

South Central Youth Task Force
Juvenile Services
Comprehensive Community Plan
July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2021

Webster, Clay, Adams, Nuckolls, Fillmore, Franklin, Kearney, Phelps, Harlan Counties

July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2021

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Executive Summary

Community Based Juvenile Services has been essential in broadening the scope and depth of the programming in the South Central Nebraska area. Programs started because of Community Based funding are hitting full stride. There have been changes in buildings, staff, and program development, resulting in better service to youth and families, increased efficiency in referral processes, and serving broader geographical areas.

Implemented programs have shown results in expected areas:

- ✓ STARS Truancy: Adams County and the surrounding counties have very good high school graduation rates, 93.4%, (UW data) compared to 88.9% for the rest of state.
- ✓ Less reliance on court dates in Adams County, due to choices in Teen Court and Diversion. (Adams County Attorney)
- ✓ Zone increase numbers, homework services increased grades
- ✓ Beyond School Walls expansion to variety of workplace sectors and increasing relationships between youth, school, and businesses.
- ✓ Increased program offerings across spectrum from prevention to Alternatives to Detention

These positives, when combined with local data on local poverty and youth data have led the Community Team to focus on three priorities:

Priority #1: Recognize risky youth behaviors and provide appropriate intervention and restorative services to increase youth resiliency

Priority #2: Prevent youth from entering the juvenile justice system through positive youth development

Priority #3: Organizational: Coordinate data and responses among partners to assess and develop continuous improvement strategies.

SECTION II

COMMUNITY TEAM

History

On October 31, 2001, the original four counties (Adams, Clay, Nuckolls, and Webster) agreed that Clay County should be the lead county in this funding effort to work with juveniles from ages 12-18 who are already in the juvenile justice system. Assessments were made in 42 focus groups to develop the We CAN Juvenile Services Plan during 2001-2002. The Comprehensive County Juvenile Services Plan has been updated with input from the Juvenile Justice Institute, as well as representatives from each of the nine counties since that time. Each plan runs for a three-year time. All nine counties are participating in updating the plan and starting a new 2019-2021 plan.

The Youth Task Force (YTF) serves as the lead organization in the assessment, distribution, and evaluation of the State County Aid Juvenile Justice Grant funding from the Nebraska Crime Commission. **Webster, Clay, Adams, Nuckolls, Fillmore, Phelps, Kearney, Franklin, and Harlan counties have joined together to apply and utilize this funding across their region.**

Sharon Lavene, Clay County Treasurer, serves as the fiscal agent until June 30, 2018. May 1, 2018, Adams County became the lead county, making Melanie Curry, Adams County Treasurer, the fiscal agent. Carissa Uhrmacher, Project Director, writes continuation requests, finalizes reports, and makes contact with County Boards in each of the nine counties, and Hannah Duke, YWCA Assistant Executive Director, serves as Project Administrator.

All quarterly reports are completed with JJI. An audit is conducted annually by the NE Crime Commission.

Youth Task Force meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month, 11-12 PM, except June and July. The originating site is the YWCA Adams County, with videoconferencing available via Fuze for other participants. About 10 members are regularly in attendance. These meetings are led by Carissa Uhrmacher, follow an agenda, and have minutes recorded. The agenda includes introductions, grant recipient report updates, administrative information, county plan updates, data sharing, networking and new business. Greater participation numbers are seen for annual feedback on the county plan and allocations.

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Section III

Community Socio-Economics

Community Level Data

Adams, Clay, Fillmore, Franklin, Harlan, Kearney, Nuckolls, Phelps, and Webster counties are located in South Central Nebraska.

Schools in this region include Hastings Public Schools, St. Cecilia & St. Michael's Catholic School, Adams Central School District, Silver Lake, Kenesaw, Harvard, Clay Center, Sandy Creek, Sutton, Blue Hill, Red Cloud, Superior, Lawrence-Nelson, Geneva, Alma, Minden, Holdrege, and Franklin. Hastings College and Central Community College are located in or near Hastings.

These counties are rural in nature and mostly agricultural. Main transportation routes include Highways 281, 6, 10, 74, 136, and 14. The four southern counties border Kansas to the south. Attractions include Spring Ranch, Willa Cather Museum, Red Cloud Opera House, Hastings Museum, Lake Hastings, Pioneer Village, Harlan County Dam, and Crystal Lake State Park.

Economic downturn has made it difficult to set up programs that encourage youth to become a part of something. This leads to a lack of opportunities. Where meaningful opportunities do exist for youth in a community, there may be a lack of leadership, participating population, adult support and/or marketing to get the youth at the programs. Because of the rural geography of the nine county area, transportation and communication continue to be obstacles for program implementation and attendance. The rural geography also plays a part into pigeon-holing youth and families. Transition of workforce in the towns as well as the organizations planning activities/programs is also a struggle.

Many of the strategies are being developed or are ongoing in Adams County, particularly in Hastings, because it is the area's city-center. In the outlying counties, many strategies are in the startup phase or are presently non-existent. This has created the imperative need to expand sooner than later. The largest resources needed for each of the strategies are people and money.

