

**SALINE COUNTY**  
**Juvenile Services**  
**Comprehensive Community Plan**  
**July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2018**

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**SECTION II**

**COMMUNITY TEAM**

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**Saline County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Community Plan  
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**Juvenile Services Planning Team**

The Committee Team first met on February 10, 2014 in Wilber, NE. This small group of interested citizens discussed the necessity of an updated plan focused not on the availability of grant dollars but the importance of identifying issues of concern based on relevant and accurate data, prioritizing these issues and developing consistent and sustainable strategies involving County partners. County Commissioner Tim McDermott agreed to lead the group. The Team hit a road block several meetings in and felt there was additional need to expand Committee further to incorporate other known entities involved in the Juvenile Justice process. In the spring of 2015, the activities of this community Team went back to work after reaching out and pulling in other valuable resource members for the Committee. The results of the Team’s work are found in the document herein.

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*Planning Team Members and Contributors continued...*

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**Section III**

**Juvenile Justice System Analysis Tool  
and other  
Community Assessment Tools**

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## **Saline County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Community Plan 2015 – 2018**

An earlier version of the Saline County Juvenile Justice System Tool was completed and utilized in a previous Plan. The current Saline County Comprehensive Planning Committee reviewed the tool again in 2015 and has found little necessity for recreation. This tool focused on various system points where juveniles are contacted.

The utilization of this tool identified how authorities at various levels determine whether juveniles are detained or if other placement, monitoring or diversion options are sought. Nebraska state law forms the first layer of decision-making regarding contact with juveniles in the justice system. In addition, there are many factors considered when deciding whether or not a juvenile will be detained, released, or if other placement options will be sought, and whether or not the juvenile will face prosecution for a criminal charge or offered the opportunity to take part in the diversion program.

Some of those other factors are: Age of child, degree to which parent or service provider pushes the issue, youth's prior incidences with law enforcement, degree to which juvenile cooperates with officer, whether or not the youth is already in the Health and Human Services system, immediate risk to juvenile, immediate/short term risk to public, seriousness of perceived offense, extent to which parent or other responsible adult is able to take responsibility for juvenile, availability of pre-adjudication of detention options, input of county attorney, criteria followed within Probation Department, eligibility for diversion, mental status of the juvenile, prior conduct of juvenile, and which services are available as alternatives.

As County stakeholders utilize the community assessments and outlined strategies using the identified factors found within, the updated County Plan will assist in continuing to build upon the previous accomplishments within the diversion program and further place juveniles on a positive path beyond static labels, found associated with a Minor in Possession charge - as an example. Supporting the pre-adjudication options of Diversion & Probation, and increasing collaboration among all agencies having contact with juveniles in the justice system, would together prove equally warranted and a benefit to the juvenile offender, the juveniles family, and the residents in Saline County.

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**System Analysis Tool Findings**

<b>SYSTEMPOINT: ARREST/CITATION</b>	
PARTY RESPONSIBLE: Police/Law Enforcement STATUTE REFERENCE: NRS §§ 43-247 (1), (2), (4)	
<b><i>Decision: Whether an information report should be filed, or what offense, if any, with which juvenile should be cited or arrested.</i></b>	
<p>Formal Determining Factors</p> <p>a. Sufficient factual basis to believe offense was committed.</p> <p>b. Underlying support for a particular offense.</p>	<p>Informal Determining Factors</p> <p>a. Officer's Inclination/ patience</p> <p>b. Degree to which parent or service provider pushes the issue</p> <p>c. Youth's prior incidences with law enforcement.</p> <p>d. Youth and/or youth's families perceived status in the community.</p>
Notes: No comments or additions	

<b><i>Decision: Whether to cite or arrest juvenile for juvenile or adult offense.</i></b>	
<p>Formal Determining Factors</p> <p>a. Seriousness of Offense</p> <p>b. Is there a warrant?</p>	<p>Informal Determining Factors</p> <p>a. Degree to which juvenile cooperates with officer.</p> <p>b. Victim's desire.</p> <p>c. Is the youth already in the DHHS or juvenile probation system?</p>
Notes: No comments or additions	

<b><i>Decision: Whether to take juvenile into custody or to cite and release (NRS § 43-248 (1), (2); S 43-250 (1), (2), (3))</i></b>	
<p>Formal Determining Factors</p> <p>a. Is there a warrant?</p>	<p>Informal Determining Factors</p> <p>a. Immediate risk to juvenile</p> <p>b. Immediate/short term risk to public</p> <p>c. Seriousness of perceived offense] d. Legal status of family (if known)</p> <p>e. Extent to which parent or other responsible adult available to take responsibility for juvenile.</p> <p>g. Availability of pre-adjudication detention options?</p>
Notes: No comments or additions	

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<b>SYSTEMPOINT: INITIAL DETENTION</b>	
PARTY RESPONSIBLE: State of Nebraska Probation	
STATUTE REFERENCE: NRS § 43-250(3), § 43-260, § 43-260.01	
<b><i>Decision: Whether juvenile should be detained or released.</i></b>	
Formal Determining Factors a. Risk assessment outcome b. Accessibility of placement options: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Parents/Guardians</li> <li>2) II. Emergency Shelter</li> <li>3) Staff Secure Facility</li> <li>4) IV. Secure Detention Facility</li> </ol>	Informal Determining Factors
Notes: No comments or additions.	

<b>SYSTEMPOINT: CHARGE JUVENILE</b>	
PARTY RESPONSIBLE: County Attorney	
STATUTE REFERENCE: NRS § 43-274(1), § 43-275, § 43-276	
<b><i>Decision: Whether to prosecute juvenile.</i></b>	
Formal Determining Factors a. Likelihood of successful prosecution b. Factors under NRS § 43-276: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Type of treatment to which juvenile would be most amenable</li> <li>2) Evidence that offense was violent, aggressive, or premeditated</li> <li>3) Motivation for commission of offense</li> <li>4) Age of juvenile and co-offenders</li> <li>5) Previous offense history, especially patterns of prior violence or antisocial behavior</li> <li>6) Juvenile's sophistication and maturity</li> <li>7) Juvenile's prior contacts with law enforcement and the courts</li> <li>8) Whether there are facilities particularly available to the juvenile court for the treatment and rehabilitation of the juvenile</li> <li>9) Whether best interests of juvenile and public safety dictate supervision extending beyond his or her minority</li> <li>10) Victim's inclination to participate in mediation "Such other matters as the</li> </ol>	Informal Determining Factors

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county attorney deems relevant to his or her decision"	
Notes: No comments or additions	

<b><i>Decision: Whether youth should be prosecuted as juvenile or adult.</i></b>	
Formal Determining Factors a. Seriousness of offense b. Age of the youth	Informal Determining Factors
Notes: No comments or additions	

<b><i>Decision: Offense for which juvenile should be charged.</i></b>	
Formal Determining Factors	Informal Determining Factors
Notes: No comments or additions	

<b>SYSTEMPOINT: PRE-ADJUDICATION DETENTION</b> PARTY RESPONSIBLE: Juvenile Court Judge STATUTE REFERENCE: NRS § 43-253(2)	
<b><i>Decision: Whether juvenile detained at the time of citation/arrest should continue in detention or out-of-home placement pending adjudication.</i></b>	
Options: 1. Parents/Guardians 2. Emergency Shelter 3. Staff Secure Facility 4. Secure Detention Facility 5. Electronic Monitoring 6. Work with Probation Officer with screening document	
Formal Determining Factors a. Whether there is an "immediate and urgent necessity for the protection of such juvenile" b. Whether there is an "immediate and urgent necessity for the protection of... the person or property of another" c. Whether juvenile is likely to flee the jurisdiction of the court	Informal Determining Factors a. Provide factual basis to Probation Officer to insure screening device is appropriately used.
Notes: • To the above option - Unless specifically ordered so by the Judge- Probation responsibility for temporary placement of Law Violations - Followed immediately by a hearing in court. • The Probation Officer's decision to release the juvenile from custody or place the juvenile in secure or no secure detention shall be based upon the results of the	

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standardized juvenile detention-screening instrument described in section 43-260-01.

**SYSTEM POINT: PROBABLE CAUSE HEARING**

PARTY RESPONSIBLE: Juvenile Court Judge

STATUTE REFERENCE: NRS § 43-256

***Decision: Whether state can show that probable cause exists and that juvenile is within the jurisdiction of the court.***

Formal Determining Factors a. Police investigation/Reports b. Sworn Affidavit	Informal Determining Factors a. Parents or other agencies b. Petitions and motions filed
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Notes:

- Temporary custody orders must be signed within 24 hours
- Care must be used to determine probable cause exists prior to commitment.

**SYSTEM POINT: COMPETENCY EVALUATION**

PARTY RESPONSIBLE: Juvenile Court Judge

STATUTE REFERENCE: NRS § 43-258(1(b))

***Decision: Whether juvenile is competent to participate in the proceedings.***

Formal Determining Factors a. Evaluation b. Police investigation/reports	Informal Determining Factors a. Investigations prior court cases b. Notes from parents or other agencies
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Notes:

- Thorough evaluation needs to be made as soon as practically possible to ensure competency determination is made for the care and control of the juvenile.
- OJS evaluations - services provided by DHHS – Drug/Alcohol/Psychiatric Evaluations.

***Decision: Whether juvenile is responsible for his/her acts NRS § 43-258(1 (c) and (2)***

Formal Determining Factors a. Physician, Surgeon, Psychiatrist, Community Health Program, Psychologist b. "Complete evaluation of the juvenile including any authorized area of inquiry requested by court." (NRS § 43-258(2))	Informal Determining Factors a. CASA b. DHHS c. Adequate investigation of pre-placement behavior to ensure evaluation is correct
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Notes:

- Information concerning evaluation pre-placement and previous placements need to be thoroughly investigated so evaluations made are as thorough as they can be.
- No Juvenile is adjudicated and no dispositions are held unless determinations are completed. Usually through DHHS along with evaluations and Guardian Ad Litem reports and CASA reports.

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<b>SYSTEMPOINT: ADJUDICATION</b>	
PARTY RESPONSIBLE: Juvenile Court Judge STATUTE REFERENCE: NRS § 43-279 (2) and (3)	
<b><i>Decision: Whether the juvenile is, beyond a reasonable doubt, "a person described by section 43-247".</i></b>	
Formal Determining Factors a. Legal sufficiency of evidence presented during adjudication hearing b. Whether juvenile admits the allegations of the petition (or, "pleads to the charges")	Informal Determining Factors a. Thorough investigation of pre-placement conduct. b. Any information on reports from outside agencies and DHHS
Notes: • Strict proof needs to be given, as required by law, to insure rights of juveniles are protected.	
<b><i>Decision: Whether to order probation to conduct a pre-disposition investigation (statutory authority unclear)</i></b>	
Formal Determining Factors a. Police investigation/reports	Informal Determining Factors a. Notes from parents or other agencies
Notes: • Care must be taken to insure probation is not overburdened with investigation when other outside sources can be utilized. • Probation may be both formal and informal- POI's are ordered prior to disposition- plus any evaluations or reports - such as CASA and Guardian Ad Litem. Juvenile cases a "civil" in nature and not "criminal convictions". 'See NRS § 29-2261 (2): A court may order a pre-sentence investigation in any case, except in cases in which an offender has been convicted of a Class IIIA misdemeanor, a Class IV misdemeanor, a Class V misdemeanor, a traffic infraction, or any corresponding city or village ordinance.	
<b><i>Decision: Whether to order OJS evaluation NRS § 43-281</i></b>	
Formal Determining Factors a. Police investigation/reports b. Prior to out of home placement or commitments sometimes with in home placements	Informal Determining Factors a. Notes from parents or other agencies
Notes: • OJS Evaluation used only when all of the factors presented to the court indicate further evaluation prior to disposition is necessary. *See also: NRS § 29-2204(3): Except when a term of life is required by law, whenever the defendant was under eighteen years of age at the time he or she committed the crime for which he or she was convicted, the court may, in its discretion, instead of imposing the penalty provided for the crime, make such disposition of the defendant as the court deems proper under the Nebraska Juvenile Code. Prior to making a disposition, which commits the juvenile to the Office of Juvenile Services, the court shall order the juvenile to be evaluated by the office if the juvenile has not had an evaluation within the past twelve months.	
<b><i>Decision: Whether to order a PDI or OJS Evaluation</i></b>	
Formal Determining Factors	Informal Determining Factors

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<p>a. Presumably supplement each other b. Uncertainty about whether probation information of prior conduct or commitment to OJS is in the juvenile's best interest</p>	<p>a. Outside resources used to supply</p>
<p>Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Careful evaluation of all factors needs to be considered to determine if conduct may be caused by deviant factors or psychological factors before choice is made.</li> <li>• We often rely not only on OJS evaluations or DHHS Evaluations but also Guardian Ad Litem reports - CASA reports and other agency reports.</li> </ul>	

<p><b>SYSTEM POINT: DISPOSITION</b> PARTY RESPONSIBLE: Juvenile Court Judge STATUTE REFERENCE: NRS § 43-286 (I)</p>	
<p><b><i>Decision: Whether to place juvenile on probation NRS § 43-286(1)(a)(i)</i></b></p>	
<p>Formal Determining Factors a. Police investigation/reports</p>	<p>Informal Determining Factors a. Notes from parents or other agencies</p>
<p>Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prior history</li> <li>• Recommendation of agencies or probation</li> <li>• Probation should only be used in those cases where ongoing supervision is absolutely necessary to insure proper treatment or placement of juvenile is continued and responsible parties comply with treatment recommendation.</li> </ul>	
<p><b><i>Decision: Whether to commit such juvenile to the Office of Juvenile Services NRS § 43-286(1)(b)</i></b></p>	
<p>Formal Determining Factors a. Police investigation/reports</p>	<p>Informal Determining Factors a. Notes from parents or other agencies</p>
<p>Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commitment to OJS should be reserved for those cases where intervention by OJS is absolutely required.</li> <li>• Risk factors such as danger to self or others, out of control and history.</li> </ul>	
<p><b><i>Decision: Whether to place juvenile on Probation and commit juvenile to DHHS or OJS</i></b></p>	
<p>Formal Determining Factors a. No apparent authority for delinquent in the legal custody of parents/guardian</p>	<p>Informal Determining Factors a. Gives probation responsibility of supervision, but opens access to DHHS/OJS funds for treatment or rehabilitation</p>
<p>Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occasionally cases may be pled specifically one way - so that the juvenile/family will get needed services because they lack sufficient resources to pay for services.</li> <li>• Offices of DHHS and Department of OJS-DHHS need to communicate clear recommendations prior to placement to insure that limited state resources are adequately used.</li> <li>• The court is in constant need of reports and evaluations on juveniles under its</li> </ul>	

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jurisdiction. The rule of thumb being "what's in the best interest of the juvenile." Reports show associated agencies are most necessary and are invaluable to juvenile courts and judges. In order to best determine the proper plan for the juvenile. Agencies that provide that information can offer a valuable resource for input to the judges. With the large caseload and work of DHHS caseworkers they cannot always spend the amount of time they would like to prepare case support. They are carrying large caseloads!

