

Sarpy County  
Comprehensive Juvenile Services Plan  
2015-2018



SARPY COUNTY  
THREE YEAR COMPREHENSIVE JUVENILE SERVICES PLAN  
2015-2018

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## Table of Contents

Vision.....	4
Mission Statement For The Comprehensive Plan.....	4
Executive Summary .....	5
Community Team/History .....	6
Community Description.....	7
Population .....	8
The Economy .....	8
Recreation .....	9
Education .....	10
Agencies and Support Services.....	11
Sarpy County’s Prioritized Needs.....	12
Priority One.....	12
Priority Two.....	24
Priority Three .....	25
Priority Four.....	27
Priority Five.....	28
Activities and Timetables .....	30
Evaluation .....	30
Conclusion .....	31
Summary.....	32
Appendix A --- Strategies .....	33
Appendix B --- Strategies and Timelines.....	35
Appendix C --- Sarpy County Community Team Members.....	44
Appendix D ---Sarpy County Youth Level of Service (YLS) Data.....	46
Appendix E ---Sarpy County DMC Data.....	47
Appendix F ---Sarpy County Juvenile Services Secure Detention Facility Costs.....	48
Appendix G ---Sarpy County Juvenile Services Non-Detention Costs.....	49
Appendix H ---Sarpy County Staff Secure JJC Detention Facility Costs.....	50

# **Sarpy County Comprehensive Plan 2015-2018**

## **Vision**

The vision guiding this comprehensive plan is to reduce juvenile delinquency and enhance public safety in Sarpy County.

## **Mission Statement for the Comprehensive Plan**

The purpose of the Sarpy County Comprehensive Plan is to reduce juvenile delinquency, and enhance public safety by (1) identifying the risk factors related to delinquency and abuse/neglect; (2) developing appropriate prevention and intervention programs for delinquency and abuse/neglect; and (3) fostering system communication and cooperation across agencies and with the public to strengthen system effectiveness.

## Executive Summary

Sarpy County is the fastest growing county in Nebraska. The average age of a Sarpy County resident is 33. Approximately one-third of the total population in the County is made up of juveniles between the ages of 0-17.

During adolescence, the need to belong, have a place that is valued, and be bonded to others intensifies. Youth who are not bonded to conventional community institutions such as school, work, religious and recreational organizations are much more likely to engage in criminal behavior. Community collaboration is crucial in strengthening youth and their families. The Sarpy County Juvenile Justice System works to interrupt the cycle of isolation and disconnectedness among community members, youth, and their parents, while holding youth offenders accountable for their crimes and building trust within their communities.

Early detection of issues facing young people in Sarpy County is vital for youth to receive services that will assist them in developing skills to resist risky behavior. Over the past few years Sarpy County has experienced a persistent pattern of juvenile offenders charged with drug and alcohol violations within the County, significantly influencing juvenile crime. In addition, youth exhibiting mental and behavioral health issues has been an increasing concern with the juvenile justice agencies in Sarpy County.

In early 2015, the Sarpy County Comprehensive Juvenile Services Committee began working to review and update the Comprehensive Juvenile Services Plan. The Committee along with key stakeholders in Sarpy County identified five system recommendations.

The five recommendations include:

1. Expand, enhance, and maintain juvenile services and programming for youth in Sarpy County.
2. Establish mental health services and programming and provide behavioral health services for youth involved in the Sarpy County Juvenile Justice System.
3. Improve system operation and coordination.
4. Reduce Disproportionate Minority contact (DMC) issues in Sarpy County.
5. Improve Collaboration among members of the community.

Sarpy County's mission of creating a balanced and restorative approach to juvenile justice includes initiating programs that allow juvenile justice systems and agencies to improve their capacity to protect the community and ensure accountability of youth offenders. Juvenile offenders who come within the jurisdiction of the court should leave the system capable of being productive and responsible members of the community.

## Community Team

The Sarpy County SAFE Committee was established in the spring of 1991.

The **Goal** of the SAFE Committee is: to bring administrators of schools, law enforcement, County prosecution, and probation together to present a process and method of information sharing, cooperation and coordination leading to improved public policy regarding youth in the community, schools, and the County Juvenile Justice System.

The **Mission** of the SAFE Committee is: to create and maintain a county-wide network of school, law enforcement, juvenile justice, social service, business, private agencies, and medical personnel for the purpose of developing a process of prevention, intervention, cooperation, sharing of information, and coordination of services for endangered, troubled, and delinquent youth.

The SAFE Committee is a subcommittee of the Sarpy County Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee and shall consist of two participation levels: The Executive Committee and the Steering Committee.

- A. The Executive Committee: is comprised of the Sarpy County Attorney, Sarpy County Sheriff, the designated School Administrator, and a Juvenile Court Judge. The Executive Committee performs the specific duties of developing policy decisions as needed for the Steering Committee.
- B. The Steering Committee: The Sarpy County Attorney, Sarpy County Sheriff, the designated School Administrator, and Sarpy County Separate Juvenile Court Judge recommend members to the Steering Committee for vote.

Steering Committee meetings are held on a quarterly basis and meetings of the Executive Committee are held on an ad hoc basis. An Educational Task Force has been developed to discuss issues facing schools and justice agencies serving the Sarpy County juvenile justice system. The Task Force provides regular updates to the Steering Committee on recommendations and solutions to issues discussed by the Task Force.

### **History of the SAFE Committee:**

In the summer of 1992, the Steering Committee and the various task forces began meeting on a monthly basis. In the late spring and early summer of 1993, it was recommended that an Executive Committee be formed to oversee the operations of the Steering Committee and the various task forces. It was also recommended at this time that a committee be formed to investigate the possibility of a detention center for Sarpy County youth.

In January 1996 the Committee established short range goals to address issues concerning 1) the long term solution of building a staff secure detention facility within three years in Sarpy County; 2) inter-agency communication to access pre-approved data from the Juvenile Court; 3) establish a committee to keep the community aware of problems and issues in Sarpy County pertaining to juveniles, and to provide the community with the activities of the SAFE Committee; 4) develop a county-wide policy of early intervention for truancy and follow up, and provide law enforcement agencies with current school policies; and 5) deal with issues of domestic abuse, child abuse, and early sexual activity.

In January 2000 the Sarpy County SAFE Committee met to develop a Comprehensive Juvenile Services Plan. The SAFE Committee developed a two phase vision that guided the Comprehensive Plan:

“reduce juvenile delinquency and enhance safety in Sarpy County”.

The mission for the Comprehensive Plan was to “reduce juvenile delinquency and enhance public safety by (1) identifying the risk factors related to delinquency and abuse/neglect; (2) develop appropriate prevention and intervention programs for delinquency and abuse/neglect; and (3) foster system communication and cooperation across agencies and with the public to strengthen system effectiveness.

It was the intention of the Comprehensive Plan Workgroup to build upon the County’s strengths to address the problems and gaps in services facing the community.

During 2011, Sarpy County Juvenile Justice agencies began working with the Casey Foundation’s Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI). As a result, a JDAI Committee was formed with several sub-committees that were essentially work groups. Because of this large endeavor and the requirement by the Casey Foundation that the JDAI Collaborative meet on a regular basis during the JDAI process, Sarpy County Juvenile Justice agencies decided that the JDAI Committee and the SAFE Committee be combined into the JDAI Collaborative. Many of the same members from the SAFE Committee were also attending the JDAI Collaborative or sub-groups of the JDAI Collaborative and it became difficult to attend another meeting discussing the same issues. Therefore, during the timeframe that JDAI is being implemented in Sarpy County, the JDAI Collaborative will take the place of the SAFE Committee. Upon completion of the actual JDAI process, the Committee will continue to meet on a regular basis with a possible new name to be voted on in the future.

The JDAI/SAFE Collaborative formed a Community Plan Sub-Committee for the purposes of writing the new Juvenile Services Community Plan. The Committee met and discussed several priorities and strategies for the new 2015-2018 plan. Those priorities and strategies were then sent to the larger group for feedback. A follow up meeting was held to finalize the priorities and strategies in April 2015. The group recognized not all of the goals were achieved from the previous Plan and will continue to work toward the accomplishment of those goals as well as the new priorities outlined in the 2015-2018 Plan. It is the intention of the Committee to build upon the County’s strengths to address the problems and gaps in services still facing the community.

### **Community Description**

Sarpy County is located in the greater Omaha metropolitan area, adjacent to Douglas County. Sarpy County is comprised of the rapidly growing cities of La Vista in the north, Papillion in the center, Bellevue to the east, and Gretna and Springfield to the west and south. Gretna and La Vista were the fastest growing cities in Nebraska in 2009. As a result, the County experienced a substantial population increase during the last 10 years.

Sarpy County is surrounded on three sides by water with its western and southern boundaries being formed by the Platte River and the eastern border along the western bank of the Missouri River.

The County is comprised of 236 square miles of rich agricultural land and a rapidly growing urban population. The rural portion of the County is composed of the Gretna, and Springfield areas to the south and west. The rural area also includes the unincorporated areas of Chalco, Gilmore, Richfield, and Rumsey.

Sarpy County is the fastest growing county in Nebraska with a population of 162,728. Today more than 94,000 residents live in Bellevue, Papillion, La Vista, and Gretna. The County's population growth is primarily due to the expanding private sector economy and the opening of the Kennedy Freeway in 1994 and developments along Hwy 370.

The major highways serving Sarpy County include Interstate I-80 running from the north center county line to the southwest corner of the county which connects Sarpy County with both Omaha and Lincoln.

U.S. Routes 73/75, 6, and the Kennedy Freeway run north-south along with Nebraska Routes 50 and 85. The major east-west thoroughfare is Nebraska Hwy 370.

Railroad transportation for Sarpy County is provided by the Union Pacific Railroad and the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad. Air transportation for Sarpy County residents is offered by the Eppley Airport located in Omaha.

### Population

The average age of a Sarpy County resident is 32.9 and approximately one-third of the total population in the County is made up of juveniles between the ages of 0-17. The following tables show the breakdown of population by the number of adults and juveniles, gender, and ethnicity.

Gender & Ethnicity	Total County Population	
	Number	%
Male	81,222	49.9%
Female	81,506	50.1%
White	135,667	83.4%
Hispanic	12,331	7.6%
African American	6,300	3.9%
Native American	513	0.3%
Asian	3,082	1.9%
Native Hawaiian	238	0.1%
Two or more races	4,393	2.7%
Other	204	.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>162,728</b>	<b>100%</b>

Gender & Ethnicity	Total Juvenile Population	
	Number	%
Male	24,790	51.5%
Female	23,334	48.4%
White	39,047	81.1%
Hispanic	4,125	8.5%
African American	3,153	6.5%
Native American	429	.8%
Asian	1,370	2.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>48,124</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source of data: U.S. Census Bureau 2013 State and County Quick Facts, OJJDP Juvenile Population Statistics

### The Economy

According to the Nebraska Department of Labor, the average annual labor force in Sarpy County in 2014 was 90,144. There were 87,314 people employed and the unemployment rate was 3.1%. The following table shows the comparison of income for Sarpy County from the 2010 census.

	2000 Median HH Income	2010 Median HH Income	2000 Median Family Income	2010 Median Family Income
Bellevue	\$41,201	\$56,761	\$54,422	<b>\$64,234</b>
Gretna	\$50,112	\$69,869	\$56,410	<b>\$86,429</b>
La Vista	\$47,280	\$58,697	\$52,819	<b>\$65,054</b>
Papillion	\$63,992	\$72,581	\$70,737	<b>\$83,036</b>
Springfield	\$48,083	\$51,707	\$54,236	<b>\$50,750</b>
<b>Sarpy County</b>	<b>\$53,804</b>	<b>\$68,280</b>	<b>\$59,723</b>	<b>\$76,143</b>

	2000 Per Capita Income	2010 Per Capita Income	2000 Percent Below Poverty	2010 Percent below Poverty
Bellevue	\$20,903	\$25,425	5.9	9.2
Gretna	\$21,729	\$28,472	3.6	3.6
La Vista	\$19,612	\$28,457	5.7	7.3
Papillion	\$24,521	\$29,780	2.7	5.6
Springfield	\$19,573	\$21,563	2.6	3.0
<b>Sarpy County</b>	<b>\$21,985</b>	<b>\$29,212</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>5.7</b>

Source of data: U.S. Census Bureau 2010 State and County Quick Facts and MAPA

Sarpy County, unlike most of Nebraska, does not have an agriculturally oriented economy. Offutt Air Force Base is located in the County, making the U.S. Military one of the County's largest employers. Offutt Air Force Base is home of U.S. Stratcom, a joint command staffed by members from all branches of the military that employs over 10,000 people.

