

THAYER COUNTY
Three-Year Juvenile Services Plan

July 2018-June 2021

Contact Information

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I. Community team history and organization

The Thayer County Three Year Plan Committee was formed in May 2018 after a meeting was held with county school representatives, Probation, CASA, and the County Attorney to discuss options for addressing attendance concerns within the county. At the meeting, members were made aware that other counties are utilizing Nebraska Crime Commission funds to fund an attendance support program. In turn, each county must have an Three Year Plan on file in order to apply for such funding. The County Attorney agreed to form a Three Year Planning Committee to begin drafting a Three Year Plan Document. The group met in July, September, and October to develop the Three Year Plan document. The group expanded to include a health service representative and ministerial groups. With the development of the Three Year Plan document, the committee agreed to continue meeting quarterly throughout the upcoming years.

Thayer County Team members

| Name, e-mail, and phone | Agency and address |
|---|--|
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II. The Juvenile Justice System Analysis Tool

The Juvenile Justice System Analysis Tool was developed by the Juvenile Justice Institute at the University of Nebraska at Omaha in conjunction with the Nebraska Crime Commission to assist in County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Planning. The Tool consists of twelve areas of decision points that make up the formal juvenile justice system in Nebraska. Various factors are present at each decision point—oftentimes changing from year to year based on state or county dynamics within the system such as changes in policies, programs, and/or personnel. There are formal factors dictating certain decision points in the system, such as statutory authority. In addition, each county or community has unique factors surrounding certain decision points within the local county juvenile justice system. Identifying such informal factors helps to understand and assess juvenile justice needs and issues in individual locales. Available data might also inform the factors surrounding a data point. Anecdotal data might be compared with statistical data, for example, to assess the true state of the system. County data is assessed when applying the tool where applicable. The Three Year Plan Committee will begin to work with local law enforcement agencies, County Attorney’s, Probation, and judges to analyze DMC issues at each point in the system. A copy of the most recent tool can be located in Appendix A. See below for an overview of the racial breakdown by race for juveniles involved at the following juvenile justice system points:

| | County Juvenile Population | % of Total Juveniles | Court Filings | % of Court Filings | Diversion Referrals |
|------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|---------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| White | 449 | 96.8% | - | | - |
| Black | 13 | 2.8% | - | | - |
| Asian | 1 | <1% | - | | |
| American Indian | 1 | <1% | - | | - |
| Other/Unknown | - | - | 16 | 100% | - |
| Total | 464 | | 16* | | 0** |

*The County Attorney’s Office was unable to provide a breakdown by race for court filings at the time of this document.

**Currently, Thayer County does not have a Diversion Program.

| | Probation Cases | % of Youth Placed on | Probation Revoked | % of Probation Revoked | Satisfactory Release | % of Satisfactory Release |
|------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|-------------------|------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| White | 12 | 66.7% | 4 | 66.7% | 12 | 100% |
| Black | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Asian | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| American Indian | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Other/Unknown | 6 | 23.3% | 2 | 23.3% | - | - |
| Total | 18 | | 6 | | 12 | |

III. Community socio-economics

Most recent census date in 2016 shows the population of Thayer County at 5,101. The population of Thayer County has decrease 3.5% since 2010. The City of Hebron is the county seat and has a population of 1,537. Smaller towns and villages in the county are Carleton, Belvidere, Bruning, Alexandria, Deshler, Byron, Davenport, Gilead, Hubbell, and Chester.

Below is a breakdown of the demographics of Thayer County residents by age, race, and gender in 2016.

| Age | Percentage |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Persons under 5 years | 6% |
| Persons under 18 years | 22.5% |
| Persons 65 years and over | 25.2% |

| Gender | Percentage |
|---------------|-------------------|
| Female | 50.4% |
| Male | 49.6% |

| Race | Percentage |
|--|-------------------|
| White | 97.3% |
| Black | 0.5% |
| American Indian and Alaska Native | 0.3% |
| Asian | 0.5% |
| Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander | 0.0% |
| Hispanic or Latino Origin | 2.7% |
| Two or more races | 1.4% |

The Union Pacific serves Thayer County with trains every 20-25 minutes. East-west U.S. Highway 136 and north-south U.S. Highway 81 intersect in south of Hebron.

Hebron Municipal Airport is located south of Hebron with newly constructed taxi-ways and hanger approaches. The airport sells fuel and provides aircraft maintenance. Lincoln Municipal Airport is approximately 94 miles northeast of Hebron. United, Northwest and Delta Airlines have daily flights from Lincoln.

Thayer County has three public school systems and one parochial grade schools. Below is an overview of each of the public schools according to Nebraska Department of Education (2016-2017):

| | Enrolled | Graduation Rate | Attendance Rate |
|---|----------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Thayer Central Public Schools | 446 | 94.74% | 95.81% |
| Deshler Public Schools | 255 | 100% | 96.09% |
| Bruning-Davenport Unified School District | 185 | 93.75% | 95.72% |

Hebron is home to the world’s largest covered porch swing located in Roosevelt Park.

The main economic activities are agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting; healthcare and social assistance; and manufacturing. The City of Hebron has an extensive parks and recreation system: a walking trail; parks, 2 sand volleyball courts, 5 ball fields, swimming pool, bowling, and a nine hole golf course.

Deshler Daze is an annual 3 day celebration during Father’s day weekend, hosting event such as an Animal scavenger hunt, a street dance, a Fun run, a volleyball tournament, a road rally and more. Hebron host a Fourth of July Celebration. The annual Thayer County Fair hosts a variety of activities including Mutton busting, concerts, carnivals, stock racing, and the tractor pull.

The average median income in Thayer County is \$45,590. The percentage of those living below the poverty level is 11.2%. According to Kids Counts in 2015, about 22.5% of Thayer County youth are living in food insecure households; furthermore, almost 31% of youth are eligible for free and reduced lunches at school.

The results of the 2016 Nebraska Risk and Protective Factors (youth self reported statistics) showed that alcohol was the most common substance used by 8th, 10th, and 12th grade students. After alcohol, 8th grade students reported tobacco, inhalants, and marijuana as the most frequently use; 10th grade students reported tobacco, marijuana, and inhalants as the most frequently used; and then 12th grade students reported tobacco, marijuana, and prescription pills. The survey showed among 8th, 10th and 12th grade students that there was a decrease in alcohol, marijuana and tobacco use from 2014 to 2016.

| Lifetime Substance Use Among Students | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|-------------|------------------------------|-------------|------------------------------|-------------|
| | 8th Grade | | 10th Grade | | 12th Grade | |
| | <i>2016</i> | <i>2014</i> | <i>2016</i> | <i>2014</i> | <i>2016</i> | <i>2014</i> |
| Alcohol | 9.1% | 15.5% | 40.4% | 37.7% | 56.1% | 52.5% |
| Cigarettes | 1.9% | 6.9% | 12.3% | 15.0% | 31.5% | 18.6% |
| Smokeless tobacco | 1.9% | 3.6% | 8.8% | 13.1% | 28.1% | 16.9% |
| Marijuana | 1.8% | 3.4% | 12.3% | 11.5% | 29.8% | 10.2% |
| Inhalants | 1.8% | 1.7% | 1.8% | 3.3% | 5.3% | 3.4% |
| Prescription drugs | 1.8% | 1.7% | 10.5% | 4.9% | 12.3% | 5.1% |

Results also indicated that the use of cigarettes alcohol and marijuana was perceived as wrong or very according to a majority of 8th grade students. However, only 57.9% of 12th grade students viewed alcohol use as wrong and only 76.8% viewed marijuana use as wrong. The perception of the risk related to smoking marijuana regularly was 55.4% for 8th grade students compared to 41.1% for 12th grade students. In addition, the perception of risk related to having five or more alcoholic beverages one or times week was considered more risky for 8th grade students with 66.1% considering it risky and only 40.4% of 12th grade students considered it risky. The three most common sources for obtaining alcohol for 12th graders was getting it from a party, other family members bought or gave it to them, or gave money to someone to buy it for them. Among 12th grade students, 54.4% of them thought cigarettes were easy to obtain, 58.9% of them thought alcohol was easy to obtain, and 29.8% of them thought marijuana was easy to obtain.

