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Part II:

Strategy Development Process and Coordination Issues

Strategy Development Process

The Nebraska Crime Commission is the state agency responsible for the administration of the Federal Edward Byrne Local Law Enforcement Formula Block Grant Program. Originally, the Nebraska Criminal Justice Drug and Violent Crime Policy Board was responsible for developing the Statewide Criminal Justice Drug and Violent Crime Strategy. However, for both cost and time efficiency, it was determined by the Governor to utilize the Nebraska Crime Commission for the development of the strategy since the majority of the Policy Board members also served on the Crime Commission. Input from citizens and criminal justice representatives was received from the meetings held across the state and was used in the development of the 2001-2004 Statewide Criminal Justice Drug and Violent Crime Strategy. During the fall of 1999, the Crime Commission held public meetings to receive input about the most serious criminal justice problems facing our state. The meetings were held in Scottsbluff, McCook, Grand Island, Norfolk, Omaha, and Lincoln.

As in previous years, attendance at the public meetings was low. However, those in attendance provided very good insight about the problems facing their communities and ideas about the solutions and needs to address the problems. One observation during some of the meetings was that regardless of the size of the group, people from the community were not always aware of the programs and services already in place to address some of the identified problems. The meetings therefore provided an opportunity for enhance coordination within each community.

Crime Commission staff prepared a draft copy of the 2001 - 2004 Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Statewide Strategy for review and approval by the Crime Commission members. Suggested changes were made and the Strategy was finalized.

The Crime Commission approved the 2001-2004 Strategy at its January 14, 2000 meeting. The meeting was advertised in the newspaper and is open to the public.

Priorities to be addressed in the three year strategy have not changed. Due to the limited amount of federal Byrne dollars and the leveraging of the other resources, such as the funding from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act, the Victims of Crime Act, the Department of Education, Health and Human Service, other Federal discretionary programs, priorities for the Byrne dollars will remain the same as Nebraska's previous strategy -- drug use, distribution and trafficking; juvenile disorders; and, violence. It was also decided to retain the same program areas to address these priorities.

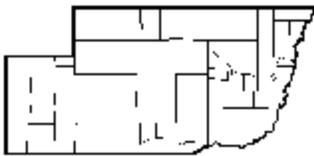
A copy of the 2001 - 2004 Nebraska Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Statewide Strategy was sent to the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Nebraska Legislature for review and comment on January 24, 2000. The State of Nebraska does not have a Single Point of Contact.

The 2001 - 2004 Nebraska Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Statewide Strategy will be added to the

Nebraska's Crime Commission web page to allow more citizens of the state the easy access and the ability to forward comments which can be used in next year's strategy's update.

Coordination

It should be noted that interaction between and within entities of the criminal justice system as well as other entities and communities has been significantly enhanced due to the various Federal grant programs in which Nebraska is involved, such as Byrne; Weed and Seed; Safe Futures; Criminal History Improvement Program (CHIP); Community Oriented Policing (COPS); Drug Free Schools and Communities; etc.



Some basic information about Nebraska demographics helps in understanding some of the difficulties of coordination. Nebraska is primarily an agricultural state with the largest portion of its population residing in the metropolitan areas located in the eastern part of the state. One road block to coordinated efforts is distance. Nebraska consists of 77,355 square miles, 93 counties varying in size and population and has a total population of 1,666,028. Examples of the varying size and population of Nebraska's counties is demonstrated as follows.

- Sarpy County (smallest in size), in eastern Nebraska, consists of 238 square miles and a population of 102,583

- Douglas County (largest in population), in eastern Nebraska, consists of 333 square miles and has a population of 416,444

- Cherry County (largest in size), in northwestern Nebraska, consists of 5,961 square miles and a population of 6,307

- Arthur County (lowest population in the state), in north central Nebraska has a population of 462 and consists of 710 square miles
- It is approximately 500 miles from the eastern border of Nebraska to the western border.

Specific coordination efforts with an explanation of Nebraska's criminal justice entities follows.

- o Coordination with criminal justice agencies within the state (state and local)

1) Law Enforcement

Geographic distance is a significant factor for many Nebraska law enforcement officers. There are 302 law enforcement agencies in Nebraska and of these, only three have over 100 sworn officers -- Nebraska State Patrol, Lincoln and Omaha Police Departments. The cities of Lincoln and Omaha are both located in eastern Nebraska and have populations over 150,000. Each Nebraska county elects a sheriff every four years and the Sheriff's Department has jurisdiction throughout the county. Many small communities within the counties do not have police departments and rely on the sheriff's office for law enforcement coverage. Larger communities, as a rule, have police departments. In Nebraska, there are 233 law enforcement agencies consisting of 1 to 5 officers; 50 agencies consisting of 6 to 15 officers; and, 16 agencies consisting of 16 to 99 officers.

Nebraska law enforcement concerns and issues are addressed on a statewide basis by three associations, the Nebraska Sheriff's Association (NSA); the Peace Officers Association of Nebraska (POAN); and, the Police Chiefs Association of Nebraska (PCAN). The associations provide the mechanism to identify and address issues which impact law enforcement. The Crime Commission Executive Director and staff attend association meetings and conferences which provides yet another link in the coordination effort.