Werner Enterprises is one of the County's largest private sector employers. Werner is among the five largest truckload carriers in the United States. The fleet consists of 7,100 tractors, over 24,000 trailers, and over 11,500 employees and independent contractors. Other major employers include: PayPal Inc., Oriental Trading, InfoGroup, and Hillcrest Health Systems.

Bellevue, the state's oldest city, enjoyed a building boom during the last decade. The City of Bellevue saw its population grow by an impressive 47.5% during the decade of 2000-2010.

The City of LaVista continues to expand, adding shopping, restaurants, and entertainment venues. LaVista is home to Cabela's World's Foremost Outfitter. The store sits right off of Interstate 80 near the new Embassy Suites and Conference Center. Cabela's boasts a huge inventory of hunting, fishing, and camping supplies. A new \$9.5 million combination movie theater and restaurant is planned to open next year near Cabela's with eight (8) screens and seating for more than 800.

The cities of Gretna and Papillion have also enjoyed substantial growth which has been spurred by their location near Interstate 80, and improvements made to State Highway 370. The city of Gretna recently opened a large Outlet Mall along Interstate 80. Nebraska Crossing features several outlet stores and eating establishments such as: Nike, Under Armor, American Eagle, Ann Taylor, Bose, Coach, Scooters, Subway and many more. In addition, the city of Papillion has witnessed an increase in business growth with the construction of Shadow Lake Towne Center Mall located on Hwy 370 and 72<sup>nd</sup> Street and Werner Park located on Hwy 370 and 126<sup>th</sup> Street.

## Recreation

Each of the major communities offers a wide variety of activities for youth and their families. The County is served by over 70 different clubs, organizations, and sports leagues.

Bellevue is home to one of the Midwest's largest events - the Offutt Air Force Base Open House and Air Show.

Over 100,000 people gather to watch fighter planes grace the sky and to get a hands-on look at America's military might.

The Papillion Community offers Sarpy County youth and families the opportunity

to play together at the Papio Bay Aquatic Center that includes five acres of swimming and outdoor water activities. Halleck Park offers an arboretum, four ball diamonds, and a fishing pond. Papillion is the new home of the metro area's Triple A Baseball team, the Storm Chasers, located at the new Werner Baseball Stadium on Hwy 370 and 126<sup>th</sup> Street.

Papillion's large, new shopping mall, Shadow Lake Towne Center, opened in 2007. Shadow Lake Towne Center is an outdoor lifestyle center consisting of 880,000 square feet which includes national retailers, specialty fashion, sporting goods, electronic, book, grocery, restaurants, and discount stores. Special events and live music are scheduled on the weekends and during the summer months.

The Sarpy County Fair, Springfield Days, and the famous Soda Fountain Shop are just a few of the activities found in Springfield.

Youth and their families have the opportunity to enjoy the natural beauty of Nebraska at the Schramm State Park that is located off Highway 31 just south of Gretna and includes scenic hiking trails overlooking the Platte River. Haworth Park is a 153 acre park with a public boat launch access to the Missouri River, picnic tables, play grounds, soccer fields, and many other fun activities.

The Fontenelle Forest and Nature Center in Bellevue is home to 17 miles of trails, including the new one-mile barrier free boardwalk, on over 1,300 acres. The Forest is amid the scenic bluffs overlooking the Missouri River Valley.

Wehrspann Lake is located in the Chalco Recreation Area and offers boating, fishing, hiking, bike trails, and the scenery of the beautiful recreation area in western Sarpy County.

Walnut Creek Lake and Recreation Area is located in Papillion off of 96<sup>th</sup> and Hwy 370. The park is open year-round from 6:00am to 10:00 pm daily. The Walnut Creek Lake and Recreation area features: Hiking/Biking Trails, Boat Dock and Ramp, Picnic and Play Area, Fishing Pier, Lake Islands for Fishing, Equestrian Trail, and RV and Tent Camping.

Additionally, during the spring of 2015, Nebraska's Natural Resources District opened the Prairie Queen Recreation Area near 132<sup>nd</sup> Street and Cornhusker Road in Papillion. The Recreation Area is a 335-acre park featuring a 135-acre lake, hiking/biking trails, boating, fishing, picnic shelters, wildlife viewing, and more.

## Education

Sarpy County offers quality education for youth and families in all of its communities. The Gretna School District and Papillion-La Vista have gained national recognition and a reputation for providing fine educational opportunities. Those opportunities are complemented by honors in academic accreditation, high graduation rates, and a disciplined learning environment.

### **Sarpy County School Districts include:**

- **Bellevue Public Schools** serve approximately 9,800 students annually with 2 high schools, 3 middle schools, 15 elementary schools, a center for suspended students, and a program for behavior disordered students housed in a separate building. The District also has an evening program for credit recovery for high school students and an adult education program for those seeking a GED.
- **Papillion-La Vista Public Schools** serve approximately 10,671 students annually with 2 high schools, 2 middle schools, 15 elementary schools, and 1 alternative high school. A third middle

school will be built in the next year and is scheduled to open in 2016. Papillion-La Vista Public School District is the 4<sup>th</sup> largest district in the state. In 2009, Papillion-La Vista School District engaged in a long-range facility study conducted by an outside consultant. The study concluded that the District will continue to grow, reaching a final enrollment of over 17,000 students within 30 years.

- **The Gretna School District** serves approximately 3,551 students annually with, 1 high school, 1 middle school, and 3 elementary schools.
- **The South Sarpy School District #46** serves approximately 1,075 students annually with, 1 high school, 1 middle school, and 2 elementary schools.
- **OPS-** Sarpy County students are also served by Bryan High School, Bryan Middle School, Chandler View, Pawnee, and Gilder Elementary Schools.
- **Private Schools** - Sarpy County is also served by Omaha Gross, Bellevue Christian Academy and 4 Catholic elementary schools.

### **Agencies and Support Services**

Sarpy County has been proactive in the wake of rising juvenile crime. In 1976 a unique juvenile justice system was established when the Sarpy County Separate Juvenile Court and Juvenile Probation Office was created.

Today the Sarpy County Juvenile Court System, the Sarpy County Juvenile Diversion program, the Sarpy County Drug Court, Nebraska State Juvenile Probation, and the C.A.R.E Staff Secure Hold Over work together to ensure that juvenile offenders are appropriately served when they enter the Sarpy County juvenile justice system.

The agencies provide youth involved in the juvenile justice system access to quality, thorough assessments and substance abuse and mental health treatment services. The Sarpy County juvenile justice system also provides restorative justice programming. Restorative justice programming assists youth in being held accountable for their actions while gaining skills necessary for them to fully participate in society.

The Sarpy County Sheriff's Juvenile Services Division is credited with running an effective electronic monitoring program for Sarpy County juveniles. It is known as the C.A.R.E. (Children at Risk Education) program. The Sarpy County Sheriff's Juvenile Services Division also runs a staff secure detention center for juveniles who must be held while waiting for a court hearing or court ordered placement.

The need for a juvenile justice center was identified during the comprehensive planning process. In late March 2000, the Sarpy County Board of County Commissioners initiated a Pre-Architectural Juvenile Justice Center Planning Study to determine the feasibility and cost of constructing a new juvenile justice center. Space requirements for two additional components, including an assessment center, reporting center, and alternative school, were developed.

In 2010, the Sarpy County Juvenile Justice Center began a pilot Truancy Program housed at the Reporting Center. The Truancy Program began working with several students from area schools. In December 2010, Sarpy County applied for a grant in order to enhance operations of the Truancy Program and was awarded funding for three part-time Truancy Staff beginning July 2011. In addition, during 2014, a Day Reporting Center was opened to serve youth during daytime hours. Youth can receive tutoring and credit recovery assistance. A

teacher is available to help with homework and to assist students with completing missed assignment/projects. The Day Reporting Center gives youth suspended from school a place to study and complete homework while absent from school. The Center is also available for youth who need daily supervision services.

Sarpy County law enforcement agencies include the Sarpy County Sheriff's Office and the Police Departments of Bellevue, Papillion, and La Vista. The Sarpy County Sheriff's Department, headed by Sheriff Jeff Davis, is located in Papillion, Nebraska.

Community Coalitions assisting youth and families in Sarpy County include the Bellevue Mayor's Task Force and Gretna's community based coalition. Both coalitions are comprised of concerned citizens including school officials, faith community members, law enforcement, parents, youth, civic and business representatives, and County personnel that work to develop community based programs to prevent delinquency and alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use by youth.

### **Sarpy County's Prioritized Needs**

The Planning sub-committee of the SAFE/JDAI group came together in March and April of 2015 to review the accomplishments of the 2012-2015 Comprehensive Juvenile Services Plan. The Committee identified a number of risk factors facing the youth and families of Sarpy County. These risk factors have been shown to lead to substance abuse and enhanced involvement in the juvenile justice system.

The Committee identified the following as the purpose of the Sarpy County Comprehensive Juvenile Services Plan: to reduce juvenile delinquency and enhance public safety by 1) identifying the risk factors related to delinquency and

abuse/neglect; 2) developing appropriate prevention and intervention programs for delinquency and abuse/neglect; and 3) fostering system communication and cooperation across agencies and with the public to strengthen system effectiveness. The Committee identified the need for local community based services for youth and their families as one of the biggest risk factors facing Sarpy County residents. The Committee will work closely with local County Officials and agencies to develop a network of local providers offering services in the Sarpy County area.

The County is committed to strengthening on going services including the Sarpy County Staff Secure Holdover and the development of new programming to provide youth and families with quality services.

The following recommendations were identified by the Committee to be addressed through the priorities and strategies of the 2015-2018 Sarpy County Comprehensive Juvenile Services Plan.

### **Priority One**

Expand, enhance, and maintain services and programming for youth involved in Sarpy County justice system
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Sarpy County is the fastest growing county in Nebraska; as a result, the County had an increase of juvenile offenders being placed at the Juvenile Justice Center for staff secure placement as well as an increase of juveniles needing secure detention. Additionally, the crimes committed by the juveniles were far more serious, resulting in an increased need for a higher level of care. As a result, Sarpy County began researching the Casey Foundation's JDAI (Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative) as way to decrease secure and staff secure youth detentions.

Total population of Juvenile offenders involved in the Sarpy County juvenile justice system	
2011	1,864
2012	1,964
2013	1,843
2014	1,907

\*Source of data: Sarpy County CMS

### Implement Juvenile Detention

**Alternatives in Sarpy County:** Sarpy County was approved by the Annie E. Casey Foundation as a JDAI site. Through the JDAI process, Sarpy County collaborates with the Casey Foundation to analyze the ineffective and inefficient policies and practices within the juvenile justice systems in Sarpy County that result in inappropriate sanctions, disparities for minority youth, and unnecessary transfers to secure detention.

The Annie E. Casey Foundation’s JDAI is a nationally renowned reform process that effectively: lowers detention populations, enhances public safety, saves tax payer money, reduces the overrepresentation of minority youth, and introduces overall juvenile justice system improvements. Sarpy County currently operates the Juvenile Justice Center (JJC) which is a staff secure facility. Sarpy County youth are transferred to the nearest secure detention facility when the JJC is determined to be inappropriate or not equipped to safely detain a particular juvenile.

The below chart indicates the number of Sarpy County juveniles transferred to secure detention, length of stay, and yearly costs. Data shows that prior to JDAI, youth transfer levels had declined but the average length of stay (ALS) and costs of detained juveniles increased due to delays caused by uncoordinated and inefficient juvenile justice systems. System reforms were necessary to redirect public funds toward more effective juvenile justice processes and public safety strategies. One of these

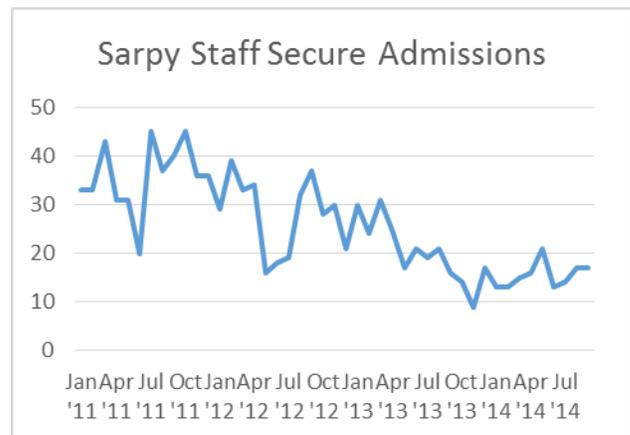
reforms was the implementation of the Annie E. Casey Foundation’s JDAI. In 2011, Sarpy County expended \$232,360 for secure detention costs. In 2013, after the implementation of JDAI, a total of \$28,800 was expended for secure detention in Sarpy County, a decrease of 87.6%. In addition, staff secure detentions at the JJC have steadily decreased since 2011.

