counties, Towns included above: Lincoln County  
 Source of data: for 10-17 years of age U.S. Census 2010  
 Source of data for total population of grant area: American Fact Finder 2013

According to the NE Crime Commission, there were 335 juvenile arrests in 2013, 94.9% of those arrested were white; 4.5% were black. According to the NE Supreme Court Administrative Office of the Courts, there were 237 juvenile court filings in 2013.

Lincoln County's nearest metropolitan areas (Denver, CO, and Lincoln, NE) are more than three hours away by ground travel. Lincoln County is fortunate to have several larger lakes and a major Interstate (I-80) running through its center. Other major routes of transportation include U.S. Highway 30, U.S. Highway 83, Highway 23, Highway 25, U.S. Highway 97.

The North Platte and South Platte Rivers join at North Platte to become the Platte River. Lincoln County developed as a ranching/railroad region, which continues to define the community today. North Platte was the home of Buffalo Bill and his rodeo, which remains a major aspect of society with Nebraskaland Days and their centerpiece rodeos. The annual event brings over 100,000 attendees every year ("About Us". Nebraskaland Days website. Retrieved 2011-07-27).

Today, Lincoln County has a two-year community college, but it is not considered a "college town." The global community knows of the county seat, North Platte, for two primary reasons. First, North Platte is the home of Union Pacific Railroad's *Bailey Yard*, the largest railroad classification yard in the world. According to the Golden Spike Tower, a Union Pacific visitor center, there are approximately 2,500 Bailey Yard employees. Second, during World War II, more than six million GI's traveling to either coast before being shipped out to battle in Europe or the Pacific, were welcomed by the community, at the time only 12,000 residents strong. These six million American soldiers were given food baskets, treats and encouraging words solely through the efforts of volunteers. It started on Christmas 1941, when a troop train stopped in North Platte and residents surprised the soldiers with kind words and baskets of food. This has been called the Miracle of the North Platte Canteen. This miracle continues to inspire people today. Lincoln County still maintains its spirit of volunteerism.

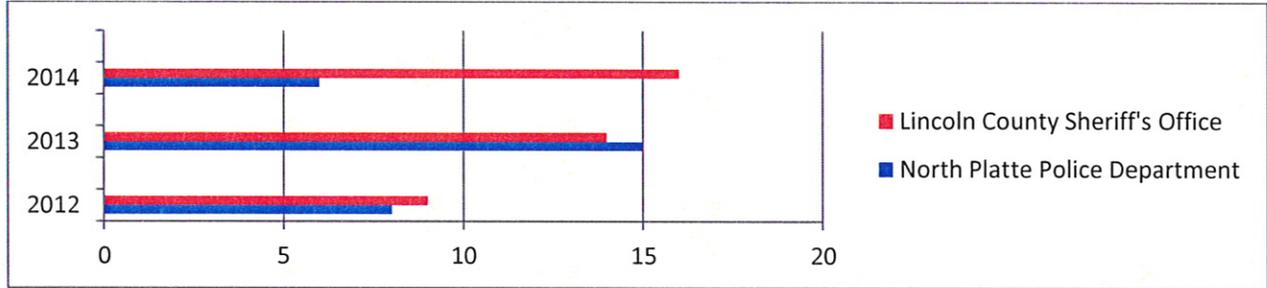
Other factors impacting Lincoln County include drug and alcohol use attitudes and behaviors. According to 2012 Lincoln County NE Risk and Protective Factor Student Survey (NRPFS) results, "past 30 day substance use" among 10<sup>th</sup> grade respondents was higher than the State average in alcohol (20.9% and 18.4%), binge drinking (14.2% and 11.3%), smokeless tobacco (

7.2% and 6.7%), cigarette (11.4% and 9.3%), any tobacco (15.6% and 12.7%), marijuana (13.9% and 8.6%), and prescription drug use (3.7% and 2.4%). (Use among 12<sup>th</sup> graders in the above substance use was lower than the State average.) Places of alcohol use during the past 30 days among 10<sup>th</sup> students who reported drinking was at 19.6 % for those who used at “my home with my parents’ permission” and 21.7% for those who used at “someone else’s home with their parents’ permission”. Delinquent behavior amount 10<sup>th</sup> grade respondents during the past 12 month was reported at a higher rate than the State average in these areas: “suspended for substance use/possession” (1.6% and 1.5%), “carried a handgun” (5.1% and 4.9%), “arrested” (7.0% and 3.7%) , “attacked someone with idea of seriously hurting them” (8.9% and 7.8%), “drunk at high school” (12.4% and 8.1%) , “stolen something worth more than \$5” (19.0% and 16.7%), and “driven a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol” (5.1% and 4.0%). Delinquent behavior was better in Lincoln County than the State average in these areas: “suspended for other reasons” (4.8% and 5.1%), and “sold illegal drugs” (2.9% and 3.5 %). Lastly, according to the NRPFS, 10<sup>th</sup> grade report levels for “community”, “family” and “peer/individual” risk factors are illustrated below:

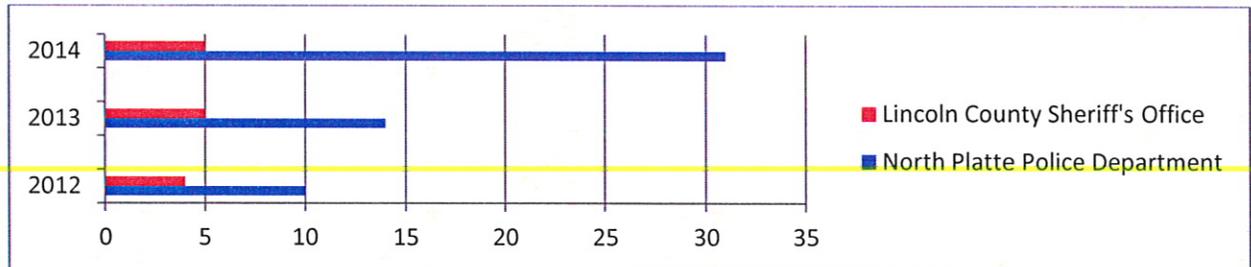
<b>Community</b>	<b>10<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	
Risk Factors	Local	State
Community Disorganization	43.6%	42.5%
Laws and Norms favorable to Drug Use	46.5%	40.3%
Perceived Availability of Drugs	25.5%	24.9%
Protective Factors		
Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement	90.8%	91.6%
<b>Family</b>		
Risk Factors	Local	State
Poor Family Management	29.4%	29.2%
Parental Attitudes Favorable Toward Drug Use	35.0%	35.4%
Protective Factors		
Attachment	57.2%	61.1%
Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement	63.2%	64.0%
<b>Peer/Individual</b>		
Risk Factors	Local	State
Early Initiation of Drug Use	32.9%	21.6%
Early Initiation of Antisocial Behavior	25.0%	22.5%
Favorable Attitudes Toward Antisocial Behavior	34.3%	33.5%
Favorable Attitudes Toward Drug Use	37.8%	33.4%
Perceived Risks of Drug Use	61.2%	47.6%
Protective Factors		
Belief in Moral Order	67.5%	67.8%
Peer-Individual Prosocial Involvement	59.4%	72.6%

While our Community Planning Team worked to complete a Lincoln County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Community Plan, a focus was placed on factors that impact juveniles and that gave team members a closer look at the juvenile justice system. Many of those factors are below. The System Point Analysis conducted by the team is included in the Appendix.

### 2012-2014 Uncontrollable Arrests



### 2012-2014 Runaways



**2012-2014 North Platte Police Department Juvenile Contacts**

Description of Crime/Contact	2012	2013	2014
rape	0	0	1
burglary - general	2	1	0
theft - general	10	4	6
vehicle theft - general	0	0	1
assault - misdemeanor	13	4	10
arson - general	0	1	0
criminal mischief - general	7	6	5
weapons violation general	3	1	1
sex offense - general	4	4	4
drug violation - general	4	1	0
family/ children against	1	0	1
child abuse	3	3	1
disturbance - general	56	36	27
harass - annoy phone calls	9	10	10
other criminal general	1	1	1
false reporting	1	0	0
protective custody	1	3	1
pornography violation	0	1	0
stalking	1	0	0
terroristic threat	2	0	1
tobacco possession by minor	1	1	0
trespassing	3	1	0
violate protection order	0	0	1
curfew	0	1	2
juveniles general	25	19	20
runaway juv male	6	12	9
runaway juv female	4	6	11
uncont juv male	50	38	38
uncont juv female	27	29	22
non-criminal/ general	4	6	5
welfare check	32	23	3
school resource call	1	0	0
death suicide	1	0	0
possible suicide attempt/ threat	12	6	6
missing person - general	2	2	5
missing juv fem no runaway	5	7	2
missing juv mal no runaway	6	5	4

*Calendar years 2012 through 2014 displayed.*

**2012-2014 Most Frequent Juvenile Arrests by Agency (North Platte Police Depart. and Lincoln Co. Sheriff's Office)**

Arrest Description	2012		2013		2014	
	NPPD	LCSO	NPPD	LCSO	NPPD	LCSO
Uncontrollable juvenile	55	7	54	13	75	17
Disturbing peace & quiet	8	0	8	0	8	0
Use of tobacco by minors	2	0	1	1	1	0
Assault 2nd degree	4	0	0	0	2	0
Assault 3rd degree minor injury	32	1	36	3	29	4
Sexual assault 3rd degree	3	0	4	0	1	0
Controlled substances possession marijuana	12	0	8	0	10	1
Drug paraphernalia use or possess	1	0	3	0	4	2
Theft exert control all other	10	4	7	0	7	1
Theft shoplifting	57	2	29	0	20	0
Criminal mischief	7	2	25	2	18	1
Protective custody- juveniles	3	0	5	0	4	0
Minor possession of alcohol	7	0	6	1	7	0
Curfew for minors	9	0	15	0	11	0
Minor possession tobacco	11	0	12	0	4	0
Theft exert control bldg no trespass	5	1	2	0	2	0
Assault threaten menacing manner	4	0	0	1	0	0
<b>Total per year</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>28</b>

*Calendar years displayed*

## IDENTIFIED PRIORITY AREAS

The Lincoln County Community Planning Team has identified the following areas as priorities:

### COMMUNITY ISSUES PRIORITIES

**Priority One: SUBSTANCE ABUSE** Reduce youth substance abuse

**Priority Two: TRUANCY** Decrease truancy and increase school engagement

**Priority Three: DIVERSION** Reduce the number of youth entering the juvenile justice system

**Priority Four: PREVENTION OF OTHER HIGH RISK BEHAVIOR** Increase access to prevention services

**Priority Five: PRE ADJUDICATION SERVICES AND ALTERNATIVES TO DETENTION** Provide other services

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### ORGANIZATIONAL PRIORITY

**Priority One: SYSTEM COLLABORATION** Increase collaboration between agencies and organizations

## IDENTIFIED STRATEGIES FOR PRIORITIES AND IMPLEMENTATION

### Community Issue Priorities

#### Priority One: SUBSTANCE ABUSE Reduce youth substance abuse

Strategies	Action Steps	Responsible Party	Timeline	Resources Needed	Expected Results
<p>Create an Assessment Team to evaluate youth once contact with law enforcement has been made to determine the best course of action through the juvenile justice system utilizing evaluations for: behavioral health (drug alcohol and mental health issues) family dynamics, educational needs and assets (Developmental Asset Profile)</p>	<p>Develop and maintain Assessment Team. Look at successful example across the state</p>	<p>Community Planning Team Including County Attorney, behavioral health providers, law enforcement, diversion program coordinator, and a school liaison</p>	<p>7-1-15 &amp; ongoing</p>	<p>System coordinator, inventory of current services to aide in referrals, funding, pro social assessment</p>	<p>Reduction in repeat or escalated offences by youth new to juvenile justice professionals; youth are served based on their unique needs at the right time; decrease delay in receiving proper services</p> <p>Better understanding of services available among juvenile justice professionals</p> <p>Identify gaps in services or lack of funding for services</p>
<p>Continue to educate the community on the risks associated with substance abuse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Substance Abuse Prevention System</li> </ul>	<p>Encourage clear, drug free policies and messages for youth</p>	<p>Substance Abuse Prevention System</p>	<p>On going</p>	<p>Volunteer leaders, staff, media, funding, and coordination</p>	<p>Reduction in 30 day use, perception of risk, increase in peer disapproval of use</p>
<p>Prevent pre adjudicated youth from using substances by providing mentoring programs allowing for healthy decisions and proper role modeling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TeamMates</li> <li>Community Connections Mentoring</li> </ul>	<p>Support Mentoring programs</p>	<p>Program staff, mentors</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Mentor and mentee referrals, staff, funding</p>	<p>Decrease substance use among program participants and consistent delivery of services</p>

Strategies	Action Steps	Responsible Party	Timeline	Resources Needed	Expected Results
Prevent pre adjudicated youth from using substances by providing youth development programs allowing for healthy alternatives to risky behavior <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assets Teams</li> <li>• theLinc</li> <li>• Crew</li> <li>• Individual Change Plan</li> <li>• The Power of Self Talk</li> <li>• Getting it Right</li> <li>• Why Try</li> </ul>	Support Assets Programs  Create awareness of healthy and drug free activities for youth through theLinc  Enhance Crew by including focus on substance abuse prevention youth advocacy  Support Youth Facilitator programs	Program staff  Program staff and community leaders  Program staff  Program staff	Ongoing  Ongoing  7-1-15 & ongoing  Ongoing	Referrals, staff, funding  Staff, funding  Referrals, staff, funding  Referrals, staff, funding	Decrease substance use among program participants and their peers and consistent delivery of services

**PRIORITY ONE:** A predictor of future delinquency is substance abuse and chemical dependency.

**Any Relevant Data:**

- NE Risk and Protective Factor Student Survey
- Professional experience of team
- Court data January 2014 – April 2015
  - Of 83 pre-adjudicated youth that were Court ordered drug tested as a condition of release; 40 youth either tested positive or admitted to using marijuana; six of the 40 youth that tested positive or admitted to marijuana use also tested positive or admitted to the use of an additional controlled substance; while 1 youth tested positive or admitted to using a controlled substance other than marijuana. A total of 41 youth out of 83 pre-adjudicated youth that were drug tested pursuant to a Court Order either tested positive or admitted to using an illegal controlled substance

**Other Contributing Factors:**

- Adult substance abuse and mental health issues
- Local, state and neighboring state policies and practices that contribute to increased youth access, acceptability and availability of alcohol and other drugs
  - Specific norms contribute to youth substance use and related problems including parent approval, peer approval, low perceived risk
- Youth need safe and healthy alternatives to high risk behavior

**Priority Two: TRUANCY Decrease truancy and increase school engagement**

Strategies	Action Steps	Responsible Party	Timeline	Resources Needed	Expected Results
<p>Create an Assessment Team to evaluate youth once contact with law enforcement has been made to determine the best course of action through the juvenile justice system utilizing evaluations for: behavioral health (drug alcohol and mental health issues) family dynamics, educational needs and assets (Developmental Asset Profile)</p>	<p>Develop and maintain Assessment Team. Look at successful example across the state</p>	<p>Community Planning Team                      Including County Attorney, behavioral health providers, law enforcement, diversion program coordinator, and a school liaison</p>	<p>7-1-15 &amp; ongoing</p>	<p>System coordinator, inventory of current services to aide in referrals, funding, pro social assessment</p>	<p>Reduction in repeat or escalated offences by youth new to juvenile justice professionals; youth are served based on their unique needs at the right time; decrease delay in receiving proper services</p> <p>Better understanding of services available among juvenile justice professionals</p> <p>Identify gaps in services or lack of funding for services</p>
<p>Reduce and prevent truancy through school truancy programs</p>	<p>Support truancy program/officer</p> <p>Create truancy team to identify programs to be implemented in schools that encourage student attendance and buy-in by parents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify causes of truancy and report to Community Planning Team</li> <li>• Research implementation of successful programs currently being used in other counties</li> <li>• Provide proper and necessary training for service providers and team members</li> </ul>	<p>Truancy program, school connectivity programs</p> <p>Community Planning Team, Truancy Program</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Staff</p> <p>System coordination, analyze data, provide truant youth with more options to reduce truancy</p>	<p>Improve school attendance and connectively</p> <p>Better understand needs of truant youth and improved school attendance and connectivity</p> <p>Increased parental involvement</p>