Nebraska's nine multijurisdictional task forces, one state task force under the direction of the Nebraska State Patrol and seven local task forces, are the impetus

of law enforcement coordination in the state. There are 72 (77%) of Nebraska's 93 counties participating in the task forces. Task force investigators and other local law enforcement officers share information on a daily to weekly basis. Additionally, task force investigators meet monthly with their respective task force boards to discuss operations and issues. Most of Nebraska's task forces have been operational since 1990. Investigators from the task forces are acquainted with each other and do not hesitate to contact one other to provide or request information about suspects and/or activities or to work cases together. To assist in case development, a computerized intelligence system is now operational allowing task force investigators to access suspect information 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Intelligence information is entered into the system by each task force, thus enhancing the sharing of information and further reducing duplication of efforts. Several law enforcement agencies do not participate in a Byrne funded task force but have dedicated officers to work drug cases within their jurisdiction and may rely on assistance from the Nebraska State Patrol. Having statewide jurisdiction as well as being actively involved in all Byrne funded task forces, the Nebraska State Patrol serves as a key component in providing coordination across the state. At times when issues arise which requires a coordinated effort, law enforcement will contact the Nebraska Crime Commission for assistance. Representatives from the Nebraska State Patrol, law enforcement and prosecution serve as members of the Nebraska Crime Commission which also serves to enhance coordination.

2) Prosecution

There are 90 County Attorneys providing prosecutorial services to Nebraska's 93 counties. Of the 90 County Attorneys, 72 are part-time with limited budgets and resources. With 77% of Nebraska's County Attorneys serving part time, coordination is difficult. The Nebraska's Attorney General's office provides assistance to local county attorneys and many times serves as the impetus for coordination of prosecutorial efforts.

Several County Attorneys are actively involved in their

multijurisdictional task force, thus enhancing the coordination of cases. The Nebraska County Attorneys' Association serves as a statewide mechanism for identifying and addressing issues of local County Attorneys. Another mechanism to enhance coordination is the County Attorneys' Advisory Council, an advisory committee of the Nebraska Crime Commission. The committee address training requirements, identifies and address various issues pertaining to prosecutorial efforts in the state.

The Nebraska Attorney General is the Chairman of the Nebraska Crime Commission, thus providing a linkage to Nebraska's prosecutorial system. Promotion of coordination by the Nebraska Attorney General has been achieved through the establishment of the Drug and Violent Crime Prosecution Unit (DVCPU). The DVCPU assists local task forces and prosecutors in case development and prosecutorial efforts on a daily basis, which in most instances requires significant travel. The DVCPU provides numerous training sessions throughout the year for law enforcement and prosecutors, which further promotes coordination. The Nebraska Attorney General's Drug and Violent Crime Prosecution Unit also has cross-designated Assistant Attorney Generals who can prosecute cases both at the state and federal level.

3) Defense

Private attorneys are appointed by the court to represent indigent defendants on a case-by-case basis in 66 (71%) of Nebraska's 93 counties. In 22 counties (24%), elected public defenders provide representation, with the position in 14 of those counties being part-time. This process results in inadequate and inconsistent efforts. To assist in addressing coordinated efforts as well as other issues, a Commission on Public Advocacy was established in 1996. Commission staff provides assistance to local public defenders or assigned counsel as does the Nebraska's Attorney General's Office for County Attorneys. The Public Advocacy Commission serves as one coordinating entity for defense attorneys. The Nebraska Criminal Defense Association is a mechanism which also provides coordination. A Board member of the

Commission On Public Advocacy serves on the Crime Commission, thus creating a linkage to Nebraska's defense system.

4) Judicial

The Nebraska court system is consolidated and unified. As per the state constitution, judicial authority is distributed among the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, district courts (general jurisdiction), county courts (limited jurisdiction), and other courts created by the Legislature. The state's other types of courts include the separate juvenile courts in Douglas, Lancaster and Sarpy counties and a workers' compensation court. The Supreme Court has general administrative authority over all courts in Nebraska. The Supreme Court also provides policy leadership for the state judicial system; regulates the practice of law in Nebraska and appoints and monitors lawyers who serve on local inquiry committees and a state committee on discipline and professional responsibility. The Supreme Court also admits qualified applicants to the Nebraska State Bar Association and administers the state probation system, which handles both adult and juvenile cases. A State Court Administrator is responsible for coordination within the judicial branch and with other agencies (i.e. the Crime Commission) involved in programs affecting the courts. Representatives from the court system serve on Advisory and subcommittees of the Crime Commission.

5) Corrections

Nebraska's Department of Correctional Services (DCS) is responsible for the custody, control, study, correctional treatment, training and rehabilitation of persons both adult and juvenile, committed to it so that they may be prepared for lawful and productive community living upon release. Correctional facilities under DCS include the State Penitentiary, Hastings Correctional Center, Lincoln Correctional Center; Diagnostic and Evaluation Center; Community Correctional Center-Omaha; Nebraska Correctional Center for Women; Community Corrections

Center - Lincoln; the Omaha Correctional Center - Work Release Unit; the Nebraska Correctional Treatment Center, the Nebraska Correctional Youth Facility and, the Adult Parole Administration. The Director of the Department of Correctional Services is a member of the Nebraska Crime Commission, thus providing a linkage to Nebraska's correctional system. Additionally, staff from the DCS serves on the Crime Commission's Juvenile Services Grant Committee which determines the use of state general funds for juvenile programs.