See Also, State v. David C., 6 Neb. App. 198, 572 N.W.2d 392 (1997): [9] It is clear that the court intended to commit David to the YRTC without actually revoking his probation. We can find no statutory basis for this procedure. Section 43-286 provides for the possible dispositions that a court may make, including continuing [\*214] the disposition opinion of the hearing and (1) placing the juvenile on probation subject to the supervision of a probation officer (2) permitting the juvenile to remain in his or her [\*\*\*31] own home, subject to the supervision of the probation officer (3) placing the juvenile in a suitable home or institution or with the Department; or (4) committing him or her to OJS. Section 43-286 provides no authority for a court to place a juvenile on probation under the care of OJS. Section 43-286(4)(c) provides that if the court finds that the juvenile violated the terms of his or her probation, the court may modify the terms and conditions of the probation order, extend the period of probation, or enter "any order of disposition that could have been made at the time the original order of probation was entered, .. ." The court could not have originally entered an order providing for probation with commitment to YRTC, and it necessarily follows that the court could not enter such an order upon finding that the juvenile had violated the terms of his or her probation. The attempt to continue probation while committing David to a YRTC would also require a reversal of the order of April 30.

**SYSTEMPOINT: ADMINISTRATIVE SANCTIONS**

PARTY RESPONSIBLE: Probation

STATUTE REFERENCE: NRS § 29-2266

***Decision: Whether to impose administrative sanctions on a probationer***

<p>Formal Determining Factors (NRS § 29-2266 (2))</p> <p>a. Probation officers has reasonable cause to believe that probationer has committed or is about to commit a substance abuse violation or a non-criminal violation</p> <p>b. Substance abuse violation refers to a positive test for drug or alcohol use, failure to report for such a test, or failure to comply with substance abuse evaluations or treatment</p> <p>c. Non-criminal violation means:</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">I. Moving traffic violations;</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">II. Failure to report to his or her probation officer;</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">III. Leaving the jurisdiction of the court or leaving the state without the permission of the court or his or her</p>	<p>Informal Determining Factors</p> <p>Factors considered for cases eligible for an Administrative Sanction, prior to initiating an Administrative Sanction include, but are not limited to, the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Nature and seriousness of the violation.</li> <li>2. Past history of Administrative Sanctions files and reasons for sanctions.</li> <li>3. Offender's amenability to continued supervision and intervention.</li> <li>4. Offender's perceived danger or threat to himself, or the community.</li> </ol> <p>All violations of probation are staffed with the Chief Probation Officer or designee, prior to a decision being made. In the event a division is made to refer the matter</p>
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<p>probation officer;</p> <p>IV. Failure to work regularly or attend training school;</p> <p>V. Failure to notify his or her probation officers of change of address or employment;</p> <p>VI. Frequenting places where controlled substances are illegally sold, used, distributed, or administered;</p> <p>VII. Failure to perform community service as directed;</p> <p>VIII. Failure to pay fines, courts costs, restitution, or any fees imposed pursuant to section 29-2262.06.</p>	<p>for revocation proceedings, and Alleged Probation Violation report is submitted to the court, with a copy to the County Attorney. The County Attorney then makes the division as to whether to proceed or not with formal revocation proceedings. All cases involving a new criminal charge being filed are referred to the court and County Attorney for possible revocation proceedings.</p>
<p>Notes: No comments or additions</p>	

<p><b>SYSTEM POINT: MOTION TO REVOKE PROBATION</b></p> <p>PARTY RESPONSIBLE: County Attorney</p> <p>STATUTE REFERENCE: NRS § 43-286(4)(b)(i)</p>	
Formal Determining Factors	Informal Determining Factors
<p>Notes: No comments or additions</p>	

<p><b>SYSTEM POINT: MODIFICATION/REVOCAION OF PROBATION</b></p> <p>PARTY RESPONSIBLE: Juvenile Court Judge</p> <p>STATUTE REFERENCE: NRS § 43-286(4)(b)(v)</p>	
Formal Determining Factors	Informal Determining Factors
<p>Notes: No comments or additions</p>	

<p><b>SYSTEM POINT: SETTING ASIDE ADJUDICATION</b></p> <p>PARTY RESPONSIBLE: Juvenile Court Judge</p> <p>STATUTE REFERENCE: NRS § 43-2,104</p>	
<p><b><i>Decision: Whether juvenile has satisfactorily completed his or her probation and supervision or the treatment program of his or her commitment NRS § 43-2,102</i></b></p>	
<p>Formal Determining Factors (43-2,103)</p> <p>a. Juvenile's post-adjudication behavior and response to treatment and rehabilitation programs</p> <p>b. Whether setting aside adjudication will depreciate seriousness of juvenile's conduct or promote disrespect for law</p> <p>c. Whether failure to set aside adjudication</p>	<p>Informal Determining Factors</p>

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<p>may result in disabilities disproportionate to the conduct upon which the adjudication was based.</p>	
<p>Notes: No comments or additions</p>	
<p><b><i>Decision: Whether juvenile should be discharged from the custody and supervision of OJS</i></b></p>	
<p>Formal Determining Factors a. Presumably same as those for probation under NRS § 43-2, I 03</p>	<p>Informal Determining Factors</p>
<p>Notes: No comments or additions See Also, <i>In re Interest Tamantha S.</i>, 267 Neb. 78; 672 N.W.2d 24 (2003): it is clear under the language of § 43-408 that the committing court maintains jurisdiction over a juvenile committed to OJS, conducts review hearings every 6 months, and is to receive written notification of the placement and treatment status of juveniles committed to OJS at least every 6 months. See § 43-408(2) and (3). Thus, although the statute speaks of committed [**28] juveniles' being "discharged from [OJS]," § 43-408(2), the statute does not explicitly say that OJS discharges the juveniles, and, on the contrary, the Legislature has explicitly mandated that the committing court "continues to maintain jurisdiction" over a juvenile [***9] committed to OJS. [<i>d.</i> Therefore, while OJS may make an initial determination with regard to the advisability of the discharge of a juvenile committed to OJS, the committing court, as a result of its statutorily imposed continuing jurisdiction, must approve the discharge of the juvenile.</p>	

## **Other Community Assessment Tools**

### **Saline County Diversion Program Perspective<sup>1</sup>**

An outline of the process by which our County youth and their parents engage in the Saline County Diversion Program begins with the involved youth, or their parent(s), being referred to the program by the Saline County Attorney's office. On less frequent occasions, they have a community member or friend who has knowledge of the program contact our office directly rather than be referred through the County Attorney's office. When a youth or parent reaches out to us we discuss the prerequisites, requirements and their anticipated involvement unto completion of the diversion program with them. If they wish to proceed into their eligibility status for the program we then complete an application form with them. That form is then taken to the county attorney's office for review where eligibility is confirmed. The youth will then be notified of their acceptance or denial into the program.

It is at this point we will send a list of community service options to them, along with additional forms they will need to complete with the person overseeing their community service hours.

Once we have a class size of six or seven youths waiting to take the educational diversion class, we will set up the date and contact the guest speakers for the class. The class is typically held on a Saturday and both the youth and a parent (or guardian) must attend and participate together in the full day of class.

In the meantime, we have been contacting the youth and having them complete a pre-assessment survey that helps us know if they may need further or other services; i.e. in-depth substance abuse counseling. We do not currently use an assessment with the parents.

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<sup>1</sup> Saline County Diversion Program Coordinator(s) – [Leanne Manning](#) & [Anita Stougard](#)

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After the youth/parents have completed their entire day of educational classes, and have finished their community service hours, we provide them with a certificate of completion. Our office enters their information on the Nebraska Criminal Justice Information System. Records are kept of their diversion program participation for three years. We notify the county attorney's office of those who have successfully completed the program, and as a result, the youth do not present a conviction for this offense on their record.

Diversion Program Requirements for Entry into and Successful Completion of the Program:

1. Youth must still have been in high school or younger when offense was committed,
2. Youth must be ages 12-18,
3. Offense must be first time,
4. Must not have participated in another diversion program in another location,
5. Offense must not be a felony (anything less is considered for eligibility),
6. Youth and parents will attend one full day of educational sessions,
7. Youth and parent (preferably together) will complete 20 hours of community service (for a total of 40 hours of service).

In addition, a one-time, non-refundable fee of \$100 must be paid on the day of class. (This fee provides for time and training for the guest presenters, as well assist with salary & staff time for the program coordination).

The resulting value of the Saline County Diversion Program allows the involved youth and their parent(s) to learn from the mistakes made and prevent an otherwise single mistake from having an unwelcomed impact on the future of the youngster. In these qualified occurrences, youth can avoid travel through the juvenile justice system for their first-time offense.

Diversion can garner much benefit from enhancing the program further with additional support for a part-time position for Saline County Youth Diversion Program Coordinator.

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This position could help with informing local law enforcement, local schools, resource officers, local officials and the community of the importance and availability of the program. In addition, assistance can be offered to the program in conducting pre-diversion assessments with youth and parents to determine needs that might better be met by some other program (counseling, etc.).

Improvements or adjustments to the program would continue with the work of the current Saline County Youth Diversion Program Coordinator (correspondence with diversion participants, arranging educational classes, etc.) The Coordinator would envision having wider options, even if it entails referring diversion program participants to an adjoining County’s diversion program if found the wait for the next class is deemed too long.

**Saline County Diversion by the Numbers<sup>2</sup>**

<b>2012</b>
9 - Participants completed diversion program
2 - Failed to complete
<b>Heard about diversion through:</b>
4 - Friends or Family
1 - Other source
3 - Attorney, or County Attorney
1 - Judge
<i>Length of time from citation to completion of diversion – 10 months (May of 2011-March 2012)</i>

<b>2013</b>
27 - Participants completed diversion program
2 – Failed to complete
<b>Heard about diversion through:</b>
18 - Friends or Family
9 - Attorney, or County Attorney
<i>Length of time from citation to completion of diversion – 11 months (March 2012-February 2013)</i>

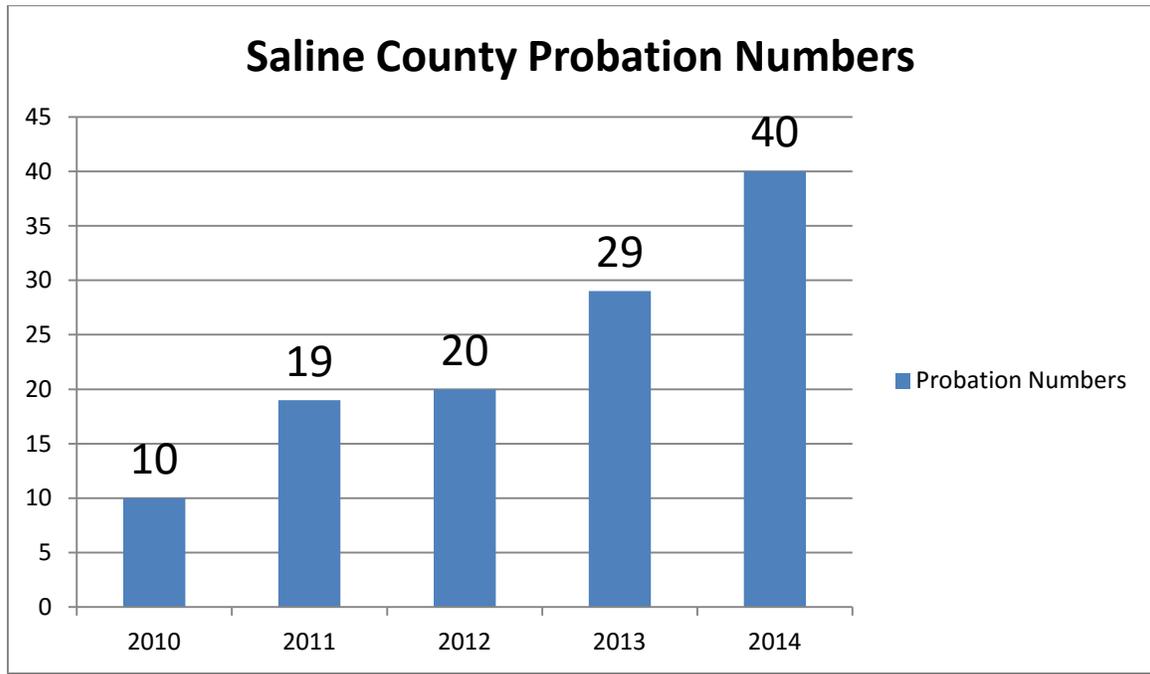
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<sup>2</sup> Ibid - Saline County Diversion Coordinator(s), Wilber, NE