**Thayer County
Three Year Juvenile Services Plan 2018-2021**

Priority One

Strengthen collaboration and distribute responsibilities for community betterment among communities, public organizations, private organizations, government entities and all interested parties via collective impact.

Strategy one: **Build coalition capacity.**

Resource:

- **Obtain commitments from the 12-sectors to serve on the Thayer County Healthy Communities Coalition and Three Year Plan Committee:** youth; parent; business; media; schools; youth-serving organization; law enforcement; religious organization; civic group; healthcare professional; state or local agency with expertise in field of substance abuse, juvenile crime, and mental health; other organization involved in reducing substance abuse, juvenile crime, and mental health issues *Who:* Current members of Three Year Plan Committee and the Thayer County Healthy Communities Coalition *Timeline:* Ongoing *Results:* Coalitions have representation from various community stakeholders which allows for broader networking.

Strategy two: **Commit to holding regular Thayer County Healthy Communities Coalition and Three Year Plan Committee meetings to discuss progress with current programs and projects affecting youth**

Resources:

- **Healthy Communities Coalition:** *Who:* Thayer County Healthy Communities Coalition *Timeline:* Monthly *Results:* Team will utilize and implement a data-driven plan whose strategies and resources benefit county youth and in particular in the areas of underage alcohol use, drug abuse, risky behavior prevention, mental health issues, and building the 40 Developmental Assets.
- **Three Year Plan** *Who:* Thayer County Attorney's Office in collaboration with Thayer County Three Year Plan Committee *Timeline:* Quarterly *Results:* Team will utilize and implement a data-driven plan whose strategies focus on addressing mental and behavioral health, parenting concerns and family dynamics, the social acceptance for at risk behaviors, and implementation of resources for youth with law enforcement contact.

Priority Two

Educate, engage and involve parents in the lives of county youth and in youth programs.

Supporting Data:

- 15.8% of 12th grade students reported drinking alcohol within the past 30 days at their home without their parents' permission. 10.5% of 12th grade students reported drinking alcohol within the past 30 days at their home with their parents' permission. (NRPFS, 2016)
- 42.1% of 12th grade students reported drinking alcohol within the past 30 days at someone else's home without their parents' permission. (NRPFS, 2016)
- 27.8% of 12th grade students reported receiving alcohol in the past 30 days from a family member(NRPFS, 2016)
- 37.5% of 12th grade students reported they would go to a parent first if they had an alcohol or drug problem. (NRPFS, 2016)
- 35.2% of 12th grade students reported they would go to a parent first if they were depressed or suicidal. (NRPFS, 2016)
- 91.1% of 12th grade students reported their parents know where they are at all times(NRPFS, 2016)
- 85.7% of 12th grade students reported it is important to be honest with their parents. (NRPFS, 2016)
- 35.6% of 12th grade students reported having discussed dangers of alcohol with their parents. (NRPFS, 2016)

Strategy one: Provide parents with educational opportunities and access to resources in order to enhance their parenting skills and provide awareness to parents regarding youth related topics.

Resources:

- **Families Inspiring Families:** *Who:* Families Inspiring Families *Timeline:* Ongoing *Results:* This program offers peers support for families delivered by parents who have experienced that challenges of raising a child with mental or behavioral health needs. Parents are provided access to parent education and skill building, workshops, and support groups.
- **Circle of Security:** *Who:* Blue Valley Community Action Partnership *Timeline:* Ongoing *Results:* Circle of Security is an 8-week parenting program offered to residents in Thayer County through Blue Valley Community Action Partnership. The Circle of Security class is based on years of research about how to build a strong relationship with children. It is designated to help learn how to respond to a child's needs in a way that enhances a parent's connection with them, which often times leads to changes in the child behavior.

It also helps parents give children a feeling of security and confidence so they can explore learn, grow and build positive relationships. Parents who complete the class say they have happier, more positive relationships with their children and their children are more understanding of other's emotions and have stronger self-esteem.

- **Attendance Support Program:** *Who:* Attendance Support Program *Timeline:* August 2018 *Results:* The Attendance Support Program focuses on early identification of children that are at risk of being suspended or are at risk for involvement in the juvenile justice system due to truancy. The program will address intervention strategies for those who are demonstrating significant difficulty attending school on a regular basis. The program involves parents, guardians, teachers, mentors, and other caring adults to better understand the child at risk. Once enrolled in the program, the student's attendance is checked on a daily basis and the Attendance Support Case Manager continues to assess the student's behavior and providing resources for families to get youth to and from school, if needed. The program will continue to seek out and offer educational opportunities to parents to attend to assist in enhancing parenting skills.
- **Headstart:** *Who:* Blue Valley Community Action Partnership *Timeline:* *Results:* The Blue Valley Community Action Partnership houses Head Start and the Early Head Start program in Thayer County. The Early Head Start program offers services for income qualifying residents in Thayer County with children whose ages are between 0 and 3. The Early Head Start Program works with the family on academics as well as social emotional aspects with parents. Families are also assigned a family advocate who visits their home weekly who then works on goal setting and family activities. The Head Start Program works in collaboration with the Thayer Central Public Schools. The program works with families on the social service realm, while the preschool children are able to attend preschool for the academic benefits.
- **County Schools:** *Who:* Thayer Central Community Schools, Bruning-Davenport Unified School District, Deshler Public Schools *Timeline:* August 2018 *Results:* All county schools will continue to provide educational opportunities for parents to enhance their parenting skills. The school will post youth related topics on their website as well as including them in their district newsletters, as well as providing opportunities for parents to hear from experts regarding social media use by students. All schools will continue to host their quarterly "Family Nights" in the elementary. All county schools will also work closely with the Attendance Support Program and monitor student attendance and refer students to that program.
- **Family Help Line:** *Who:* Nebraska Family Help Line *Timeline:* Ongoing *Results:* As a result of Thayer County having limited mental health and behavioral health service providers; Thayer County would like to promote the Nebraska Family Help Line. The Help Line is a free, 24 hour per day, 7 days a week service for families who have concerns about their child mental or behavioral health. The Nebraska Family Help Line is supervised by a licensed mental health professionals and help families identify the potential level of a behavioral health crisis, make recommendations or referrals to appropriate resources, and help connect to emergency providers.

- **CASA:** *Who:* Community volunteers who have completed a minimum of 30 hours of training, attended at least three juvenile court hearings and have been sworn in by a judge as a friend of the court *Timeline:* Ongoing *Results:* Qualified, compassionate adults will fight for and protect children's rights to be safe, to be treated with dignity and respect and to learn and grow in the security of a loving family. All children involved in juvenile cases due to being abused or neglect will have a CASA Volunteer assigned. Children with a CASA Volunteer are: more likely to be adopted than to linger in long-term foster care (defined as 3+ years); half as likely to re-enter the foster care system (fewer than 10% do); more likely to have a plan for permanency; more likely to do well in school.
- **Second Step Curriculum:** *Who:* Deshler Public Schools-Ongoing; Thayer Central Community Schools and Bruning-Davenport Unified School District: Begin 2018-2019 school year *Timeline:* August 2018 *Results:* The Second Step Program is a curriculum that is integrated into class for students from kindergarten to grade 8. The curriculum focuses on enhancing skills for learning, developing empathy, learning emotional management, and incorporating problem solving at school, home and everyday life. Parents may be involved by receiving weekly take-home handouts that provide them with information about the specific skills that were taught and the ways in which they can reinforce those skills.
- **Family and Youth Investment Program** *Who:* Region V *Timeline:* Ongoing *Results:* The Family and Youth Investment Program assigns eligible families with a Professional partner who coordinates formal and informal services to assist them in meeting established goals. The program is family driven and community based. Furthermore, some of the primary focuses of the program are averting children from becoming state wards, preventing out-of-home placements or involvement in emergency services; reducing youth contact with criminal justice systems; increasing school performance; and coordinating transitions from the youth to adult mental health system.