Strategies	Action Steps	Responsible Party	Timeline	Resources Needed	Expected Results
<p>Reduce and prevent truancy and support scholastic success through alternative schooling and school re-entry programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TIES</li> <li>TLC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Send messages to parents on parent portal</li> <li>Establish proper protocols for students with behavioral health and behavioral needs</li> </ul> <p>Support programs and provide referrals</p>	Staff and leadership at TIES and TLC	Ongoing	Staff	Improve school attendance and connectivity through delivery of services and decrease recidivism among re-entry youth
<p>Reduce and prevent truancy and support scholastic success for pre adjudicated youth through mentoring programs and youth development programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TeamMates</li> <li>Community Connections Mentoring</li> <li>Adventure Program</li> <li>Asset Teams</li> <li>Crew and theLinc</li> </ul>	<p>Support TeamMates and Community Connections Mentoring</p> <p>Support Adventure Program</p> <p>Support Assets Teams</p> <p>Create awareness of healthy and drug free activities for youth</p> <p>Enhance Crew team by including focus on substance abuse prevention youth advocacy</p>	<p>Program staff and community leaders</p> <p>Program staff and school leaders</p> <p>Program staff and school leaders</p> <p>Program staff</p> <p>Program staff and school and community leaders</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Staff, funding</p> <p>Staff, funding</p> <p>Staff, funding</p> <p>Staff, funding</p> <p>Staff, funding</p>	<p>Improve school attendance and connectivity through consistent delivery of services</p>

**PRIORITY TWO:** Very early in the planning process the topic of truancy was one repeatedly discussed. As the planning process continued, truancy remained an area of concern as a predictor of future delinquency.

**Any Relevant Data:**

- NE Risk and Protective Factor Student Survey
- Professional experience of team
- North Platte Public Schools truancy reporting (truancy defined as a student with 20 or more days of absences in a school year)

2013-2014 School Year	
Grade	# Truant Youth
K	36
1	39
2	28
3	31
4	33
5	24
6	25

2013-2014 School Year	
Grade	# Truant Youth
7	36
8	43
9	54
10	89
11	100
12	94

**Other Contributing Factors:**

- Substance abuse and mental health issues
- Poor parental engagement/parental support and family structure including:
  - poor parental supervision and monitoring
  - lack of positive role models
- Peer influences
- School policies
- Low school connectivity
- Undetermined: Transportation may be a contributing factor to truancy in Lincoln County
- Poverty (higher rates of truancy at Free and Reduced Lunch schools)
- Age (students turn 16 and use drivers licenses to leave campus without parents being aware)
- Youth need safe and healthy alternatives to high risk behavior

**Priority Three: DIVERSION Reduce the number of youth entering the juvenile justice system**

Strategies	Action Steps	Responsible Party	Timeline	Resources Needed	Expected Results
<p>Create an Assessment Team to evaluate youth once contact with law enforcement has been made to determine the best course of action through the juvenile justice system utilizing evaluations for: behavioral health (drug alcohol and mental health issues) family dynamics, educational needs and assets (Developmental Asset Profile)</p>	<p>Develop and maintain Assessment Team. Look at successful example across the state</p>	<p>Community Planning Team Including County Attorney, behavioral health providers, law enforcement, diversion program coordinator, and a school liaison</p>	<p>7-1-15 &amp; ongoing</p>	<p>System coordinator, inventory of current services to aide in referrals, funding, pro social assessment</p>	<p>Reduction in repeat or escalated offences by youth new to juvenile justice professionals; youth are served based on their unique needs at the right time; decrease delay in receiving proper services</p> <p>Better understanding of services available among juvenile justice professionals</p> <p>Identify gaps in services or lack of funding for services</p>
<p>Continue to provide diversion program for pre adjudicated youth with evidence based practices</p>	<p>Continue referrals to diversion program</p> <p>Encourage continued focus on diverse evidence based programming with individualized plans for each participant including alternatives to diversion</p>	<p>Program staff</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Staff, funding</p>	<p>Reduced juvenile involvement in the juvenile justice system</p>

**PRIORITY THREE:** It is important to continue to provide diversion options for Lincoln County youth. Low level offenses should not propel youth into the juvenile justice system but rather be treated as a better option for decreased recidivism.