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<b>2014</b>
68 - Juvenile cases placed on probation after 1-1-2014
5 - Participants completed diversion program
<b>Heard about diversion through:</b>
1- Friends or Family
4- Attorney, or County Attorney
<i>Length of time from citation to completion of diversion – 6 months (October 2013-April 2014)</i>

<b>2015</b>
21 - Juvenile cases placed on probation after 1-1-2015
55 - Juveniles currently active as of 10-13-2015
10 - Participants completed diversion (as of 10-19-2015)
3 – Failed to complete
7- Heard about diversion through friends or family
5- Attorney, or County Attorney
1- Police Officer
<i>Length of time from citation to completion of diversion – 8 months &amp; 4 months (May 2014 – January 2015, May 2015 – September 2015)</i>



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**Saline County Probation by the Numbers<sup>3</sup>**

Saline County Juveniles Placed on Probation – 2010 to 2015				
District	County	Court Type	Probation From Date Year	# of Probationers
1	Saline	Juvenile	2010	10
1	Saline	Juvenile	2011	19
1	Saline	Juvenile	2012	20
1	Saline	Juvenile	2013	29
1	Saline	Juvenile	2014	40
1	Saline	Juvenile	2015	12

**Saline County Probation – Offenses Resulting in Probation<sup>4</sup>**

Arson under \$100	2
Assault	24
Assault-threaten another menacing manner	1
Burglary	9
Careless Driving	2
Contribute to delinquency of child	3
Criminal mischief \$0 to \$200	9
Criminal mischief \$201 to \$499	4
Criminal mischief \$500 to \$1,500	3
Criminal mischief over \$1,500	2
Criminal trespass	4
Disturbing the Peace	52
Domestic Assault	1
DUI	1
False Reporting	4
Leave accident or fail to furnish information	2

<sup>3</sup> District #1 Probation Office - 201 N. 5th Street, Suite 1 Beatrice, NE 68310

<sup>4</sup> Ibid – Conviction Offenses leading to Probationary status from 2010 to 2015, YTD

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Minor in possession – 19/20	1
Minor in possession – under 19	15
Minor misrepresenting age to obtain liquor	1
Minor possess/sell/dispense/cons alcohol	7
No Operator’s license	4
Posses/consume open alcohol container	3
Possess child pornography under age 19	1
Possess firearm while commit felony	1
Possess K2 or marijuana 1oz or less	10
Possess or use drug paraphernalia	9
Procure/sell alcohol to minor	2
Sexual Assault	1
Terroristic Threats	1
Theft \$0 to \$200	4
Theft \$201 to \$499	1
Theft by receiving stolen property \$0 to \$200	1
Theft by receiving stolen property \$201 to \$499	1
Theft by shoplifting \$0 to \$200	22
Theft by shoplifting \$201 to \$499	1
Theft by unlawful taking \$0 to \$200	8
Theft by unlawful taking \$201 to \$499	1
Tobacco use by minor	1
Transfer firearm without certificate	1
Unauthorized application of graffiti	2
Unlawful possession of a handgun	2
Unlawful/intentional discharge of firearm	1
Willful reckless driving	1

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**Saline County Probation Perspective<sup>5</sup>**

Priority Areas identified by Probation Department:

1. Contracts for Saline County Detention Youth
2. Contracts for Saline County Detention ALTERNATIVES for Youth

Objective #1: Reduce the cost, manpower and resources utilized within Saline County when a youth is detained.

In support of this goal we offer the following:

- A. When a youth does require secure detention, the closest detention facility (Lancaster County Youth Services Center) has the discretion to accept or reject Saline County Youth. This is due to the lack of a Saline County Detention Contract. When Lancaster County rejects a Saline County youth, the local Police Department or Sheriff's Department is statutorily required to transport the youth to the closest available secure detention facility. Those being; Sarpy County in Papillion, Douglas County in Omaha, Northeast Nebraska Juvenile Services in Madison, Scotts Bluff County in Gering, Nebraska. What has now turned into a reasonable 1 hour round trip, could take an entire shift to cover. Often times the smaller entities (Friend and Wilber) have to call in additional staff or assistance from the Sheriff's Office to complete the transport.
- B. Further, for a first appearance on a new law violation, the Saline County Sheriff is responsible for transporting the youth to and from the court hearings. If a youth is placed in a facility, other than Lancaster, there is additional time, staffing and resources used to transport the youth to and from court. Given that Saline County court is not held daily, often times these transportation requirements are completed very last minute. Any detained youth (through the intake process) are required to have a detention hearing within 48 hours.
- C. If initially we are able to get a youth placed in the Lancaster County Facility, Lancaster is required to leave a set amount of contracted beds open exclusively for Lancaster County Youth. What has occurred in the past is that Probation will

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<sup>5</sup> Ibid - [Jennifer Manning](#) - District #1 Probation Office

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- get a phone call from Lancaster County stating that the Saline County youth has to be removed from their facility within hours, if not minutes. This creates a whirlwind of issues, including transportation costs to move the youth to another facility, court notification, and loss of visitation between the youth and the parent and notification to the Saline County Sheriff's office that the youth must be transported to and from court from a different location. The location is further away, costs the county more in mileage and more in man-power time.
- D. Saline County court does have the option of holding a detention hearing via a video system, called JABBER. As with the other mentioned barriers, Saline County non-contracted youth, do not get treated with priority. If the court has a JABBER hearing scheduled during shift change, while Lancaster County youth are at court or if there are not enough staff, this option is not made available to our Saline County youth. This then requires Saline County Sheriff to transport the youth to and from court.
- E. Currently when a youth is detained in Lancaster County, Saline County is charged \$200+ per day, straight out of county funds. (\*I have requested from Administration a copy of another out of county contract currently in tact with Lancaster\*)

Objective #2: Obtain a contract with an Evidence Based Practice Provider who will immediately provide Alternatives to Detention, 24/7.

We do not see any barriers here, as we already have a contract within District #1 (*Saline County included*) for Better Living Counseling Services to provide the following: Tracker, EM, Family Support, Intensive Family Preservation, Respite Care and Foster Care. Through the Request for Contracts they are locked into a maximum of a 2 hour response time, 24/7. Better Living has met that response time continuously. Saline County would be no exception as they have workers/supervisors and on call staff in Lincoln, Crete, Wilber, Beatrice, Seward, etc. The on call number has to be in effect 24/7 regardless if they are called out for an alternative to detention youth or an existing probation youth. There would be no additional cost I could foresee.

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In support of this goal we offer the following:

- A. Probation issues a non-monetary voucher for all services billed to the County. Probation would be able to monitor every dollar spent by the county, on what service and the duration of the service. Better Living is required to submit reports every 30 days on the goals, progress of the family and desired outcomes. Their reports look no different than if probation has paid for a service. As a registered service provider, Better Living is required to utilize Evidence Based Practices, which are measured and reviewed by probation staff for positive outcomes.
- B. IF ALTERNATIVES TO DETENTION WERE AVAILABLE, LAW ENFORCEMENT WOULD NOT BE REQUIRED TO TRANSPORT YOUTH TO AND FROM COURT, AS THEY REMAIN IN THE COMMUNITY.
- C. Research shows that detaining low risk youth can cause substantial damage and in fact educate them on becoming more criminalistic in thinking. Alternatives to detention empower the parents for being responsible for their children, allow children to remain in their homes, community and school system.

Probation is 100% in support of a more active Diversion Program within Saline County. Probation would like the funds to serve a dual purpose. Every 3 months, Probation would like to review the amount of funds utilized to meet the needs of the detention alternative population. If these available funds are less than projected, Probation would like to meet with Diversion and offer funds to their program for trackers, family support, etc. to get the Diversion population on the right path. Perhaps the diversion youth is having issues with transportation, needs to finish up community service hours, etc. Ideally, we would like to the funds funnel between the two entities to meet the needs of all youth involved. As a third alternative to ensure the funds are being utilized, Probation would like to access these funds for Pre-Adjudicated Youth. These are youth who have entered the court system through a juvenile petition filing, but are not yet adjudicated (found guilty) and a determination has not yet been made whether or not the youth will require ongoing oversight by the juvenile justice system. We have been able to prevent youth from diving further into the juvenile justice system by providing the youth and

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family services up front. Previously, that was done at all costs to probation. With new legislature, that cost is taxed to the county. Even more reason to have County dollars available to be accessed. By having quarterly staff meetings with diversion, we will enhance systematic communication, which is a common goal every Saline County entity has.

The ‘Continuum’ chart listed below helps to spell out the elements missing from our “ideal world” vs “how things are now” scenarios:

Juvenile Detention Alternatives Continuum – Saline County					
Straight Release	In Home Program Least Restrictive	In Home Program Most Restrictive	Out of Home Placement Least Restrictive	Out of Home Placement Most Restrictive	Possible Alternatives
No formal restrictions of freedom by PO	Random Calls made to youth’s home	Random Calls made to youth’s home plus:	Relative/Kinship Foster Care	Emergency Shelter	Our District does wish to utilize mobile crisis response unit/navigators once this service is available within our area.
Youth are to follow parent/guardian rules and expectations	Youth may have set curfew set by PO.	Tracker/EM services <b>OR</b>		Emergency Foster Care	
Empower parents by providing info to NE Help Line, Region Services, Families Inspiring Families, community resources, etc.	Permission needed from PO to leave home.	Family Support <b>OR</b> Intensive Family Preservation <b>OR</b>		Crisis Stabilization Center (Youth Links in Omaha or Cedars Shelter in Lincoln)	
PO will supervise based on NYS scores.	Youth may be required to meet with PO in the office weekly.	A combination of such services		Respite Care	
	Day/evening reporting/service center (Beatrice).				

The first two columns in the chart above are the ONLY options available to Probation currently, due to no detention alternatives funds or contracts. The other four columns to the right of the first two are what we would like to ideally see become available as Alternatives to Detention through the updated Plan. Anything from the title, "In-Home Program-Most Restrictive and further over" are NOT available currently. They are options available in neighboring counties. As a result, there are seen many great options

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that would prevent youth from being locked in a detention facility, often times answering the families call for help.

In ideal world, probation continues to support an enhanced diversion program, specifically through the active screening process, support of an assessment position (or additional hours for existing staff). This will allow probation to supervise the high risk youth and diversion would be addressing the needs of the lower risk youth. Probation acknowledges that Uncontrollable/Ungovernable youth, mentally ill youth and high risk youth pose different challenges than juveniles who are referred to diversion. Probation will continue to support and supervise the youth that are above and beyond what diversion can handle. For those low risk youth and truancy youth, the goal would be to reduce the number of filings, reduction of time and manpower involved by the County Attorney and the courts. Through enhanced diversion programming, we will be able to keep these filings out of the court system.

**Saline County 2014 CAN (Child Abuse and Neglect) Report<sup>6</sup>**

2014 CAN Reports by County – Saline County only in this chart																	
Incident County	Abuse/Neglect Calls	Reports Accepted for Assessment		Substantiated		Unfounded		Unable to Locate		Dependent Child		Alternative Response		DHHS Assessment in Progress		Law Enforcement in Process	
Saline	160	68	43%	14	21%	50	74%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	4	6%

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<sup>6</sup> State of Nebraska DHHS - [http://dhhs.ne.gov/children\\_family\\_services/Documents/2014CANReport.pdf](http://dhhs.ne.gov/children_family_services/Documents/2014CANReport.pdf)

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**Nebraska Crime Commission “Juvenile Arrest Data”<sup>7</sup>**

Data derived from Juvenile arrests in Saline County by year, offence and agency as of October 27, 2015.