Strategy two: Encourage community stakeholders to follow up with parents regarding their follow through in accessing local community resources and implementation of recommendations.

Resources:

- **Circle of Security:** *Who:* Blue Valley Community Action Partnership *Timeline:* Ongoing *Results:* Circle of Security is an 8-week parenting program offered to residents in Thayer County through Blue Valley Community Action Partnership. The Circle of Security class is based on years of research about how to build a strong relationship with children. It is designated to help learn how to respond to a child's needs in a way that enhances a parent's connection with them, which often times leads to changes in the child behavior. It also helps parents give children a feeling of security and confidence so they can explore learn, grow and build positive relationships. During the classes, the instructor may provide parents with access to community resources when appropriate and then the instructor follows up with the parent in following sessions regarding these referrals.

Parents who complete the class say they have happier, more positive relationships with their children and their children are more understanding of other's emotions and have stronger self-esteem.

- **Headstart:** *Who:* Blue Valley Community Action Partnership *Timeline:* Results: The Blue Valley Community Action Partnership houses Head Start and the Early Head Start program in Thayer County. The Early Head Start program offers services for income qualifying residents in Thayer County with children whose ages are between 0 and 3. The Early Head Start Program works with the family on academics as well as social emotional aspects with parents. The Head Start Program works in collaboration with the Thayer Central Public Schools. The program works with families on the social service realm, while the preschool children are able to attend preschool for the academic benefits.
- **Attendance Support Program:** *Who:* Attendance Support Program *Timeline:* August 2018 *Results:* The Attendance Support Program focuses on early identification of children that are at risk of being suspended or are at risk for involvement in the juvenile justice system due to truancy. The program will address intervention strategies for those who are demonstrating significant difficulty attending school on a regular basis. The program involves parents, guardians, teachers, mentors, and other caring adults to better understand the child at risk. Once enrolled in the program, the student's attendance is checked on a daily basis and the Attendance Support Case Manager continues to assess the student's behavior and providing resources for families to get youth to and from school, if needed. The program will continue to seek out and offer educational opportunities to parents to attend to assist in enhancing parenting skills.

Priority Three

Advocate against social acceptance of underage alcohol and drug use, and prevent and reduce these and other at-risk behaviors such as irresponsible social media usage, bullying and sexual promiscuity.

Supporting Data:

- 56.1% of 12th grade students reported alcohol use in their lifetime. 33.3% of 12th grades reported alcohol use in the past 30 days. (NRPFS, 2016)
- 29.8% of 12th grades students reported marijuana use in their lifetime. 7% of 12th grades reported alcohol use in the past 30 days. (NRPFS, 2016)
- 22.8% of 12th grade students reporting riding in a vehicle driven by someone who had been drinking alcohol. (NRPFS, 2016)
- The following 12th grade students identify the following substances to being wrong or very wrong: 70.2% for cigarettes, 57.9% for alcohol use once or twice per month, 76.8% for marijuana. (NRPFS, 2016)
- 58.9% of 12th grade students find it easy or very easy to obtain alcohol, 29.8% of 12th grade students found it easy or very easy to obtain marijuana. (NRPFS, 2016)
- The most common place for 12th grade students to obtain alcohol was from a party. The most common alcoholic beverage consumed by 12th grade students was beer. (NRPFS, 2016)

- 19.0% of 12th grade students who dated in the past 1(NRPFS, 2016)2 months reported being controlled or emotionally hurt by their date.
- 63.2% of 12th grade students reported some form of bullying. The two most common forms of bullying was verbally (59.6%) and socially (56.1%). (NRPFS, 2016)

Strategy one: Provide regular meetings for local community members to attend in order to discuss current and upcoming community events for youth and families, to identify trends in youth delinquency, to discuss current community programs or gaps relating to serving at-risk youth, and to measure the effectiveness of youth serving programs.

Resources:

- **Youth Action Board:** *Who:* County Schools, Region V Systems, Healthy Communities Coalition *Timeline:* Ongoing *Results:* The Youth Leadership Program is involves youth in the local prevention coalition through Region V Systems. The Youth Action Board sponsors two annual regional youth events, the Red/White Tailgate and June Jam, both promoting substance abuse prevention among underage youth in grades 7 through 12.
- **1184 Meetings:** *Who:* County Attorney, County Schools, Health and Human Services, Law enforcement, Probation, CASA *Timeline:* Monthly *Results:* The 1184 meeting in Thayer County is an investigation team into child abuse and neglect. A representative of the child advocacy center is assigned to the team and helps facilitate case review, developing and updating protocols, and arranging training opportunities for the team.
- **Healthy Communities Coalition** *Who:* Thayer County Healthy Communities Coalition *Timeline:* Monthly *Results:* Team will utilize and implement a data-driven plan whose strategies and resources benefit county youth and in particular in the areas of underage alcohol use, drug abuse, risky behavior prevention, mental health issues, and building the 40 Developmental Assets.
- **Three Year Plan Committee** *Who:* Thayer County Attorney's Office in collaboration with Thayer County Three Year Plan Committee *Timeline:* Quarterly *Results:* Team will utilize and implement a data-driven plan whose strategies focus on addressing mental and behavioral health, parenting concerns and family dynamics, the social acceptance for at risk behaviors, and implementation of resources for youth with law enforcement contact.
- **County Schools:** *Who:* Bruning-Davenport Unified School District, Thayer Central Community Schools, Deshler Public Schools *Timeline:* Monthly *Results:* County schools will include information/articles in the monthly newsletters about community events, trends in youth delinquency, and current community programs relating to serving at-risk youth. Schools will also continue to provide community events for youth and families and advertise them on their website, weekly bulletins, and social media. Bruning-Davenport Unified School District will hold an open-house during which information will be shared.

Strategy two: Use environmental approaches, educational opportunities, programming and information dissemination to address at-risk behaviors of youth

Resources:

- **Talk about Alcohol.org** *Who:* Region V Systems, Healthy Communities Coalition
Timeline: Ongoing *Results:* This website offers parents and all adults access to resources to engage their youth in conversations relating to underage drinking, drug use, cell phone and internet safety, suicide prevention, and other risky behaviors. The website also allows youth to take the Youth Alcohol Prevention profile, which in turn puts into perspective how they compare to other youth relating to drinking and other risky behavior. Youth also have access to the Human Performance Project that focuses on nutrition, sleep, stress, drugs, and alcohol.
- **Healthy Communities Coalition:** *Who:* Thayer County Healthy Communities Coalition
Timeline: Monthly *Results:* Team will utilize and implement a data-driven plan whose strategies and resources benefit county youth and in particular in the areas of underage alcohol use, drug abuse, risky behavior prevention, mental health issues, and building the 40 Developmental Assets.
- **Stay on Track/DARE:** *Who:* Thayer Central Community Schools, Bruning-Davenport Unified School District, Deshler Public Schools *Timeline:* August 2019 *Results:* The Stay on Track curriculum is currently being utilized by Thayer Central Elementary in grades 6, 7, and 8. The curriculum focuses on substance abuse prevention by helping students assess the risk associated with substance abuse; enhance decision making, goal setting, communication, and resistance strategies; improve antidrug normative beliefs and attitudes; and reduce substance abuse.
- **Second Step:** *Who:* Deshler Public Schools-Ongoing; Thayer Central Community Schools and Bruning-Davenport Unified School District -Begin 2018-2019 school year
Timeline: August 2019 *Results:* The Second Step Program is a curriculum that is integrated into class for students from kindergarten to grade 8. The curriculum focuses on encouraging students to learn a process for solving problems with others in a positive way; learn skills for calming down with experiencing strong feelings such as anxiety or anger; learn to identify and understand their own and others' feelings; and develop skills to help themselves learn by focusing attending, listening carefully, using self talk to stay on track, and being assertive when asking for help with school work.
- **Afterschool Programs:** *Who:* Bruning-Davenport Unified School District, Thayer Central Community Schools, Deshler Public Schools *Timeline:* August 2019 *Results:* Information will be shared regarding at-risk behaviors of youth, particularly during the events that brings more students (i.e. STEM/STEAM activities).
- **County Schools:** *Who:* Bruning-Davenport Unified School District. *Timeline:* Ongoing
Results: The school district will utilize programming and activities (i.e. Middle School Health Fair, Leadership Summit) to provide educational opportunities and disseminate information regarding at-risk behaviors of youth.