During 1994, the Legislature enacted Legislative Bill 988, which created the Office of Juvenile Services (OJS) as a separate organization within DCS. OJS was later moved under the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. The Office of Juvenile Services oversees all juvenile correctional services, including the Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Centers in Kearney and Geneva, Nebraska. Coordination efforts are achieved through the membership of the Director of the OJS on the Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice, an advisory committee under the Nebraska Crime Commission.

Directors and staff from the various agencies who serve on the Nebraska Crime Commission and the Crime Commission's various subcommittees promote coordination of policy development and implementation; legislative efforts; and, the development and implementation of programs to address identified problems.

- o Coordination among state and local criminal justice agencies with federal law enforcement

Federal law enforcement presence in Nebraska is limited and not sufficient. However, state and local law enforcement as well as prosecutors contact Federal law enforcement for assistance when needed. Again, the multijurisdictional task forces serve as the impetus of coordination with Federal law enforcement. Federal law enforcement, along with state and local enforcement, are housed at the off-sites in the Omaha Metro Task Force, Lincoln/Lancaster Narcotics Task Force, and the HIDTA Tri-Cities Task Force in Grand Island. Co-location of this nature greatly enhances coordinated investigative efforts. The Omaha METRO task force houses agents from the FBI, DEA, INS, U.S. Marshals, ATF, IRS and U.S.

Postal Service.

The Nebraska U.S. Attorney has been instrumental in promoting coordination between not only between law enforcement, county attorneys and his office, but also with human service and treatment providers as well as community leaders. As a result of this effort, Nebraska is involved in several federal programs. One such program is the Midwest High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA). Funding for HIDTA has significantly increased Nebraska's efforts to address methamphetamine. Nebraska task forces coordinate investigative efforts with HITDA officers throughout the state. Another program implemented in the City of Omaha is Project Impact which focuses law enforcement and prosecutorial efforts on those individuals who are serious offenders. Staff from the U.S. Attorneys office also serve on numerous state and local committees addressing drugs and trafficking, juvenile disorders and violence, such as the Nebraska Prevention Resource System (NPRS). NPRS includes representatives from federal, state and local agencies and private non-profit prevention agencies who are working toward coordination of prevention efforts on a statewide basis. Additionally, the U.S. Attorney and his staff meet on a regular basis with the Executive Director and staff of the Nebraska Crime Commission to coordinate activities.

- o Coordination among state and local criminal justice agencies, treatment, and education/prevention agencies.

At the local level, coordination among local criminal justice, treatment and education/prevention agencies occurs as a result of numerous programs. In the past the Nebraska Crime Commission assisted local communities in conducting a planning process. As a result of this effort, a significant number of communities established local planning teams which are still in place and include representatives from state and local criminal justice agencies, treatment and education and prevention programs. The U.S. Attorneys' Office initiated numerous planning efforts with local communities, such as Pulling American Communities Together (PACT); Project Impact; Crime Prevention Planning; Safe Futures, etc. At the state level, the Nebraska Crime Commission requires written community plans to be submitted with juvenile

justice grant applications. Both the U.S. Attorneys' Office and the Nebraska Crime Commission are actively involved in the Nebraska Prevention Resource System (NPRS), the goal of which is statewide coordination of prevention programs addressing drug and tobacco use by youth and youth violence prevention.

Crime Commission staff serve on a variety of subcommittees and task forces, such as the Substance Abuse Task Force, Education Task Force addressing youth who are in juvenile facilities; Juvenile Justice Code Revision Task Force, HIDTA, etc.

At the state level, the Crime Commission administers the federal Byrne grant program, victims' grant programs and juvenile justice grant programs. This fact alone is key in coordination efforts. The membership of the Crime Commission and its subcommittees and advisory boards facilitates coordinated efforts in addressing key issues such as drugs, juvenile disorders and violence. State agency Directors also work with the Governor's Cabinet to develop and implement coordinated efforts.

- o Coordination of the SAA with public, private groups, state legislators

The Crime Commission is responsible for developing comprehensive plans, coordinating activities related to the improvement of criminal justice administration among state and local agencies, and serves as an umbrella agency for many criminal and juvenile justice programs. The Crime Commission Director and staff serve on numerous committees, coalitions and groups which is a major factor in providing direction and coordination of efforts. The Education and Research Committee of the Crime Commission's Police Standards Advisory Council addresses Nebraska's criminal justice legislative issues and work with state senators in developing needed legislation. In addition, the Director of the Crime Commission and other state agency directors serving on the Crime Commission work with state legislators each year on a variety of other issues, thus enhancing coordinated efforts with the Legislature.

In addition to the linkages provided through participation on numerous committees, a key factor in

Nebraska's coordination efforts rests with the fact the Nebraska Crime Commission administers many of the major federal and state grant programs. For those grant programs not administered by the Crime Commission, there remains a strong linkage with the Crime Commission through participating on various committees. Below is a listing of the major federal grant programs relating to drugs, juvenile disorders, and violence. The agency responsible for the administration of the program, and the name, address and phone number of the contact person are also provided.