**Any Relevant Data:**

- North Platte Police Department and Lincoln County Sheriff’s Office arrest and juvenile contact records
- Professional experience of team
- Diversion data below

**Other Contributing Factors:**

- Substance abuse and mental health issues
- Poor parental engagement/parental support and family structure including:
  - poor parental supervision and monitoring
  - lack of positive role models
- Peer influences
- Low income
- Youth need safe and healthy alternatives to high risk behavior

**DIVERSION Data: Referral and Enrolled**

2014	
Youth Referred	103
Youth Enrolled	82
<u>Reason Youth Not Enrolled</u>	
New Law Violation	1
Youth/parent refused diversion	18
Declined admission	1
County attorney or school withdrew youth’s referral	0
Other (moved away, death, etc)	2

2013	
Youth Referred	84
Youth Enrolled	64
<u>Reason Youth Not Enrolled</u>	
New Law Violation	2
Youth/parent refused diversion	13
Declined admission	0
County attorney or school withdrew youth's referral	3
Other (moved away, death, etc)	1
2012	
Youth Referred	78
Youth Enrolled	65
<u>Reason Youth Not Enrolled</u>	
New Law Violation	1
Youth/parent refused diversion	8
Declined admission	2
County attorney or school withdrew youth's referral	1
Other (moved away, death, etc)	0
2011	
Youth Referred	15
Youth Enrolled	10
<u>Reason Youth Not Enrolled</u>	
New Law Violation	1
Youth/parent refused diversion	3
Declined admission	0
County attorney or school withdrew youth's referral	0
Other (moved away, death, etc)	0

### DIVERSION Offense Listing

2014	2014	2103	2012	2011
Assault – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Degree	13	7	2	0
Burglary	0	1	0	0
Contributing to a Delinquent Minor	0	2	0	0
Criminal Mischief	7	7	9	12
Disturbing the Peace	1	1	1	0
Making False Report to Police	0	1	0	0
Marijuana Possession –Less Than 1 Oz	4	1	1	0
Minor in Possession	13	12	10	10
Minor in Possession Tobacco	1	0	0	0
Obstructing Police	0	0	0	1
Procure For Minor/Mentally Incompetent	0	1	0	0
Shoplifting	14	32	32	26
Theft by Unlawful Taking	9	1	7	2
Traffic Offense	4	2	1	0
Trespassing	0	2	1	0
Truancy, Juvenile	13	9	4	0
Ungovernable Juvenile	15	9	10	6

**Priority Four: PREVENTION OF OTHER HIGH RISK BEHAVIOR Increase access to prevention services**

Strategies	Action Steps	Responsible Party	Timeline	Resources Needed	Expected Results
<p>Create an Assessment Team to evaluate youth once contact with law enforcement has been made to determine the best course of action through the juvenile justice system utilizing evaluations for: behavioral health (drug alcohol and mental health issues) family dynamics, educational needs and assets (Developmental Asset Profile)</p>	<p>Develop and maintain Assessment Team. Look at successful example across the state</p>	<p>Community Planning Team including County Attorney, behavioral health providers, law enforcement, diversion program coordinator, and a school liaison</p>	<p>7-1-15 &amp; ongoing</p>	<p>System coordinator, inventory of current services to aide in referrals, funding, pro social assessment</p>	<p>Reduction in repeat or escalated offences by youth new to juvenile justice professionals; youth are served based on their unique needs at the right time; decrease delay in receiving proper services</p> <p>Better understanding of services available among juvenile justice professionals</p> <p>Identify gaps in services or lack of funding for services</p>
<p>Prevent youth from entering the juvenile justice system through positive youth development programs allowing for healthy alternatives to high risk behavior</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TeamMates Mentoring</li> <li>• Community Connections Mentoring</li> <li>• Crew</li> <li>• Assets Teams</li> <li>• theLinc</li> <li>• Why Try</li> <li>• Pre Adjudication Youth Facilitator</li> </ul>	<p>Provide more and timely program referrals, create program awareness and provide general support</p> <p>Explore expansion to current programs that includes high risk participants</p>	<p>Program staff</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Staff, funding</p>	<p>Decrease high risk behavior among program participants and their peers</p>

**PRIORITY FOUR:** Unsafe, unhealthy and otherwise illegal activity by juveniles happens too frequently. It is necessary to decrease these behaviors by providing prevention services in a timely and effective manner.

**Any Relevant Data:**

- NE Risk and Protective Factor Student Survey
- Professional experience of team
- North Platte Police Department and Lincoln County Sheriff’s Office arrest and juvenile contact records
- 2013-2014 Probation data

Probation From 7-1-2013 to 7-1-2014	
Youth of Probation	172
Placed in Shelter or Detention	16

**Other Contributing Factors:**

- Substance abuse and mental health issues
- Poor parental engagement/parental support and family structure including:
  - poor parental supervision and monitoring
  - lack of positive role models
- Peer influences
- Low school connectivity
- Youth need safe and healthy alternatives to high risk behavior