- **Nebraska Risk and Protective Factors Survey** *Who:* Deshler Public Schools, Thayer Central Community Schools and Bruning-Davenport Unified School District *Timeline:* January 2019 *Results:* The Nebraska Risk and Protective Factors Student Survey (NRPFSS) targets Nebraska students in grades 6, 8, 10, and 12 with a goal of providing schools and communities with local level data. The survey was designed to assess adolescent substance use, delinquent behavior, and many of the risk and protective factors that predict adolescent problem behaviors. The Nebraska survey is adapted from a national, scientifically-validated survey and contains information on the risk and protective factors. These risk and protective factors are also highly correlated with substance abuse as well as delinquency, teen pregnancy, school dropout, and violence. Results from the NRPFSS can aid schools and community groups in planning and implementing local prevention initiatives to improve the health and academic performance of their youth.
- **Connected Youth Initiative** *Who:* Blue Valley Community Action *Timeline:* On-going *Results:* Youth served through Community Youth Initiative (CYI) are considered unconnected and/or vulnerable youth. CYI “connects” young people who are currently or have been in the Nebraska foster care system, have had contact with child protective services, have had experience with the juvenile justice system, or are homeless, or near homeless without family support. Programs include coaching, youth leadership, and financial education. The Youth Thrive framework is used in CYI as a means to develop practices and evaluate outcomes for older youth and to provide benchmarks and guidance for the Strengthening Families protective and promotion factors.
- **Pretrial Diversion Program:** *Who:* County Attorney *Timeline:* Year 1- Determine local need for a diversion program and the level of community support; Year 2 – Contact other local county attorney’s offices and diversion programs to identify preferred program structure; Year 3: Implement a diversion program *Results:* The Thayer County Attorney’s Office has begun considering the development of a voluntary juvenile diversion program that provides individuals who are charged with offenses in Thayer County an alternative to traditional criminal justice proceedings. The County Attorney would be responsible for making a determination regarding eligibility for the Diversion Program on a case by case basis with special consideration for youth who are not a significant threat to public safety. Once a referral has been made to the Pretrial Diversion Program by the County Attorney, the program will utilize a standardized assessment to identify an individual’s barriers or risks that may have contributed to the underlying offense and/or hinder the individual’s ability in making positive decisions. The youth would then be required to meet program requirements and conditions. Some examples of program requirements may include completing community service hours, attending diversion classes relating to decision making, maintaining satisfactory school performance, writing research and reflection papers, and attending substance and mental health assessments if appropriate. Once all of the youths conditions and requirements have been met, their charges will be dismissed.

Strategy three: Prevent and reduce at-risk behaviors by focusing on the harm that has been caused, rather than (or in addition to) focusing on the laws that have been broken.

Resources:

- **Juvenile Restorative Justice Dialogue:** *Who:* The Resolution Center *Timeline:* ongoing *Results:* Restorative Justice Dialogue (also known as Victim/Offender Mediation or Victim/Youth Conferencing) is one of several restorative dialogue models allowing young people and those who they have harmed to attempt to repair the harm through safe, constructive dialogue. Restorative Justice Dialogue seeks to give balanced attention to the needs of the person who has been harmed, the needs of the person who caused the harm, and the needs of the community impacted by the harm. The process engages all three groups in a way that opens up a dialogue and allows them to be the primary players in determining appropriate resolutions. This creates the “buy-in” necessary to prevent and reduce at-risk behaviors.
- **Pretrial Diversion Program:** *Who:* County Attorney *Timeline:* Year 1- Determine local need for a diversion program and the level of community support; Year 2 – Contact other local county attorney’s offices and diversion programs to identify preferred program structure; Year 3: Implement a diversion program *Results:* The Thayer County Attorney’s Office has begun considering the development of a voluntary juvenile diversion program that provides individuals who are charged with offenses in Thayer County an alternative to traditional criminal justice proceedings. This program would be supervised by a single community-based organization or a coalition of organizations independent of the courts, prosecutors office and probation. The County Attorney would be responsible for making a determination regarding eligibility for the Diversion Program on a case by case basis with special consideration for youth who are not a significant threat to public safety. Once a referral has been made to the Pretrial Diversion Program by the County Attorney, the program will utilize a standardized assessment to identify an individual’s barriers or risks that may have contributed to the underlying offense and/or hinder the individual’s ability in making positive decisions. The youth would then be required to meeting program requirements and conditions. Once these conditions have been met, their charges will be dismissed.

Priority four

Prevent youth from entering the juvenile justice system by providing services and reduce the length of stay in the system by offering community services.

Supporting Data:

- In Thayer County the following cases juvenile cases were filed: 24 juveniles cases in 2015, 40 juveniles cases in 2016, and 16 juveniles cases in 2017.
- From July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015, there was 1 youth serviced by CASA volunteers. From July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016, there were 2 youth serviced by CASA volunteers. From July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017, there were 2 youth serviced by CASA volunteers. (CASA)

- The following are the number of youth who were placed on Probation each year: 4 in 2015, 9 in 2016, and 9 in 2017 (Probation)

Strategy One: Offer alternative to detention and pre-adjudicated services to youth involved in the juvenile justice system as approved and ordered by the court.

Resources:

- **Family Support:** *Who:* Probation *Timeline:* Ongoing *Results:* Family support services are offered to youth with high risk and/or need, youth with elevated family circumstances and family domain, or at-risk, out-of-home placement. This service should impact the family functioning as a whole as well as the youth's individual functioning. In addition, family support may focus on addressing coping skills, conflict resolution, connect families to community resources, develop family team goals, and or develop safety plans for crisis situations.
- **Electronic Monitoring:** *Who:* Probation *Timeline:* Ongoing *Results:* Electronic monitoring is a system used to increase effectiveness in supervising participants who are required to abide by curfew or remain in their homes as approved and ordered by the court. GPS tracking systems capture location data throughout the day and aid trackers in identifying any breach of locations.
- **Tracking:** *Who:* Probation *Timeline:* Ongoing *Results:* A tracker is a person who works with the youth and family in the community to increase accountability and provide skill building to support the youth's success in the home. Goals can be written to address supervision, personal development, independent living, parent/family involvement, school, free time activities, development of support systems and restorative justice. Tracking services may be combined with electronic monitoring or used alone if needed.
- **Juvenile Restorative Justice Dialogue:** *Who:* The Resolution Center *Timeline:* ongoing *Results:* Restorative Justice Dialogue (also known as Victim/Offender Mediation or Victim/Youth Conferencing) is one of several restorative dialogue models allowing young people and those who they have harmed to attempt to repair the harm through safe, constructive dialogue. Restorative Justice Dialogue seeks to give balanced attention to the needs of the person who has been harmed, the needs of the person who caused the harm, and the needs of the community impacted by the harm. The process engages all three groups in a way that opens up a dialogue and allows them to be the primary players in determining appropriate resolutions. This creates the "buy-in" necessary to prevent and reduce at-risk behaviors.