Year VS Offense YEAR(s): 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 COUNTY: Saline AGE: JUVENILE (0-17 yrs.) Result Set: 507 records found						
Offense	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Total
Forcible Rape	0	1	0	0	0	1
Robbery	0	0	2	1	0	3
Aggravated Assault	3	3	1	1	0	8
Burglary	0	2	10	1	3	16
Larceny	12	13	12	7	18	62
Motor Vehicle Theft	0	0	1	0	0	1
Simple Assault	17	8	13	19	19	76
Arson	0	0	1	0	0	1
Fraud	1	0	0	0	0	1
Stolen Property	0	0	4	1	0	5
Vandalism	8	16	1	3	3	31
Weapons	0	0	0	1	0	1
Sex Offenses (except rape and prostitution)	1	0	1	1	0	3
Drug Abuse Violations	7	14	9	10	17	57
Driving Under the Influence	0	1	1	0	1	3
Liquor Laws	14	8	24	4	13	63
Disorderly Conduct	7	9	7	8	6	37
All Other Offenses (except traffic)	18	18	23	20	27	106
Runaway (Juvenile only)	1	2	9	7	13	32
<b>Totals</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>507</b>

<sup>7</sup> NE Crime Commission - [http://www.ncc.nebraska.gov/statistics/data\\_search/arrest/arrest\\_crosstab.phtml](http://www.ncc.nebraska.gov/statistics/data_search/arrest/arrest_crosstab.phtml)

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**Saline County Court Juvenile Case Load Data**<sup>8</sup>

Juvenile Cases Filed with the County Court of Saline County:	
2010	91
2011	91
2012	100
2013	125
2014	94

**Local Law Enforcement Perspective**<sup>9</sup>

With the developing economic climate, families in Saline County parallel profiles of other rural counties and communities in the US as a Whole. Community members, Service providers and juvenile justice officers both identified parenting as a primary concern for juvenile safety.<sup>10</sup> Multi-income families, parents working shifts and the increase in the number of single-parent households have resulted in a steady rise in the number of latch-key children and a growing amount of unsupervised time for youth. Parents were described as overwhelmed and challenged to deal with the rate of change in their community and society as a whole. Ironically, juvenile justice officers also identified home as the safest place for a youth to be.

One of the on-going and quickly paced changes seen in Saline County is the ethnic make-up of the county. Processing plants such as Purina-Nestle and Farmland are a significant draw for those seeking sustained employment. While the companies employ people from numerous ethnic and racial groups, many individuals commute from communities outside the county while Latinos and Hispanics have established themselves in Crete and other communities.

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<sup>8</sup> Saline County Court - PO Box 865 - Wilber, NE 68465

<sup>9</sup> [Steve Hensel](#), Chief of Police – Crete, NE

<sup>10</sup> Saline County Community survey data offered by the community during Planning Committee meetings related to the construction of this Comprehensive Plan. Full results w/comments: [nebraskatim@gmail.com](mailto:nebraskatim@gmail.com).

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## **Saline County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Community Plan 2015 – 2018**

Substance abuse is of a County-wide concern. Alcohol and marijuana are the most commonly abused substances. The abuse of prescription drugs and methamphetamine are also present in the community. Both alcohol and marijuana are readily available and their use, especially that of alcohol, is not considered a serious offense. However, the consequences of use are alarming. Some in the Juvenile Justice system felt that the use of marijuana was almost as commonly used as alcohol. The higher levels of marijuana use may be due to relatively lenient punishments for possession and a greater difficulty to determine impairment. As the severity in punishment increases under state law, a spike in marijuana-related prosecutions is possible over the next several years.

The limited number of social events within the county<sup>11</sup> also results in youth traveling to near-by communities. Lincoln is a common destination and both probation officers and school counselors indicated that among youth involved in the juvenile justice system, it is likely that the individual has also participated in delinquent behavior outside of the county. While based on anecdotal evidence, this observation may indicate that the rate of delinquency among Saline County youth is under-reported. Likewise, if youth are traveling distances while consuming controlled substances, they are at even greater risk of injury or death.

Further complicating the use of alcohol by juveniles is an apparent permissive attitude on part of some adults. Juvenile justice officers indicated that events such as street dances, wedding receptions, and musical events were common venues for youth publically consuming alcohol.

Related to substance abuse, youth violence was also a concern in the community. Violence is generally broken down into two categories: gang activity and delinquency.

Delinquency is generally defined as fights at parties; fights between rival schools or communities; or other social disagreements such as those over boyfriends or girlfriends.

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<sup>11</sup> See page 31-32

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Gang activity was further broke down into organized and unorganized gangs.

Unorganized gangs (usually referred in more general terms) are groups of friends or schoolmates who usually socialize together but who lack formal organization or ties outside of the immediate community. Violence among these cliques is generally limited to physical conflict between rival schools and communities and occurs outside of school hours. Sometimes tolerated in the community as youthful exuberance, this appears to be the most prevalent form of youth violence.

Organized gangs have defined leadership and relationships with groups outside the community. In Saline County these relationships seem to be to groups in Lincoln and Omaha with the speculation of relationships to gangs outside the state. Violence has presented itself primarily through graffiti, theft and other property crimes. Both school and juvenile justice officers indicated that a significant portion of the perceived gang activity was the result of "wannabes", or youth taking on a gang persona.

This latter group is seen to be as significant a threat to the community as organized groups. These individuals are not integrated into the organized gangs and lack the gang's internal discipline and have been known to provoke other groups in their attempt to mimic the organized gangs.

As with many communities, those in Saline County have expressed a sense of urgency in addressing the problems facing youth in their community. Strong support, educational and juvenile justice programs have been established. However there are areas for improvements. Several underlying themes expressed during the interview process provide indicators for continued work in enhancing juvenile services as well as planning for other social service and community programs.

While not always articulated per se, youth participation in youth programming can be improved. In the case of some youth centers and programming, activities described as unsustainable because they lacked buy-in from the youth in the community. This sense was also expressed in describing the youth as uninterested in organized activities.

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## **Saline County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Community Plan 2015 – 2018**

It was also frequently observed that there was a lack of manpower and resources to adequately carry out programming.

While valid, these observations are counter-balanced in several ways. Both personal interviews and questionnaires created opportunities to describe the resources that the youth bring to the community. However, only two comments were made and one of those saw the youth as passive participants. The absence of direct input by youth is also a limitation of this process. There are various legal, ethical, safety and practical reasons limiting and complicating youth participation. To ensure success, we will seek greater youth input needing to be incorporated in the execution and future updating of this Plan.

Saline County law enforcement agencies (*including the Nebraska State Patrol*) made 1,749 juvenile arrests from 2000 to 2014. For the purposes of comparison, these agencies arrested 7,582 adults during the same period.<sup>12</sup>

### **Local Drug & Alcohol Prevention Coalition Perspective**<sup>13</sup>

Saline County uses what is referred to as a "Universal prevention approach" which includes the use of environmental prevention strategies, which are tailored to our local community characteristic and addresses the root causes of risky behaviors by creating environments that make it easier to act in healthy ways. The successful execution of these strategies often involves many stakeholders; lawmakers, local officials, and community leaders, as well as the acceptance and active involvement of members from various other sectors of the community (such as business, faith, schools, and health). We take the approach that the use of this type of strategy, in the long haul, leads to fewer places for young people to purchase alcohol, so consuming alcohol becomes less convenient; therefore, less is consumed.

Our Community "C/URB" Coalition is increasingly used as a vehicle to foster improvements in community health. Along with other surrounding County coalitions, we

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<sup>12</sup> NE Crime Commission - [http://www.ncc.nebraska.gov/statistics/data\\_search/arrest/arrest\\_crosstab.phtml](http://www.ncc.nebraska.gov/statistics/data_search/arrest/arrest_crosstab.phtml)

<sup>13</sup> Saline County C/URB Coalition – [Tim McDermott](#), Chairperson

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are traditionally defined as “a group of individuals representing diverse organizations, factions or constituencies who agree to work together to achieve a common goal.” A Community coalition differs from other types of coalitions in that they include professional and grassroots members committed to work together to influence long-term health and welfare practices in their community. Additionally, given our ability to leverage existing resources in the community and convene diverse organizations, our Coalition can note a type of collaboration that is considered to be sustainable over time.

The federal government has increasingly used community coalitions as a programmatic approach to address emerging community health issues. As a diverse organization we can form an alliance in order to pursue a common goal. The activities of our Coalition include outreach, education, prevention, information dissemination, capacity building, empowerment, community action, and systems change. The presumption is that successful community coalitions are able to identify new resources to continue their activities and sustain their impact in the community over time - and learn from other Coalitions collectively along the way. This following section highlights one of the Coalitions’ primary tools in which to focus activities and objectives:

**Saline County Nebraska 2014 Risk and Protective Factor Student Survey Data**<sup>14</sup>

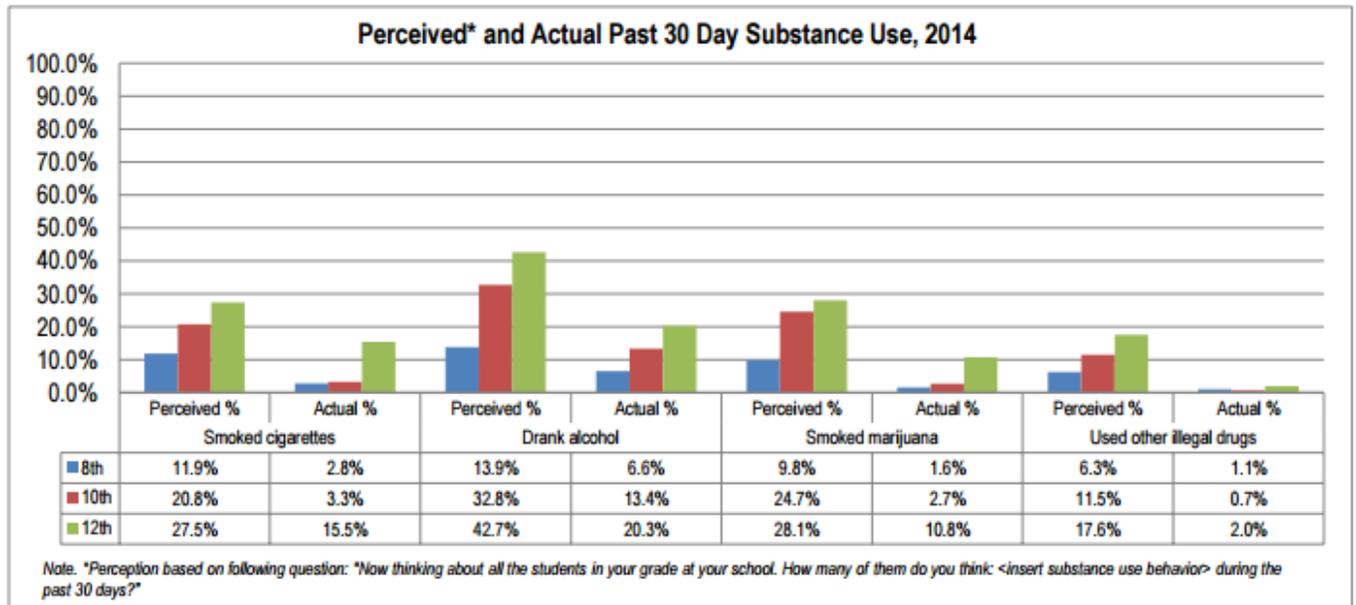
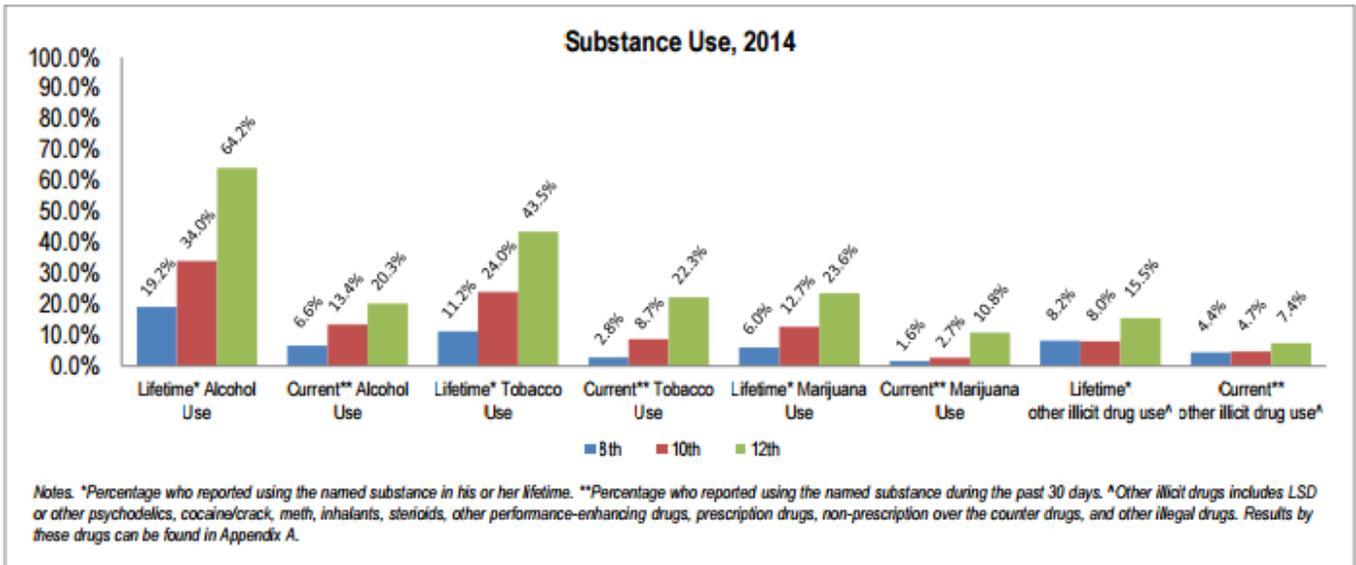
The NRPFS targets Nebraska students in grades 8, 10, and 12 with a goal of providing schools and communities with local-level data. As a result, the NRPFS is implemented as a census survey, meaning that every public and non-public school with an eligible grade can choose to participate. The survey is designed to assess adolescent substance use, delinquent behavior, and many of the risk and protective factors that predict adolescent problem behaviors. The Nebraska survey is adapted from a national, scientifically validated survey and contains information on the risk and protective factors that are locally actionable. These risk and protective factors are also highly correlated with substance abuse as well as delinquency, teen pregnancy, school dropout, and