**Priority Five: PRE ADJUDICATION SERVICES AND ALTERNATIVES TO DETENTION Provide other services**

Strategies	Action Steps	Responsible Party	Timeline	Resources Needed	Expected Results
<p>Create an Assessment Team to evaluate youth once contact with law enforcement has been made to determine the best course of action through the juvenile justice system utilizing evaluations for: behavioral health (drug alcohol and mental health issues) family dynamics, educational needs and assets (Developmental Asset Profile)</p> <p>Provide pre adjudication substance testing</p> <p>Provide timely evaluations :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drugs and alcohol</li> <li>• Psych</li> <li>• Sex offender</li> </ul> <p>Provide family support services</p>	<p>Develop and maintain Assessment Team. Look at successful example across the state</p>	<p>Community Planning Team                      Including County Attorney, behavioral health providers, law enforcement, diversion program coordinator, and a school liaison</p>	<p>7-1-15 &amp; ongoing</p>	<p>System coordinator, inventory of current services to aide in referrals, funding, pro social assessment</p>	<p>Reduction in repeat or escalated offences by youth new to juvenile justice professionals; youth are served based on their unique needs at the right time; decrease delay in receiving proper services</p> <p>Better understanding of services available among juvenile justice professionals</p> <p>Identify gaps in services or lack of funding for services</p> <p>More quickly identify problem behavior</p> <p>More quickly identify problem behavior</p> <p>Family issues are more quickly identified</p> <p>Keep youth out of detention</p>
<p>Provide pre adjudication substance testing</p> <p>Complete evaluations in 2 weeks from hearing to allow quicker delivery of appropriate services to minors</p> <p>Assessment Team develop protocols for delivery of services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• contracts with agencies to provide pre adjudication services</li> <li>• develop safety plans and alternatives to keep youth in the home</li> </ul> <p>Provide proper and necessary training for service providers and team members</p>	<p>Juvenile Court Judges order pre adjudication substance testing</p> <p>Complete evaluations in 2 weeks from hearing to allow quicker delivery of appropriate services to minors</p> <p>Assessment Team will coordinate evaluative services and explore other options to determine responsibly party</p> <p>Assessment Team will coordinate evaluative services and explore other options to determine responsibly party</p>	<p>Judges</p> <p>Assessment Team will coordinate evaluative services and explore other options to determine responsibly party</p> <p>Assessment Team will coordinate evaluative services and explore other options to determine responsibly party</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>7-1-15 &amp; ongoing</p> <p>7-1-15 &amp; ongoing</p>	<p>Funding</p> <p>Funding</p> <p>Funding</p>	<p>More quickly identify problem behavior</p> <p>More quickly identify problem behavior</p> <p>Family issues are more quickly identified</p> <p>Keep youth out of detention</p>

Strategies	Action Steps	Responsible Party	Timeline	Resources Needed	Expected Results
Provide tracker services, electronic GPS and house monitoring	Assessment Team develop protocols for delivery of services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify hosting agency to install and monitor service</li> </ul>	Assessment Team will coordinate evaluative services and explore other options to determine responsibly party	7-1-15 & ongoing	Funding	Keep more youth in the home
More frequently use foster care as alternative to detention	Increase the number of foster care homes	Juvenile Justice stakeholders	7-1-15 & ongoing	Additional outreach	More appropriate setting for juveniles needing out of home placement

**PRIORITY FIVE:** To meet the underlying needs of youth whose circumstances and behavior does not warrant detention but does warrant aligning their needs with the proper services, more services and alternatives are desired.

**Any Relevant Data:**

- North Platte Police Department and Lincoln County Sheriff's Office arrest and juvenile contact records
- Professional experience of team
- Probation data
  - Approximately 16 youth from 7-1-13 to 7-1-14 were placed in shelter or detention

**Other Contributing Factors:**

- Need for additional services
  - Need for improved communication between youth serving professionals within agencies and juvenile justice system
-

**Organizational Priority**

**Priority One: SYSTEM COLLABORATION Increase collaboration between agencies and organizations**

Strategies	Action Steps	Responsible Party	Timeline	Resources Needed	Expected Results
Increase communication between HHS, County Attorney, Law Enforcement, Probation, and other agencies concerning crossover youth	Agencies attend monthly "through the eyes of a child" meetings  Continue to meet as Community Planning Team	Community Planning Team, HHS, County Attorney, Law Enforcement, Probation, other youth serving agencies  Community Planning Team	Ongoing	Meeting leadership and coordination  Pre adjudication sharing of information by agencies	Increased collaboration between agencies and more timely services provided to youth
Develop/share a list of area agencies, services and youth serving organizations for the delivery services	Provide a resource that puts people in touch with the proper agency	Community Planning Team, HHS, County Attorney, Law Enforcement, Probation, other youth serving agencies  Community Planning Team	Ongoing	Meeting leadership and coordination  To be determined/based on discussion and brainstorming of Community Planning Team	Deliver more coordinated services
Increase accessibility to mental health services for youth	Encourage providers to develop juvenile based programming and education on the need for specialized juvenile treatment providers in area	Community Planning Team, HHS, County Attorney, Law Enforcement, Probation, other youth serving agencies  Community Planning Team	Ongoing	Meeting leadership and coordination	More timely services provided to youth

**ORGANIZATIONAL PRIORITY ONE:** Improve the juvenile justice system by way of increased communication, shared resources and looking at new ways to improve long standing challenges.

**Any Relevant Data:**

- 2014 Court data. Of the 152 court cases filed in 2014, there are 20 juveniles considered crossover youth. These crossover youth include those with 3a filings as well as sub 1 & 2 and 3b's.

Juvenile Court Cases Filed 2014	
Misdemeanor	101
Felony	10
Uncontrollable/Truancy	41

**Other Contributing Factors:**

- Complexity of issues and problems facing youth, families and agencies
- Limited resources (time, personnel, etc...) to deal with complex issues and problems

## **APPENDIX**

**1: APPROVAL OF PLAN BY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**2: RESOURCE/SERVICES INVENTORY**

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**3: JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM ANALYSIS TOOL PREPARED BY BRANDY BUSCHER**

**Board of County Commissioners  
Lincoln County, Nebraska**

**Authorize the chairman to approve the Lincoln County Juvenile Services Comprehensive  
Community Plan covering July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2018**

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners do hereby approve the Lincoln County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Community Plan covering July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2018 as submitted and will work collaboratively to implement the plan.