Strategy Two: Consider alternative programming for youth at risk for being involved or who are involved in the juvenile justice system prior to County Attorney filing

Resources:

- **Pretrial Diversion Program:** *Who:* County Attorney *Timeline:* Year 1- Determine local need for a diversion program and the level of community support; Year 2 – Contact other local county attorney’s offices and diversion programs to identify preferred program structure; Year 3: Implement a diversion program *Results:* The Thayer County Attorney’s Office has begun considering the development of a voluntary juvenile diversion program that provides individuals who are charged with offenses in Thayer County an alternative to traditional criminal justice proceedings. This program would be supervised by a single community-based organization or a coalition of organizations independent of the courts, prosecutors office and probation. The County Attorney would be responsible for making a determination regarding eligibility for the Diversion Program on a case by case basis with special consideration for youth who are not a significant threat to public safety. Once a referral has been made to the Pretrial Diversion Program by the County Attorney, the program will utilize a standardized assessment to identify an individual’s barriers or risks that may have contributed to the underlying offense and/or hinder the individual’s ability in making positive decisions. The youth would then be required to meeting program requirements and conditions. Once these conditions have been met, their charges will be dismissed.
- **Attendance Support Program:** *Who:* Attendance Support Program *Timeline:* August 2018 *Results:* The Attendance Support Program focuses on early identification of children that are at risk of being suspended or are at risk for involvement in the juvenile justice system due to truancy. The program will address intervention strategies for those who are demonstrating significant difficulty attending school on a regular basis. The program involves parents, guardians, teachers, mentors, and other caring adults to better understand the child at risk. Once enrolled in the program, the student’s attendance is checked on a daily basis and the Attendance Support Case Manager continues to assess the student’s behavior and providing resources for families to get youth to and from school, if needed. The program will continue to seek out and offer educational opportunities to parents to attend to assist in enhancing parenting skills.
- **Juvenile Restorative Justice Dialogue:** *Who:* The Resolution Center *Timeline:* ongoing *Results:* Restorative Justice Dialogue (also known as Victim/Offender Mediation or Victim/Youth Conferencing) is one of several restorative dialogue models allowing young people and those who they have harmed to attempt to repair the harm through safe, constructive dialogue. A referral can be made at any point in the Juvenile Justice System; referrals at the diversion or pre-diversion stage would prevent youth from entering the juvenile justice system. Referrals at a later stage could reduce the length of a youth’s involvement in the system. Trained facilitators first meet individually with the person who has been harmed and the person who has caused that harm to hear their respective stories and determine appropriateness. Next is a joint meeting to talk about the offense and its impacts, offer apologies, and propose a reparation plan. If agreed to, the plan is signed, and is tracked for completion and fulfillment. Participation is voluntary; in particular, a person who has been harmed has full discretion as to whether or not to

meet with the person who has caused that harm. If an individual chooses not to participate, trained surrogates and community members can participate instead.

Priority Five

Increase availability of community-based support for youth with behavioral health and mental health issues.

Supporting Data:

- 38.6% of 12th grade students reported feelings of depression and 17.5% considered attempting suicide in the past 12 months. (NRPFS, 2016)
- There was no 12th grade student who reporting going to a counselor or program outside of school if they felt depressed or suicidal. In fact, 22.2% of 12th grade student said they would not go to anyone for help if they felt depressed or suicidal. (NRPFS, 2016)
- 87.7% of 12th grade students reported being hopeful about the future over the last 7 days. (NRPFS, 2016)
- 24.6% of 12th grade students reported living with someone who is mentally ill or depressed and 22.8% of 12th grade students reported living with someone who has a drug or alcohol problem. (NRPFS, 2016)
- 83.9% of 12th grade students reported having adult at home who listens. (NRPFS, 2016)
- 18% of Thayer County children are living below the poverty line (Kids Count)

Strategy one: Utilize local resources to assist youth with behavioral health and mental health issues.

Resources:

- **Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST):** *Who:* Probation *Timeline:* Ongoing *Results:* Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST) is a community based, family driven intensive model of treatment based on evidence-based interventions that target high-risk behavior in youth and increase protective factors. The purpose of MST is to keep youth in the home by delivering an intensive therapy to the family within their home.
- **Mental Health and Behavioral Health Counseling:** *Who:* Blue Valley Behavioral Health in Fairbury, Thayer County Health Services, *Timeline:* Ongoing *Results:* Youth in Thayer County have access to local behavioral and mental health counselors who specialize in identifying, supporting, and treating a variety of concerns including: anxiety, depression, substance abuse, anger management, trauma, and family conflicts. Youth are able to meet one-on-one with his/her counselor in an atmosphere that is non-judgmental, confidential, and empathic.
- **County Schools:** *Who:* Bruning-Davenport Unified School District, Thayer Central Community Schools, Deshler Public Schools *Timeline:* Ongoing *Results:* Bruning-Davenport and Thayer Central both offer mental health services through an agreement

with Educational Service Unit #5 and referrals to Thayer County Health Clinic Behavior Health division. Deshler Public Schools utilizes a social worker for youth with mental or behavioral health issues. All schools employ a full-time guidance counselor for students. All schools continue to offer training in suicide prevention and domestic violence signs/prevention. Thayer Central and Deshler Public schools have a Teammates Mentoring program.

Strategy two: Address youth mental health and behavioral health through public awareness, education and training to help communities build new and/or strengthen existing programs.

Resources:

- **Healthy Communities Coalition:** *Who:* Thayer County Healthy Communities Coalition *Timeline:* Monthly *Results:* Team will utilize and implement a data-driven plan whose strategies and resources benefit county youth and in particular in the areas of underage alcohol use, drug abuse, risky behavior prevention, mental health issues, and building the 40 Developmental Assets.
- **1184 Meetings:** *Who:* County Attorney, County Schools, Health and Human Services, Law enforcement, Probation, CASA *Timeline:* Monthly *Results:* The 1184 meeting in Thayer County is an investigation team into child abuse and neglect. A representative of the child advocacy center is assigned to the team and helps facilitate case review, developing and updating protocols, and arranging training opportunities for the team.
- **Nebraska Family Help Line:** *Who:* Nebraska Family Help Line *Timeline:* Ongoing *Results:* As a result of Thayer County having limited mental health and behavioral health service providers; Thayer County would like to promote the Nebraska Family Help Line. The Help Line is a free, 24 hour per day, 7 days a week service for families who have concerns about their child mental or behavioral health. The Nebraska Family Help Line is supervised by a licensed mental health professionals and help families identify the potential level of a behavioral health crisis, make recommendations or referrals to appropriate resources, and help connect to emergency providers. The Help Line can also work along side community professionals who need additional resources and supports for families.
- **County Schools:** *Who:* Bruning-Davenport Unified School District, Thayer Central Community Schools, Deshler Public Schools *Timeline:* Ongoing *Results:* Bruning-Davenport and Thayer Central both offer mental health services through an agreement with Educational Service Unit #5 and referrals to Thayer County Health Clinic Behavior Health division. Deshler Public Schools utilizes a social worker for youth with mental or behavioral health issues. All schools employ a full-time guidance counselor for students. All schools continue to offer training in suicide prevention and domestic violence signs/prevention. Thayer Central and Deshler Public schools have a Teammates Mentoring program.

- **Circle of Security:** *Who:* Blue Valley Community Action Partnership *Timeline:* Ongoing *Results:* Circle of Security is an 8-week parenting program offered to residents in Thayer County through Blue Valley Community Action Partnership. The Circle of Security class is based on years of research about how to build a strong relationship with children. It is designated to help learn how to respond to a child's needs in a way that enhances a parent's connection with them, which often times leads to changes in the child behavior. It also helps parents give children a feeling of security and confidence so they can explore learn, grow and build positive relationships. Parents who complete the class say they have happier, more positive relationships with their children and their children are more understanding of other's emotions and have stronger self-esteem.
- **Suicide Prevention Training** *Who:* Region V Systems *Timeline:* Ongoing *Results:* Suicide Prevention Training is a crucial component of many community professionals' education. Adequate training will prepare professionals on how to identify risk factors and early signs of depression, respond to individuals who are suicidal, stress the importance of asking about suicide and address the importance of partnering with qualified mental health professionals for assessment and crisis intervention services. Suicide training may be done in several avenues such as face-to-face workshops, webinars, and other self-paced courses.
- **Mental Health First Aid Training:** *Who:* Region V Systems *Timeline:* Ongoing *Results:* Mental Health First Aid Training is an 8-hour training course that will give participants the key to help someone who is developing a mental health problem or is experiencing a mental health crisis. Trained individuals will be able to recognize the potential risk factors and warning signs for a range of mental health concerns; use a 5-step action plan to help an individual in crisis; connect with appropriate professional help; and interpret the prevalence of various mental health disorders in the U.S. and the need for reduced negative attitudes in the community.