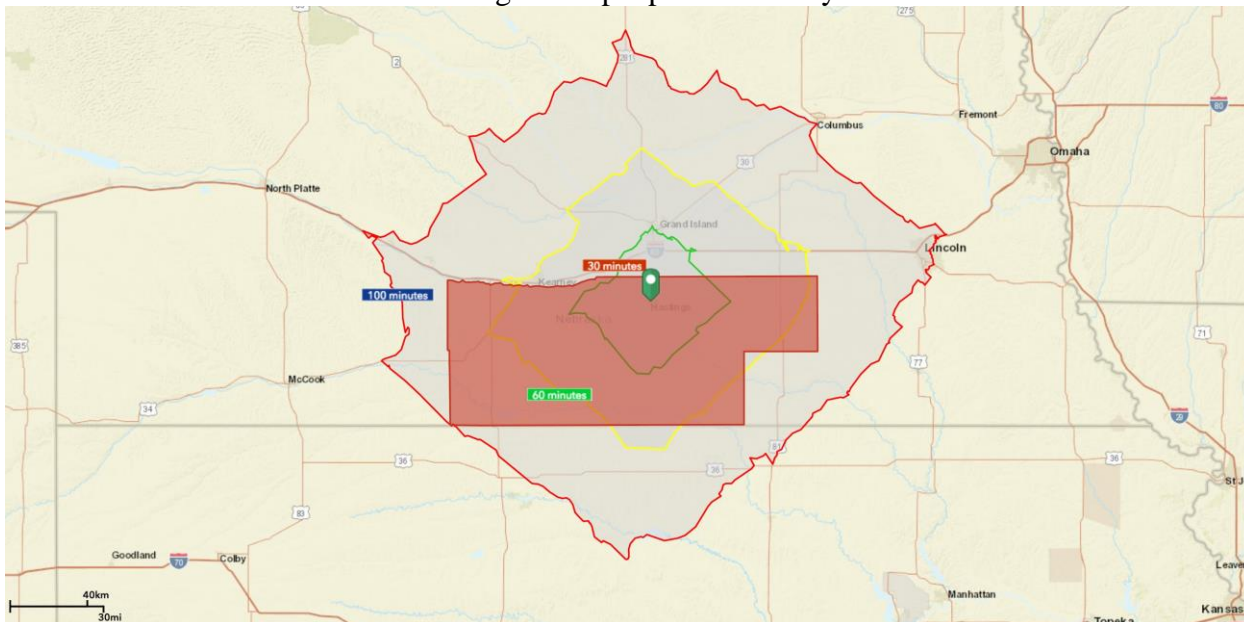


Figure 1: Drive Times: 30, 60 and 100 Minutes From Hastings, Nebraska

The South Central Nebraska Youth Task Force serves youth in nine South Central Nebraska Counties (See Figure 1, where counties are highlighted in red). While mostly rural in nature, the majority of the service area falls between 60 and 100 minutes from Hastings (See Figure 1 with 30, 60 and 100 minute drive time rings). Financial and transportation barriers can be a problem when trying to gain access to services.

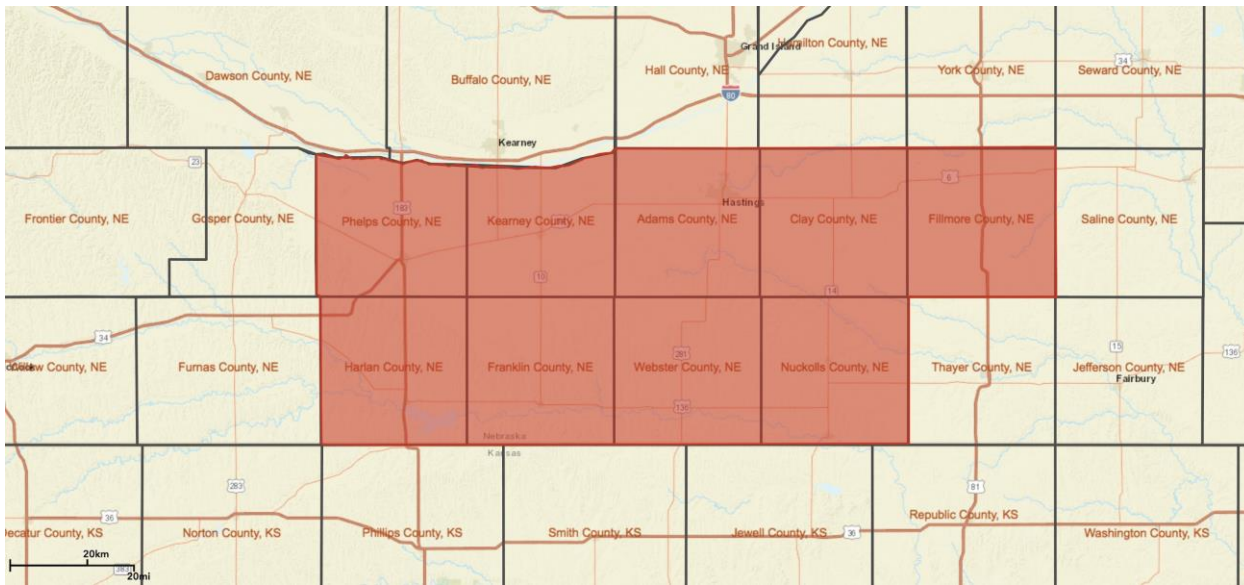


Figure 2: South Central Nebraska Youth Task Force: 9 County Service Areas

This vast, mostly rural area is over 5,000 square miles and has a current population of approximately 75,105 people with approximately 39 percent of the households making less than \$35,000 per year (See Table 1 Below). With almost 25 percent of the population being 19 years of age or younger and almost 13 percent between the ages of 10 and 19, this area has a diverse need for providing services to youth. In addition, while race and ethnicity in the area is nearly 93 percent white, there is a growing Hispanic population which is expected to reach over 8 percent in 2022.

Table 1: Demographic and Income Profile

Summary	Census 2010		2017		2022	
Population	74,404		75,105		75,492	
Households	30,655		31,086		31,292	
Families	20,031		20,005		20,006	
Average Household Size	2.34		2.34		2.34	
Owner Occupied Housing Units	22,307		22,156		22,269	
Renter Occupied Housing Units	8,348		8,929		9,023	
Median Age	42.3		43.6		43.9	
Trends: 2017 - 2022 Annual Rate	Area		State		National	
Population	0.10%		0.78%		0.83%	
Households	0.13%		0.76%		0.79%	
Families	0.00%		0.62%		0.71%	
Owner HHs	0.10%		0.71%		0.72%	
Median Household Income	2.20%		2.75%		2.12%	
2017						
Households by Income		Number	Percent		Number	Percent
<\$15,000		3,430	11.0%		3,114	10.0%
\$15,000 - \$24,999		3,913	12.6%		3,426	10.9%
\$25,000 - \$34,999		3,513	11.3%		3,002	9.6%
\$35,000 - \$49,999		4,458	14.3%		3,796	12.1%
\$50,000 - \$74,999		6,277	20.2%		6,665	21.3%
\$75,000 - \$99,999		4,236	13.6%		4,906	15.7%
\$100,000 - \$149,999		3,263	10.5%		3,881	12.4%
\$150,000 - \$199,999		966	3.1%		1,208	3.9%
\$200,000+		1,032	3.3%		1,296	4.1%
Median Household Income		\$50,590			\$56,392	
Average Household Income		\$66,374			\$76,902	
Per Capita Income		\$27,837			\$32,239	
2017						
Population by Age		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
0 - 4		4,689	6.3%	4,407	5.9%	4,311
5 - 9		4,824	6.5%	4,630	6.2%	4,582
10 - 14		4,867	6.5%	4,570	6.1%	4,837
15 - 19		5,414	7.3%	4,789	6.4%	4,902
20 - 24		4,096	5.5%	4,413	5.9%	3,764
25 - 34		7,549	10.1%	8,172	10.9%	8,221
35 - 44		7,973	10.7%	7,674	10.2%	7,987
45 - 54		11,249	15.1%	9,487	12.6%	8,409
55 - 64		9,842	13.2%	11,069	14.7%	10,657
65 - 74		6,520	8.8%	8,414	11.2%	9,681
75 - 84		4,852	6.5%	4,760	6.3%	5,492
85+		2,530	3.4%	2,718	3.6%	2,648
2017						
Race and Ethnicity		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
White Alone		70,333	94.5%	69,872	93.0%	69,437
Black Alone		358	0.5%	489	0.7%	592
American Indian Alone		284	0.4%	393	0.5%	467
Asian Alone		523	0.7%	580	0.8%	610
Pacific Islander Alone		32	0.0%	33	0.0%	34
Some Other Race Alone		1,973	2.7%	2,482	3.3%	2,903
Two or More Races		902	1.2%	1,257	1.7%	1,450
Hispanic Origin (Any Race)		4,148	5.6%	5,348	7.1%	6,185