The above was approved by a vote of the Lincoln County Commissioners at a public meeting held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of June, 2015

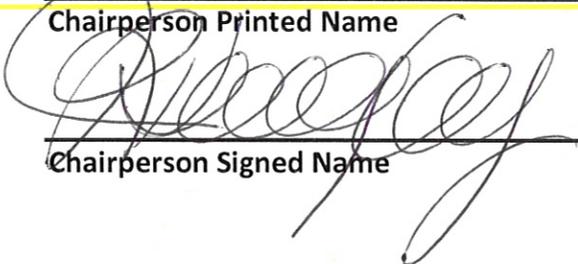
Signed:

Joseph Hewgley

Chairperson Printed Name

Chairperson Signed Name

Date



6-22-2015

## RESOURCE/SERVICES INVENTORY

1. TeamMates Mentoring
2. DARE
3. North Platte Police Department
  - SRO
  - Explorers Group/Cadet Program
  - High School Crime Stoppers
4. Community Connections
  - Substance Abuse Prevention System
  - Tobacco free Lincoln County Coalition
  - Mentoring
  - Assets
  - Crew
  - theLinc
5. Church Youth Groups
6. Local Therapists
7. Organized Sports
8. Post Prom
9. Boy and Girl Scouts
10. Extra Curricular Groups
11. After school programs
12. Summer school programs
13. Truancy Program
14. The Learning Center
15. TIES
16. Salvation Army
17. North Platte Public School Foundation
18. Youth Facilitator
  - Individual Change Plan
  - The Power of Self Talk
  - Getting it Right
  - Why Try
19. Family Skill Building
  - Diversion
  - Day and evening Reporting
  - GPS, Tracker, Family Support
20. City of North Platte
  - Sports
  - Rec Center
  - Cody Pool
  - Events (i.e. Dances, Brown Bag Lunches, etc...)
  - Mayor's Youth Council
  - North Platte Library (Teen Café)
21. Cooperative Extension /4-H
22. West Central District Health Department  
community based programs
23. RDAP school program
24. Great Plains Health programs
25. Lutheran Family Services
26. Youth for Christ Pregnant/Parenting Teens
27. Region II
  - Youth Care Coordinator
  - Parenting classes
  - Youth Mental Health First Aid QPR training
  - Youth Seeking Safety support group
  - HALO- Healthy Alternatives to Little Ones
  - Prime for Life
  - All-Stars
  - WAIT
28. CASA
29. Bridge of Hope
30. Project Search
31. Camp Maranatha
32. Sylvan Learning
33. Adopt a Backpack
34. Lincoln Connection programs
35. Teen AA
36. Children's Museum
37. Keep North Platte Lincoln County Beautiful
38. Boys Town
39. Camp Catch Up
40. Platte River Fitness Series
41. Project Everlast
42. Children's Museum
43. Art Center
44. Vacation Bible Schools
45. Fellowship of Christian Athletes
46. Footsteps
47. Right Turn
48. Miss Nebraska Little Sisters
49. Miss Rodeo Nebraska Little Sisters
50. Special Olympics
51. School Programs/School Assemblies

## LINCOLN COUNTY

### JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM ANALYSIS TOOL

Lincoln County Comprehensive Plan meetings were held where each of the twelve decision points were discussed as they relate to the juvenile justice system in Lincoln County.

The following analysis names the decision point and states any *noteworthy* issue identified or problem acknowledged at the particular stage. The system analysis was conducted in January and February of 2015.

#### Decision Points:

##### **Arrest/Citation (Police/Law Enforcement)**

*Whether an information report should be filed, or what offense, if any, under which juvenile should be cited or arrested.*

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##### **Formal:**

Laws related to placement and confinement, seriousness of offense, officer discretion, and local procedures dictate if an arrest needs to be made.

##### **Informal:**

No temporary holding facility, age, transportation cost, less restrictive environment, danger level, placement with family member, and parents input are all concerns when an officer is making the decision between making an arrest or issuing a citation.

*Whether to cite or arrest juvenile for juvenile or adult offense.*

##### **Formal:**

Local rules, legal limits for HHS placement, and age related to offense based on statute.

##### **Informal:**

Transportation costs, age factors, staffing issues, lack of alternative resources, number of contacts with law enforcement, danger level, and if weapons were involved are all taken into consideration.

***Whether to take juvenile into custody or to cite and release***

**Formal:**

Local rules, legal limits for HHS placement, and age related to offense based on statute.

**Informal:**

Seriousness of the offense, danger level related to siblings or parents in the home, available respite care or foster placement with family member, parental input, no placement availability, staffing, transportation, other resources such as GPS, and number of contacts law enforcement.

**Initial Detention (Probation)**

***Whether juvenile should be detained or released***

**Formal:**

Decisions regarding detention are policy driven. District 11 Probation employs an intake screening/ risk assessment tool to determine the need for out- of- home placement. Issues that drive the determination are the nature of the crime, drug use, mental health issues, etc. NE Revised Statutes allow for detention of juveniles who commit criminal offenses. Statutes also allow the court to appoint attorneys for the juveniles before the first hearing to advocate for the lesser restrictive placements.

**Informal:**

Parental input and communication between Probation, Law Enforcement and County Attorney are all considered before a juvenile is detained or released.