### Sarpy County Secure Detention Data

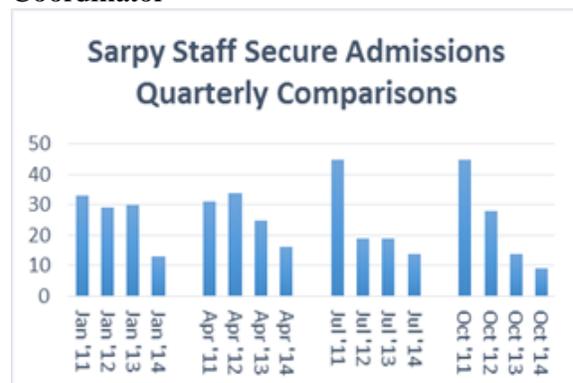
	2010	2011**	2012	2013	2014
<b>Youth DCYC</b>	25	26	9	13	12
<b>ALS</b>	21	17	19	19.5	25
<b>Youth DCYA</b>	8	3	1	2	1
<b>ALS</b>	141	72	2	8.5	9
<b>COST</b>	198,295	232,360	44,920	28,800	58,860

\*Source of data: Sarpy County Fiscal

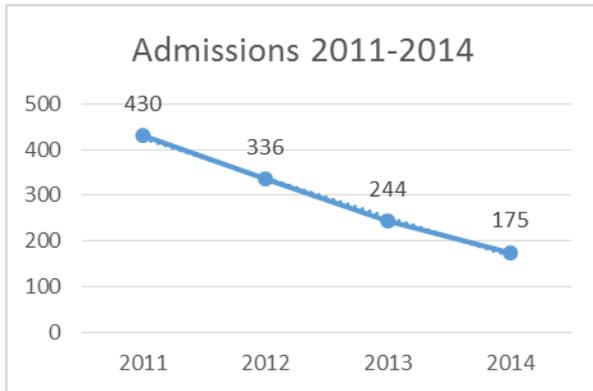
\*\*Began JDAI during this year



\*Source of data: Sarpy County CMS, JDAI Coordinator



\*Source of data: Sarpy County CMS, JDAI



\*Source of data: Sarpy County CMS, JDAI

A primary recommendation of the Institute of Law and Policy Planning (ILPP) is to move lower risk youths out of secure detention and into alternative programs. The Sarpy County Juvenile Justice Center is a staff secure facility; unfortunately many youth are transferred to secure detention due to limited alternatives available for youth in need of a higher level of care but not necessarily needing secure detention, such as youth exhibiting mental health and behavioral issues. Through the JDAI, Sarpy County will decrease the number of youth unnecessarily or inappropriately transferred to secure detention, offering alternatives in an effort to provide juveniles with the least restrictive appropriate environment and becoming incrementally more restrictive only as absolutely necessary.

The local Site Coordinator collaborates with all other Nebraska JDAI statewide efforts. The Site Coordinator is critical to ensure Sarpy County addresses the local issues. Additionally, the Sarpy County Site Coordinator acts as a liaison with all statewide efforts. The coordinator's main role is to coordinate the site's detention reform efforts, in the following ways:

- Serve as liaison and staff to the JDAI Leadership Group and various work groups; coordinating and integrating work group activities
- Provide administrative support to work groups

- Ensure the collection, use and reporting of all relevant data
- Participate in quarterly conference calls and scheduled trainings; and
- Liaison to the Technical Assistance Team Leader

Sarpy County has concluded that the unnecessary transfer of juveniles to secure detention, overuse of staff secure as a sanction for drug court violations, underutilization of the CARE program, and the under referral of minority youth to alternatives such as Diversion are primarily caused by two factors:

1. inefficiencies in the processing of juvenile cases resulting in disparities and inappropriate sanctions and
2. Sarpy County has limited alternatives to detention for lower risk juveniles (mental/behavioral issues) resulting in unnecessary transfers to secure detention.

Detention and out of home placements result in high costs for the taxpayer through a lack of focus, misplaced priorities, and egregious inefficiencies. One example is that many minors are held too long, waiting for an evaluation that takes only a few hours and could be conducted before being referred to treatment or placements. As a consequence, the overly long average length of stay coupled with inadequate treatment and rehabilitation problems lead to inefficient and ineffective sanctions being issued for juveniles. Prior to JDAI, youth in Sarpy County waited on average 20-30 days for an evaluation. New initiatives were needed to reduce the timeframe juveniles await evaluation.

The Annie E. Casey Foundation's JDAI Core strategies promote smarter, fairer, efficient and more effective systems. By employing the strategies below, JDAI sites:

lower detention populations, enhances public safety, saves tax payer money, and improves the juvenile justice system overall:

1. Collaboration between major juvenile justice agencies, governmental entities, and community organizations.
2. Use of accurate data to diagnose the system's problems and identify real solutions.
3. Objective admissions criteria and instruments to replace subjective decisions that inappropriately place children in custody.
4. Alternatives to detention to increase the options available for arrested youth.
5. Case processing reforms to speed up the flow of cases so that youth don't languish in detention.
6. Reducing the use of secure confinement for special cases like technical probation violations.
7. Deliberate commitment to reducing racial disparities by eliminating biases and ensuring a level playing field.
8. Improving conditions of confinement through routine inspections.

The Casey Foundation assists jurisdictions with other systemic improvements which have potential to reduce detention populations: improving risk assessment instruments, establishing effective admissions policies and practices, and improving the efficiency of case processing. Through the continuation of JDAI, Sarpy County will address these priorities by analyzing system inefficiencies in order to implement new policies and improve current practices of detention alternatives for all Sarpy County juvenile offenders.

**Provide new programming and services system wide for youth involved in the Sarpy County juvenile Justice System:**

There is an increasing need in Sarpy County

to provide new programming opportunities for youth. Effective programming to reduce recidivism and produce positive outcomes for juveniles in the justice system requires different treatment options. Evidence-based programming "is an important part of juvenile justice and should be organized around risk management and risk reduction aimed at protecting the public and minimizing recidivism rates. Individualized treatment plans should include a continuum of graduated levels of supervision so offenders can be placed in more highly structured programs if behavior worsens or can be stepped down when behavior improves" (Lipse, Howell, Kelly, Chapman, Carver, 2010).

**Tracker Program and Crisis Mediation:**

Two programs that were recently implemented in Sarpy County in part because of JDAI, are the Tracker Program and the Crisis Mediation Team.

The Tracker Program is a low level supervision program without the use of electronic monitoring. The purpose of the Program is to provide one-on-one interaction with a staff person which includes; daily school attendance, abiding by curfew and probation guidelines, as well as to give the youth's parent/guardians some assistance with day to day activities and expectations. The Tracker Program provides the following services: Supervision, Skill building and Personal Development, Case Coordination, Parent and Family Involvement, School Collaboration, Transportation and Daily Schedule Support, Restorative Justice, Leisure and Recreational activities, and Identification of Support Systems. The Sarpy County Tracker Program began serving youth on July 23, 2014 and has worked with 57 youth in that short time.

The Crisis Mediation Team provides crisis intervention, immediate response, and

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

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

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

Crisis Interventions and Parent/Child/Home as *Effective* in more than one study ([www.crimesolutions.gov](http://www.crimesolutions.gov)).

As a part of this ongoing priority, Sarpy County juvenile justice agencies will work with the JDAI Coordinator to analyze data and assess programming and treatment plans. Research will be conducted to determine if new services should be integrated into the Sarpy County Juvenile Justice System. Agencies will work to close gaps in the system by implementing new evidence-based programs in Sarpy County, such as, the Tracker and Crisis Mediation Programs.

Potential programs that will be researched during the next three years include but are not limited to:

1. Mental Health Services/Programs
2. Behavioral Health Services/Programs
3. Young Offender Programs
4. Mentoring Programs
5. Prevention Programs
6. Parent/Youth Interaction Programs.
7. Additional Educational Programs in the Reporting Center and Juvenile Diversion.

**Enhance and maintain current programming and services for youth involved in the Sarpy County Juvenile Justice System:** Sarpy County Officials are committed to providing prevention and early intervention services to assist youth in avoiding delinquent and criminal behavior and to facilitate full and just participation of young people in society.

Currently Sarpy County provides delinquency prevention and early intervention services to youth through the Sarpy County Diversion Services Unit, Crisis Mediation, Sarpy County Teen Court, Sarpy County Truancy Program, and Sarpy County Reporting Center programs. These programs either divert youth from formal court processing, or provide an alternative to residential placements. As part of this priority, Sarpy County will focus on the continuation of existing programs as well as enhancement of existing programs.

It is imperative that current programming be maintained to ensure proper service provision to Sarpy County youth and their families. Sarpy County will continue to seek funding to support existing services as well as implement new programming. Efforts to continue programs will include securing funding that enables them to operate at their current level of service. To enhance existing programs and services, Sarpy County will work to improve the following services:

**Juvenile Diversion/Teen Court:** The Sarpy County Attorney's Office implemented the Juvenile Diversion Program in 1979 as a way to divert juveniles from the formal court processing offering classes, drug testing, and an opportunity for juveniles to participate in Teen Court.

Over 8,000 youth and their families have participated in the program. Over the past three years the Sarpy County Diversion Services Program has encountered a rise in the number of participants experiencing substance abuse problems.

Sarpy County Juvenile Diversion is a voluntary pre-trial program for minors, offered by the Sarpy County Attorney's Office. Instead of filing criminal charges in one of the court systems in Sarpy County, the Juvenile Diversion Program offers youth the opportunity to participate in community-based programs as an alternative to court process.

The Sarpy County Teen Court Program has been serving youth since 1995. Sarpy County Teen Court is available through Diversion Services to juveniles who are cited for offenses such as shoplifting, criminal mischief, theft, MIP, assault, and trespassing.

Teen and Youth Courts are structured to provide positive alternative sanctions for

first-time offenders by providing a peer-driven sentencing mechanism that allows young people to take responsibility, to be held accountable, and to make restitution, resulting in reduced recidivism rates (National Association of Youth Courts, 2011).

Sarpy County Teen Court is an important tool in decreasing youth recidivism rates. National research has been done to rate the effectiveness of the Teen Court Program. Nationally, recidivism rates for Teen Court vary between 7% and 8%. If the same offenders were handled in the legal system by adults, the recidivism rate would be 30% (Butts, Buck, and Coggeshall, 2002). At this time, an estimated 300 teen volunteers assist with Teen Court by either being a jury member, prosecutor or defense attorney and an estimated 100 Diversion clients appear in Teen Court to have consequences given to them for the offense they committed.

In 2014, Sarpy County Juvenile Diversion served over 500 youth. 219 youth served had an alcohol or substance abuse charge. In 2014, Teen Court served 89 youth, 31 of which were referred from Juvenile Diversion for alcohol or substance abuse issues. Teen Court has dealt with an increase in cases involving drug and alcohol violations which typically require more supervision and assessment. Due to taking these cases in Teen Court and the supervision that is required, the number of training opportunities has been limited. Teen Court trainings offer insight on the legal system, discuss prevention strategies to address high risk behavior, and create mentorship opportunities for those involved in Teen Court as well as youth from the community. Teen Court strongly promotes community involvement and partnerships with local schools which is an area that needs more attention. It would benefit the County to enhance this Program allowing

more youth to have their consequences rendered in Teen Court.

	2011	2012	2013	2014
Number of juveniles in Sarpy County Diversion involved in alcohol or substance abuse	195	161	191	219
Number of youth participating in the Sarpy County Teen Court Program	89	110	92	89
Number of youth participating in Teen Court for a drug or alcohol charge	25	13	24	31

\*Data compiled from Sarpy County Case Management System (CMS)

Sarpy County will continue to look for opportunities to provide youth with Teen Court and Diversion Services. Sarpy County Juvenile Diversion Services will work with the County Attorneys, Public Defenders, and Sarpy County Administration to establish new programs diverting youth from the formal court process, which ultimately reduces overall recidivism rates.

While improvements have been made over the last three years, the SAFE/JDAI Committee will work with service providers to expand services to juvenile offenders and their families. National research has shown nine key element of effective treatment programs: 1) comprehensive assessments that cover emotional and medical problems, learning disabilities, family functioning, and other aspects of an adolescent’s life; 2) comprehensive and integrated services; 3) parental involvement in a youth’s treatment; 4) program design appropriate for adolescents; 5) a climate of trust between therapists and youth; 6) staff well-trained to work with adolescents; 7) programs that address the distinct needs of boys and girls and of different racial and ethnic groups; 8) relapse prevention training, aftercare plans, referrals to community resources, and follow-up; and 9) rigorous evaluation of

treatment outcomes. Sarpy County will work diligently to ensure these elements are included in all drug and alcohol treatment programming. The table below indicates the rise in juvenile drug and alcohol violations in Sarpy County.