Data Note: Income is expressed in current dollars.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010 Summary File 1. Esri forecasts for 2017 and 2022.

Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) has not showed in local data to be an issue. Across the nine counties, youth are 93% white. Nothing in System Analysis Data shows arrests, diversion referrals and successes are in alignment with this population number. Nebraska DMC Committees and Data Collection Efforts does not include any of the nine counties in our coalition.

Section IV

System and Program Data

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System Level Data

2016 Youth Risk Behaviour Survey

In Fall 2016, the South Heartland District Health Department administered a Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) to high school students grades 9-12 across 1,289 students in 10 high schools.

The survey results reveal an increasing trend in the mental health problems for youth. Alcohol and substance use for youth has remained relatively consistent, however; 18.7% of youth had seriously considered suicide, 16% of youth had made a plan to commit suicide, and 13.2% of youth surveyed had attempted suicide. As well, 27.9% of youth reported feeling sad or hopeless for long periods of time.

Female youth consistently report higher rates of mental health problems and substance abuse than their male peers. As well, nearly 15% of female youth reported being sexually harassed or assaulted in their lives.

Mental Health Risk Indicators	Percent / Average	Male	Female
Students who have felt sad or hopeless for two weeks or more	27.9%	19.8	36.3
Students who seriously considered suicide	18.7%	14.1	23.6
Students who have had a plan to attempt suicide	16.0%	13	19.1
Students who have actually attempted suicide	13.2%	11.5	14.7
Alcohol and Drug Use			
Students who have used alcohol at least once in their life	51.4%	46.1	56.7
Students who have used alcohol at least once in the last month	24.0%	20.3	27.5
Students who engaged in binge drinking at least once in the last month	15.0%	13.2	17.7
Students who have used marijuana at least once in their life	21.0%	22.3	20.1
Students who have used marijuana at least once in the last month	11.3%	11.2	11.5
Students who have used unprescribed pain medicine in their life	11.1%	10.2	11.9
Students who have used unprescribed pain medicine in the last month	5.7%	5.4	5.8
Dating and Sexual Violence			
Female students who have been forced to have sexual intercourse	14.5%		
Female students who have been forced to engage in other sexual activity	15.6%		
Female students who have been sexually assaulted by a partner	8.9%		
Female students who have been physically assaulted by a partner	6.5%		

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2017 Community Well-Being Data Compilation

In Spring 2017, United Way compiled a data report for the four county area, including Adams, Clay, Nuckolls, and Webster counties. Due to the size and rural location, Clay and Nuckolls county do not report all crime data. The data indicates that the four county area has greater rates of Teen Mothers (8.3%), Unmarried Mothers (29.7%), and Female Headed Households with children receiving public assistance (60.2%). The four county area has also seen a 20.7% increase in children living in single parent households from 2010-2015, compared to the state average of only 10.7%. The data indicates that while the rate of poverty in the four county area is slightly less than the state average, those in the area living in poverty are at a greater economic disadvantage.

Juvenile Crime Data *per 1,000 population	4 County Area	NE State
Juvenile Arrests	22.6	21.9
Family Poverty Data		
Single Parent Households	24.90%	28.70%
Increase in Children living in single parent households from 2010-2015	21.70%	10.70%
Median Household Income	\$48,945	\$52,997
Unemployment rate (averaged from 2011 to 2015)	4.80%	4.70%
Under 18 population at or below poverty level	15.40%	17.10%
Female Headed Households Data		
Children in female headed households, no husband present	43.30%	43.40%
Unmarried women who gave birth living at or below poverty	54.00%	
Female headed householders with children receiving public assistance	60.20%	47.90%
Births to teen mothers as a percent of total births	8.30%	6.40%
Births to unmarried mothers	29.70%	26.60%
Health Care Data		
Percent of Population under 18 without healthcare	6.90%	5.50%
Percent of women receiving inadequate prenatal care	17.20%	17.20%
Percent of children born with birth defects	7.40%	6.10%
Percent of population under 18 with a disability	4.00%	3.70%
Education Data		
Percent of population over 25 holding a Bachelor's Degree	21.50%	29.30%
Youth Protection and Safety		
Children in Out of Home (Foster) Care *2016	9.3	7.2
Substantiated Child Abuse/Neglect cases per 1,000 youth	2.5	4.8

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Program Level Data

STARS, Diversion and Teen Court

The STARS program addresses issues with youth truancy to increase school attendance and the likelihood of high school graduation and decrease youth delinquency. The Diversion program assists youth involved in the juvenile justice system with completing necessary court requirements to prevent the youth from going further into the system. The Teen Court program allows youth who have committed minor violations to be tried by a jury of their peers to determine appropriate sanctions against the offender.

In the 2016-2017 year, Diversion was referred 136 youth from Adams, Clay, Fillmore, Nuckolls, and Webster counties. Of those 136 youth, 134 received service, and 104 completed the Diversion program.