**Charge Juvenile (County Attorney)**

***Whether to prosecute juvenile***

***Whether youth should be prosecuted as juvenile or adult.***

**Formal:**

NE Statutes are continually updated and changed with regard to the charging of juvenile offenders. The statutes currently require, as of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015, that all children 16 and under who commit a misdemeanor offense must be prosecuted in juvenile court. The statute further requires that 16 and 17 year olds who commit an IV or IIIA felony must be charged in juvenile court. The state has the right to request a transfer to adult court, but that cannot happen until after a complaint is filed and a hearing is held. Statutes also set out the elements necessary to charge a crime, so there has to be a

determination whether there is sufficient evidence to find a person guilty of the crime charged.

**Informal:**

The County Attorney has broad discretion with regard to charging and prosecution. Each individual case is assessed to determine what charge would be just and provable. The County Attorney looks at a number of criteria including age, maturity, need for court involvement with the family, etc. in making that determination. The newly created statutes have put an emphasis on broadening the number of children and types of crimes that are sent to juvenile diversion. As a result the County Attorney's Office is sending children to diversion who have committed misdemeanors, certain lower class felonies, and status offenders.

**Pre-Adjudication Detention (Juvenile Court Judge)**

*Whether juvenile detained at the time of citation/arrest should continue in detention or out-of-home placement pending adjudication*

**Formal:**

This decision is allowed under statute. The Court is to take into account the safety of the child and the public in forming its decision.

**Informal:**

The court obtains information from all the parties to come to a decision regarding the needs of the minor and the community. The parties attempt to obtain information on the child's needs and all possible placements and bring that information to the Court. The Court takes into consideration the following; safety issues, resources and placement alternatives, drug use, mental health concerns, etc. in making its decision.

**Probable Cause Hearing (Juvenile Court Judge)**

*Whether State can show that probable cause exists that juvenile is within the jurisdiction of the court*

**Formal:**

NE Statutes allow a probable cause determination to be made via affidavit and /or court hearing. The County Attorney's Office currently files an affidavit anytime a juvenile petition or detention request is made.

**Competency Evaluation (Juvenile Court Judge)**

*Whether juvenile is competent to participate in the proceedings*

***Whether juvenile is “responsible” for his/her acts***

**Formal:**

The statute allows the court to order a competency evaluation be conducted at any stage of proceedings. These evaluations can be requested by the minor’s attorney or the Court on its own motion. Evaluations are paid by the County. Once the evaluation is complete the Court determines, pursuant to the statements of the evaluator, whether the minor is able to aid in his own defense or is responsible for his or her actions.

**Adjudication (Juvenile Court Judge)**

***Whether juvenile is, beyond a reasonable doubt, “a person described by §43-247”***

**Formal:**

This decision is allowed under statute, judicial discretion, evidence based factors and prior criminal history.

***Whether to order probation to conduct a pre-disposition investigation (PDI)***

**Formal:**

This decision is allowed under statute, judicial discretion, evidence based factors and prior criminal history.

**Informal:**

The need for an evaluation is determined by several factors such as mental health history, drug or alcohol dependency, and medical conditions. Other factors that can be taken into consideration are educational information, victimization history, maturity, priors, parental concerns, placement needs and peer involvement.

***Whether to order an evaluation.***

**Formal:**

This decision is allowed under statute, judicial discretion, evidence based factors and prior criminal history.

**Informal:**

District 11 Probation policies determine if an evaluation is needed. The need for an evaluation is also determined by several factors such as mental health history, drug or alcohol dependency, and medical conditions. Other factors that can be taken into consideration are educational information, victimization history, maturity, priors, parental concerns, placement needs and peer involvement.

### **Disposition (Juvenile Court Judge)**

#### ***Determination of the best placement/treatment for the juvenile.***

##### **Formal:**

This decision is allowed under statute, judicial discretion, evidence based factors and prior criminal history.

##### **Informal:**

Several factors are relative to the determination of where to place a juvenile. In some situations placement is decided and agreed upon by both parties. Other factors that are considered are public safety, prior criminal history, safety of juvenile, supervision and structure, education information, health concerns and safety of home environment.

### **Administrative Sanctions (Probation)**

#### ***Whether to impose administrative sanctions***

##### **Formal:**

This decision is allowed under statute.

##### **Informal:**

District 11 Probation Policy dictates administrative sanctions. Other factors are school input, therapist input, judicial discretion, tracker and family support worker input, probation officer judgment and county attorney advisement.

### **Motion to Revoke Probation (County Attorney)**

#### ***Whether to file a motion to revoke probation***

##### **Formal:**

This decision is allowed under statute.

##### **Informal:**

District 11 policies, discretion of probation officer and county attorney, new law violations, severity of the crime and technical violations are all factors that determine if probation should be revoked.

### **Modification/Revocation of Probation (Juvenile Court Judge)**

#### ***Whether to modify or revoke probation***

**Formal:**

This decision is allowed under statute.

**Informal:**

The decision to modify probation is the discretion of all parties involved including the probation officer, county attorney, judge, and defense attorney. Other factors that are taken into consideration are educational information, victimization history, maturity, priors, parental concerns, placement needs and peer involvement.

**Setting Aside Adjudication (Juvenile Court Judge)**

***Whether juvenile has satisfactorily completed his or her probation and supervision or the treatment program of his or her commitment***

**Formal:**

This decision is allowed under statute and at the discretion of the judge.

**Informal:**

Factors that are taken into account when the decision is made to satisfactory release a juvenile from probation are age, maturity, safety to the minor and public and the type of crime that put the juvenile on probation to begin with. The other factor is an agreement between all parties involved with the case.

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