C Edward Byrne State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance Block Grant Program

Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement & Criminal Justice (Crime Commission)
P.O. Box 94946
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509
Contact Person: Nancy Steeves; (402) 471-2194

C Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Grant Program

Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement & Criminal Justice (Crime Commission)
P.O. Box 94946
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509
Contact Person: LaVonna Evans; (402) 471-2194

C STOP: Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Program

Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement & Criminal Justice (Crime Commission)
P.O. Box 94946
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509
Contact Person: LaVonna Evans; (402) 471-2194

C Residential Substance Abuse Treatment for State Prisoners

Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement & Criminal Justice (Crime Commission)
P.O. Box 94946
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509
Contact Person: Nancy Steeves; (402) 471-2194

C Federal Law Enforcement Assistance Block Grant Program

Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement & Criminal Justice (Crime Commission)
P.O. Box 94946
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509
Contact Person: Nancy Steeves; (402) 471-2194

C Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Block Grant Program

Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement & Criminal Justice (Crime Commission)
P.O. Box 94946
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509
Contact Person: Monica Miles; (402) 471-2194

C Juvenile Service Act Program (State Funds)

Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement & Criminal Justice (Crime Commission)
P.O. Box 94946
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509
Contact Person: Monica Miles; (402) 471-2194

C Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant Program (JAIBG)

Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement & Criminal Justice (Crime Commission)
P.O. Box 94946
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509
Contact Person: Nancy Steeves (402) 471-2194

C Community Oriented Policing Grant Funds (COPS)

Coordination accomplished through:

Nebraska's U.S. Attorney's Office
217 North 17th
Omaha, Nebraska 68102
Contact Person: Joe Jeanette; (402) 221-4774

C Gang Resistance Education And Training

Nebraska State Patrol
P.O. Box 94907
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509
Contact Person: Jeannine Rediger; (402) 479-4010

C Drug Free Schools and Communities Grant Program

Department of Education
P.O. Box 98987
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509
Contact Person: Dr. Mary Ann Losh; (402)471-2465

**C Emergency Substance Abuse Treatment and
Rehabilitation Block Grant Program**

Health and Human Services
P.O. Box 94728
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509
Contact Person: Jeff Soukup; (402) 471-2851

C HUD's Drug Elimination Block Grant Program

Omaha Housing Authority
540 So. 27th
Omaha, Nebraska 68105

Part V: Evaluation Plan For Byrne Funded Programs

Evaluation of funded program and projects will continue to involve a variety of approaches. Typically, each funded project will be required to report a prescribed

set of data to reflect activity, thus allowing the Crime Commission to build a more complete view of grant related activity as well building a basis for project assessment. A report of information relating to goals, objectives activities and performance measures identified in each awarded grant application will also be required and is used as a means of assessing each project. Additionally, periodic monitoring will be used to evaluate/assess funded Byrne projects.

An evaluation project being considered for funding by the Nebraska Crime Commission addresses juveniles with mental health issues who are in the juvenile justice system and the availability of needed services. Addressing the shortage of services is far more complex than simply expanding existing services. Before funding additional programming, it is necessary to know the actual need for services among juvenile offenders as well as the current gaps and barriers to accessing mental health services. Little or no data are systematically collected and analyzed to measure prevalence, barriers in the current system and the type of additional programming needed.

The proposed project will examine: 1) what federal agencies and other states are doing to address the need for mental health services among juvenile offenders; 2) how juvenile offenders currently access mental health evaluations and services within the juvenile justice system; 3) the perceived problems with the system from the perspective of juvenile justice, Health and Human Services and mental health services; 4) prevalence of mental health disorder among juvenile offenders; 5) which offenders receive mental health evaluations and services through the juvenile justice system and how; and, 6) parent and offender experiences with the system.

At this time, no other formal evaluations are being planned.

Part I: Executive Summary

The most serious problems facing the State of Nebraska continue to be juvenile disorders, drug use and trafficking, violence, and, a secure, cost effective computerized criminal justice information system. During the next three years, 2001 thru 2004, the Federal Byrne Memorial Law Enforcement Assistance Block Grant funds will be used to enhance the state's efforts in addressing these problems. The Byrne funds alone cannot fully

address or solve the problems facing Nebraska today, but can be used as a mechanism to leverage other resources and create a more comprehensive approach. The Nebraska Crime Commission administers the Byrne funds and because of the diverse membership of the Crime Commission and the active participation of Crime Commission members on various committees, linkages with other agencies involved in addressing these priorities occur naturally. Such linkages allow the Crime Commission to leverage other resources with the Byrne funds and strategy.

Nebraska is primarily an agricultural state with the largest portion of its population residing in the metropolitan areas located in the eastern part of the state. Nebraska consists of 77,355 square miles, 93 counties varying in size (from 238 square miles to 5,961 square miles) and has a total population of 1,666,028. The distance from the eastern border of Nebraska to the western border is approximately 500 miles. Nebraska's population make up continues to change. The Latino population, now the largest minority population in the state, grew 95% (from 37,201 to 75,519) from 1990 to 1998.

There are 302 law enforcement agencies in Nebraska and of these, only three have over 100 sworn officers -- Nebraska State Patrol, Lincoln and Omaha Police Departments. The cities of Lincoln and Omaha are both located in eastern Nebraska and have populations over 150,000. In Nebraska, there are 233 law enforcement agencies consisting of 1 to 5 officers; 50 agencies consisting of 6 to 15 officers; and, 16 agencies consisting of 16 to 99 officers.