From 7/1/2016 to 6/30/2017, 93 youth completed an initial Daniel Memorial Assessment (DMA), which determines the life skills of youth in 14 identified categories. Of the 93 youth who completed an assessment, 51 youth were referred to Teen Court, 21 were referred to Diversion, 3 were referred to the STARS truancy program, 7 were referred to Maryland Living Center, and the remaining 11 youth were referred to other programs. On average, when youth were retested after completing their respective programs, they gained three additional DMA life skill categories.

During the above listed time period, 68 youth completed the Juvenile Inventory for Functioning Assessment (JIFF). Of the 68 youth, 42 were from Teen Court, 25 were from Diversion, and 1 was from DHHS. Of the youth who took the JIFF, 40% scored for Depression, 26% scored for Trauma, and 20% scored as requiring additional assessment for Suicidality. As well, 30% reported wanting to work on eliminating alcohol use and 19% reported wanting to work on eliminating drug use. Based on the results of the JIFF, youth are referred to appropriate services, including ASAAP, Horizon Recovery, SCBS, and the Zone.

LifeSkills

The Life Skills program served 53 youth from June 2017 to June 2017. The majority of these youth (40) came from Adams County, with Clay, Nuckolls, and Phelps county providing 4, 7, and 2 youth respectively. Of those completing the Life Skills Program, 36 were male and 17 were female; 41 youth were white, 10 were hispanic, 1 was asian, and 1 was other.

YWCA ZONE

The Zone After School Program provides homework tutoring, mentoring, and nutritional services to youth. The program enrolled 227 youth during the 2017-2018 school year, with an average of 66 youth attending the program each day. Of our students, 83.3% qualify for free or reduced lunch and 61% are from single parent, extended family, or legal guardian headed households. 54% of youth who attend the Zone receive homework tutoring services, completing over 500 hours of homework at the program during the 2017-2018 school year. Youth participating in the Homework Program report higher average grades than Zone youth who do not receive homework services. The Zone also provides free snacks and dinners to youth, with an average of 48 youth receiving snacks and 31 youth receiving dinners each day. From August 28th, 2017 to March 31st, 2018, the Zone served 6511 free snacks and 3895 free dinners to youth. The Zone also provided 103 youth with over 30 hours of cooking and nutrition education.

System Analysis Tool

Across the nine counties, the Juvenile Justice data showed some signs of higher court appearances than arrests. Consultation with JJI on this information, suggests that these could be court cases on youth in abuse and neglect cases. United Way data for Clay, Nuckolls, Webster, and Adams counties showed:

The percentage of children in single parent households in the four-county area increased from 20.6% in 2010 to 24.9% in 2015.

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At the same time, the percentage of children in single parent households remains lower than the state average of 28.7%.

In 2015, the median household income for the four-county area was \$48,945 (compared to \$52,997 for the state).

In 2014-2015, 46.1% of children in the four-county area received free or reduced lunch (compared to 39.7 for the state).

From 2010 to 2014, 29.7% of births in the four-county area were to an unmarried mother (compared to 26.6% for the state).

In 2015, unmarried women who gave birth in the four-county area had a poverty rate of 54% (compared to 3.0% for married women).

From 2010-2014, 8.3% of births in the four county area were to a teen mother (ie age 19 or younger) (compared to 6.4% for the state).

In 2016, 9.3 out of 1,000 youth in the four-county area were in out-of-home placements (foster care—compared to 7.2 per 1,000 for the state).

Franklin county data according to the Headstart Community Assessment 2018, shows 55.84% free and reduced lunch, teen births of 19.1%, 55.6% single parent homes, and similar foster care numbers. This same data shows only 25 mental health providers for five of the counties compared to 110 in Hall County nearby. The remaining four counties also are rural in nature and do not have many providers. These same four counties (Kearney, Harlan, Franklin, and Phelps) are assumed to show similar statistics to the above.

Because of the poverty, out-of-home placements, and single-parenting, our region has a strong belief prevention is just as important as intervention programs. Generational poverty is common and families need to see positive preventative programs.

Section V

Identified Priority Areas & Corresponding Strategies

Priority #1: Recognize risky youth behaviors and provide appropriate intervention and restorative services to increase youth resiliency

Strategic Towards Attendance Realizing Success (STARS)

Assessment

Teen Court

Diversion

Electronic Monitoring and Tracking

Victim Youth Conferencing

Priority #2: Prevent youth from entering the juvenile justice system through positive youth development

Mentoring—Beyond School Walls

Life Skills

YWCA ZONE After School Program

Priority #3: Organizational: Coordinate data and responses among partners to assess and develop continuous improvement strategies.

Data Collection and Retention

Address the “gender gap”

***Evidence-based* mental health & substance abuse practices**

County Planning/Grant Administration

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Priority #1: Recognize risky youth behaviors and provide appropriate intervention and restorative services to increase youth resiliency

Strategy: Central Mediation Restorative Justice Implement and expand Victim Youth Conferencing for youth at risk of court involvement

Stakeholders Involved Central Mediation: in partnership with Adams County Teen Court and Diversion Services in South Central Nebraska

Timeline: Development 7/1 – 12/31, 2018 Implementation 1/1, 2019 – 6/30, 2021

Resources Required: Develop protocols for data analysis and funding. Any additional partnerships to expand services through other providers

Expected Results: Prevent and Reduce Court Involvement:

- * Less youth adjudicated.
- * Reduction in youth recidivating.
- * Give youth a voice in the process.

Strategy: STARS

Stakeholders Involved: Local school districts, local county attorneys, local mental health agencies, and other community based agencies.

Timeline:

Year 1 2018: Improve the attendance of active students in STARS by 75% and that 95% of STARS students will graduate from HS.

Year 2 2019: Improve the attendance of active students in STARS by 75% and that 95% of STARS students will graduate from HS.

Year 3 2020: Improve the attendance of active students in STARS by 75% and that 95% of STARS students will graduate from HS.

Resources Required:

Continued local community and school support as well as financial support from county aid fund

Policy changes:

Continue to meet with stakeholders to look at goals and objectives for continued growth and outcomes.

Training:

continued training and conference attendance yearly for continued growth and new strategies for STARS personnel

Program Development:

continues to monitor progress and any lack thereof- will continue to seek and maintain active ways to improve the outcomes for STARS.

Program Expansion:

none at this time, however will continue to assist other counties in looking at start-up of similar truancy programs.