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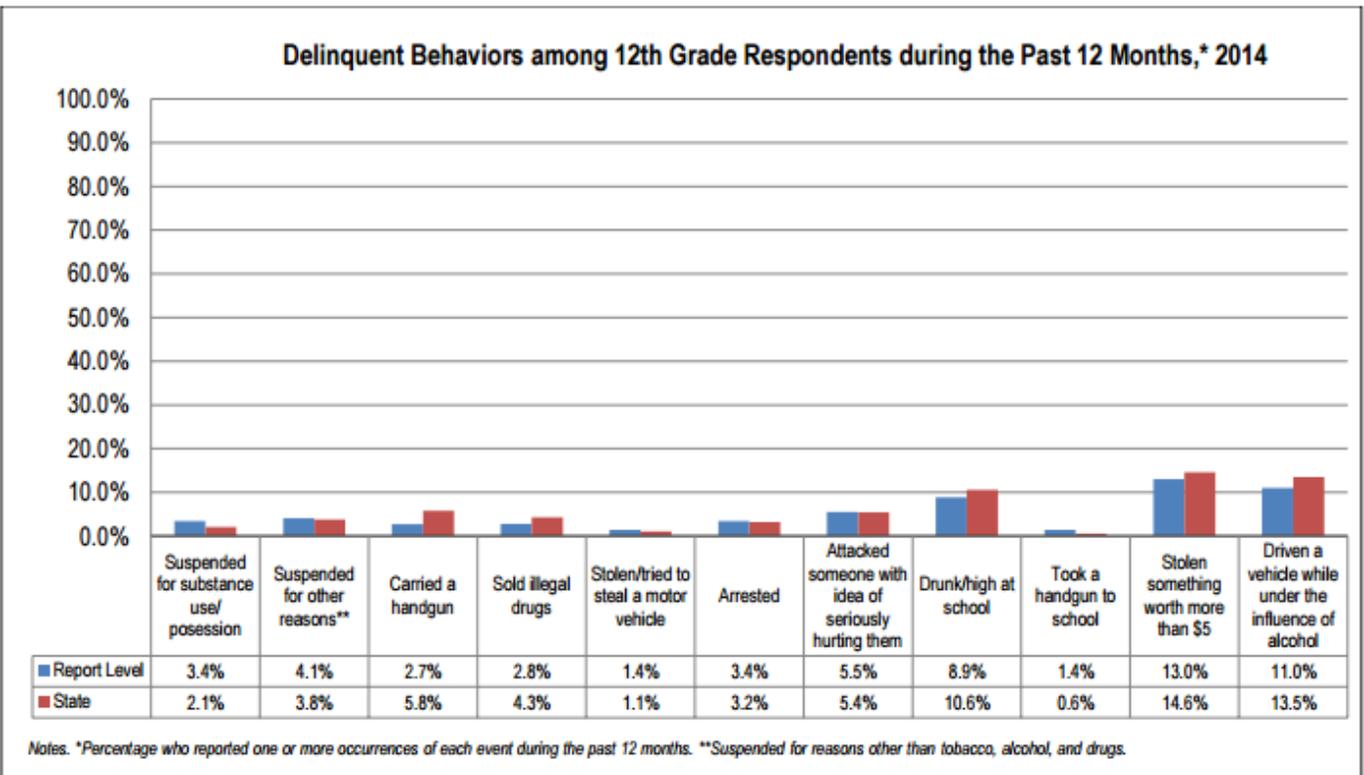
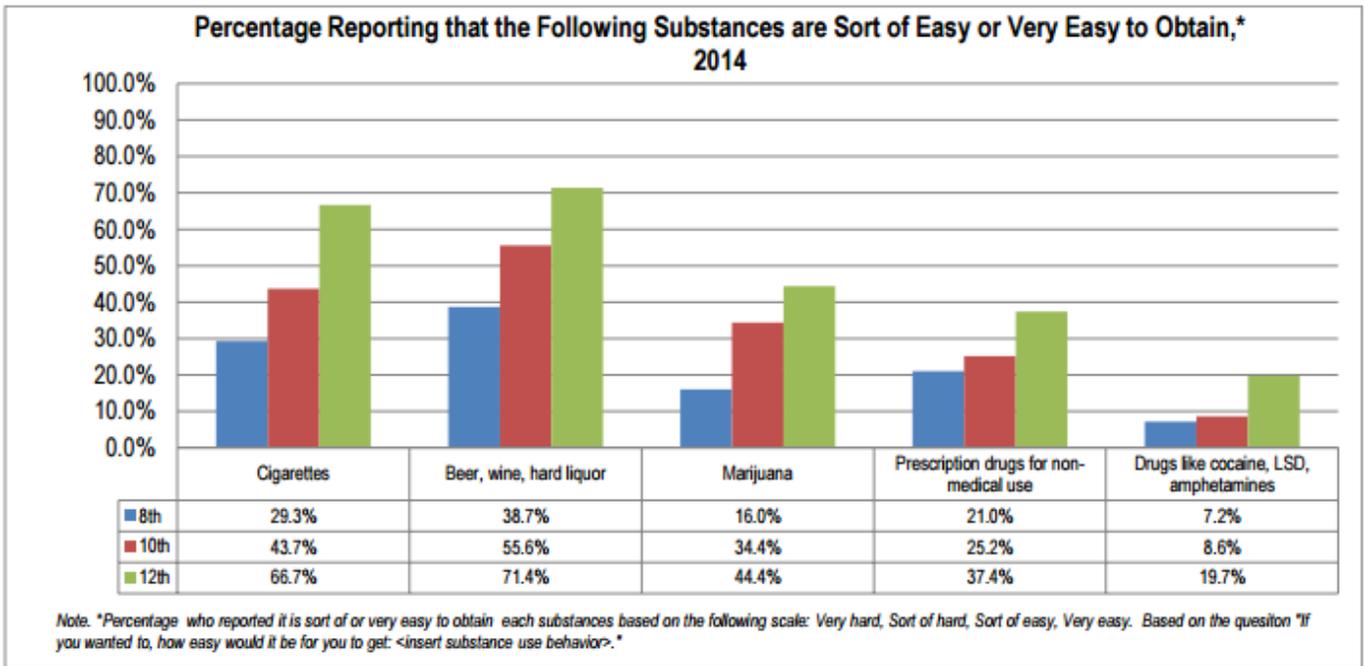
<sup>14</sup> Saline County NRPFS 2014 Results - [http://www.countycurb.org/files/NRPFS\\_2014\\_Saline\\_County.pdf](http://www.countycurb.org/files/NRPFS_2014_Saline_County.pdf)

## Saline County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Community Plan 2015 – 2018

violence. Along with other locally attainable sources of information, the information from the NRPFSS can aid schools and our community group in planning and implementing local prevention initiatives to improve the health and academic performance of their youth. The following are excerpts from the full 2014 NRPFSS Report:



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SHARP | NRPFS 2014

## APPENDIX A: Trend Data

Outcomes	Definition	Grade 8						Grade 10						Grade 12					
		2003	2005	2007	2010	2012	2014	2003	2005	2007	2010	2012	2014	2003	2005	2007	2010	2012	2014
Lifetime Substance Use	Alcohol	50.0%	NA	49.7%	26.2%	23.7%	19.2%	47.1%	NA	73.2%	54.2%	41.5%	34.0%	77.8%	NA	83.7%	71.3%	68.6%	54.2%
	Cigarettes	11.1%	NA	24.1%	14.9%	7.2%	11.1%	35.3%	NA	34.8%	30.8%	17.4%	16.0%	66.7%	NA	51.9%	51.9%	39.2%	34.5%
	Smokeless tobacco	11.1%	NA	9.0%	5.0%	2.7%	3.4%	23.5%	NA	12.8%	17.5%	5.9%	14.7%	55.6%	NA	21.1%	29.6%	35.3%	20.5%
	Marijuana <sup>1</sup>	0.0%	NA	9.2%	4.1%	3.3%	6.0%	17.6%	NA	21.3%	20.2%	12.5%	12.7%	22.2%	NA	28.9%	36.1%	21.6%	23.6%
	LSD/other psychedelics	0.0%	NA	2.6%	0.8%	0.7%	0.0%	5.9%	NA	1.5%	3.3%	0.7%	0.7%	0.0%	NA	5.3%	3.7%	0.0%	4.1%
	Cocaine/crack	0.0%	NA	3.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.5%	5.9%	NA	3.6%	3.3%	1.5%	0.0%	0.0%	NA	4.5%	5.6%	2.0%	2.0%
	Meth <sup>2</sup>	0.0%	NA	2.6%	0.0%	1.3%	0.5%	0.0%	NA	0.7%	1.7%	0.7%	1.3%	0.0%	NA	3.7%	2.8%	0.0%	3.4%
	Inhalants	11.1%	NA	17.9%	4.1%	7.9%	4.4%	0.0%	NA	14.7%	8.4%	1.5%	3.3%	0.0%	NA	12.6%	5.6%	2.0%	4.7%
	Steroids	NA	NA	2.0%	0.0%	0.7%	1.1%	NA	NA	2.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	NA	NA	0.7%	0.9%	0.0%	0.0%
	Other performance-enhancing drugs	NA	NA	3.3%	0.8%	0.7%	1.1%	NA	NA	11.0%	1.7%	0.7%	2.0%	NA	NA	11.9%	14.8%	3.9%	5.4%
	Prescription drugs <sup>3</sup>	NA	NA	10.0%	0.8%	0.7%	1.1%	NA	NA	11.0%	8.3%	3.7%	2.7%	NA	NA	11.2%	11.1%	10.0%	5.4%
	Non-prescription drugs <sup>4</sup>	NA	NA	5.9%	0.8%	1.3%	2.7%	NA	NA	5.9%	10.0%	2.2%	2.0%	NA	NA	5.2%	5.6%	3.9%	6.1%
	Other illegal drugs	5.6%	NA	4.6%	0.8%	0.7%	1.1%	17.6%	NA	8.1%	5.7%	4.4%	2.7%	16.7%	NA	9.0%	14.0%	5.9%	6.1%
Past 30 Day Substance Use	Alcohol	33.3%	NA	13.9%	6.6%	5.3%	6.6%	23.5%	NA	29.4%	17.5%	19.9%	13.4%	38.9%	NA	36.3%	38.0%	43.1%	20.3%
	Cigarettes	0.0%	NA	11.7%	4.1%	0.7%	2.8%	17.6%	NA	19.7%	14.2%	5.1%	3.3%	33.3%	NA	28.6%	20.4%	25.5%	15.5%
	Smokeless tobacco	5.6%	NA	3.4%	0.8%	0.7%	0.6%	11.8%	NA	10.6%	5.8%	3.6%	8.0%	16.7%	NA	11.3%	12.0%	21.6%	12.8%
	Marijuana <sup>1</sup>	0.0%	NA	3.3%	1.6%	0.7%	1.6%	11.8%	NA	13.2%	9.2%	4.4%	2.7%	5.6%	NA	17.3%	10.3%	7.8%	10.8%
	LSD/other psychedelics	0.0%	NA	0.7%	0.0%	0.7%	0.0%	0.0%	NA	0.7%	0.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	NA	0.8%	0.9%	0.0%	0.0%
	Cocaine/crack	0.0%	NA	1.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	5.9%	NA	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	NA	0.7%	2.8%	0.0%	0.0%
	Meth <sup>2</sup>	0.0%	NA	1.3%	0.0%	0.7%	0.0%	0.0%	NA	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	NA	0.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	Inhalants	0.0%	NA	8.0%	0.8%	2.6%	3.3%	0.0%	NA	3.7%	2.5%	0.7%	1.3%	0.0%	NA	5.9%	0.9%	2.0%	0.0%
	Steroids	NA	NA	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	NA	NA	1.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	NA	NA	0.7%	0.9%	0.0%	0.0%
	Other performance-enhancing drugs	NA	NA	2.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	NA	NA	6.7%	1.7%	0.7%	1.3%	NA	NA	7.5%	8.3%	2.0%	3.4%
	Prescription drugs <sup>3</sup>	NA	NA	4.7%	0.8%	0.0%	0.0%	NA	NA	5.9%	3.3%	1.5%	1.3%	NA	NA	4.5%	5.6%	2.0%	1.4%
	Non-prescription drugs <sup>4</sup>	NA	NA	1.3%	0.0%	0.7%	1.1%	NA	NA	2.2%	2.5%	1.5%	1.3%	NA	NA	1.5%	2.8%	0.0%	1.4%
	Other illegal drugs	0.0%	NA	0.7%	0.0%	0.0%	1.1%	11.8%	NA	3.7%	1.7%	0.7%	0.7%	5.6%	NA	3.8%	2.8%	0.0%	2.0%