Strategy three: **Develop a standardized protocol and local resource guide for community stakeholders to reference when assisting youth who are experiencing a mental health or behavioral health crisis**

Resources:

- **Mental Health and Behavioral Health Resource Guide:** *Who:* Region V Systems, Three Year Plan Committee *Timeline:* Ongoing *Results:* The Three Year Plan Committee will ensure that all members of the committee have access the Mental Health and Behavioral Health Resource Guide compiled by Region V Systems to be utilized within each members profession working with youth. The resource guide has contact phone numbers for 24-Hour Crisis lines, detoxification services, consumer and family education advocacy locations, mental health and substance abuse treatment locations, and other useful locations.

Appendix A:
Juvenile Justice System Analysis Tool

SYSTEM POINT: ARREST/ CITATION

PARTY RESPONSIBLE: Police/Law Enforcement
STATUTE REFERENCE: NRS §§ 43-247 (1), (2), (4)

Decision: Whether an information report should be filed, or what offense, if any, with which juvenile should be cited or arrested.

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| Formal Determining Factors a. Sufficient factual basis to believe offense was committed. b. Underlying support for a particular offense | Informal Determining Factors a. Officer’s inclination/patience b. Degree to which parent or service provider pushed the issue c. Youth’s prior incidences with law enforcement d. Youth and/or youth’s families perceived status in the community e. Attitude of juvenile (compliant or not) f. Age of juvenile g. Totality of circumstances |
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Notes:
In the case where a juvenile comes into contact with law enforcement for allegedly committing a law violation, it is customary for law enforcement to issue a citation to the juvenile for a law violation and forward a report to the county attorney. In the event that a citation is not issued, law enforcement may still submit a report to the county attorney who will then determine what charges, if any, should be filed. It is also the officer’s discretion to issue a warning to the juvenile in lieu of a citation and not contact the county attorney’s office.

Decision: Whether to cite or arrest juvenile for juvenile or adult offense.

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| Formal Determining Factors a. Seriousness of Offense b. Is there a warrant? c. In accordance with state statute d. Age of juvenile | Informal Determining Factors a. Degree to which juvenile cooperates with officer b. Victim’s desire c. Youth is already in the HHS or juvenile system d. Age of the juvenile e. Criminal history of the juvenile |
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Notes:
The juvenile is treated as a juvenile throughout any and all law enforcement actions. It is the responsibility of the County Attorney to determine if charges should be adult or juvenile. The major considerations are how much trouble the youth is getting into, how serious the crime is, and involvement of the parents.

Decision: Whether to take juvenile into custody or to cite and release.

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| Formal Determining Factors a. Is there a warrant? b. As stated in statutes NRS § 43-248; NRS § 43-250 | Informal Determining Factors a. Immediate risk to juvenile b. Immediate/short term risk to public c. Seriousness of perceived offense d. Extent to which parent or other responsible adult is available to take responsibility for juvenile e. Availability of pre-adjudication detention options |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> f. Availability/cost of law enforcement to transport juvenile g. Too much time elapses from first contact with juvenile and when he/she enters juvenile court h. Legal status of family (if known) |
| <p>Notes: Law enforcement generally will cite and release a juvenile unless the above formal issues exists. If law enforcement decides to detain, the probation office determines whether or not the juvenile will remain in detention, be placed back into the home or placed in out-of-home placement. A mental health case may result in temporary custody being placed with the Department of Health and Human Services, and the juvenile is then taken to a youth mental health facility for safekeeping and to undergo an evaluation.</p> | |

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| <p>SYSTEM POINT: INITIAL DETENTION PARTY RESPONSIBLE: State of Nebraska Probation STATUTE REFERENCE: NRS § 43-250(3), § 43-260, § 43-260.01, §43-245</p> | |
| <p><i>Decision: Whether juvenile should be detained, placed in an alternative or released.</i></p> | |
| <p>Formal Determining Factors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Risk assessment outcome b. Accessibility of placement options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Parent/Guardian ii. Alternatives for Detention iii. Staff Secure Facility iv. Secure Detention Facility | <p>Informal Determining Factors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Detention screening instrument requires approval for override by a supervisor b. In cases involving a mental health crisis, law enforcement will contact the local crisis response team or conduct an EPC, if applicable. |
| <p>Notes: Secure detentions are a last resort for law enforcement and probation. The probation office conducts a risk assessment. According to the results of the assessments, the juvenile can be placed in a staff secure facility, an emergency shelter or placed back with the parents or other family members or friends that would be appropriate. If the juvenile is released, he may be placed on tracking and electronic monitoring services through the Probation Office or family support services if authorized by the court (county funding must be available for these services).</p> | |

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| <p>SYSTEM POINT: CHARGE JUVENILE PARTY RESPONSIBLE: County Attorney STATUTE REFERENCE: NRS § 43-274(1), § 43-275, § 43-276, § 43-247</p> | |
| <p><i>Decision: Whether to prosecute juvenile.</i></p> | |
| <p>Formal Determining Factors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Factors under NRS § 43-276 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The type of treatment such juvenile would most likely be amenable to b. Whether there is evidence that the alleged offense included violence c. The motivation or the commission of the offense | <p>Informal Determining Factors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. After reviewing police reports, examining the nature of the County Attorney will make decision made as to whether to refer to Pre-trial Diversion or file petition. Enrolling youth in Pre-trial Diversion is a more immediate path for intervention. |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> d. The age of the juvenile and the ages and circumstances of any others involved in the offense e. The previous history of the juvenile, including whether he or she has been convicted of any previous offenses or adjudicated in juvenile court f. The best interests of the juvenile g. Consideration of public safety h. Consideration of the juvenile's ability to appreciate the nature and seriousness of his or her conduct i. Whether the best interests of the juvenile and the security of the public may require that the juvenile continue in secure detention or under supervision for a period extending beyond his or her minority and if so, the available alternative best suited to this purpose j. Whether the victim agrees to participate in mediation k. Whether there is a juvenile pretrial diversion program established pursuant to section 43-260.02 to 43-260.07 l. Whether the juvenile has been convicted of or has acknowledged unauthorized use or possession of a firearm m. Whether a juvenile court order has been issued for the juvenile pursuant to section 43-2, 106.03 n. Whether the juvenile is a criminal street gang member o. Such other matters as the parties deem relevant to aid in the decision | |
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Notes:
 If the County Attorney finds that there is a sufficient amount of evidence, the case will be referred to Pre-trial Diversion or a petition will be filed in juvenile court. The County Attorney will have the final decision if the case goes to a diversion program or court. If there is an insufficient amount of evidence to prosecute, the juvenile does not participate in either. If the juvenile participates in the Pre-trial Diversion program, a Pretrial Diversion Case Manager conducts a risk assessment on the juvenile.