Expected Results:

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continue to improve and meet the attendance improvement goals, graduation results and deter further juvenile delinquency as well as professional growth

Strategy: Alternatives to Detention utilizing Electronic Monitoring and Tracking

Stakeholders Involved: County Attorneys, Probation, Judges, Owens and Better Living

Timeline:

Year 1: Continue to educate all stakeholders involved and find ways to best implement

Year 2: Reassess services and utilization, evaluate use or lack of use

Year 3: Determine best services for Alternatives to Detention

Resources Required:

Communication between stakeholders, education on best fit, updates on funding available

Expected Results:

Offer Alternative to Detention for 12-18 pre-adjudicated youth, with goals of: wanting to keep in the community, ensure youth attends court, and refrains from committing a new law violation; referred by probation, overseen by Owens or Better Living

Strategy: Assessments- Daniel Memorial Independent Living Skills & JIFF (Juvenile Inventory For Functioning) Youth participating in the Diversion or Teen Court programs that are 14 years or older will complete the DMA and all youth will complete the JIFF. A youth will complete assessments upon their program Intake and once upon program Completion. Results from the DMA will be used to assign skill building worksheets to help youth move closer to mastering the categories which need the most improvement. For Youth participating through DHHS or 10th Judicial District referral youth will be tested as above but with the modified testing schedule. Youth will complete an Initial assessment and will complete either a Completion/Follow up assessment at 6 months. The number of times youth will be tested will be based upon the referral recommendations and requirements for current state Independent Living Skills plans.

Stakeholders Involved:

Diversion, Teen Court, County Attorney, CASA, Youth participants and their Parents/Guardians, Teen Court & Diversion Advisory Board, DHHS, Probation, PALS, Local Attorneys, and GAL.

Timeline:

Year 1 2018: Make sure that any new employee in the Assessment Coordinator position completes the required training to become a Certified Daniel Memorial Independent Living Specialist and a Certified Reliable Rater for the JIFF. Maintain administering assessments as required by program referrals and make appropriate outgoing referrals to community resources based on assessment results.

Year 2 2019: Continue to expand and update community referral resources and build partnerships with those agencies in our community. Pursue additional funding sources. Year 3 2020: Maintain programs and update as needed working with staff and advisory board feedback.

Resources Required:

Transportation vouchers for youth and families traveling outside of Hastings (making sure there are not financial barriers for youth participating in a diversion program). Continued partnership with the County Attorney, DHHS and all other referral sources. Ongoing training to make sure that all staff are up to date on current Restorative Justice Practices. Continued work with Advisory Board and Stakeholders to implement changes as needed.

Expected Results:

All youth participating in a program will have a measurable assessment upon Intake and Completion. Youth will be given opportunities to gain skills and reduce risk taking activities while competing the program.

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Strategy: Teen Court Adams County Teen Court provides youth ages 14-18, who have committed a misdemeanor offense, with the opportunity to participate in a Restorative Justice based program. After completing the initial NYS screening a youth may enter the Teen Court program if they score low risk on the screening. A youth will then have 90 days to complete the program. Youth will appear before a jury of their peers and be sanctioned to various requirements that will allow the youth to repair the harm that they have caused the community, themselves, and their family; all while strengthening their ties to the community, building skills and pro-social attitudes. Youth will also complete assessments upon Intake and Completion of the Teen Court program.

Stakeholders Involved: Adams County Attorney, Teen Court, CASA, Youth participants and their Parents/Guardians, Teen Court & Diversion Advisory Board, Hastings College, DHHS, Probation, PALS, Local Attorneys, and GALs

Timeline:

Year 1 2018: Continue developing and updating policies and procedures, training manuals for volunteers, and court referral processes as the program grows and changes. Continue to build relationships with community partners. Pursue additional funding sources.

Year 2 2019: Implementation of more intensive youth “clinics” to engage youth in an area of interest where skills can be built (i.e. youth attends a culinary class, automotive workshop etc).

Year 3 2020: Consider the option of a voluntary Teen Court program to help address youth who are not on track in their daily lives or are “uncontrollable”.

Resources Required:

Continued engagement of Stakeholders and Advisory Board to help modify and implement changes. Pursue additional community partnerships to implement youth job shadows and “clinics”. Additional financial resources to support the Restorative Justice model that Teen Court is founded on. Implementing the Restorative Justice practice takes more case management time than originally anticipated and additional staff are needed for our program to continue to grow. Pursuing additional funding sources to support the services we provide will be necessary for continued success.

EXPECTED RESULTS

Reducing the number of juveniles that are entering the formal justice system. Our community has already seen a decrease in the number of adjudicated youth and Probation has reported that the Teen Court program has had a positive effect on their program as well. Probation has stated that because Teen Court is addressing the needs of lower risk youth who previously would have entered their program, Probation is able to work more effectively by focusing on the higher risk youth that are more appropriately suited for their program. Furthermore, Teen Court is able to connect youth with mental health services and other individualized community agencies based on the JIFF assessment results, helping families address needs and concerns sooner than if they weren’t participating in the program.

Strategy: Diversion Adams County Diversion provides youth ages 14-18, who have committed a misdemeanor offense, with the opportunity to participate in a Restorative Justice based program. After completing the initial NYS screening a youth may enter the Diversion program if they score medium risk on the screening. A youth will then have 180 days to complete the program. Youth will meet with their Diversion case manager monthly and will be sanctioned to various requirements that will allow the youth to repair the harm that they have caused the community, themselves, and their family; all while strengthening their ties to the community, building skills and pro-social attitudes. Youth will also complete assessments upon Intake and Completion of the Diversion program.

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Stakeholders Involved: Adams County Attorney, Teen Court, CASA, Youth participants and their Parents/Guardians, Teen Court & Diversion Advisory Board, Hastings College, DHHS, Probation, PALS, Local Attorneys, and GALs

Timeline:

Year 1 2018: Implement changes to Diversion so that it correlates with the Restorative Justice model of Teen Court. Youth will be given sanctions based on their offense as well as basic community service hours to complete. Continue to build relationships with community partners. Pursue additional funding sources.

Year 2 2019: Implementation of more intensive youth “clinics” to engage youth in an area of interest where skills can be built (i.e. youth attends a culinary class, automotive workshop etc).

Year 3 2020: Maintain program and update policies and procedures as needed.