Criminal cases are prosecuted by County Attorneys who face re-election every four years. Nebraska has 90 County Attorneys providing prosecutorial services to Nebraska's 93 counties. Of the 90 County Attorneys, 72 or 80% are part-time with limited budgets and resources. Defense for indigent individuals is provided by either a public defender or a private attorney who is appointed by the court. Attorneys are appointed on a case-by-case basis in 66 (71%) of Nebraska's 93 counties. In 22 counties (24%), elected public defenders provide representation, with the position in 14 of those counties being part-time.

As per the state constitution, judicial authority is distributed among the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, district courts (general jurisdiction), county courts (limited jurisdiction), and other courts created by the Legislature. The state's other types of courts include the separate juvenile courts in Douglas, Lancaster and Sarpy counties and a workers' compensation court. The Supreme Court has general administrative authority over all courts in Nebraska. The Supreme Court also administers the state probation system, which handles both adult and juvenile cases. A State Court Administrator is responsible for coordination within the judicial branch and with other agencies

Nebraska's Department of Correctional Services (DCS) is responsible for the custody, control, study, correctional treatment, training and rehabilitation of committed persons, both adult and juvenile. Correctional facilities under DCS include the State Penitentiary, Hastings Correctional Center, Lincoln Correctional Center and Evaluation Unit; Diagnostic and Evaluation Center; Omaha Correctional Center; Nebraska Center for Women; Community Corrections Center - Lincoln; the Omaha Correctional Center - Work Release Unit; the Nebraska Center For Youth; and, the Adult Parole Administration. During 1994, the Legislature enacted a Legislative Bill which created the Office of Juvenile Services. The Office of Juvenile Services oversees all juvenile correctional services, including the Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Centers in Kearney and Geneva, Nebraska.

In Nebraska, reported offenses for crimes of violence increased 20% (from 5,190 to 6,238) from 1990 to 1995 and 18.28% (from 6,238 to 7,378) from 1995 to 1998. Reported offenses for crimes against property from 1990 to 1995 increased 11.96% (from 61,008 to 68,303) and decreased 5.53% (from 68,303 to 64,525) from 1995 to 1998. Arrests of juveniles increased at a more rapid rate than adults. From 1990 to 1995, juvenile arrests for violent crime increased 33.65% (from 5,188 to 6,934) and 44.9% (from 9,104 to 13,194) for Part II crimes. Arrests of adults for violent crime decreased 4% (from 8,593 to 8,239) and increased 12.12% (from 54,545 to 62,550) for Part II crimes during the same time period. It should be noted that the number of law enforcement officers increased only 12% (from 2,825 to 3,164) from 1990 to 1998.

From 1990 to 1995, arrests of juveniles for drug violations increased 219% (from 269 to 859) while arrest of adults increased 63% (from 3,729 to 6,095). From 1995 to 1998, juvenile drug arrests increased 42.7% and adult drug arrests increased 27.78%. These substantial increases can, for the most part, be attributed to Nebraska's multijurisdictional task force efforts.

Nebraska Department of Correctional Services continues to experience an overcrowding issue. As of December, 1999, the number of inmates in the Corrections system totaled 3,592 or 151.50% over capacity. Approximately, 29% of male inmates are incarcerated for drug offenses, the highest category of incarcerations.

Drug activities involving youth many times can be connected to gangs. In 1990, gangs and gang activity was primarily restricted to Omaha in eastern Nebraska. The number of gang members identified in the City of Omaha increased 50% from 1990 to 1995 (1,491 to 2,250). The City of Lincoln, 60 miles from Omaha, has also experienced significant increases in gang activities during the past three years. As of 1999, Lincoln had 20 different gangs consisting of 432 known members. As the number of gang members increase, so do the activities associated with gangs -- drive-by shootings, felony and misdemeanor assaults, weapon violations, graffiti, etc. Gangs and gang related activities have not only increased in Omaha and Lincoln, but have also spread to rural Nebraska communities where resources are very limited.

The most prevalent drugs in Nebraska are marijuana, methamphetamine, and cocaine. Methamphetamine use and distribution continues to increase rapidly. Statewide, in 1991, there were 25 arrests relating to methamphetamine; in 1995, there were 374 arrests; and, in 1998 there were 798 arrests, an increase of 113% since 1995. Nebraska's Department of Health and Human Services reported an increase of 79% (from 466 to 1,273) from 1995 to 1998 in the number of uninsured persons accessing treatment programs which indicated methamphetamine as the primary relate problem.

To address the use and availability of methamphetamine, a five state region was designated as a High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) and received a \$8 million Federal award from the Office of National Drug Control Policy. Nebraska's share of this award is approximately \$1 million.

States included in the Midwest HIDTA are: Nebraska, South Dakota, Iowa, Missouri, and Kansas. Nebraska utilizes its share of the federal award for additional investigators, a crime analyst, buy money, training equipment and data collection. HIDTA investigators work directly with existing multijurisdictional task forces. A State Governing Board consists of Nebraska's U.S. Attorney, the Superintendent of Nebraska's State Patrol, The Director of the Crime Commission, and chiefs and sheriffs from local agencies across the state. Nebraska's U.S. Attorney, Superintendent of the State Patrol and the Director of the Crime Commission also serve on the Midwest HIDTA regional governing board.