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| Decision: Whether youth should be prosecuted as juvenile or adult. | |
| Formal Determining Factors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Reference NRS § 43-276 for guidelines b. Age of youth | Informal Determining Factors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Nature of offense and age b. Mental capabilities c. Which judicial system would best serve needs if youth but also be accountable for actions but protect the safety of the community. d. Juvenile’s prior criminal record e. Degree of accountability f. Public Safety h. Resource issue |
| Notes: The ultimate decision to prosecute a juvenile as an adult with rest entirely on the discretion of the county attorney taking into consideration the above determining factors. | |

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| Decision: Offense for which juvenile should be charged. | |
| Formal Determining Factors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Seriousness of offense b. Charge must be supported by sufficient evidence to establish proof beyond a reasonable doubt | Informal Determining Factors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Determined by police reports b. Prosecutorial discretion c. Nature of offense |
| Notes: | |

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| SYSTEM POINT: PRE-ADJUDICATION DETENTION | |
| PARTY RESPONSIBLE: Juvenile Court Judge | |
| STATUTE REFERENCE: NRS § 43-253(2), § 43-251.01 | |
| Decision: Whether juvenile detained at the time of citation/arrest should continue in detention or out-of-home placement pending adjudication. | |
| Options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Parents/Guardians 2. Emergency Shelter 3. Staff Secure Facility 4. Secure Detention Facility 5. Electronic Monitoring | |
| Formal Determining Factors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Whether there is an “immediate and urgent necessity for the protection of such juvenile” b. Whether there is an “immediate and urgent necessity for the protection of the person or property of another” c. Whether juvenile is likely to flee the jurisdiction of the court | Informal Determining Factors |
| Notes: Juveniles in detention are brought before the judge within 24 hours at which time the court decides whether the juvenile shall remain in detention. Based on the seriousness of the offense and the need to protect the public | |

and/or the juvenile, the court can order that the juvenile (1) remain in detention pending another hearing, (2) be released to the custody of the parent or custodian, or (3) authorize probation to find suitable placement. If the juvenile is released to the parent, the court can issue Conditions of Release which are temporary court orders that govern the behavior and whereabouts of the juvenile AN electronic monitor can be ordered through the juvenile court. If the juvenile remains in detention, the youth is placed in the Northeast Nebraska Juvenile Services detention center in Madison until his next court appearance date.

Often times, the Juvenile Court Judge who may preside at detention hearing believe the law does not allow juveniles to be in detention longer than necessary. This same standard is also applied to any other out-of-home placement. As a result, most juveniles who have met the criteria for detention are returned to the car and custody of their parents/guardians.

SYSTEM POINT: PROBABLE CAUSE HEARING

PARTY RESPONSIBLE: Juvenile Court Judge
 STATUTE REFERENCE: NRS § 43-256

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

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| <p>Formal Determining Factors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Police investigation/Reports b. Sworn Affidavit c. NRS § 43-256. When the court enters an order continuing placement or detention pursuant to section 43-253, upon request of the juvenile, or his or her parent, guardian, or attorney, the court shall hold a hearing within forty-eight hours, at which hearing the burden of proof shall be upon the state to show probable cause that such juvenile is within the jurisdiction of the court. Strict rules of evidence shall not apply at the probable cause hearing. The juvenile shall be released if probable cause is not shown. At the option of the court, it may hold the adjudication hearing provided in section 43-279 as soon as possible instead of the probable cause hearing if held within a reasonable period of time. This section and section 43-255 shall not apply to a juvenile (1) who has escaped from a commitment or (2) who has been taken into custody for his or her own protection as provided in subdivision (2) of section 43-248 in | <p>Informal Determining Factors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Parent or other agencies b. Petitions and motions filed c. Evidence submitted to by state, guardian-ad-litem, other attorneys appointed or designated by juvenile. |
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| <p>which case the juvenile shall be held on order of the court with jurisdiction for a reasonable period of time.</p> | |
| <p>Notes: The Judge takes the County Attorney’s advice into consideration. The County Attorney knows the facts about the juvenile and it helps when the Judge knows as much about the juvenile as possible</p> | |

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| <p>SYSTEM POINT: COMPETENCY EVALUATION PARTY RESPONSIBLE: Juvenile Court Judge STATUTE REFERENCE: NRS § 43-258(1(b))</p> | |
| <p><i>Decision: Whether juvenile is competent to participate in the proceedings.</i></p> | |
| <p>Formal Determining Factors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Outlined in statute b. Pending the adjudication of any case under the Nebraska Juvenile Code, the court may offer the juvenile to be examined by a physician, surgeon, psychiatrist, duly authorized community mental health service program, or psychologist to aid the court in determining (a) a material allegation in the petition relating to the juvenile’s physical or mental condition, (b) the juvenile’s competence to participate in the proceedings, (c) the juvenile’s responsibility for his or her acts, or (d) whether or not to provide emergency medical treatment. | <p>Informal Determining Factors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Evidence submitted to by state, guardian-ad-litem, other attorneys appointed or designated by juvenile. |
| <p>Notes: If a competency hearing is ordered, which is rare, factors considered would be whether the juvenile is suicidal, whether the juvenile is addicted to any substances, and whether the county could provide services. What type of legal representation the juvenile had would also be a concern.</p> | |

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| <p><i>Decision: Whether juvenile is “responsible” for his/her acts.</i></p> | |
| <p>Formal Determining Factors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. “Complete evaluation of the juvenile including any authorized area of inquiry requested by court” (NRS § 43-258(2)) b. Opinion of physician, psychiatrist, community mental health program, psychologist c. Pending the adjudication of any case under the Nebraska Juvenile | <p>Informal Determining Factors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. CASA b. DHHS c. Adequate investigation of pre-placement behavior to ensure evaluation is correct |

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| <p>Code, the court may offer the juvenile examined by a physician, surgeon, psychiatrist, duly authorized community mental health service program, or psychologist to aid the court in determining (a) a material allegation in the petition relating to the juvenile’s physical or n=mental condition, (b) the juvenile’s competence to participate in the proceedings, (C0 the juvenile’s responsibility for his or her acts, or (d) whether or not to provide emergency medical treatment.</p> | |
| <p>Notes:</p> | |

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| <p>SYSTEM POINT: ADJUDICATION PARTY RESPONSIBLE: Juvenile Court Judge STATUTE REFERENCE: NRS § 43-279 (2) and (3)</p> | |
| <p><i>Decision: Whether the juvenile is, beyond a reasonable doubt, “a person” described by section 43-247.</i></p> | |
| <p>Formal Determining Factors</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Legal sufficiency of evidence presented during adjudication hearing b. Whether juvenile admits the allegations of the petition (or, “pleads to the charge”) c. Residency d. Age | <p>Informal Determining Factors</p> |
| <p>Notes: The statute sufficiently describes the factors that must go into this decision.</p> | |

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| <p><i>Decision: Whether to order probation to conduct a pre-disposition investigation.</i></p> | |
| <p>Formal Determining Factors</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Outlined in statute | <p>Informal Determining Factors</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Is additional information needed? b. What is the Risk level? c. What is the Appropriate Supervision Level? |
| <p>Notes: The Juvenile Court Judge to determine the appropriate disposition for a juvenile after adjudication. Sometimes, the court has sufficient information following the adjudication to make a disposition immediately. If the court</p> | |

believes it needs additional information in order to make a decision at disposition, then the juvenile is often ordered to submit to a pre-disposition investigation (PDI) with the probation office. Probation will then utilizes the PDI to determine the risk level and supervision level needed for the juvenile. PDI's are not ordered in every case.

SYSTEM POINT: DISPOSITION

PARTY RESPONSIBLE: Juvenile Court Judge
 STATUTE REFERENCE: NRS § 43-286 (1)

Decision: Whether to place juvenile on probation

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| Formal Determining Factors a. As outlined in statute | Informal Determining Factors |
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Notes:
 Determining factors are parental influences, family structure, the juvenile's socialization skills, and friends. Other significant factors include answering these questions: what agency is best suited to help the juvenile – Probation or OJS? What impact can the probation officer/OJS personnel have regarding the juveniles family situation, peer influence, the juvenile's social abilities, the best ability to oversee the juvenile during the evening/nighttime hours, and the ability to track and assist the juvenile with their school attendance/classroom performance? Can the probation officer provide the services needed to meet expected goals?