Juvenile Diversion and Teen Court are currently rated as *Effective* on Crime Solutions ([www.crimesolutions.gov](http://www.crimesolutions.gov)).

Number of youth in the Sarpy County Diversion Program experiencing substance abuse problems	
2011	195
2012	207
2013	226
2014	219
Number of juveniles in the Sarpy County Diversion Program involved in alcohol abuse	
2011	95
2012	80
2013	89
2014	108
Number of juveniles in the Sarpy County Diversion Program involved in drug abuse	
2011	100
2012	81
2013	103
2014	111

\*Data compiled by Sarpy County CMS

**Juvenile Drug Treatment Court:** Sarpy County has operated a Juvenile Drug Treatment Court since 2000. Funding will be solicited to allow this program to maintain its current level of service. According to the Chinn Study, the Drug Court program could be improved by: 1) developing a continuum of sanctions to reduce the number of youth placed at the Juvenile Justice Center as a sanction; 2) developing incentives for youth in the Program; 3) reducing the average length of time in the Program; 4) piloting a Family Drug Court, which would serve both the

youth and the family involved in drug abuse; and 5) monitoring outcomes and recidivism rates to determine whether intended outcomes of the Program are realized.

Juvenile Drug Court has current evidence rating of *Effective* on Crime Solutions ([www.crimesolutions.gov](http://www.crimesolutions.gov)).

Number of youth in the Sarpy County involved in Juvenile Drug Treatment Court	
2011	41
2012	40
2013	31
2014	35
Number of juveniles in the Sarpy County Juvenile Drug Court placed in the Juvenile Justice Center as a sanction	
2011	30
2012	17
2013	22
2014	11
Number of days youth spent in the Juvenile Justice Center as a sanction for the Sarpy County Juvenile Drug Court	
2011	213
2012	264
2013	282
2014	113

\*Data compiled by Sarpy County CMS

**Sarpy County Juvenile Reporting Center:**

Often a youth’s first involvement in the Sarpy County juvenile justice system is a direct result of youth spending unlimited and unstructured time after school, on weekends, and in the summer. Behaviors seen by young people as “rites of passage” are encountered during unsupervised times of the day.

The Sarpy County Juvenile Reporting Center was developed with varying levels of program duration for both pre-adjudicated and adjudicated juvenile offenders. The per diem cost is substantially lower than detention and the Reporting Center provides

a highly structured intermediate sanction alternative.

In June of 2008, the Program received notice from the United States Department of Justice they were being nominated for the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention’s (OJJDP) Model Program Guide. Additionally, the Program was recommended for OJJDP publications and/or reports for best practices to reduce juvenile offending.

Due to the success of the Center, it is imperative that the programs continue to be enhanced by adding new programming and other important juvenile services. The decrease depicted below is due in part to an increase in youth participating in Juvenile Diversion and Truancy.

Number of juveniles involved in Sarpy County Reporting Center Programs	
2010	857
2011	879
2012	807
2013	727
2014	711

\*Data compiled by Sarpy County JJC

Sarpy County will continue to work with private agencies, faith based communities, and civic clubs and organizations to expand prevention and early intervention programming such as mentor and tutoring programs. Through these programs, youth learn about commonly accepted positive social characteristics like honesty, integrity, responsibility, and positive modeling from adults who establish relationships that are intergenerational. Youth are given the chance to connect to caring adults through faith based youth groups and mentor programs when appropriate role models are not present in the life of a young person.

Day/Evening Reporting Centers have a current evidence rating of *Very Promising* on [www.ojjdp.gov](http://www.ojjdp.gov).

**Truancy:** “Prevention” is often used to describe early interventions in a young person’s life to reduce the likelihood of engaging in risky behaviors that will result in involvement in the juvenile justice system.

Today, portions of Sarpy County youth are educational underachievers who are skeptical about their ability to enter the American mainstream. Civic organizations, clubs (i.e.: 4-H, Boy and Girl Scouts, etc.), faith based communities, and other youth serving organizations (GREAT, DARE, and School Resource Officers) are working to build the skills necessary for youth to meet the requirements and responsibilities needed to find success in their families, workplaces, and communities.

During adolescence, the need to belong, have a place that is valued, and be bonded to others intensifies. Youth who are not bonded to conventional community institutions such as school, work, religious, and recreational organizations are much more likely to engage in criminal behavior

Using the balanced mission and restorative justice framework, Sarpy County juvenile justice agencies are working to interrupt the cycle of isolation and disconnectedness among community members, youth, and their parents while holding youth offenders accountable for their crimes and building trust within their communities.

Civic organizations and faith based communities work to provide a strong sense of community and support system through structured learning for youth and families. According to the National Institute of Drug Abuse, risk factors faced by juvenile offenders related to academic success include youth engaging in inappropriate, shy and aggressive behavior in the classroom, failure in school performance, poor social coping skills, and affiliations with deviant peers.

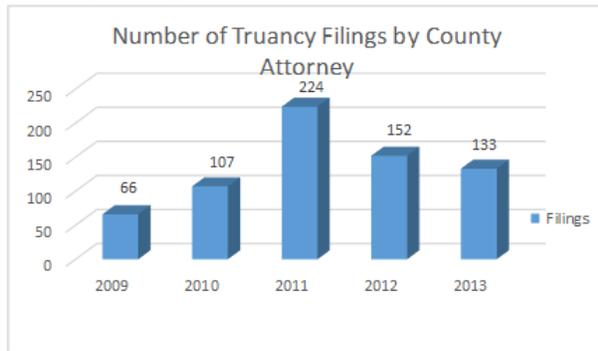
By the time a youth is sent to detention, he or she has usually committed multiple law offenses. Initial encounters with law enforcement often begin with status offenses such as running away, minor in possession of alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs, or truancy and escalate to violations that are more serious. In a recent study of juvenile offenders in Nebraska the impact of truancy in particular became very clear. The study showed that 84% of juvenile offenders did not attend school, or had severe problems attending school.

Youth involved in the Sarpy County juvenile justice system are at risk of school and job failure due to their absenteeism and repeated truancy which results in poor academic success. Failure in school performance and poor school performance leads to truancy, poor social coping skills, and affiliations with deviant peers.

School Resource Officers (SROs) are having a major impact in the reduction of youth involved in the Sarpy County juvenile justice system. SROs and Sarpy County school personnel are working to decrease the number of youth involved in risky behavior associated with truancy issues.

Sarpy County began researching Truancy programs and implemented a small pilot program in 2010. Due to the success of the pilot program, Sarpy County applied for a grant to expand and enhance the Truancy Program and was awarded funding for Truancy Staff in July 2011. The Juvenile Reporting Center, SAFE Committee, County Officials, area schools, and local youth service agencies will work together to further develop and implement the truancy intervention program to assist youth who are encountering truancy and academic issues. Since the implementation of the Truancy Program in 2011, Truancy filings by the County Attorney’s Office have decreased significantly. Youth are successfully

completing the Program and having their Truancy charge dismissed.



\*Data compiled by Sarpy County CMS

Data below shows an 866% increase in youth participating in the Truancy (PASS) Program between 2010 and 2013.

Number of juveniles involved in the Sarpy County Truancy Program	
2010	15
2011	78
2012	143
2013	145
2014	117

\*Date compiled by Sarpy County Juvenile Justice Center

As part of this Comprehensive Juvenile Services Plan, Sarpy County will continue to seek funding to enhance and expand the Truancy Program allowing for more youth to be served and additional services provided. Sarpy County will increase the Truancy Program by adding three staff to the department, allowing the Program to serve 30-40 youth per semester.

Truancy Programs have a current evidence rating of *Effective* on [www.crimesolutions.gov](http://www.crimesolutions.gov).

**CARE Program:** The Sarpy County Children At Risk Education (CARE) Program provides supervision and monitoring of youth in the community as an alternative to staff secure placement. The CARE program is a low cost form of supervision, averaging \$22.52 per day

versus \$246.22 in the Juvenile Justice Center. The CARE Program can be enhanced by: 1) ensuring there is adequate staffing to maintain the expanding caseload of juveniles being placed on the CARE Program; and 2) continue to expand sanctions for youth that do not comply with CARE Program requirements, but may not need to be placed in staff secure detention. In addition to enhancing this program, Sarpy County will continue to seek funding to guarantee CARE's current level of service.

Electronic Monitoring has a current evidence rating of *Promising* on [www.crimesolutions.gov](http://www.crimesolutions.gov).

Number of juveniles involved in the Sarpy County CARE Program	
2011	272
2012	267
2013	263
2014	204

\*Data compiled by Sarpy County CMS

**Tracker Program:** Sarpy County recently implemented the Tracker Program. The Program began serving youth July 23, 2014 and has worked with 57 youth in that short time. The Tracker Program is a low level supervision program without the use of electronic monitoring. The purpose of the Program is to provide one-on-one interaction with a staff person which includes daily school attendance, abiding by curfew and probation guidelines as well as to give the youth's parents/guardian some assistance with day to day activities and expectations. Youth are referred to the Tracker Program by an order from the Juvenile Court Judge.

**Sarpy County Tracker Services include:**

**A. Supervision:** - Juvenile Services Officers enter the youth's residence for a personal check of the participant when needed to maintain compliance to the rules and regulations of the Tracker Program. There are

three levels of supervision contact. Each level has a minimum participation time requirement. Only the Juvenile Court Judge can move a youth to another level prior to the minimal participation time.

**B. Skill Building and Personal Development:**

- This is addressed during home visits utilizing personal development and discussions to design reachable goals, in conjunction with the 40 Developmental Assets for Adolescents. In addition the Tracker Program utilizes all classes provided at the Juvenile Reporting Center.

**C. Case Coordination and Collaboration:**

- Tracker Program Staff attend meetings as requested by Juvenile Probation, treatment providers and educational professionals work toward youth and family success. Work with all system providers to problem solve and set goals for success.

**D. Parent and Family Involvement:** - Parent involvement is vital to youth program success. The Tracker Program encourages parent involvement at all program levels. Additional services available include:

- 1) A Licensed Mental Health Professionals is available Monday – Saturday to work with youth and families as needed during crisis or stabilization. This professional will also assist parents in setting up services close to youth’s home and covered by family insurance if needed.
- 2) Boystown Common Sense Parenting Classes are provided at no cost to parents who chooses to participate.

**E. School:** -The Tracker Program collaborates with all school officials to address school issues and provide praise for school success. The Program contacts school daily to ensure youth attendance and obtains grades for home meetings. The Program also assists with youth tutoring in subjects through the Reporting Center.

**F. Transportation and Daily Schedule**

**Support:** There is no transportation to services offered by the Tracker Program. However, the Program may assist on a case by case basis, depending on other youth in need of services and attention, and staffing availability.

**G. Restorative Justice:** The Tracker Program will encourage and support all Community Services set up by the Sarpy County Community Service Department. The Tracker Program will also promote and encourage community service activities/opportunities arranged at the Reporting Center.

**H. Leisure and Recreational Activities:** The Tracker Program supports and encourages all court order activities. In addition, the Program encourages youth to participate in school activities, school and community sports, religious activities/ceremonies, and all outside opportunities available for good clean fun. The Program also offers its own leisure and recreational opportunities for groups of Program youth and staff, with outings to Wild Cat Lanes Bowling Alley, Dairy Queen or the Sarpy County YMCA. These activities are all grant funded and at no cost to youth.

**I. Identification of Support Systems:** The Tracker Program will assist Probation in establishing appropriate supports for the youth and the family. The Program maintains a long lasting relationship with Release Ministries, and at the request of youth and parent the Program will ask Release Ministries to match mentors with youth.

**Assist parents and encourage active involvement in services and programming that will benefit their child and family:**

According to data in Appendix D, Family Relationships are a significant risk factor for youth in Sarpy County. Leisure/Recreation, Behavior, and Attitudes have been identified as a high risk factor for youth in Sarpy County. These risk factors can be directly tied to a youth’s family relationships. Time spent with family during leisure/recreation activities affects attitudes and behaviors. As

part of Priority 1, Sarpy County will work to involve parents/guardians in their child's programming. Sarpy County will encourage active involvement with their child through various services including but not limited to: Family/Crisis Mediation Services, Family Group Conferences, Intensive Family Preservation (IFP), Supervised Visitation, and Family Support Workers.

**Family Group Conference** – This conference is an expedited and limited-scope family group decision making model, which engages the juvenile, their family and supportive community agency members to resolve crisis to prevent out of home placement.