One emerging problem facing the Nebraska/Iowa region is illegal immigrants. The Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization Services reports that from 1994 to 1996 the number of illegal immigrants arrested increased 88.3% (from 463 to 872). From October, 1996 to January 31, 1997, approximately 527 illegal immigrants were arrested. Updated statistical information was requested by not received from INS.

Priorities for Nebraska's Three Year (1997 to 2000) Law Enforcement And Criminal Justice Drug and Violent Crime Strategy are; 1) drug use, distribution and trafficking; 2) juvenile disorders; 3) violence; and, 4) Nebraska's Criminal Justice Information System. Nebraska's Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) Plan is also a vital component of the strategy. The CJIS focus is to create a secured, cost effective and easily accessible computerized criminal justice information system which supports criminal justice operations, policy analysis, and public safety.

The program areas selected to address these priorities include: Demand Reduction Programs; Multijurisdictional Task Forces; Training; Improving the Court Process; Offender Treatment; Alternatives To Incarceration; and New Approaches.

Coordination of efforts in addressing drugs, juveniles, and violence is vital. The Nebraska Crime Commission is fortunate to be involved with various Federal, state and local efforts across the state which greatly enhance coordination. Membership of the Crime Commission provides a diverse array of knowledge, interest and involvement needed to insure coordination. The Midwest HIDTA project also enhances existing coordination among the Nebraska U.S. Attorney's office, the Crime Commission, the Nebraska State Patrol and local law

enforcement agencies. The Crime Commission works closely with the U.S. Attorney's office in a variety of other projects,

The core issue facing Nebraska, as well as the nation, is the breakdown of the family structure and, in the majority of instances, drugs, juvenile disorders and violence are symptoms of the issue. The Federal Byrne dollars alone cannot solve these increasing problems. However, if they are leveraged with other federal, state and local resources, a significant impact can be made. The problems of today did not occur overnight and they will not be solved overnight. Efforts must be continued and consistent in order to make positive and lasting changes.

At the state level, the Department of Correctional Services conducts drug testing of inmates. Inmates testing positive received graduated sanctions as well as substance abuse education and counseling. The Department of Probation also conducts drug testing on probationers and those testing positive may be referred to substance abuse education classes, treatment and/or have their probation rescinded.

Federal Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant (JAIBG) dollars retained by the state are being used at the local level to expand existing programs which hold juveniles accountable for their actions while also trying to change the behavior of youth. Such programs include Day Reporting Centers, electronic monitoring, the use of Trackers to insure the youth are following their individual plans, drug and testing.

The City of Omaha implemented a metropolitan-wide coordinated approach to youth related issues called Safe Futures. Membership on Safe Futures is diverse and involves law enforcement and other criminal justice entities, schools, treatment, religious leaders and other concerned citizens.

In Omaha, Project Impact was implemented and involves the tracking of the more serious offenders and providing more immediate sanctions when an infraction or serious offense occurs.

The Omaha Police Department, as well as numerous other Nebraska law enforcement agencies, implemented Community Oriented Policing, which is being funded partially by the Federal Community Oriented Policing grant funds. Police officers work

with businesses and citizens in the community to address problems together. Community Policing provides more of a police presence in neighborhoods and helps to develop a rapport with youth and adults.

Many Nebraska communities have established community teams consisting of representatives from law enforcement and the criminal justice system, education, health, treatment, business, and concerned citizens to identify key issues and develop solutions for those issues. Several communities have adopted a zero tolerance program regarding youth's involvement in drugs, gangs, smoking, truancy, etc. For example, Scottsbluff, in western Nebraska, adopted the zero tolerance program which increased the community's awareness of the drug problem as well as resulted in a significant increase in juvenile arrests and the implementation of other needed programs for youth.

Nebraska is a member of the five state (Nebraska, Iowa, South Dakota, Kansas and Missouri) Midwest High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) which receive approximately 8 million to address the methamphetamine problem. Nebraska's share of the funds is approximately \$1 million which is used for additional investigators, a crime analyst, buy money, training, equipment and data collection. HIDTA dollars also provide funding for the training, equipment and personnel of a Clan Lab Team which is used in the "take down" of meth labs found in the state. The HYDTA investigators work directly with Nebraska's existing multijurisdictional task forces. A State Governing Board, consisting of Nebraska's U.S. Attorney, the Superintendent of Nebraska's State Patrol, the Director of the Nebraska Crime Commission and chiefs and sheriffs from local law enforcement agencies, oversee the operation of the program. Nebraska's U.S. Attorney, Superintendent of the State Patrol and the Director of the Crime Commission also serves on the regional HIDTA board.

Douglas, Sarpy, Lancaster and Cheyenne counties implemented Drug Courts with funding from the U.S. Department of Justice. The Lancaster County Drug Court is addressing juvenile drug offenders as well as adult drug offenders. Sarpy, Douglas and Lancaster counties also have Teen Courts to address minor law violations.