Resources Required:

Transportation vouchers for youth and families traveling outside of Hastings (making sure there are not financial barriers for youth participating in the diversion program). Continued engagement of Stakeholders and Advisory Board to help modify and implement changes. Pursue additional community partnerships to implement youth job shadows and “clinics”. Additional financial resources to support the transition to the Restorative Justice model. Implementing the Restorative Justice practice takes more case management time than originally anticipated and additional staff are needed for our program to continue to grow. Pursuing additional funding sources to support the services we provide will be necessary for continued success.

EXPECTED RESULTS

Reducing the number of juveniles that are entering the formal justice system. By transitioning the Diversion program to be based on the Restorative Justice model, youth will gain a level of accountability that they did not have with the previous program. Instilling pro-social activities and utilizing a youth’s strength will increase engagement in the program. Furthermore, now that Diversion is utilizing Assessments it is able to connect youth with mental health services and other individualized community agencies based on the JIFF assessment results, helping families address needs and concerns sooner than if they weren’t participating in the program.

Priority #2: Prevent youth from entering the juvenile justice system through positive youth development

Strategy: MentoringWorks (formerly Big Brothers Big Sisters) Beyond School Walls

The goal of Beyond School Walls is to meet a pressing need to address work-related skill sets and future planning capacities for youth in transition times while building a “Grow Our Own” ethic within the community workforce. Students age 14-18 years old from our partner schools who show a demonstrated academic, social or career need are referred to the program by teachers or counselors or choose to participate through recruitment events during the school year.

The program is designed to reduce entry into the juvenile justice system by increasing employability, school retention, school attendance, academic achievement and future wage earning. The program does this through a mentored career exploration opportunity for high school students in healthcare or manufacturing sectors. Both of these sectors are high-need and high-opportunity and are forecasted to remain so in the future.

The program builds awareness and connection through a two-pronged approach:

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1. High quality tours and visits from providers, manufacturers and industry experts builds awareness and connection, thereby broadening mindsets at a time when career curiosity can stimulate heightened activity and focus in school.

2. Mentoring: for those junior and senior students who are ready to take their exploration to the next level and are interested in real world learning. They are matched with mentors who work in healthcare or manufacturing - depending on the students' interest. The students and their mentors meet twice a month for 1-2 hours.

During their mentoring meetings, the pair may get involved in the daily work of the mentor, examine the work and lifestyle the job provides, connect with other adults and build understanding of the work environment. They may talk about the educational requirements of that position, the challenges and benefits of the job, and areas for career advancement. The relationship is designed to be mutually beneficial as the mentor has an experience of being of service and valued for their knowledge and competency.

Stakeholders Involved: Manufacturing Pathways Advisory Team, Hastings Area Manufacturing Association, Hastings Economic Development Corp, Hastings Public Schools, ThermoKing, Bruckman Rubber, Nebraska Aluminum Castings, Centennial Plastics, Eaton, TL Irrigation, Eagle Plastics, Drake Tool and Die, Pacha Soap, Hastings Ford, Flowserve, Dutton Lainson, Hastings HVAC, Johnson-Imperial Construction, Mary Lanning Hospital, Pediatric Dental Specialists.

Timeline:

Year 1 - 2018: Expand to 40 students matched from 3 high schools. Develop a year-long schedule that packages transportation needs for students who need help getting to their mentors worksite. This involves coordinating with schools to schedule groups at specific times each month. Expand family participation.

Year 2 - 2019: Implement regular school-wide Presentations of Learning so that non-mentored students see the impact of out-of-school work and mentored experiences. Promote healthy, future-oriented decision making. Expand to 50 students and include other employment sectors.

Year 3 - 2020: Maintain 50 students matched.

Resources Required:

Policy Changes: Coordination with schools to provide release time. Monthly online survey for participants

Training: Mandatory wo-hour training for mentors and mentees.

Staffing: Dedicated staff time at .75 FTE

Program Development: Full year calendar of recruitment, orientation, training, matching, family involvement, celebrations and tours. Streamline online assessment tracking.

Expected Results:

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Currently our agency aligns our major intended outcomes with those of evidence-based practices and support the current and future mission. These include that every student develops in the areas of confidence, competence, and caring.

* Confidence includes: better self-confidence, increased ability to express feelings, development of decision making skills, improved personal care, and better sense of future.

* Competence includes: better attitude toward school, improved ability to utilize school or community resources, improved school performance, increased ability to avoid delinquency, increased ability to avoid substance abuse, and increased ability to avoid early parenting.

* Caring includes: increased trust of volunteer, growth in respect for people with cultural differences, improvement in family relationships, improvement in peer relationships, and improvement in adult relationships.

We utilize three primary tools developed to measure the outcomes of the program: Strength of Relationship survey (SOR), Youth Outcomes Survey (YOS) and a Match-Support Assessment system. The SOR is an on-going evaluation tool that helps match support specialists target areas of development for both the volunteer and the youth. This survey is completed by the volunteer and the youth at the match's three-month anniversary, as well as at the end of the school year. The YOS is a tool used to measure the effect that mentoring has on youth in three strategic areas: educational success, avoidance/reduction of risky behaviors, and socio-emotional competence.

Additionally, we expect an increase in:

* Sense of employability

* Future goal visioning

* Educational/career path development

Strategy: YWCA Zone After School Program

Goal:

Continually assess the needs and interests of students to keep them engaged with the program, maintain the quality of homework and nutrition services being provided, expand enrichment opportunities for youth within the program, and provide mental health and counseling services to youth.

Stakeholders Involved:

YWCA Adams County, Hastings Middle School, Hastings Public Schools

Timeline:

Year 1 2018: Increase average daily attendance by 10% by expanding enrichment activities to include Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) opportunities. Assess STEM program strengths and weaknesses at the end of Year 1. Determine how and when a LMHP can be provided to the program.

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Year 2 2019: Maintain overall program attendance growth and address any STEM program strengths and weaknesses discovered in Year 1 and implement changes to STEM program as needed.

Year 3 2020: Further expand STEM program based on interest, demand, and overall success as determined from program results in Years 1 and 2.

Resources Required:

The Zone program will require increased access to technology in order to expand the enrichment activities provided to students. STEM enrichment opportunities rely on the use of technology, without which, it is difficult to engage youth in educational activities.

Program growth in the last 3 years has created the need for formal child care management software, which would allow more efficient data entry and more accurate program reporting. Childcare management software would also reduce the administrative burden on YWCA staff, allowing more time to focus on program expansion and development.