**Intensive Family Preservation (IFP)**- IFP services are provided by a team consisting of a licensed mental health professional and a skill builder. IFP services are provided in the family home or another setting familiar to the family. IFP services are designed to improve family functioning and effect behavior change to reduce the juvenile's criminogenic risk, increasing the family's access to community resources and other informal and formal supports. Crisis management and stabilization is provided 24 hours each day, 7 days per week.

**Supervised Visitation** – Supervised Visitation is a service that can be ordered during the Pre-Adjudication process for a worker to be assigned to monitor visitation between a juvenile and their parent/caretaker for visitations which are deemed to be unsafe to youth and/or family.

**Family Support Worker** – A Family Support Worker can be ordered by the court to provide a worker in the home to assess family strengths and work with parents/caretakers on skill building in parenting, socialization, discipline, and coping mechanisms.

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

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

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

Family/Crisis Mediation, IFP, and Family Support are all currently rated as *Effective* programs on the Crime Solutions website ([www.crimesolutions.gov](http://www.crimesolutions.gov)).

Additionally, as a part of this priority, Sarpy County Juvenile Justice Agencies will explore different ways to assist parents/guardians with active involvement in the court process. Many parents/guardians are overwhelmed and confused by the court process and the language that is used in legal documents (legalese). This confusion often leads to disinterest and emotional detachment from active participation in the justice system. Parents/guardians need assistance with understanding the steps from beginning to end. Sarpy County would like to implement unique ways to involve parents/guardians in their child’s cases through enhanced communication and better procedures that help explain in “normal” terms how the court process works and ways to assist their child through the various steps that are required.

**Priority Two**

Establish Mental Health Services and Programming and provide Behavioral Health Services for youth involved in the Sarpy County Juvenile Justice System

**Build and amplify capacity of services and programming:** Many youth in the Sarpy County Juvenile Justice system have mental health and behavioral health treatment needs. Based on Sarpy County Juvenile Justice Center data, seven (7) out of ten (10) youths in staff-secure detention require mental health medications.

Screening and assessment of mental health/behavioral issues is crucial in identifying service needs. The JDAI/SAFE Committee will work with the JDAI Coordinator, Sarpy County agencies, and mental health treatment providers to expand services to juvenile offenders exhibiting these issues. Extensive assessments will be a

part of this effort to identify those youth requiring a higher level of care.

Research indicates that detaining low risk youth actually increases their likelihood of recidivism, is more expensive than alternatives to detention, and takes resources away from youth who need more intense supervision and services. A significant number of detained youth are low risk and would present little risk to the community if released to their own homes or a lesser level of supervision. The below table demonstrates the number of juveniles transferred to secured detention due to requiring a higher level of care for mental/behavioral issues than what the JJC can offer. Alternatives are needed in order to provide youth with mental/behavior services in order to divert them from detention.

Number of juveniles transferred to secure detention due to needing a higher level of care for mental/behavioral issues	
2011	21
2012**	6
2013	4
2014	8

\*Source of data: Sarpy County JJC, CMS  
 \*\*First year of the JDAI

**Explore shelter level of care options:** The Sarpy County Juvenile Justice Agencies have identified access to Shelter Care as a priority for youth in Sarpy County. Shelter Care is the lowest level of out of home placement and is an alternative to staff secure placements. Many times a youth cannot remain in the home due to circumstances beyond their control.

Reasons may range from youth and parent not able to get along and time is needed away from each other. In many cases, ongoing mental and behavioral health therapy must be implemented between youth and parent, and in some cases the youth is

waiting for mental/behavior health treatment options. Shelter Care is the lowest level of out of home placement when staff secure is not needed or the youth does not meet the criteria for staff secure. There are many cases in which the youth has done nothing wrong and it is primarily an issue with parents not able to handle the mental and behavioral health issues. This is where an alternative to detention is needed in order to keep those juveniles that require an out of home placement but not necessarily staff secure placement from entering the detention facility.

Currently, there are three levels of Shelter Care available in the area: Shelter Care, Enhanced Shelter Care, and Crisis Stabilization.

**Shelter Care** – Short-term residential service designed to provide support to youth that require an immediate out of home placement because of safety concerns in their family home or because of disrupted placement.

**Enhanced Shelter Care** – Short-term residential service in a group setting utilizing 24 hour awake staff to provide safety and security for the youth and the community. Juveniles may access this service as an alternative to detention. The facility will provide increased structure, supervision, and security. Juveniles may attend school within the facility.

**Crisis Stabilization** – Short-term, crisis stabilization placement to assist juveniles and/or families in returning to pre-crisis level of functioning. An individualized, crisis screening will be completed to assist in the development of a stabilization plan during the admission process. Juveniles will participate in individual, group, or family counseling with a licensed therapist. Upon stabilization, the focus will be to assist juveniles and/or family in accessing

additional supports upon returning to the community setting.

In the past, there has been a lack of available Shelter Beds for juveniles. Through this priority, Sarpy County will continue to research other Shelter Care options and possible sources for funding Shelter Care for youth in Sarpy County.

Mental/Behavior Health Programs have a current evidence rating of *Effective and Promising* on [www.ojjdp.gov](http://www.ojjdp.gov).

### **Priority Three**

Improve system operation and coordination.
--------------------------------------------

**Ensure adequate staffing levels for Sarpy County Juvenile Justice Agencies and provide training for Sarpy County Juvenile Justice staff:** It is imperative that Sarpy County ensure adequate staffing levels for juvenile services agencies throughout the system. As the county continues to grow and the juvenile justice system expands to accommodate the growing juvenile population, increased funding will be required for additional staffing needs. It is crucial to have staff that are available, trained, and ready to serve juveniles in the County. Sarpy County agencies will work with administration and officials to meet the growing demands of an increasing juvenile population.

Additionally, Sarpy County juvenile justice agencies will work to ensure staff is well trained and knowledgeable in laws and the appropriate detection of current juvenile issues and trends. Continuing education and training allows team members to bring back new, innovative ideas and competencies to share. An ever-changing youth population requires staff that can accommodate with

appropriate strategies, outlined and explained by experts in the field. Continuing education and training are key components for effective and successful programs. Continuing education/training is crucial to the success of programs. Training benefits each and every youth that come through the Sarpy County juvenile justice system.

Funding will be researched and secured to ensure the County has appropriate staff available. Consistent training and continuing education will be a priority in order to serve juveniles with new and innovative programs which are designed specifically for youth offenders.

**Analyze the efficiency of current juvenile justice services and programming:**

Integration of agency information and services is crucial to assisting youth and their families in receiving the help they need. Increased coordination among agencies and the development of a common information management system are vital in overcoming the current duplication of services occurring in the Sarpy County juvenile justice system. In addition, enhancements to system information collection and sharing will lead to a greater understanding of the trends and profile of juvenile offender service requirements.

Prevention, intervention, and juvenile court services and programs should be integrated with the following Sarpy County agencies: 1) law enforcement; 2) juvenile justice agencies; 3) social services; 4) child welfare agencies; 5) schools; and 6) family preservation programs.

As part of this Comprehensive Plan, the JDAI/SAFE Committee will 1) work closely with the State of Nebraska on the NCJIS information system; 2) continue to seek contracts with local schools to release student information as allowed by the

Family Education Rights to Privacy Act (FERPA); 3) work closely with local schools to find acceptable ways to share information; 4) collaborate within the juvenile justice system to minimize any duplication of services; and 5) analyze data to make recommendations as to the success and/or failure of current programs and areas for integration, eliminating overlap of services.

**Seek opportunities to consolidate Sarpy County Juvenile Justice services and programming:**

Sarpy County recently (2014) underwent a Criminal Justice Needs Assessment conducted by Chinn Planning. One of the recommendations by the Chinn Planning report was that Sarpy County consolidate juvenile justice programming and services. Currently, juvenile justice services and programming are located in several different buildings across the Sarpy campus. Juvenile Diversion is located in a separate building across town from the Day/Evening Reporting Center and drug testing is conducted at three or four different locations. Juvenile Probation is located across the street in a building that is rented on a yearly basis. The Chinn Study recommends consolidating these youth services into one Juvenile Justice Center Site while maintaining separation of varying levels of youth offenders. There are operational benefits to consolidating all juvenile justice functions at one site and this should be considered as any interim renovations and or expansions are considered at the Juvenile Justice Center Site.

Information and data presented by Chinn Planning showed a decline in juvenile detention population but an increase in operational costs. As the population in juvenile detention continues to decrease, the unit cost (per diem rate) of juvenile detention will continue to rise. The Juvenile Detention Center has the capacity to house

36 juveniles, and population counts currently are 15 or below.

According to Karen Chinn, of Chinn Planning LLC, this issue of underutilization is prevalent in many juvenile detention and correctional facilities across the United States. Many jurisdictions have looked at ways to increase operational cost efficiencies, without jeopardizing service delivery. Sarpy County will continue to look for appropriate opportunities to increase cost effectiveness for the detention center. Other opportunities for services should be explored and consolidated, such as drug and alcohol treatment or other needs. Through consolidation and possible renovations, a portion of the existing center could potentially be utilized for other functions and still maintain separation of populations.

Chinn Planning recommended an assessment of existing space for any of the proposed expansions and consolidations at the Center. These should be explored to reduce cost associated with operations. In addition, the consolidation of juvenile programming at the Justice Center would foster enhanced coordination of the agencies that provide services to youth offenders. An indoor recreation center that would serve both youth in detention and youth in community based programs would be a tremendous asset. The Day/Evening Reporting Center is currently in operation at the Center but space is not adequate for growing service needs. Juvenile Diversion also has very limited space and must use various conference rooms in other departments for programming and classes.

As part of this priority, Sarpy County will work to reassess programming locations and implement ways to utilize current space for increased juvenile community corrections services, consolidating when appropriate and cost effective.

## Priority Four

Reduce Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) Issues in Sarpy County

**Work with the JDAI Coordinator and the State DMC Coordinator to identify DMC issues in Sarpy County:** Sarpy County juvenile justice agencies recognize the need to provide better access to services for minority populations. It is imperative that the juvenile justice system assess the gaps in service and access by holding minority community forums and other information gathering sessions.

In 2010, the Sarpy County SAFE Committee held a quarterly meeting in which the State DMC Coordinator presented DMC statistics for Sarpy County. It was determined at the meeting that there are some existing issues which need to be addressed. As data indicates below, there is a disproportionate number of black youth arrested in Sarpy County compared with the total black youth population. The total black youth population in Sarpy County is 5.4% but black youth account for 19.1% of the total youth arrested.

### **2013 Sarpy County Youth (Ages 10-17)**

Race/Ethnicity	Number	Percent
White	16,705	80.8%
Black	1,116	<b>5.4%*</b>
Native American	109	0.5%
Asian	534	2.6%
Hispanic**	2,222	10.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,686</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

\*\*May include another racial group  
Data collected from OJJDP

**CY 2013: (Under 17) Juvenile Arrests by Race/Ethnicity**

<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
White	856	79.4%
Black	206	<b>19.1%*</b>
Native American	10	0.9%
Asian	3	0.3%
Unknown	3	0.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,078</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

[http://www.ncc.ne.gov/statistics/data\\_search/arrest/arrest\\_crosstab.phtml](http://www.ncc.ne.gov/statistics/data_search/arrest/arrest_crosstab.phtml)

The Sarpy County SAFE/JDAI Policy Committee, the JDAI Site Coordinator, and Sarpy County agencies will identify priorities specific to the different minority populations the system serves. The committee will develop partnerships with local agencies also providing services to these populations in an effort to establish comprehensive services to all juvenile residents of Sarpy County and their families. Additionally, Sarpy County will seek funding to assist in addressing Disproportionate Minority Contact issues that are identified in the JDAI analysis.

**Implement reforms to reduce DMC issues at all contact points:** According to the most recent Sarpy County DMC data (Appendix E), black youth have a much higher arrest rate than white youth. In addition, minority youth are significantly under referred to Probation and overrepresented in cases referred to Juvenile Court leading to detention. The disproportionate confinement of minority youth has dire collateral consequences: youth with a history of detention are less likely to graduate from high school; are more likely to be unemployed as an adult; and are more likely to be arrested and imprisoned as an adult. Moreover, the over-representation of minority youth in the juvenile justice system perpetuates racial stereotypes, structural inequalities, and erodes trust and confidence in the justice system.

As the DMC data indicates, system reforms are needed in order to implement a level playing field for minority youth in Sarpy County. With the assistance of the JDAI Coordinator, District #2 Probation, Juvenile Court, County Attorney, and Public Defender, Sarpy County will employ a deliberate commitment to identifying and reducing racial disparities by eliminating biases and ensuring a reduction in DMC issues throughout the system. Through JDAI analysis, Sarpy County will have accurate DMC data in which to identify areas for improvement system-wide.