A statewide effort to coordinated prevention programs addressing drug and tobacco use by youth and youth violence was

established in 1998. The Nebraska Prevention Resource System (NPRS) membership includes representatives from the U.S. Attorney's office, the Nebraska Crime Commission, the state Department of Education and Health and Human Services, local prevention programs and local Drug and Alcohol Prevention agencies. During 1999, NPRS developed and adopted a program plan or road map addressing their goals and activities for the next two years. One major accomplishment of the NPRS has been the development of a NPRS Web Site which provides information about existing prevention programs, their focus and who they serve. Additionally, the web site provides up-to-date information about upcoming training opportunities and planned conferences as well as relevant links to other web sites. The web site is one method to improve coordination among prevention programs. Leveraging various funding resources, one objective of the NPRS plan is to select two or three local communities across the state who will develop and implement a comprehensive prevention program for youth. It is also planned to develop an evaluation plan to determine the impact of the prevention program. Based on the evaluation, it is planned to use successful programs as models which can be replicated across the state. Another responsibility of NPRS is to find additional funding sources for prevention programs and distribute the information via the web site.

Numerous other programs are available across the state. It is important to insure coordination and comprehensiveness as much as possible while leveraging available resources.

January 24, 2000

The Honorable George Coordsen
Chairperson, Executive Board
Of the Legislative Council
Senator, District #32
State Capitol Building, Room 2010
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509

Dear Senator Coordsen:

The Federal Edward Byrne Memorial State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance Program established by the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988 provides grant funds to states and local units of government to improve the criminal justice system's approach in addressing drug and violent crime. Federal funds may be used for increased apprehension, prosecution, defense, adjudication, treatment and detention efforts of persons who violate state and local drug laws or commit violent crimes.

The Crime Commission is designated as the state agency responsible for administration of the program. Nebraska received approximately \$3.9 million for fiscal year 1999. For fiscal year 2000, Nebraska is eligible to receive \$3,812,361.

Federal regulations require the Crime Commission to submit a copy of the state's updated strategy to the Legislature for review and comment. Accordingly, a copy of Nebraska's Statewide Criminal Justice Drug and Violent Crime Updated Strategy is enclosed.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Allen L. Curtis
Executive Director

ALC: ns

Enclosures

Part III: Statement of Problem

A. Nature and Extent Of The Problem

The most serious problems facing the State of Nebraska continue to be juvenile disorders, drug use and trafficking, and violence. During the next three years, 2001 thru 2004, the Federal Byrne Memorial Law Enforcement Assistance Block Grant funds will be used to enhance the state's efforts in addressing these problems. The Byrne funds alone cannot fully address or solve the problems facing Nebraska today, but can be used as a mechanism to leverage other resources and create a more comprehensive approach. The Nebraska Crime Commission administers the Byrne funds and because of the diverse membership of the Crime Commission and the active participation of the Crime Commission on various committees, linkages with other agencies involved in addressing these priorities occur naturally. Such linkages allow the Crime Commission to leverage other resources with the Byrne funds and strategy.

Nebraska is a large, rural state consisting of 93 counties of various size and population. Of Nebraska's 1,666,028 residents (1999 Census Bureau estimate), the majority live in eastern Nebraska. Rural counties along the interstate and major highway systems have larger populations than other rural counties. Nebraska's population make up continues to change. Latinos are now the largest minority population in Nebraska according to the U.S. Census Bureau. In 1998, there were 5,000 more Latinos than blacks in the state, but in 1990 blacks outnumbered Latinos by 11,000. Many Latinos come to Nebraska because of its plentiful jobs and once they get settled, they send for other family members. No county in Nebraska saw a decline in its Latino population from 1990 to 1998, when the Latino population grew 95%, from 37,201 to 72,519. Despite the influx, Latinos comprise just 4.3% of the state total population. The state's black population showed nearly opposite trends, decreasing or remaining the same in eight counties and increased in 25 counties. The American Indian population grew from 12,874 in 1990 to 14,839 in 1998 (15.2%) and the number of Asians and Pacific Islander increased from 12,771 in 1990 to 21,838 in

1998 (70.9%)

Increases in population and changes in ethnic diversity of a community, particularly in rural communities, can cause a variety of frustrations and problems, such as a lack of understanding about the different cultures, language barriers, increase demand on human services, a lack of understanding of the laws of the state and nation by immigrants, increase in crime, etc. The language barrier is a major issue to law enforcement and the criminal justice system. Law enforcement and criminal justice agencies as a rule do not have bilingual officers. This creates considerable problems in conducting investigations and processing criminal cases and significantly impacts not only law enforcement, but prosecution, defense attorneys, the court, corrections, parole and probation. The large numbers of illegal immigrants residing in the state adds to these problem considerably.

While Nebraska ranks 35th in the nation regarding crime, per capita the crime problems facing our state have the same serious impact as in all other states. Resources continue to be limited in addressing the increases in crime. As a result of legislation passed in 1994, Nebraska governmental entities cannot increase their budgets over the previous year. Smaller law enforcement agencies therefore have difficulty increasing their budgets for needed equipment, vehicles, additional officers and personnel raises. As a result, smaller agencies face the problem of losing qualified and experienced officers. Law enforcement overall is experiencing difficulty in finding qualified individuals to hire as law enforcement officers due to Nebraska's under-employment rate and due to the character of individuals applying. Finding needed bi-lingual officers is also a major problem.