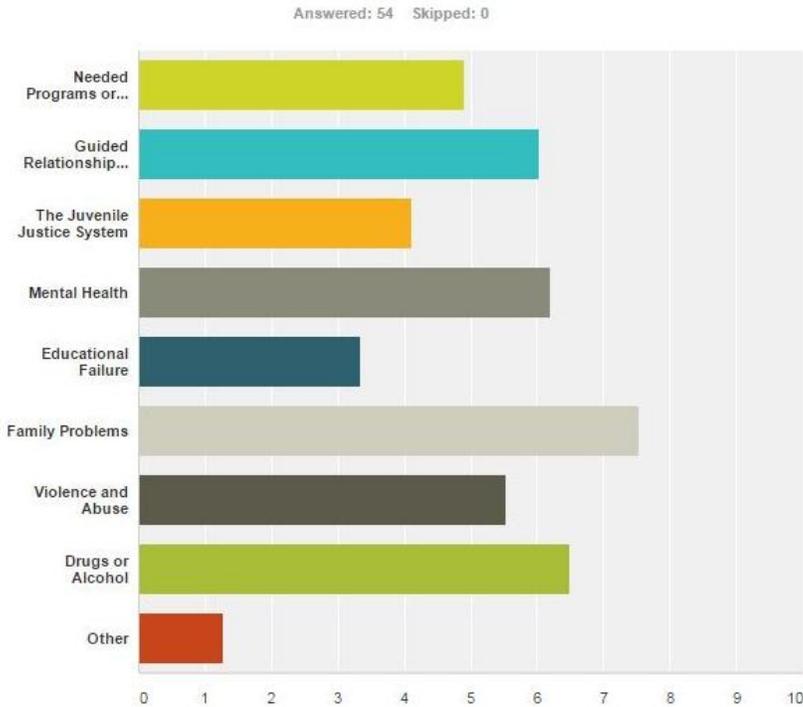
At the present time, the Student Health and Risk Prevention (SHARP) Surveillance System contains the only school-based student health surveys in Nebraska endorsed by both the Nebraska Department of Education and the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. Of the three surveys administered under SHARP, the Nebraska Risk and Protective Factor Student Survey (NRPFS) is the only survey that generates school- and community-level results. Data from the NRPFS can be used to help schools and communities assess current conditions and identify and prioritize local prevention issues. The risk and protective factor profiles provided by this survey reflect underlying conditions that can be addressed through specific types of interventions proven to be effective in either reducing risk or enhancing protection.

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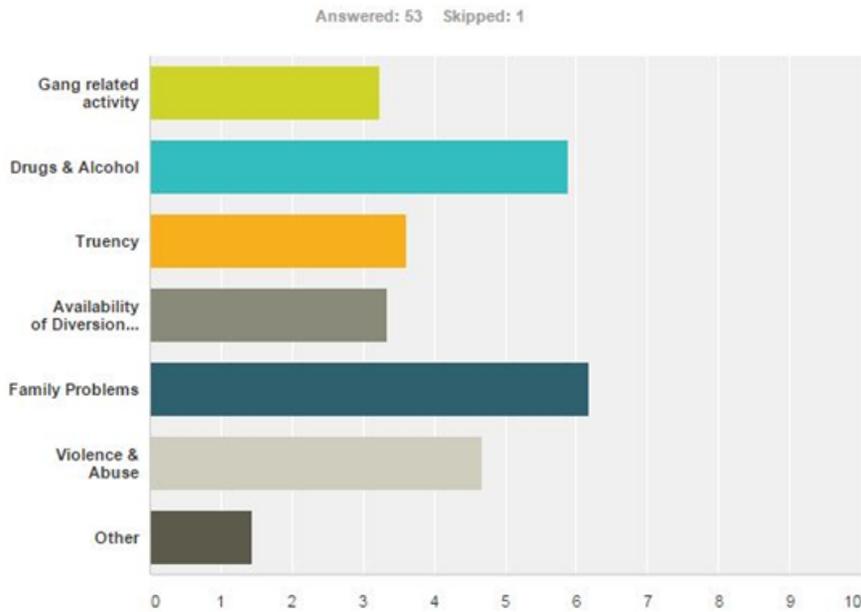
## Saline County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Community Plan 2015 – 2018

### Saline County Community Based Questionnaire Results<sup>15</sup>

If you were to rank the order in which you feel most reflects the challenges facing the “youth” of Saline County, they would be prioritize in this order:



If you were to rank that which you see are the biggest challenges facing the “Juvenile Justice System” in Saline County, they would be prioritized in this order:



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<sup>15</sup> Saline County survey data offered by area stakeholders during Planning Committee meetings related to the construction of this Comprehensive Plan. Full results w/comments: [nebraskatim@gmail.com](mailto:nebraskatim@gmail.com).

**Section IV**

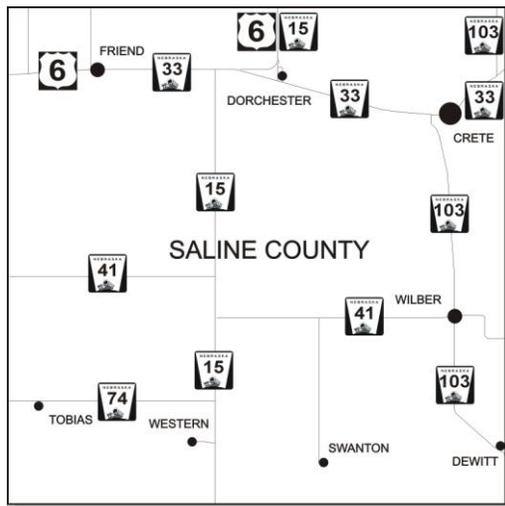
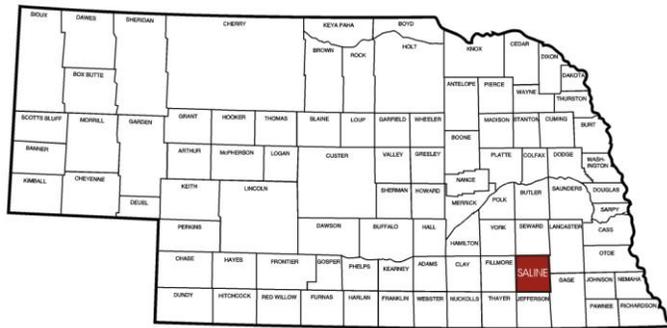
**Community Socio-Economics**

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# Saline County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Community Plan 2015 – 2018

## Geography

Saline County spans 574 square miles in southeast Nebraska and consists largely of rural farms, one city of the first-class, two cities of the second class and five villages.



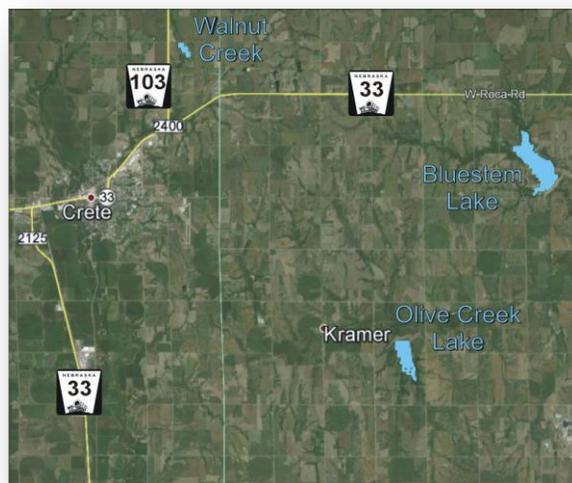
## Main Transportation Routes

U.S. Highway 6 transits Nebraska and passes through Saline County. Nebraska Highway 15 is an important north-south route connecting Saline County to the Cities of Seward and Fairbury. In addition to these, Nebraska Highways 103 and 33 connect Saline County to the metropolitan area of Lincoln to the Northeast.

## Historical and Natural Attractions

### Lakes & Recreation Areas

There are an exceptional number of lakes and public recreation areas readily accessible to the people of Saline County. Among these are: Blue River State Recreation Area (SRA), Bluestem SRA, Olive Creek SRA, Walnut Creek Reservoir, and Willard Meyer Lake.



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## Saline County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Community Plan 2015 – 2018

### First Settlers

Saline County’s first settlers homesteaded along the bank of the Big Blue River in what is now the City of Crete. Today, the original home of these pioneers is called “The Maples” and is part of the expansive Benne Museum complex which offers Saline County’s youth an opportunity to experience life on the Prairie as it was in the late nineteenth century.



### A Growing and Ever Changing Population

Saline County is located in Southeast Nebraska and had a total population of 14,200<sup>16</sup> in 2010. Crete, the County’s largest city, had a population of 6,960 (49%) and has been identified as one of Nebraska’s fastest growing communities. The County’s second largest city, Wilber, had a population of 1,855 (13%) and Friend, the County’s third largest city, had a population of 1,027(7%).<sup>17</sup> The remaining villages and rural areas comprised a population of 4,358 (31%).

### Fastest growing Nebraska cities by percentage

Cities*	Population 2010	Population 2000	Change 2000 to 2010	Percent of change
Gretna	4,441	2,355	2,086	89%
Terrytown	1,198	646	552	85%
Waterloo	848	459	389	85%
Bennington	1,458	937	521	56%
Hickman	1,657	1,084	573	53%
Peru	865	569	296	52%
La Vista	15,758	11,699	4,059	35%
Waverly	3,277	2,448	829	34%
Bennet	719	570	149	26%
Adams	573	489	84	17%
Hershey	665	572	93	16%
Schuyler	6,211	5,371	840	16%
Papillion	18,894	16,363	2,531	15%
Crete	6,960	6,028	932	15%

\* Cities larger than 500 people in 2010

Source: 2010 U.S. Census

<sup>16</sup> Saline County U.S. Census Quick Facts <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/31/31151.html>

<sup>17</sup> U.S. Census Estimates 2012 [http://www.census.gov/popest/data/cities/totals/2012/files/SUB-EST2012\\_31.csv](http://www.census.gov/popest/data/cities/totals/2012/files/SUB-EST2012_31.csv)

**Saline County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Community Plan  
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Saline County continued to grow through 2014. The U.S. Census Bureau estimated that the County’s population was 14,252. Crete: 7,174 (49%); Wilber: 1,897(13%); Friend: 1,040(7%); DeWitt: 520(4%); Dorchester: 594(4%); Swanton: 96(<1%); Tobias: 108(<1%); and Western: 240(2%). Rural areas comprised the remaining population of 2,888 (20%).

**Ethnic Diversity**

Crete, Saline County’s largest city, has seen significant ethnic changes. In 2000, Crete’s Hispanic population was 14%. In 2010, the Hispanic population comprised 36% of the community.

**Cities with greatest percentage Hispanic population**

Cities*	Overall 2010 Population	2010 Hispanic population	Percent 2010	Percent 2000
Schuyler	6,211	4,060	65%	45%
Lexington	10,230	6,183	60%	51%
Madison	2,438	1,189	49%	34%
S Sioux City	13,353	6,047	45%	25%
Terrytown	1,198	505	42.2%	44%
Crete	6,960	2,484	36%	14%
Wakefield	1,451	488	33.6%	17%
Gibbon	1,833	593	32.4%	21%
Dakota City	1,919	562	29%	20%
Scottsbluff	15,039	4,371	29%	24%

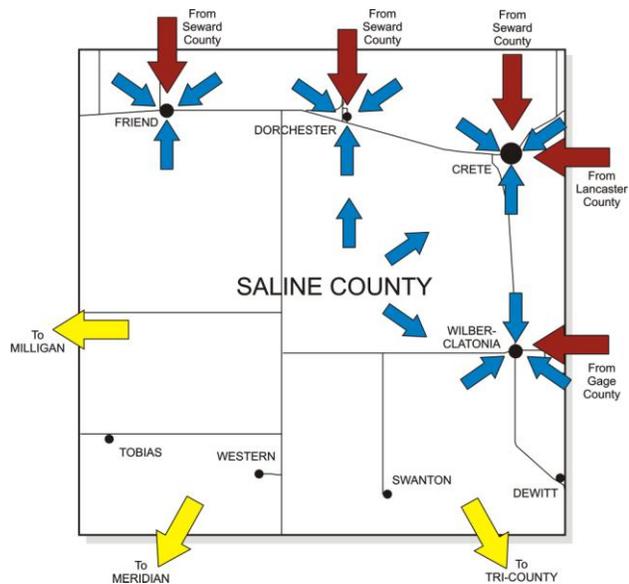
\* Cities larger than 1,000 people in 2010  
Source: 2010 U.S. Census

**2014 Juvenile Population Estimates**<sup>18</sup>

	Saline County	Nebraska
Persons under 5 years (983)	6.9%	6.9%
Persons under 18 years (3,449)	24.2%	24.8%

**Shifting Juvenile Populations**

Juvenile populations shift on school days. Several schools within the County receive students from adjacent counties. As of October, 2015, Crete sees 205 students from neighboring counties; Friend: 30+ Dorchester 5+; Wilber-Clatonia can see as many as 30-40% arriving from a neighboring county. Many children residing in the southern and western areas of Saline County leave the county to attend school in Meridian, Milligan and Tri-County.



<sup>18</sup> Saline County U.S. Census Quick Facts <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/31/31151.html>

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**Language:**<sup>19</sup> Many languages other than English are spoken in Saline County; the most notably is Spanish. However, Vietnamese, Laotian, Nuer, Dinka, Russian, and other Central American languages are also spoken.