**Priority Five**

Improve collaboration among members of the community

**Establish new and non-traditional contacts throughout the community:** Sarpy County is unique in that all school districts in the County are represented on the Sarpy County Education Program Board (SCEP) by district Superintendents. The SCEP Board meets every month while school is in session to keep open and ongoing dialogue between the schools and Sarpy County Juvenile Services. Additionally, the Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee (CJCC) meets quarterly to discuss juvenile services needs and other issues within the County. Members of the CJCC include: Sarpy County Attorney, a Sarpy County Commissioner, Public Defender, Probation, Pre-Trial, Sarpy County Administration, Sarpy County Sheriff’s Office, Sarpy County Clerk of District Court, Clerk of County Court, area law enforcement from the city of Bellevue, LaVista, and Papillion, Sarpy County Juvenile Justice Center Director, Sarpy County Diversion Director, Sarpy County Information Services, and Sarpy County Community Services.

In 1991, Sarpy County established the Sarpy County School Administrators For Effective public policy (SAFE) Committee. The SAFE Committee is a sub-committee of the CJCC. The Mission of the SAFE Committee is: to create and maintain a county-wide network of school, law enforcement, juvenile justice, social service, business, private agencies, and medical personnel for the purpose of developing a process of prevention, intervention, cooperation, sharing of information, and coordination of services for endangered, troubled, and delinquent youth.

The Goal of the JDAI/SAFE Committee is: to bring administrators of schools, law enforcement, County prosecution, and probation together to present a process and method of information sharing, cooperation and coordination leading to improved public policy regarding youth in the community, schools, and the County Juvenile Justice System.

There is a growing need to establish new, non-traditional contacts for Sarpy County Juvenile Justice Committees. During year one of the Plan, Sarpy County will work to contact faith-based organizations, youth sports associations, the YMCA, and other agencies that have not traditionally been active members in Sarpy County Committees and Sub-Committees. Sarpy County is committed to providing prevention and early intervention services to assist youth in avoiding delinquent and criminal behavior and to facilitate full and just participation of young people in society.

To accomplish this goal, Sarpy County must collaborate with outside agencies and school districts within the area in order to widen the scope of juvenile services offered throughout the County and to have a better understanding of the issues facing juveniles in the area.

**Improve attendance and participation in meetings:** In the last year, Sarpy County has struggled with attendance and participation in Committee meetings. It is important to receive input from all agencies, school districts, and service providers in order to assist youth in avoiding risky behaviors that result in violations and placements in the Sarpy County Juvenile Justice System. Sarpy County will collaborate with members of Committees to facilitate discussions, information sharing, and presentations from various Committee members. Topics for meetings might include “hot” issues of the day such as: popular substance abuse trends, bullying, truancy, mental health issues, language/cultural barriers, and cyber-safety. Experts from each field will be contacted to present information with a question and answer session to follow.

It is imperative that Sarpy County increase attendance and participation in meetings in order for communication lines between school officials, juvenile justice agencies, service providers, and law enforcement remain open, clear and consistent. Each agency brings unique and different competencies and perspectives and when combined together in information sharing, and question/answer sessions, help increase knowledge for the entire group.

### **Sarpy County Juvenile Services Budget**

In the past five years Sarpy County has experienced an increase in costs associated with non-detention services for youth involved in the Sarpy County juvenile justice system.

In FY 2014, Sarpy County spent \$1,862,962 for non-detention services and another \$58,860 for detention.

Additional funding will be needed each year to implement, enhance, and maintain the

programs and solutions involved in this Comprehensive Plan. Therefore, it is critical that Sarpy County continue to receive funding from outside sources such as the Community Based Juvenile Services Aid and the Nebraska Crime Commission Title II Juvenile Justice grants.

### **Activities and Timetables**

This Comprehensive Plan is viewed as a fluid and workable plan that will be evaluated yearly to determine the successful implementation of the identified solutions. Each year the Comprehensive Planning Committee will meet to evaluate the progress of the Plan and determine the activities and timetables of the upcoming year.

Appendix B contains a timeline for implementation of Sarpy County's strategies to address the priorities outlined in this Comprehensive Plan. The timeline includes a list of the activities, agencies, and resources needed to address these priorities.

During all three years of the Plan, Sarpy County will work with the JDAI/SAFE Committee, County Officials, area schools, and local youth service agencies will collaborate to contact new members increasing participation in meetings (Priority 5). Sarpy County will work to improve collaboration among members of the community. Sarpy County will strive to establish new and non-traditional contacts throughout the community and improve attendance and participation in SAFE Committee meetings. Sarpy County will also continue to fund existing programs (Priority 1). It is imperative that current programming be maintained to ensure proper service provision to Sarpy County youth and their families. Sarpy County will continue to seek funding to support existing services as well as implement new programming. The creation of new

programs or the enhancement of existing services is dependent upon the availability of funding.

### **Evaluation**

Evaluation is often viewed as a highly complex, time consuming, and expensive process. Understanding the success of a program or solution is vital in knowing how to assist youth and their families involved in the juvenile justice system.

Integration of agency information is crucial to assisting youth and their families in receiving the help they need. Increased coordination among agencies and the development of an information management system are vital in overcoming the current duplication of services occurring in the Sarpy County juvenile justice system.

Currently, programs providing services to youth involved in the Sarpy County juvenile justice system do not have a uniform venue for collaborating and sharing the information they collect. Youth and their families often flow through the system receiving duplicated services without individual agencies knowing their history.

A uniform and comprehensive Management of Information System (MIS) for Sarpy County agencies and programs is not currently in place. As part of the proposed solutions of this Comprehensive Plan local officials and the JDAI/SAFE Committee will work to design and implement a uniform MIS program for Sarpy County.

It is critical that programs evaluate their effectiveness in working with juvenile offenders. To this end, in the first year activities of the Plan include development of a Management of Information System (MIS) program.

## **Conclusion**

Since its creation in 1976, the Sarpy County Separate Juvenile Court, in cooperation with the Juvenile Probation Office and local officials, has implemented graduated sanction programs designed to provide prompt and fair consequences for youth offenders.

The JDAI/SAFE Planning Committee will work to secure funding to implement the programs and activities outlined in the Comprehensive Plan. As Federal and State funding opportunities continue to decrease it will become vital for local officials, private agencies, civic organizations, and faith

based communities to work together to provide local programming.

The JDAI/SAFE Planning Committee identified the need for local community based services for youth and their families as one of the biggest risk factors facing Sarpy County residents.

The knowledge needed for implementing successful Juvenile Justice Programs exists in communities. The only way to accomplish the important activities of the Plan will be to work closely with local agencies and providers to develop community based services for youth and their families.

## **Summary/Recommendations:**

Sarpy County juvenile justice officials met in March and April 2015 to discuss community planning for the next three year Comprehensive Juvenile Services Plan. Members of the SAFE/JDAI Committee and Sarpy County juvenile justice agencies were brought together for this discussion. Recommendations were presented based on JDAI data and discussions in the JDAI Collaborative meetings. The following recommendations were identified as priorities.

- 1) Because Sarpy County has been approved as a Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI) site, it has a unique opportunity to implement system-wide reforms based on JDAI data analysis. Sarpy County will continue to work with a JDAI Site Coordinator to gather statistics and data in order to submit proposals to County officials for programming reforms and the possibility of new services. The Coordinator will continue to gather information from all juvenile justice agencies to increase system operation, decrease DMC issues, and decrease case processing times with the ultimate goal of introducing reforms to the system and alternatives to detention for juveniles in Sarpy County.
- 2) In Sarpy County, many youth are experiencing mental and behavioral health issues. Data from the Juvenile Justice Center indicates 75% of the youth that are in detention are dealing with mental or behavioral health problems and require medication. There are limited placements for youth experiencing these issues and in many cases, staff secure detention is not appropriate for these youth. Sarpy County has identified mental/behavioral health issues as a priority and will seek opportunities to implement programs and services to address youth who are experiencing these types of problems.
- 3) Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) is an issue that is being addressed at a national level by the Federal Government. It would benefit this community to work with the State's DMC coordinator to assist with any training and educational services as needed. Through the JDAI process, Sarpy County will work to identify DMC issues and implement reforms striving to decrease disparities for minority youth at all entry points throughout the system.
- 4) Current programming and services should be enhanced and maintained. The CARE Program in Sarpy County is a cost effective way to keep juvenile offenders in the home and community allowing them to be in school, work, and other related community based programs. Additionally, due to the increase in juveniles charged with alcohol and substance abuse violations, it is imperative funding be secured for continuation of the Sarpy County Juvenile Diversion Programs. Juveniles are provided skills that will aid them in leading productive substance free lives encouraging them to work toward their educational goals.
- 5) Due to the number of juveniles suspended, expelled, or not attending school in Sarpy County, many juveniles are not supervised during the day hours which is directly linked to juvenile delinquency. Other issues such as mental health and substance abuse are often contributing factors to the school related problems. Maintaining a day and evening reporting program in Sarpy County which includes education, therapy for mental health and substance abuse (if needed), transportation, parenting programs, and other social skill opportunities would provide collaborative coordination for this gap in services. Truancy remains an accurate predictor of future delinquency. As truancy and school connectivity are related, a community is tasked with the efforts to provide after school programs, mentoring, and other community service activities to youth.

## Appendix A

### Strategies

<b>Priority One</b>	<b>Expand, enhance, and maintain services and programming for youth in Sarpy County</b>
<b>Specific Strategies:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Implement Juvenile Detention Alternatives in Sarpy County.</li><li>2. Provide new programming and services system wide for youth involved in the Sarpy County Juvenile Justice System.</li><li>3. Enhance and maintain current programming and services for youth involved in the Sarpy County Juvenile Justice System.</li><li>4. Assist parents and encourage active involvement in services and programming that will benefit their child and family.</li></ol>
<b>Priority Two</b>	<b>Establish mental health services and programming options for youth in the Sarpy County Juvenile Justice System and provide behavioral health services for youth involved in the Juvenile Justice System</b>
<b>Specific Strategies:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Build and amplify capacity of services and programming.</li><li>2. Explore shelter level of care options.</li></ol>

<b>Priority Three</b>	<b>Improve system operation and coordination</b>
<b>Specific Strategies:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ensure adequate staffing levels for Sarpy County Juvenile Justice agencies and provide training for Sarpy County Juvenile Justice staff.</li> <li>2. Analyze the efficiency of current juvenile justice services and programming.</li> <li>3. Seek opportunities to consolidate Sarpy County Juvenile Justice services and programming.</li> </ol>
<b>Priority Four</b>	<b>Reduce Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) issues in Sarpy County</b>
<b>Specific Strategies:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Work with the Sarpy County JDAI Coordinator and the State DMC Coordinator to identify DMC issues in Sarpy County.</li> <li>2. Implement reforms to reduce DMC issues at all contact points.</li> </ol>
<b>Priority Five</b>	<b>Improve collaboration among members of the community</b>
<b>Specific Strategies:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Establish new and non-traditional contacts throughout the community.</li> <li>2. Improve attendance and participation in meetings.</li> </ol>

## Appendix B

### Strategies and Timeline for the Comprehensive Plan

	Activity	Who	When	Resources Needed
<b>Priority One:</b> Expand, Enhance, and Maintain Services and programming for youth in Sarpy County  <b>Strategy:</b> Implement Juvenile Detention Alternatives in Sarpy County	Continue to work on the Annie E. Casey Foundation's JDAI work plan.	Sarpy County Juvenile Justice Agencies, Juvenile Court Judges, SAFE/JDAI, CJCC, JDAI Coordinator	Year one and two	Various grant funding sources, Sarpy County Juvenile Justice Agencies, Administration, Board of Commissioners, SAFE/JDAI Committee, CJCC
	Develop new programs and services that will provide alternatives to detention and diversion services to youth in Sarpy County Juvenile Justice system.	SAFE/JDAI Committee, CJCC, Sarpy County Juvenile Justice Agencies, JDAI Coordinator	Year one and two	SAFE/JDAI Committee, Sarpy County Juvenile Justice Agencies, CJCC, Administration, Board of Commissioners
	Continue to gather and analyze data for alternatives to detention identifying positive and negative outcomes for programs.	SAFE/JDAI Committee, Sarpy County Information Systems Department, and Juvenile Justice Agencies, JDAI Coordinator	Year one and two	SAFE/JDAI Committee, Juvenile Justice Agencies, Administration, CJCC, Board of Commissioners
	Activity	Who	When	Resources Needed
<b>Priority One:</b> Expand, Enhance, and Maintain Services and programming for youth in Sarpy County	Analyze JDAI data to implement new programs and services system wide.	JDAI Coordinator, SAFE/JDAI Committee, CJCC Sarpy County Juvenile Justice Agencies	Year one, two and three	SAFE/JDAI, Various grant funding sources, Sarpy County Juvenile Justice Agencies, Administration, Board of Commissioners
	Evaluate outcomes of programs to help identify gaps in the continuum of service.	SAFE/JDAI Committee, Sarpy County Juvenile Justice Agencies, JDAI Site Coordinator	Year one, two, and three	SAFE/JDAI Committee, Sarpy County Juvenile Justice Agencies, CJCC, Administration, Board of Commissioners