Mental Health First Aid training for all employees, volunteers, and service members who work directly with children could provide additional resources and support for the most at-risk youth in the program.

Access to a Licensed Mental Health Practitioner (LMHP)

Expected Results:

The Zone expects to see the following results:

- A safe, supervised, supportive after school program environment available to any middle school student during the school year.
- An increase in Average Daily Attendance, which leaves fewer youth are unsupervised during after school hours and less likely to engage in risky or criminal behaviors.
- An increase in Homework Tutoring, Nutrition Education, and Enrichment Activity involvement, providing more youth with healthy activities, like cooking, games, and academics to decrease the likelihood they engage in unhealthy activities like petty crime and drug and alcohol use.
- A decrease in the number of youth reporting feelings of hopelessness, depression, or suicide.

Strategy: Life-Skills (see proposed name change below)

Stakeholders Involved: Teen Court, Youth Diversion, Youth 12-18

Timeline:

Year 1 2018: July 1-June 30, 2108

Year 2 2019: July 1-June 30, 2019

Year 3 2020: July 1-June 30, 2020

Resources Required - Staff and material

Policy changes: Renaming program to "Resilience & Positive Youth Development". Will develop Policies and Procedures.

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Training: Staff attending all possible trainings: National Council for Behavioral Health Annual Convention, Nebraska Juvenile Justice Conference, Healthy Youth Nebraska, etc.

Program Development: In addition to using evidence-based material through the Change Company, we will be adding the following workbooks, “The Relaxation and Stress Workbook for Teens”, “The Grit Guide for Teens; a workbook to help build perseverance, self-control & a growth mindset” and “The Resilience Workbook; essential skills to recover from stress, trauma, and adversity”.

Program Expansion: Within the program stated above we will continue to implement skill-building strategies that help youth thrive (examples - money management, self-esteem/confident, addiction, sense of community, healthy relationships, communication and social media.

Expected Results: We are at implementing more of a holistic way of helping youth develop a stronger sense of self along with feeling like they are part of the community and have an increased sense of belonging. The goal is to build resilience to help youth bounce back from setbacks, stay calm under pressure, and manage distressing emotions.

ORGANIZATIONAL PRIORITY AREAS

Priority #3: Organizational: Coordinate data and responses among partners to assess and develop continuous improvement strategies.

Strategy: Utilize Youth Task Force to ensure data gathered from as many applicable organizations as fitting and available. These include each of our programs listed in strategies and working with the Health Department and Region III on surveys and data analysis. A strong core group of organizations and strong leaders continue to meet once a month to collaborate across a broad geographic region.

Stakeholders Involved:

Youth Task Force Members, Schools, County Boards, Law Enforcement, Health Department

Timeline:

Year 1: Collect Data annually from organizations.

Year 2: Utilize YTF to assess data and discuss improvement strategies

Year 3: Using data make informed decisions on next 3 year county plan

Resources Required:

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Working with different organizations and staff to collect information and analyze each year. Utilizing Intern to collect data.

Expected Results:

Improve County Plan and application by keeping useful data and using it for informed decision making.

Strategy: Address Gender Gap

Address the “gender gap” for mental health and substance abuse issues. (Females are far more likely to report having used drugs and alcohol and having felt hopeless, depressed, or suicidal than their male peers).

Goal:

Determine why female youth are much more likely to suffer from mental health and substance abuse problems.

Stakeholders Involved:

Hastings Public Schools, YWCA Adams County, CASA, Teen Court/Diversion, Beyond School Walls, SRO’s

Timeline:

Year 1 2018: Review available community assessment data and determine potential causes for the mental health and substance abuse gender gap discrepancies. Determine appropriate intervention and prevention strategies developed specifically for female youth.

Year 2 2019: Implement female specific classes and curriculums into established youth programs (Zone, CASA, Teen Court, Beyond School Walls, etc)

Year 3 2020: Review the overall success of programs implementing gender specific mental health and substance abuse strategies.

Resources Required

Mental Health and Substance abuse curriculums geared towards female youth.

Access to Licensed Mental Health Practitioner(s)

Mental Health First Aid training for all employees, volunteers, and service members who work directly with youth within community programs.

Expected Results:

The nine county area expects to see the following results:

- A decrease in the number of female youth reporting substance and alcohol use
- A decrease in the number of female youth reporting depression or suicidal thoughts.
- A decrease in the overall number of youth reporting feelings of hopelessness.
- An increase in overall participation within all youth programs using the curriculum

Strategy: EB Programs

Ensure *evidence-based* mental health and substance abuse prevention and intervention practices are being implemented within programs. Monitor the implementation of mental health services and determine the overall success of programs addressing problems with substance abuse and mental health.

Goal:

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Establish multiple mental health and substance abuse programs using diverse, evidence based prevention and intervention strategies to ensure youth have access to the services that will benefit them most.

Stakeholders Involved:

Hastings Public Schools, YWCA Adams County, CASA, Teen Court/Diversion, Beyond School Walls, SRO's

Timeline:

Year 1 2018: Review current mental health services provided or being implemented by current programs. Identify gaps or overlaps in service. Collect data on current programs to determine the effectiveness of mental health services being provided.

Year 2 2019: Identify any important data from Year 1 and use results to guide new program implementation. Determine potential new programs, strategies, or methods for addressing mental health and substance abuse not currently in use, and how those methods might address service gaps.

Year 3 2020: Expand and/or implement new mental health and substance abuse programs for youth.

Resources Required:

- Agency support and participation
- Current community youth data
- Additional mental health curriculum / training / services
- Access to Licensed Mental Health Practitioners

Expected Results:

The nine county area expects to see the following results:

- An increase in the number of programs providing mental health services
- An increase in the variety of mental health services provided
- Improved quality of services provided, as determined by data collection results

Strategy: County Planning and Grant Administration for nine-county region

Stakeholders Involved: Project Director, Youth Task Force Community Team

Timeline:

Year 1: Work with Adams County to implement disbursements and claims, oversee grant

Year 2: Lead Data Collection and review of County Plan, oversee grant

Year 3: Prepare for new County Plan priorities and strategies, evaluate previous plan, oversee grant

Resources Required:

Communication between stakeholders, YTF meetings & minutes

Expected Results:

Increased knowledge of processes by all stakeholders, continual updates on data and plan, continuity and retention of staff

Appendix

A. Memorandum of Understanding

- B. Agenda from County Board
C. Youth Statistics required data from feedback

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
REGARDING JUVENILE SERVICES
Comprehensive Community Plan**

The Youth Task Force is serving as the lead organization in the assessment and distribution of the Juvenile Services Community Based Grant funding from the Nebraska Crime Commission. It is the desire of the following counties: Webster, Clay, Adams, Nuckolls, Fillmore, Phelps, Kearney, Franklin, and Harlan to continue this arrangement for the community plan requested for 2018-2021.