	<u>Saline County</u>	<u>Nebraska</u>
Language other than English spoken at home, percent of persons age 5+, 2008-2013	20.5%	10.5%

**Economy:**<sup>20</sup> Saline County's economy is a mixture of agriculture, industry, social services and local commercial businesses.

Major Industrial and Commercial Employers:

- Farmland Foods
- Nestle Purina
- Bunge Milling
- Doane College
- Crete Area Medical Center
- Dorchester Farmer's Cooperative
- Sack Lumber

Economic Development:

- Saline County and each individual governmental subdivision are dues paying members of the Southeast Nebraska Development District<sup>21</sup>. SENDD is a voluntary association of counties and municipalities formed under the Nebraska Interlocal Cooperation Act to identify common problems, their solutions and to provide continuing support for efficient and effective government among its members.

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<sup>19</sup> Ibid.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid.

<sup>21</sup> Southeast Nebraska Development District – <http://www.sendd.org/>

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**Saline County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Community Plan  
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- Business Retention and Expansion (BRE): Crete has selected a start point for economic growth. This includes catering to large employers and small businesses, monitoring the well-being of the business community, tend to business needs and determine local incentives for public funding. Crete has also incorporated an Economic Developer position as a budgetary resource.
- Quality of Life Enhancements: Saline County also offers Quality of Life Enhancements to improve the living conditions of people with health issues, mental health challenges and aging services, where in particular - the disabled and elderly have resources and assistance to help them further enjoy a more independent life.

Median income and Poverty:

	<u>Saline County</u>	<u>Nebraska</u>
• Median household income 2009-2013	\$44,109	\$51,672
• Persons below poverty level 2009-2013	16.8%	12.8%
• Per capita income in past 12 months (in 2013 dollars), 2009-2013	\$20,407	\$26,899

Civilian Labor Force:

	<u>Saline County</u>	<u>Nebraska</u>
• In civilian labor force, total, percent of population age 16 years+, 2009-2013	63.9%	70.3%

Health:

	<u>Saline County</u>	<u>Nebraska</u>
• Persons without health insurance, under age 65 years, percent	16.1%	11.2%

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**Educational Opportunities:**

Primary and Secondary Education: There are four public school systems located in the county providing a primary and secondary education to 2,891 students. There are also two private schools which offer primary education to 85 students. School Enrollment (As of May 29, 2015):<sup>22</sup>

		PrK	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total
Crete	Elem	187	127	133	111	151	132	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	841
	Middle	0	0	0	0	0	0	107	110	131	144	0	0	0	0	492
	High	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	145	131	113	130	519
Dorchester	Elem	3	14	11	20	19	11	13	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	104
	High	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	12	11	14	13	14	78
Friend	Elem	40	22	15	15	18	14	11	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	126
	High	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	15	23	23	22	29	126
Wilber	Elem	32	41	46	43	49	30	42	44	0	0	0	0	0	0	327
	High	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	45	45	39	37	42	45	253
Private	St James Elem	17	7	9	13	19	11	7	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	82
	Zion Luth. Elem	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
SALINE COUNTY		279	213	215	202	247	198	180	191	204	216	218	205	190	218	2,976

Higher Education: Saline County is also served by Doane College/University. Founded in 1872, Doane is Nebraska’s first liberal arts and sciences college. Now situated within the corporate limits of the City of Crete,



<sup>22</sup> Nebraska Department of Education 2013-2014 County Membership by Grade (May 29, 2015)  
[http://www.education.ne.gov/dataservices/PDF/CountyMembershipByGrade\\_20142015.pdf](http://www.education.ne.gov/dataservices/PDF/CountyMembershipByGrade_20142015.pdf)

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Doane shares a common history and strong ties with the City and the County. There are other higher education opportunities in the vicinity of Saline County. Southeast Community College offers associate degrees at campuses in Beatrice, Milford and Lincoln. The University of Nebraska-Lincoln offers bachelors and advanced degrees in both sciences and the liberal arts. Also located in Lincoln are Nebraska Wesleyan (liberal arts), Union College (health related programs) and Bryan College of Health Services (health related programs).

Diplomas & Degrees.<sup>23</sup>

	Saline County	Nebraska
High school graduate or higher, percent of persons age 25+, 2009-2013	83.4%	90.5%
Bachelor's degree or higher, percent of persons age 25+, 2009-2013	15.1%	28.5%

**Youth Activities:**

School: Saline County schools offer a wide variety of activities for our youth.

- Clubs: FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America), FFA (Future Farmers of America), Robotics Club, Student Councils, Teammates, Choir, Band, Pep Clubs, Art, etc.
- Sports: Football, Basketball, Volleyball, Softball, Soccer, Baseball, Track & Field, Wrestling, Golf, Tennis, Cross Country, etc.

School activities are a main source of recreation for the majority of Saline County students. In addition to school activities, young people can also attend movies; participate in church activities, hunt and fish, and take part in extramural sports. Saline County has numerous NRD dams and structures built in the Swan Creek Watershed. Two structures are designated as public use. During the summer months, Saline County hosts a national Czech festival which involves much community participation. In addition,

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<sup>23</sup> Ibid.

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**Saline County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Community Plan  
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several other smaller communities throughout the County have annual heritage events in celebration of their historical heritage provided to the State of Nebraska. Crete itself has found several new ways to inject fun and recreation for entire families in regards to the newly enacted “Pumpkin Festival” planned to be held each year in October. Crete held its first annual Great Pumpkin Festival in 2015.”

**Parks and Recreation Programs and Facilities:**

Each community in Saline County has their desired recreational spots suitable to their constituency. It is apparent the larger the community the more opportunities are presented and enjoyed through that which can be affordably offered.

- The City of Crete has a Park and Recreation program sponsoring youth sports activities such as: soccer, T-ball, volleyball, flag football, basketball, and swimming. A pool, tennis courts, camping grounds, baseball fields, and several parks are available for public use.
- The City of Wilber has a pool; tennis courts; sand volleyball courts; summer softball, soccer and football leagues, and a wrestling club.
- The City of Friend has a swimming pool, tennis courts, volleyball courts, and softball fields.
- The Village of DeWitt has City parks, ball fields, picnic shelters, sand volleyball court, tennis court and a swimming pool.
- The Village of Dorchester has a baseball and softball field and City park.
- The Village of Swanton has its own City Park.
- The Village of Western has its City Park, campground, and sand volleyball.

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## Saline County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Community Plan 2015 – 2018



### **Libraries:**

Several libraries are available to the people of Saline County: Crete Public Library, Dvoracek Memorial Library (Wilber), Dorchester Library, Gilbert Library (Friend), DeWitt Public Library, Struckman-Baatz Library (Western), and the Perkins Library (Doane College, Crete).

### **Community-based Events and Activities:**

- Czech Days: Wilber, the Saline County Seat, became the official Czech Capital of the United States on July 10, 1987 by Presidential decree. Each summer, Wilber hosts the Czech Days festival which highlights the city's Czech heritage. Thousands of people travel from across the County to join the celebration.
- Saline County Fair: The Saline County Fair is held in Tuxedo Park in Crete during the later summer. Activities include: a parade through Crete; tractor pulling; ATV driving contest; talent show; figure 8 car races; concerts/dances; carnival; fair entries, judging, etc.
- Old Settlers' Picnic: This event celebrates and honors the lives and triumphs of Nebraska's early pioneers and is held in the Village of Western. There is a parade, a picnic, heritage costumes, family fun with bouncy houses and games for kids and classic cars. It lasts for one day in July.
- Fourth of July Celebrations: Many towns have planned Fourth of July celebrations. These events have included live music, dances, fireworks, etc.
- Halloween: Crete Sokol Hall promotes several days of activities leading up to Halloween including: A haunted house, a 'Frightening 5K' run event, a visit by Borkdorf the clown, 'Saving Sokol Halloween Festival, etc.

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**Commercial Offerings:**

- Bowling: This 6-lane alley known as “Wil-Bol Lanes” is located in downtown Wilber and offers the only bowling experience in the County.
- Movie Theater: With 300 seats the Isis Theater in Crete offers first-run digital movies throughout the week.
- Golf: Crete and Friend boast of the County’s two golf courses.

**Law Enforcement Agencies:**

<b>The Nebraska State Patrol</b> 4130 N.W. 37th Street Lincoln, NE 68524 (402) 471-4680	<b>County Sheriff’s Office</b> 911 S Main Wilber, NE 68465 (402) 821-2111	<b>Crete Police Department</b> 1945 Forest Ave Crete, NE 68333 (402) 826-4311
<b>Wilber Police Department</b> 309 S Main St Wilber, NE 68465 (402) 821-2201	<b>Friend Police Department</b> 235 Maple St Friend, NE 68359 (402) 947-5531	

**Section V**

**Identified Priority Areas  
& Corresponding Strategies**

**ORGANIZATIONAL PRIORITY AREAS**

**Priority #1: Expand on the current Juvenile Diversion Program.**

The Saline County Juvenile Diversion Program is designed for first time and/or low risk offenders. The program operates with referrals and direction from the Saline County Attorney in cooperation with Saline County Extension educators.

Efforts are being made to coordinate with Saline County law enforcement to make juveniles aware of the option of diversion at the point of citation. While the County Attorney will make the final determination in who is accepted, the opportunity should exist and be available to all juveniles fitting the above stated qualification.

Upon program intake a level of risk is assessed with the Nebraska Youthful Screen Instrument. Juvenile offenders pay an enrollment fee of \$100. This fee is dependent on ability to pay. Scholarships are provided to those in need of assistance. Juvenile offenders are then required to attend an eight-hour course with their parent(s) dealing with communication, choice/decision making, goal setting, relationships, substance abuse, STD's and individual and social responsibility. Both the juvenile and the parent are also required to complete 20 hours of community service for a total of 40 hours per family.

Records are kept of their diversion program participation for three years.

**Strategy 1: Maintain and expand diversion programming.**

***Stakeholders Involved***

Saline County Extension, Saline County Attorney, Saline County Law Enforcement

***Timeline***

The Diversion Program is maintained throughout the year.

***Resources Required***

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Funding is currently received from fees derived from juvenile participants to support/operate Diversion Programming. The planning group would like to access funds in County Aid to further develop the Saline County Diversion program.

Ongoing training is needed in working within family systems, evidence-based programming, addressing risk and protective factors, implementation of evaluation of programming.

***Expected Results***

It is expected that there will continue to be a program that will benefit the county in cost savings, as well as the juveniles working to correct and subsequently having their offenses dismissed from their criminal history. This will reduce the entry rate into the juvenile justice system thus benefitting Saline County. Juveniles and parents will also receive education or counseling that will decrease recidivism.

**Priority #2: Establish consistent procedures in juvenile services in Saline County.**

Currently it is difficult to track a juvenile entering the juvenile justice system in Saline County as all partnering agencies keep/monitor their own relevant data within their localized agency. It is often uneasily accessible for reports or in grant writing. Saline County would also seek to manage juvenile detention more effectively.

**Strategy 1: Identify partnering agencies which initiate or support juvenile cases in Saline County to establish a common data base.**

Establishing a common data base will allow partnering agencies the access to data needed to develop programming, access grants and evaluate juvenile systems in Saline County.

***Stakeholders Involved***

Saline County Sheriff's Department, Wilber Police Department, Crete Police Department, Friend Police Department, Saline County Attorney, Saline County Court, District #1 Probation, partnering human service agencies, Saline County Diversion and School Districts.

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**Saline County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Community Plan  
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***Timeline***

The Diversion Program is maintained throughout the year.

***Resources Required***

Agencies need to come together to complete some form of strategic planning to better serve the youth in the county.

***Expected Results***

It is hoped that there will be better communication and improved services provided for youth and families in Saline County.

**Strategy 2: Increase accessibility to juvenile detention services.**

Currently there is not a contract with Lancaster County Juvenile Detention Services. Therefore, probation officers often need to seek placement in alternative detention centers. This often results in law enforcement spending more time in traveling to detention centers able to accept youth. They also need to transport them to Court within the next 48-72 hours following detention.

***Stakeholders Involved***

Saline County Sheriff's Department, Wilber Police Department, Crete Police Department, Saline County Attorney, Saline County Court, District #1 Probation and the Saline County Board of Commissioners.

***Timeline***

The Diversion Program is maintained throughout the year.

***Resources Required***

Research needs to be done within the group to obtain a contract that would be beneficial to Saline County.

***Expected Results***

The planning group will work towards having a signed contract with Lancaster County Juvenile Service / Detention. This will allow for better detention decisions by District #1

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**Saline County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Community Plan  
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Probation. Law enforcement will work in a more cooperative manner and Saline County will be able to save funds in transportation costs and detention.

**Strategy 3: Reduce juvenile detention rate.**

Currently there are few alternatives available to detention in Saline County that also offers support to families or the community allowing for the youth to remain at home, if appropriate. Electronic monitoring, tracker services or family support services are needed in support of reducing the detention rate.

***Stakeholders Involved***

Saline County Sheriff's Department, Wilber Police Department, Crete Police Department, Saline County Attorney, Saline County Court, District #1 Probation and the Saline County Board of Commissioners.

***Timeline***

The Diversion Program is maintained throughout the year.