Notes: Most dispositions in the area end with an order of probation. It is the preferred option because it is the least restrictive rehabilitation plan. The court takes the recommendations of the County Attorney's Office, the juvenile's counsel and/or guardian ad litem and even the parents into consideration when making a decision on disposition. In the event that the juvenile has been continuously unsuccessful in previous probations or the State has exhausted all community based programs to rehabilitate the juvenile, the juvenile may be committed to a Youth Treatment Center. The county attorney must file a motion to court requesting that the juvenile be placed in a youth treatment facility and that all efforts has been exhausted to rehabilitate the juvenile.

Decision: Whether to place juvenile on probation and commit juvenile to the YRTC

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

SYSTEM POINT: ADMINISTRATIVE SANCTIONS

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| PARTY RESPONSIBLE: Probation STATUTE REFERENCE: NRS § 43-286.01 | |
| <i>Decision: Whether to impose administrative sanctions on a probationer</i> | |
| <p>Formal Determining Factors</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Probation officers has reasonable cause to believe that probationer has committed a non-criminal violation b. Substance abuse violation refers to a positive test for drug or alcohol use, failure to report for such a test, or failure to comply with substance abuse evaluation or treatment c. Non-criminal violation means <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Failure to report to his or her probation officer; ii. Leaving the jurisdiction of the court or leaving the state without the permission of the court or his or her probation officer iii. Failure to work regularly or attend training schools. iv. Failure to notify his or her probation officer of change of address or employment. v. Frequenting places where controlled substances are illegally sold, used, distributed or administered vi. Failure to perform community service as directed vii. Failure to pay fines, court costs, restitution or any fees imposed pursuant to section 29-2262.06 | <p>Informal Determining Factors</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Whether violation can be handled informally through an administrative sanction b. Whether juvenile cooperates in agreeing to the administrative sanction c. Whether parent agrees to assist juvenile in complying with sanction d. Whether an extension of probation is needed to handle the violation. e. Nature and seriousness of the violation f. Past history of administrative sanctions files and reasons for sanctions. g. Offender's perceived danger or threat to himself, or the community |
| <p>Notes: The State Probation Office Nebraska law and its own rules and regulations regarding whether to impose an administrative sanction. If the probationer has violated the probation order but the type of violation can be handled informally, then the probation officer has the authority to request that the probationer submit to the administrative sanction. The probationer would sign a standard administrative sanctions form that requires them to agree that they violated their probation and requires them to agree to comply with an additional request of the probation officer. Administrative sanctions have proved useful in handling minor probation violations rather than needing to go to back to court for every issue.</p> | |

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| SYSTEM POINT: MOTION TO REVOKE PROBATION | |
| PARTY RESPONSIBLE: County Attorney STATUTE REFERENCE: NRS § 43-286.01 | |
| <i>Decision: Whether to file a motion to revoke probation.</i> | |
| Formal Determining Factors | Informal Determining Factors |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Outlined in statute b. Current probation order requires modification and/or change in disposition. c. Probation office files alleged violation d. Law enforcement citation is a violation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Law violation occurs that is being filed in court and/or if Probationer continues to violate probation conditions even after sanctions have been issued and steps have been taken to try and correct the conditions the probationer has violated. b. Nature of violation c. Severity of violation d. Necessity for accountability e. Need for alternative disposition f. Appropriateness of administrative sanctions for minor violations g. Recommendation from probation officer h. County Attorney prosecute merit assessment i. If a Motion to Revoke is based on a new law violation which has yet to be adjudicated, the matter is often continued to allow that adjudication. In the event the disposition of both matters is often handled at the same time. j. If a PDI was not ordered at the time of the original disposition it may well be ordered at the time of re-disposition. k. Judge will use a continuum of care approach as a result of a revocation |
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Notes:

The County Attorney’s Office is notified of probation violations generally in one of two ways. The State Probation office may send an alleged probation violation to the County Attorney’s Office, the County Attorney’s Office may be notified if there is a citation and/or report form a law enforcement agency and the internal records show that the juvenile is still on probation. In any of these circumstances, the County Attorney’s Office may file a motion to revoke probation alleging which conditions of probation have been violated. A hearing is set up by the juvenile court and the juvenile has a first hearing similar to the first hearing conducted on the original petition. In other words, the juvenile will be advised of his or her rights, possible consequences and possible pleas.

SYSTEM POINT: MODIFICATION/REVOCATION OF PROBATION

PARTY RESPONSIBLE: Juvenile Court Judge
 STATUTE REFERENCE: NRS § 43-286(4)(b)(v)

Decision: Whether to modify or revoke probation.

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| <p>Formal Determining Factors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. NRS § 43-286. When it is alleged that the juvenile has exhausted all levels of probation supervision and options for community-based services and section 43-251.01 has been satisfied, a motion for commitment to a youth rehabilitation and treatment center may be filed and proceedings held as | <p>Informal Determining Factors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Recommendations by probation office b. Recommendations by counsel c. Recommendations by other professionals d. The court usually modifies probation with additional terms and conditions rather than revoke or unsatisfactorily discharge the Order of Probation depending on age and services available. |
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| <p>follows: (a) The motion shall set forth specific factual allegations that support the motion and a copy of such motion shall be served on all persons required to be served by section 43-262 to 43-267; and (b) The juvenile shall be entitled to a hearing before the court to determine the validity of the allegations. At such hearing the burden is upon the state by a preponderance of the evidence to show that: (I) All levels of probation supervision have been exhausted.</p> | |
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Notes:
 Once a juvenile has been found in violation of the probation order, then the juvenile court has a limited amount of options. The critical question is whether the juvenile is a good candidate to remain on some form of probation. Often, the juvenile court will order a letter report from the Probation Office in order to obtain recommendations. In addition, letters of recommendation from professionals (counselors, social workers, school officials) working with the juvenile will be obtained. During the disposition hearing, counsel of record will make recommendations to the court. If the juvenile court is under the belief that the juvenile is still making progress and making amends for the probation violation, then the court is more than likely going to keep the juvenile on some form of probation. That order can include an extension on probation. The probation order can be modified to include an additional condition such as counseling. There are also times where a probation order can be made more restrictive by either tightening the curfew conditions or implementing an order of intensive supervised probation. In the event that probation is revoked by the court, the juvenile court can either terminate the probation or institute a new order such as commitment to a Youth Treatment Center.

SYSTEM POINT: SETTING ASIDE ADJUDICATION/DISCHARGE
 PARTY RESPONSIBLE: Juvenile Court Judge
 STATUTE REFERENCE: NRS § 43-2,108.01

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

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| <p>Formal Determining Factors</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Juvenile’s post adjudication behavior and response to treatment and rehabilitation programs b. Whether setting aside adjudication will depreciate seriousness of juvenile’s conduct or promote disrespect for law c. Whether failure to set aside adjudication may result in disabilities disproportionate to the conduct upon which the adjudication was based. | <p>Informal Determining Factors</p> |
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Notes:
 This decision is based on how the juvenile has progressed. The Judge will set a specific time period for probation. The probation officer can request early termination if the juvenile has improved in the areas indicated above. If the juvenile’s environment was positive during probation there is a better chance they will stay out of trouble. The juvenile’s character will be a big indicator as to whether they have progressed or not. The goal is for them to

successfully complete probation and make better decisions after probation.

Decision: Whether juvenile should be discharged from the custody and supervision of OJS

Formal Determining Factors

- a. Presumably same as those for probation under NRS § 43-2, 103

Informal Determining Factors

Appendix B:
County Board of Commissioners Approval

**County Board Chair:
Dave Bruning
225 N. 4th Street Room 225
Hebron, NE 68370
(402) 768-6126**

The Thayer County Commissions were provided a copy of the plan prior to this date for review. During a regular scheduled meeting the board members discussed and approved the Thayer County Three Year Juvenile Justice Comprehensive County Plan as presented by Casey Tiemann.


Commissioners Chairman

Date

**County Board Chair:
Dave Bruning
225 N. 4th Street Room 225
Hebron, NE 68370
(402) 768-6126**

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Commissioners Chairman


Date