On October 31, 2001, the original four counties (Adams, Clay, Nuckolls, and Webster) agreed that Clay County should be the lead county in this funding effort to work with juveniles from ages 12-18 who are already in the juvenile justice system. This was changed to Adams County on May 1, 2018. Assessments were made in 42 focus groups to develop the We CAN Juvenile Services Plan during 2001-2002. The present Comprehensive County Juvenile Services Plan has been updated with input from the Juvenile Justice Institute, as well as representatives from each of the nine counties for 2015-18. All nine counties data are being used in updating the new plan.

Melanie Curry, Adams County Treasurer, will serve as the fiscal agent. As such, she will handle all financial transactions including income and expenses. Carissa Uhrmacher, Project Director, will oversee the grant requests, finalizing reporting, and making contact with County Boards in each of the nine counties, and Hannah Duke will serve as Project Administrator, and representative of the backbone agency, Adams County YWCA.

**South Central Partnership Juvenile Services Comprehensive Community Plan
2019 – 2021**

All quarterly reports are submitted to the Nebraska Crime Commission and reviewed Project Director. An audit of all reports is conducted annually.

This memorandum of understanding is to be signed by the Adams County as the lead county. All other counties sign yearly as part of the application for funding process that is submitted to the Crime Commission.

County Board Chair

County

Witness

Date

Updated 5/1/18

Agenda for Meeting of Adams County Board of Supervisors County Board Room, Courthouse, 2nd Floor
* Date of Meeting, May 1, 2018, 9:30 A.M.

Chairman to request a motion that this is an open public meeting of the Adams County Board of Supervisors
Announce location of Agenda & Open Meetings Law postings
Reminder to turn off all cell phones

Pledge of Allegiance

Conflicts of Interest

Roll call:

Approve minutes:

Committee reports:

Receive Comments from the Public:

9:45 a.m. Review and possible approval of loan offers for the southeast bypass project
9:50 a.m. – Carissa Uhrmacher – Juvenile Service Community Based Funding, requesting action on: • The County Plan • Making Adams County the Financial Agent for the Juvenile Service Community Based Funding award letter

Motion by Thompsen, second by Stromer and passed Unanimously

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
REGARDING JUVENILE SERVICES
Comprehensive Community Plan**


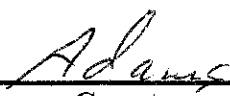
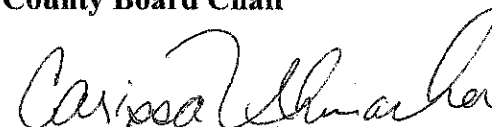
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 _____ County Board Chair	 _____ County
 _____ Witness	5/1/18 _____ Date

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Community level census data for youth populations by race & gender

	Male	Female	White	Black	American Indian	Asian	Total
Adams	15,782	15,896	30,325	516	364	473	31,678
Clay	3,180	3,025	6,032	53	83	37	6,205
Fillmore	2,800	2,782	5,445	53	43	41	5,582
Franklin	1,488	1,502	2,950	18	15	7	2,990
Harlan	1,784	1,659	3,400	15	22	6	3,443
Kearney	3,249	3,281	6,428	48	34	20	6,530
Nuckolls	2,114	2,161	4,203	26	21	26	4,275
Phelps	4,536	4,524	8,878	68	71	43	9,060
Webster	1,752	1,772	3,456	32	11	25	3,524
	36,685	36,602	71,117	829	664	678	73,287
			97%	1%	0.90%	0.90%	

Census Data

DMC by county as available

	2017 arrests	Probation	Diversion	Courts	Detention	ATD
Adams	191	136	48	171	2	2
Clay	No report	6	3	21		
Fillmore	9	4	7	10		
Franklin	No report	2	1	6		
Harlan	5	6		8		1
Kearney	16	16	1	14		
Nuckolls	6	3	13	11		
Phelps	13	22		32		
Webster	1	6	3	7		
	241	201	76	280	2	3

https://supremecourt.nebraska.gov/forms-publications?field_publication_report_type_tid=1&=Apply

http://www.nebraska.gov/crime_commission/arrest/arrest.cgi

Phelps-Caucasion

**South Central Partnership Juvenile Services Comprehensive Community Plan
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DMC data at all system points							
	Placed on						
	2017 arres	Probation	Diversion	Courts	Detention	ATD	Lifeskills
Unknown	2		3	51	2	3	
Other		46	5	2			3
White	227	149	59	192			30
Black	10	6		5			1
Native Am	2	0	1	0			
Hispanic			8	30			3
Total	241	201	76	280	2	3	37

Offenses bringing youth into contact with JJ system & reasons for referral to the listed prog

	Arrests	Probation	Diversion	Courts	Detention	ATD	Lifeskills
Focible Ra	1						
Aggravatec	2						
Larceny	33						
Motor Veh	2						
Theft							
Simple Ass	47						
Forgery &	1						
Fraud	1						
Stolen Pro	1						
Vandalism	18						
Weapons	1						
Drug Abuse	29						
DUI	3						
Liquor Law	30						
Disorderly	4						
Other (not	60						
Curfew	4						
Runaway	4						
TOTAL							
Traffic			9	63			
Status				36			
Misdemeanor			67	167			37 (alcohol/drug)
Felony				14			
	240		76	280	2	3	37
			MIP & shoplifting highest				

https://supremecourt.nebraska.gov/forms-publications?field_publication_report_type_tid=1&=Apply
http://www.nebraska.gov/crime_commission/arrest/arrest.cgi

**South Central Partnership Juvenile Services Comprehensive Community Plan
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*YRTC contact reports that youth are protected by HIPPA and cannot give out race or offense by county

NOTE: Changes in way data disseminated from last county plan to current, makes comparing data challenging.

Through the Eyes of a Child had a great report for the last plan, but not for this time.

***After consulting with Probation Administration, offenses would have been Status Offenses and Misdemeanors