***Resources Required***

Agencies need to develop resources with partnering service providers. Funding is also needed for alternatives to detention.

***Expected Results***

The planning group will work towards developing alternatives to detention resources in the county and seeking funding for the costs of the services. This will result in fewer youth being detained and families being supported during the pre-adjudication phase.

**ISSUE BASED PRIORITIES**

**Priority #1: Support Positive Youth Development**

Data included in this plan from the Nebraska Youth Risk and Protective Factor Survey, show illegal substance use/abuse and underage drinking are problems in our community.

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## Saline County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Community Plan 2015 – 2018

Youth development has the rather broad goal of helping youth make the transition to healthy adulthood, there is quite a range of what “success” looks like. Most youth workers and educators consider economic independence, intellectual and social competence, personal satisfaction, and physical, psychological and spiritual well-being to be significant measures.

Research indicates there is widespread agreement on five key outcomes for youth that are vital for their transition to adulthood. These are known as the “Five Cs”:

1. Competence: Positive view of one’s actions in specific areas, including social, academic, cognitive, and vocational.
2. Confidence: The internal sense of overall positive self-worth and self-efficacy; positive identity; and belief in the future.
3. Connection: Positive bonds with people and institutions—peers, family, school, and community—in which both parties contribute to the relationship.
4. Character: Respect for societal and cultural rules, possession of standards for correct behaviors, a sense of right and wrong (morality), spirituality, integrity.
5. Caring or Compassion: A sense of sympathy and empathy for others.

These five developmental outcomes can only be achieved with significant support from the entire community—family, friends, schools, and other community institutions. Yet, this support is often missing from the lives of many young people, especially those whose environments are unhealthy, unsafe, or lacking opportunities. Therefore, organizations using a youth development approach provide services, opportunities, and supports (SOS) that enhance the young person’s environment and increase his or her ability to reach these outcomes:

1. Services are the critical interventions needed to enhance the essential well-being of the young person —the traditional services that are generally provided by public welfare, health, school, and recreational programs. These critical services are a necessary component of a comprehensive youth development approach because they alleviate the immediate needs and barriers that can prevent youth

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from moving forward. Examples include providing food and shelter for homeless youth, helping a family out of crisis, or meeting mental health needs.

2. Opportunities are the vehicles that offer youth meaningful and real ways to influence the world around them, nurture their interests and talents, practice and enhance their skills and competencies, and increase their connectedness to community. These may stem naturally from the young person’s family or community environment, or may be formalized as part of a program or service. These opportunities are at the heart of youth development—they provide the room for the young person to grow in.
3. Supports are the ongoing positive relationships that young people have with adults, peers, and organizations that provide the safety, structure, motivation, nurturing, and guidance to allow youth to explore, test, learn, grow, and contribute. Supports catch youth when they trip up and offer encouragement for them to try again. Supportive adults have the challenging role of stepping up when needed and stepping back as often as possible to allow youth to explore on their own. This support allows youth to fully take advantage of their opportunities—doing one without the other is ineffective.

Youth development programs build their services and activities around the above SOS structure, ideally using a broad range of community partnerships to implement this multi-faceted model and create the rich environment that youth need to be successful.

Organizations implement the youth development approach by:

1. Providing services for youth that
  - a. Ensure that basic needs—physical and psychological health, food and shelter, safety, and other needs—are met, both in the short term and over time
  - b. Provide a foundation of well-being that frees youth to focus on developmental tasks
  - c. Treat youth with respect and involve them in decision making around service delivery.
2. Providing opportunities for youth to

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- a. Be involved in decision making
  - b. Develop leadership skills
  - c. Be meaningfully engaged in community life and make real contributions
  - d. Develop and test new knowledge and practical skills
  - e. Experience success
3. Develop positive, supportive relationships with adults and peers
- a. Engage with adults around common goals Providing supports that
  - b. Help youth overcome mistakes
  - c. Create a safe environment for youth, both physically and emotionally
  - d. Encourage a sense of belonging or connectedness
  - e. Establish and maintain clear, developmentally appropriate boundaries and guidance
  - f. Encourage and support youth to build new skills
  - g. Empower youth to make a difference in their communities
  - h. Facilitate supportive youth-adult relationships and partnerships
  - i. Engage family, school, and community as partners with youth

Again, it remains important we remember that no single program provides all these services, opportunities, and supports. Rather, successful programs reach out to other community institutions and youth service providers to develop interagency and cross-system collaboration. They also involve families, the youth’s peers, and other informal support networks to create a web of opportunities that youth can access. Youth development programs must be engaged in community life—a significant aspect of their work is broadly promoting the youth development approach in the general community.

**Strategy 1: Support programs and services within Saline County that support positive youth development.**

***Stakeholders Involved***

Crete Public Schools, Wilber-Clatonia Public Schools, Dorchester Schools, Friend Schools, C/URB<sup>24</sup>, Region V Prevention Systems, Saline County Extension

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<sup>24</sup> Saline County Community against Underage Risky Behaviors [Drug & Alcohol Prevention Coalition](#)

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***Timeline***

The Diversion Program is maintained throughout the year.

***Resources Required***

Continued partnerships and funding to allow youth led activities.

***Expected Results***

By creating an environment where youth in Saline County are given additional tools to become healthier and successful in their transition to adulthood, would universally provide a richer and more productive quality of life for all members of our community.

## **Appendix**

- A. Approval Letter from County Board
- B. Minutes from the County Board

**Appendix A**  
**Saline County Board of Commissioners**  
**Approval Letter**

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# SALINE COUNTY

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PHONE 402-821-2502 • FAX 402-821-3381

*Commissioner District 1-----Commissioner District 2-----Commissioner District 3*

**Stephanie Krivohlavek**  
Wilber, NE 68465

**Willis D. Luedke**  
Crete, NE 68333

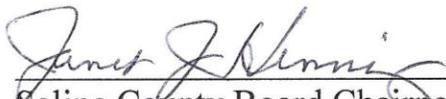
**Marvin A. Kohout**  
Dorchester, NE 68343

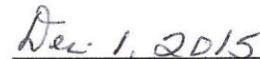
*Commissioner District 4-----Commissioner District 5*

**Tim McDermott**  
Wilber, NE 68465

**Janet J. Henning**  
Crete, NE 683

The Saline County Board of Commissioners was provided a finalized copy of the 3-Year Juvenile Services Comprehensive Plan in advance of the County Board meeting held on December 1, 2015. During this Board meeting, members discussed, accepted and voted in approval of the Plan as presented by Planning Committee Chairperson, Tim McDermott.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Saline County Board Chairperson

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Appendix B**

*\*Copy of*

**Saline County Board of Commissioners  
Board Minutes – Tuesday, December 1, 2015**

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**Saline County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Community Plan  
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The regular meeting of the Saline County Board of Commissioners was called to order at 9:30 a.m. on December 1, 2015, by Chairperson, Janet J. Henning. Present were Marvin A. Kohout, Willis D. Luedke, Henning, Stephanie A. Krivohlavek and Tim McDermott, Commissioners, and Linda Kastanek, County Clerk. County Attorney Tad Eickman was present between court commitments.

Notice of said meeting was posted in the County Clerk's Office, on the Saline County Website, and published in all three county newspapers prior to the meeting, in compliance with State Statutes.

Let the record show that all proceedings are electronically recorded.

Henning advised those present of the open meetings law posted at the back of the room.

McDermott moved to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Krivohlavek. Voting aye were Luedke, Krivohlavek, Henning, McDermott and Kohout, nays none, motion carried.

Krivohlavek moved to approve the minutes of the previous meeting, seconded by Luedke. Voting aye were McDermott, Henning, Krivohlavek, Kohout and Luedke, nays none, motion carried.

Kastanek reported receiving checks from Granite Telecommunications in the amount of \$1.00; Level 3 Communications in the amount of \$13.00; Vonage Tax Account in the amount of \$19.00; TaxConnex LLC for \$1.00 and from Zito Media for \$56.00, all for 9-11 surcharges; minutes from the Friend Community Healthcare Systems Board meeting; minutes from the Regional Governing Board; minutes from the annual meeting and regular meeting of the Saline County Ag Society; and she reported approving two Special Designated Licenses for Tabor Hall.

Henning reported attending a CISDA meeting where she accepted the resignation of Harold Jones.

Luedke reported attending a Blue Valley Community Action meeting; County Government Day; an RC& D meeting, and a building committee meeting with the contractors and architects.

Kohout reported attending the Planning and Zoning meeting; County Government Day; a Personnel Handbook meeting; and he met with the Emergency Manager and Sheriff.

Krivohlavek did an employee performance review; attended County Government Day, and will have a State Aging Services meeting.

McDermott attended County Government Day; a SENDD Executive meeting; a building committee meeting with the contractors and architects; and coming up, an LEPC meeting in Beatrice; a Drug & Alcohol Coalition meeting; the first Union Negotiations meeting; a Prevention Coalition meeting at Doane College; and the NACO Convention next week in Kearney.

Zoning Administrator, Lyle Weber, Real Estate Agent, Nicky Zalesky and Mr. & Mrs. Kenny Endorf were present to request approval of a minor subdivision located in part of the SE ¼ of Section 19-5-1, containing 6.889 acres. This was previously approved by the Planning and Zoning Board. Kohout moved to approve the minor subdivision, seconded by Krivohlavek. Voting aye were McDermott, Luedke, Henning, Kohout and Krivohlavek, nays none, motion carried.

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Mr. Weber presented another minor sub-division request from Tyler Krivohlavek located in the SW1/2 of the SW1/4 of Section 6-7-3, containing 3+ acres. This has been approved by the Planning and Zoning Board. Luedke moved to approve the minor sub-division, seconded by Kohout. Voting aye were Krivohlavek, McDermott, Kohout, Henning and Luedke, nays none, motion carried.

Aging Services Director Amy Hansen was present to discuss some concerns with the Board.

McDermott moved to approve Resolution #2015-78, releasing two Pledged Securities with First State Bank Nebraska for \$100,000.00 and \$150,000.00. Motion was seconded by Kohout. Voting aye were Luedke, Krivohlavek, McDermott, Henning and Kohout, nays none, motion carried.

Luedke moved to approve Resolution #2015-79, approving a new Pledged Security with First State Bank Nebraska in the amount of \$100,000.00 Motion was seconded by Krivohlavek. Voting aye were Henning, Luedke, Kohout, Krivohlavek and McDermott, nays none, motion carried.

After discussion, Luedke moved to approve the Saline County 3 Year Juvenile Diversion Comp Plan, seconded by Krivohlavek. Voting aye were McDermott, Henning, Krivohlavek, Kohout and Luedke, nays none, motion carried.

At 10:30 a.m., Henning announced that the Board would take a short recess.

At 10:55 a.m., Henning announced that the Board would reconvene.

Luedke moved to approve Change Order #2 with Cheever Construction for the Court House Addition. This will add \$100,405.00 to the cost of the addition. Motion was seconded by McDermott. Voting aye were Kohout, Krivohlavek, McDermott, Luedke and Henning, nays none, motion carried.

Kohout moved to approve Resolution #2015-80, transferring \$125,000.00 from the Inheritance Tax Fund to the Court House Debt Service Fund, to be reimbursed when funds become available. Motion was seconded by McDermott. Voting aye were Krivohlavek, McDermott, Kohout, Luedke and Henning, nays none, motion carried.

Highway Superintendent Bruce Filipi was present to discuss his recommendations from the bid openings at the last meeting. For Project #745, he recommended that the Board accept the bid from KW Construction from Lincoln with the low bid of \$186,414.21. McDermott moved to approve the recommendation, seconded by Krivohlavek. Voting aye were Luedke, Krivohlavek, Henning, McDermott and Kohout, nays none, motion carried.

On Project #744, Filipi recommended that the Board accept the low bid from TCW Construction with a bid of \$239,420.90. Kohout moved to approve the recommendation, seconded by Krivohlavek. Voting aye were Luedke, Henning, McDermott, Kohout and Krivohlavek, nays none, motion carried.

Project #748 is a triple pipe project, and Filipi recommended the Board accept the low bid of \$106,038.18 from Geneva Engineering Co. of Geneva. McDermott moved to accept the recommendation, seconded by Kohout. Voting aye were Henning, Kohout, McDermott, Luedke and Krivohlavek, nays none, motion carried.

Filipi updated the Board on several projects being finalized and noted that they would be starting to take some trees out.

At 11:10 a.m., Luedke moved to enter into Executive Session, seconded by Krivohlavek. Voting aye were Krivohlavek, McDermott, Luedke, Henning and Kohout,

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nays none, motion carried. Henning announced that during closed session, the Board would be discussing a Personnel Matter, an RC&D matter and possible litigation.

At 1:03 p.m., McDermott moved to exit closed session, seconded by Kohout. Voting aye were Luedke, Henning, Kohout, Krivohlavek and McDermott, nays none, motion carried.

Henning announced that during closed session, the Board discussed a personnel matter, RC&D matter and possible litigation, no action was taken.

Luedke moved to approve the claims as presented, seconded by Kohout. Voting aye were Krivohlavek, Kohout, Luedke, McDermott and Henning, nays none, motion carried.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 1:05 p.m. The next meeting will be on December 15, 2015, at 9:30 a.m. in the Saline County Commissioners' Room, Court House, Wilber NE.

**-End-**