<p><b>Strategy:</b> Provide new programming and services system wide for youth involved in the Sarpy County Juvenile Justice System</p>				

<p><b>Priority One:</b> Expand, Enhance, and Maintain Services and programming for youth in Sarpy County</p> <p><b>Strategy:</b> Enhance and maintain current programming and services for youth in Sarpy County Juvenile Justice System</p>	<p>Enhance and maintain current programs and services identified as successful in JDAI analysis. Provide adequate staff, supplies, equipment to maintain while also adding to successful services.</p>	<p>SAFE/JDAI Committee, CJCC, and Juvenile Justice agencies, Sarpy County Service Providers</p>	<p>Year one, two, and three</p>	<p>SAFE/JDAI Committee, CJCC, Juvenile Justice agencies, Service Providers, Various grant funding sources, Administration, Board of Commissioners</p>
	Activity	Who	When	Resources Needed

<p><b>Priority One:</b> Expand, Enhance, and Maintain Services and programming for youth in Sarpy County</p> <p><b>Strategy:</b> Assist parents and encourage active involvement in services and programming that benefits their child/family</p>	<p>Collaborate system wide to assist parents/guardians with their child's case. Assist families in understanding the court process helping parents to be actively involved in their child's case.</p> <p>Encourage parents/guardians to seek assistance and participate in family therapy, mediation, counseling, crisis interventions and/or other programs which will help strengthen their family and aid in their child's success.</p>	<p>Sarpy County Juvenile Justice Agencies, Sarpy County Juvenile Court, SAFE/JDAI Committee, CJCC</p>	<p>Year one, two, and three</p>	<p>Various grant funding sources, SAFE/JDAI Committee, Sarpy County Juvenile Justice Agencies, Sarpy County Juvenile Court, CJCC, Administration</p>
	Activity	Who	When	Resources Needed

<p><b>Priority Two:</b> Establish mental health services and programming options for youth in the Sarpy County Juvenile Justice System and provide behavioral health services for youth involved in the Juvenile Justice System</p> <p><b>Strategy:</b> Build and amplify capacity of services and programming</p>	<p>Research and implement screening and assessment tools in order to identify youth experiencing mental and/or behavioral health issues.</p> <p>Gather and analyze the results of screening and assessments to build on current services and implement new programs.</p>	<p>SAFE/JDAI Committee, CJCC, Juvenile Services Agencies, JDAI Coordinator, Information Systems</p>	<p>Year One and Two</p>	<p>SAFE/JDAI Committee, Sarpy County Juvenile Services Agencies, CJCC, Administration, Board of Commissioners</p>
	Activity	Who	When	Resources Needed

<p><b>Priority Two:</b> Establish mental health services and programming options for youth in the Sarpy County Juvenile Justice System and provide behavioral health services for youth involved in the Juvenile Justice System</p> <p><b>Strategy:</b> Explore shelter level of care options</p>	<p>Research additional shelters for youth in Sarpy County. Explore the utilization of shelter care as an alternative to staff-secure detention when out of home placements are necessary.</p>	<p>JDAI Site Coordinator, SAFE/JDAI Committee, CJCC, and Juvenile Justice agencies, Sarpy County Information Services</p>	<p>Year One, Two, and Three</p>	<p>SAFE/JDAI Committee, CJCC, Sarpy County Juvenile Justice agencies, Administration, various grant funding sources</p>
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<p><b>Priority Three:</b> Improve System Operation and Coordination</p> <p><b>Strategy:</b> Ensure adequate staffing levels for Sarpy county Juvenile Justice agencies and provide training for staff</p>	<p>Secure funding to maintain current staffing levels that will provide exceptional service provision for youth in the Sarpy County Juvenile Justice system.</p> <p>Secure funding for the training of current staff and training of new staff.</p> <p>Secure funding to hire additional staff when necessary for proper service provision.</p>	<p>JDAI Site Coordinator, SAFE/JDAI Committee, CJCC, and Juvenile Justice agencies, Sarpy County Information Services</p>	<p>Year one, two and three</p>	<p>SAFE/JDAI Committee, CJCC, Juvenile Justice agencies, Various grant funding sources, Board of Commissioners, Administration</p>
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	Activity	Who	When	Resources Needed
<p><b>Priority Three:</b> Improve System Operation and Coordination</p> <p><b>Strategy:</b> Analyze the efficiency of current juvenile justice services and programming</p>	<p>Work with data and JDAI to analyze current services and programming, consolidating programs where possible to reduce overlap in services.</p>	<p>JDAI Coordinator, SAFE/JDAI Committee, CJCC, Sarpy County Juvenile Justice Agencies, Sarpy County Information Systems, County Board of Commissioners</p>	<p>Year One, two and three</p>	<p>Community Based Aid and Title II Funding, Other funding options, SAFE/JDAI Committee, County Board of Commissioners, CJCC, Sarpy County Juvenile Justice Agencies</p>

	Activity	Who	When	Resources Needed
<p><b>Priority Three:</b> Improve System Operation and Coordination</p> <p><b>Strategy:</b> Seek opportunities to consolidate Sarpy County Juvenile Justice services and programming</p>	Secure funding to consolidate programs and services into one Juvenile Justice Center to strengthen collaboration between agencies becoming more cost-effective and efficient.	SAFE/JDAI Committee, JDAI Coordinator, Director of the Juvenile Justice Center, CJCC, County Board of Commissioners, Juvenile Diversion, Juvenile Probation	Year One, Two, and Three	Community Based Aid Funding, Title II, other funding options, SAFE/JDAI Committee, Director of the Juvenile Justice Center, County Board of Commissioners, CJCC, Sarpy County Juvenile Justice Agencies
	Activity	Who	When	Resources Needed
<p><b>Priority Four:</b> Reduce DMC issues in Sarpy County</p> <p><b>Strategy:</b> Work with the Sarpy County JDAI Coordinator and the State DMC Coordinator to identify DMC issues in Sarpy County</p>	Collaborate with the JDAI and State DMC Coordinator to analyze DMC data and identify statistically significant DMC problems.	SAFE/JDAI Committee, CJCC, JDAI Coordinator, Juvenile Probation, State DMC Coordinator, Juvenile Justice Center, Juvenile Court, Juvenile Probation, Law Enforcement	Year One, Two, and Three	SAFE/JDAI Committee, CJCC, Community Based Aid Funding, Title II Funding

	Activity	Who	When	Resources Needed
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<p><b>Priority Four:</b> Reduce DMC Issues in Sarpy County</p> <p><b>Strategy:</b> Implement reforms to reduce DMC issues at all contact points</p>	<p>Develop strategies to reduce the RRIs compared to white youth in Sarpy County. Identify changes needed to achieve statistical parity.</p>	<p>SAFE/JDAI Committee, CJCC, JDAI Coordinator, Juvenile Probation, State DMC Coordinator, Juvenile Justice Center, Juvenile Court, Juvenile Probation, Law Enforcement</p>	<p>Year one and two</p>	<p>SAFE/JDAI Committee, CJCC, Community Based Aid Funding, Title II Funding</p>
<p><b>Priority Five:</b> Improve Collaboration among members of the community</p> <p><b>Strategy:</b> Establish new and non-traditional contacts throughout the community</p>	<p>Collaborate with school districts and other outside agencies that serve youth to attend and actively participate in meetings and correspondence relating to Juvenile Justice issues in Sarpy County.</p>	<p>SAFE/JDAI Committee, Diversion Services District #2 Probation, Sarpy County JDTC, Sarpy County Board of Commissioners</p>	<p>Year One, Two, and Three</p>	<p>SAFE/JDAI Committee, Diversion Services Executive Director, District #2 Probation, Sarpy County JDTC, and Sarpy County Board of Commissioners</p>
	Activity	Who	When	Resources Needed

<p><b>Priority Five:</b> Improve Collaboration among members of the community</p> <p><b>Strategy:</b> Improve attendance and participation in meetings</p>	<p>Actively and regularly communicate with all agencies serving youth in Sarpy County to increase participation in quarterly meetings and information sharing. Request input on possible presentations and trainings for juvenile agencies in Sarpy County.</p>	<p>Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee, SAFE/JDAI Committee, Director of the Juvenile Justice Center, Juvenile Diversion, Juvenile Probation, other area agencies that serve youth</p>	<p>Year One, Two, and Three</p>	<p>Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee, SAFE/JDAI Committee, Director of the Juvenile Justice Center</p>
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## Appendix C

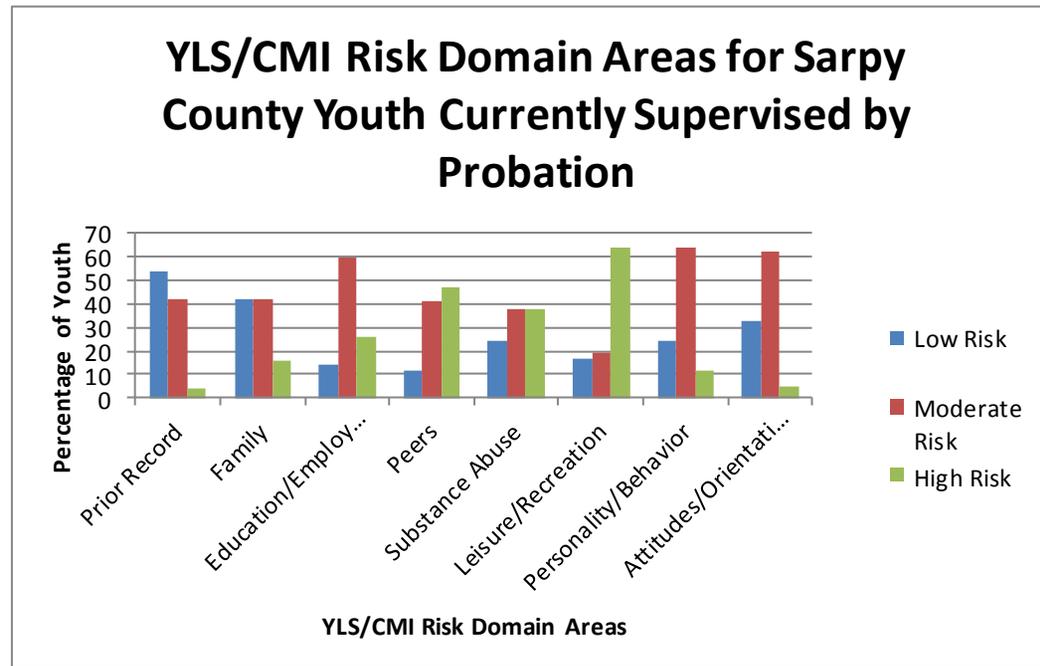
### SAFE/JDAI Committee Community Team Members

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>PHONE NUMBER</u>
Honorable Judge Larry Gendler	Sarpy County Juvenile Court	1210 Golden Gate Dr Papillion, NE 68046	(402) 593-2217
Kevin Riley	Gretna Public Schools	801 South State Gretna, NE 68028	(402) 332-3265
Sarpy County Commissioner Brenda Carlisle	Sarpy County Board of Commissioners	1210 Golden Gate Dr. Papillion, NE. 68046	(402) 593-4155
Richard Shea	Sarpy County Juvenile Justice Center	9701 Portal Road Papillion, NE 68046	(402) 537-7000
Brian Hanson	Sarpy County Fiscal Agent	1210 Golden Gate Dr Papillion NE 68046	(402) 593-2349
Erin Sliva	District 2 Probation	1257 Golden Gate Dr Papillion, NE 68046	(402) 593-4420
Sandra Markley	Sarpy County Deputy Attorney	1210 Golden Gate Dr Papillion NE 68046	(402) 593-2230
Carolyn Rothery	Sarpy County Deputy Attorney	1210 Golden Gate Dr. Papillion, NE 68046	(402) 593-2230
Honorable Judge Robert O'Neal	Sarpy County Juvenile Court	1210 Golden Gate Dr Papillion, NE 68046	(402) 593-5918
Sheriff Jeff Davis	Sarpy County Sheriff's Office	8335 Platteview Rd. Papillion, NE 68046	(402) 593-2288
Jodi York	District 2 Probation	1257 Golden Gate Dr. Suite 5 Papillion, NE. 68046	(402) 593-2194
Jeff Jennings	District 2 Probation	1210 Golden Gate Dr. Papillion, NE. 68046	(402) 593-4421

Creston Ashburn	Sarpy County Juvenile Drug Treatment Court	1210 Golden Gate Dr. Papillion, NE 68046	(402) 593-2197
Lt. Dave Stukenholtz	Bellevue Police Department	2207 Washington Bellevue, NE 68005	(402) 293-3115
Lt. D.J Barcal	La Vista Police Department	7701 South 96 <sup>th</sup> St La Vista, NE 68128	(402) 331-1582
Jennifer Thomas	Sarpy County Juvenile Diversion Services	1257 Golden Gate Drive, Ste. 11W Papillion, NE. 68046	(402) 593-2207
Kraig Lofquist	Millard Public Schools	5606 S. 147 <sup>th</sup> St. Omaha, NE. 68137	(402) 715-8300
Laurie Cooley	Papillion LaVista Public Schools	7900 Edgewood Blvd. La Vista, NE. 68128	(402) 829-5911
Georgie Scurfield	Sarpy County CASA Program	1210 Golden Gate Dr. Papillion, NE. 68046	(402) 593-2259
Steve Joekel	South Sarpy School District #46	14801 S. 108 <sup>th</sup> Street Springfield, NE 68059	(402) 597-8551
Michelle Siders	Sarpy County Juvenile Reporting Center	9701 Portal Road Papillion, NE. 68046	(402) 537-7012
David Soto	Sarpy County Diversion Services	1257 Golden Gate Dr Papillion, NE. 68046	(402) 593-2207
Lisa A. Haire	Sarpy County Administration	1210 Golden Gate Dr. Papillion, NE. 68046	(402) 593-1565
Scott Bovick	Sarpy County Administration	1210 Golden Gate Dr. Papillion, NE. 68046	(402) 593-1568
Curtis Rainge	Sarpy County Sheriff's Office	8335 Platteview Road Papillion, NE 68046	(402) 593-4366
Carissa Gosda	Sarpy County Diversion Services	1257 Golden Gate Dr Papillion, NE 68046	(402) 593-4121

## Appendix D

YLS/CMI Assessments for Sarpy County Youth



\*Data provided by District #2 Probation

The Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (YLS/CMI) is a standardized evidence based risk assessment tool that provides a foundation for effective case management. The tool is utilized in decision making related to level of care, supervision, placement, and treatment planning for youth. The assessment identifies risk, need, and protective factors which can then be incorporated into programs and plans for groups or individuals enhancing success and prevention of future delinquent/criminal behaviors.

According to data provided by District #2 Probation, Sarpy County youth have significant high and moderate risk factors for Substance Abuse, Leisure/Recreation, Behavior, Education/Employment, and Attitudes that have been identified by the YLS/CMI. Additionally, Family is a Moderate Risk factor for youth in Sarpy County. The Sarpy County Juvenile Justice System will work to target these risk factors by providing programming options to assist youth in lowering these risks. By offering varying levels of services such as: Mediation, Family Crisis Mediation, classes in Diversion, classes in Drug Treatment Court, Probation, youth activities, the Day School Program, Day and Evening Reporting Center activities, and the Truancy/PASS Program, youth will have opportunities to participate in various alternative services as well as substance abuse classes, educational, and leisure/recreational programs which will also ultimately help with these risk factors.

## Appendix E

### Disproportionate Minority Contact Data

\*\*Data Provided by Nebraska State DMC Coordinator\*\*

Relative Rate Index Compared with :		White Juveniles		Reporting Period 1/1/2013 through 12/31/2013					
State: Nebraska County: Sarpy	White	Black or African-American	Hispanic or Latino	Asian	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islanders	American Indian or Alaska Native	Other/Mixed	All Minorities	
2. Juvenile Arrests	1.00	<b>3.60</b>	**	**	*	*	*	1.07	
3. Refer to Juvenile Court	1.00	1.13	**	**	*	*	*	<b>2.68</b>	
4. Cases Diverted	1.00	1.29	**	**	*	*	*	1.05	
5. Cases Involving Secure Detention	**	**	**	**	*	*	*	**	
6. Cases Petitioned	1.00	0.83	**	**	*	*	*	0.97	
7. Cases Resulting in Delinquent Findings	1.00	0.89	**	**	*	*	*	1.19	
8. Cases resulting in Probation Placement	1.00	**	**	**	*	*	*	<b>0.68</b>	
9. Cases Resulting in Confinement in Secure Juvenile Correctional Facilities	**	**	**	**	*	*	*	**	
10. Cases Transferred to Adult Court	**	**	**	**	*	*	*	**	
<b>Group meets 1% threshold?</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>		

**Key:**

Statistically significant results:

**Bold font**

Results that are not statistically significant

Regular font

Group is less than 1% of the youth population

\*

Insufficient number of cases for analysis

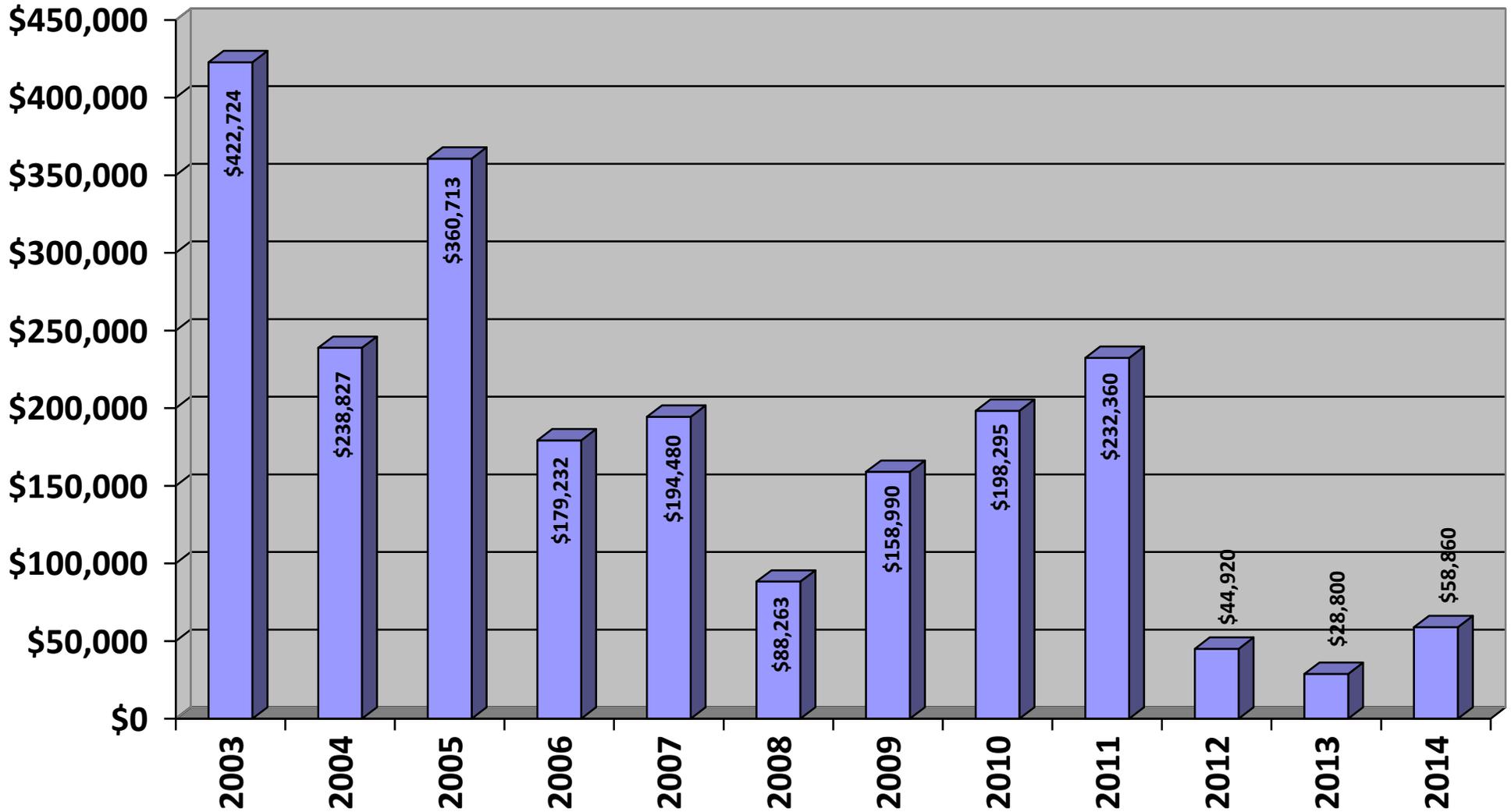
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Missing data for some element of calculation

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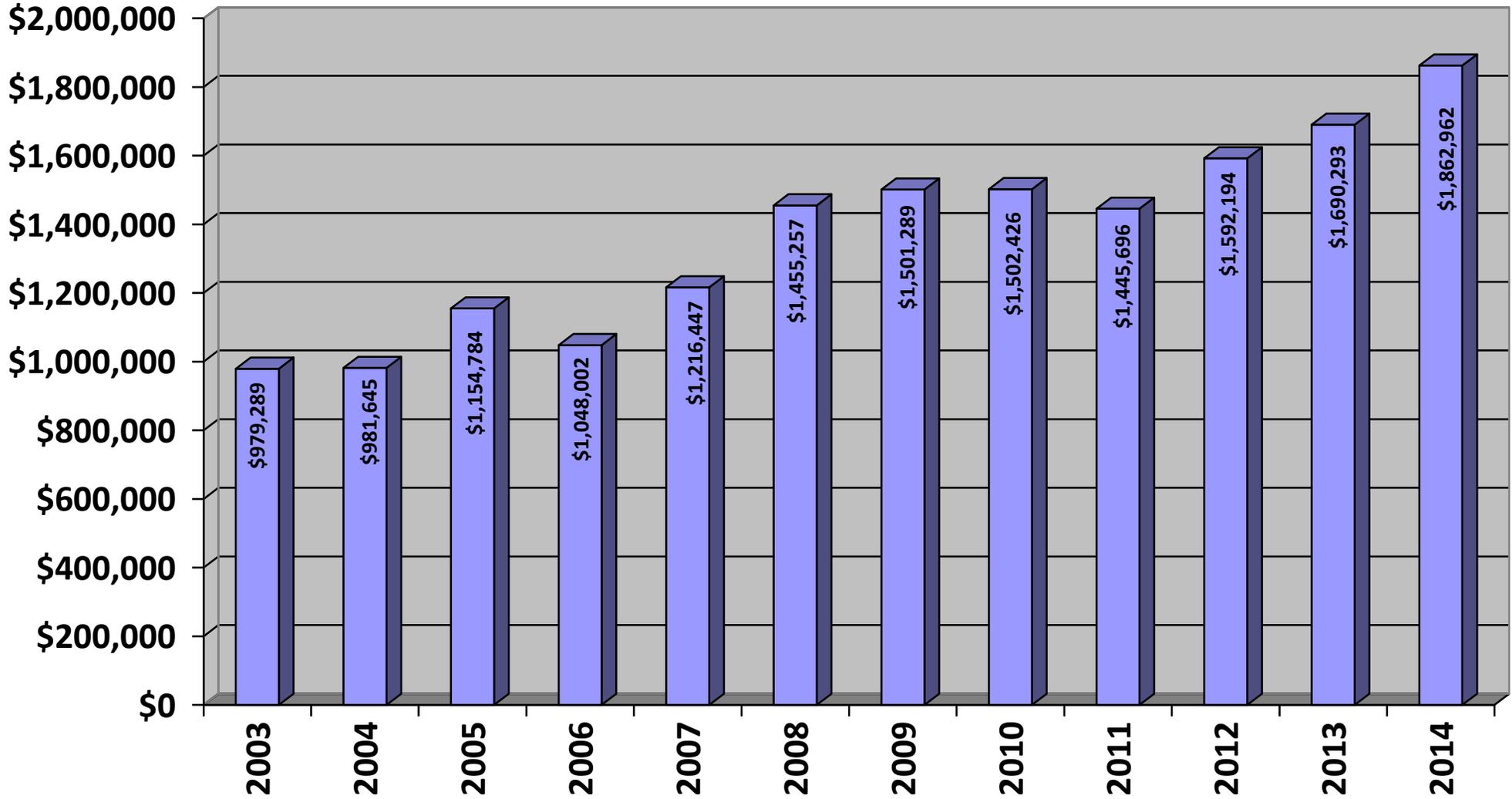
**Appendix F**

**Sarpy County Juvenile Services Secure Detention Facility Costs 2003-2014**



Appendix G

Sarpy County Juvenile Services Non-Detention Costs 2003-2014



**Appendix H**

**Sarpy County Staff Secure JJC Detention Facility Costs 2003-2014**