As indicated below, significant changes have occurred in Nebraska regarding the types of crimes being committed as well as a concerning increase in the number of youth involved with drugs. Additionally, Nebraska continues to experience a significant increase in methamphetamine use, distribution and trafficking.

Offense Data for Nebraska

Part I Data As Per Nebraska Uniform Crime Reports

	<u>1990</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1998</u>
Crimes of Violence	5,190	6,238	7,378
Crimes Against Property	61,008	68,303	64,525
Total	66,198	74,541	71,901
# of crimes per 1,000 population	41.9	45.5	43.2

Nebraska Arrest Data

As Per Nebraska's Uniform Crime Report for Juveniles and Adults

	<u>1990</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1998</u>
<u>Juvenile</u>			
Part I	5,188	6,934	6,376
Part II	9,104	13,194	14,961
Total	14,292	20,128	21,337
Drugs	269	859	1,226
<u>Adult</u>			
Part I	8,593	8,239	8,638
Part II	54,545	62,550	71,272
Total	63,138	70,789	79,910
Drugs	3,729	6,095	7,788
Total Arrests (Adult/Juvenile)	77,430	90,917	101,247
# of arrests per 1,000	49.1	55.5	60.9

# of Law Enforcement Officers	2,825	2,995	3,164
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While the crime rate decreased in 1998 compared to 1995, the number of reported crimes of violence increased 18.23%.

Arrests of juveniles increased a more rapid rate than adults. From 1990 to 1995, juvenile arrests for violent crime increased 33.65% and 44.9% for Part II crimes. However, from 1995 to 1998, juvenile arrests for Part I crime decreased slightly but increased 13.39% for Part II. Arrests of adults for violent crime decreased 4% and increased 12.12% for Part II crimes from 1990 to 1995. During 1995 to 1998 adult arrests for Part I crimes increased 4.85% and 13.94% for Part II. The number of law enforcement officers increased only 6% from 1990 to 1995 and 5.64% from 1995 to 1998.

Arrests for drug violations continue to increase. From 1990 to 1995, arrests of juveniles for drug violations increased 219.3% while arrest of adults increased 63.4%. From 1995 to 1998 arrest of juveniles for drug violations increased 42.73% and 27.78% for adults. These substantial increases can, in part, be attributed to Nebraska's multi-jurisdictional task forces.

Drug activities involving youth many times can be connected to gangs. In 1990, gangs and gang activity were primarily restricted to Omaha in eastern Nebraska. Since that time, gangs and gang related activities have not only increased in Omaha, but have also spread to other Nebraska communities, most notably in rural communities where resources are very limited.

Omaha began experiencing gang problems in the mid 1980's and the problems have continued to grow. As of December, 1999, data indicates there are 15 different suspected gangs. The number of suspect gang members has increased 25% from 1995 to 1998 (from 1,888 to 2,368 respectively). From January to December, 1999, there were 117 arrests of suspected gang members for drug related offenses, 5 arrests for homicide and 2,615 arrests for graffiti.

In October 1994, Lincoln police first tabulated a count of 180 known gang members. By June 1996, the number of identifiable gang members increased to 447, a 250% increase. The membership

shows a slight decrease for 1999 (432). The number of gangs however has increased from six major gangs in 1995 to 20 different gangs in 1999. In Omaha, gangs form along ethnicity and territory lines with specific gangs controlling certain neighborhoods. In Lincoln gangs are much more homogenized.

Lincoln area law enforcement face numerous gang-related problems. These problems range from more weapons found in routine traffic stops, to more residents verbally and

physically challenging police, to a significant increase in graffiti. One significant change has been the decrease in the number of drive-by shootings. Statistics relating to gangs are shown below.

City of Lincoln

	<u>1994</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1999</u>
# Gang Members	180	447	432
# Drive-By-Shootings	15	5	
# Graffiti Incident	170	268	

During the past several years, rural areas of Nebraska have experienced an influx of gang member transplants as new businesses opened within their community. Lincoln is now seeing a noticeable increase the number of families of gang members moving to Lincoln from places such as Mexico, Los Angeles, etc. As a result, law enforcement is seeing a more hard core mentality. The gangs in Lincoln are not as organized as in the larger cities across the country. While gang members in Lincoln deal drugs, it is for their own profit and not necessarily that of the gang itself.

Vandalism other than graffiti is committed by juveniles who may or may not be members of gangs. Such incidents include trash cans and picnic tables torn out and tossed in creeks, set on fire, cars being driven on grass and tearing it out, new plants ripped out, trees and other shrubs damaged, etc. Neighbors report that if they try to stop the vandalism, they suffer retaliation, such as broken car and house windows, etc. Such activities have caused fear within neighborhoods.

Eighty percent (80%) of Lincoln gang members are classified at

the associate level, meaning they hang out with known gang members, but do not necessarily deface property with graffiti or commit crimes. Ninety-eight percent (98%) are male, although the female population is growing. Sixty percent (60%) are nonwhite. Ages of gang members range primarily from 12 to 19.

As new industries locate in rural Nebraska, communities experience an increase in population as well as an influx of gangs and drug activity. One example of this is Dawson County, located in the central part of the state. With the location of new industries in the county, its population grew at a rapid rate from 19,940 in 1990 to 23,183 in 1998, an increase of 16.26%. Some of the individuals new to Dawson County are involved in gang and drug activities where they lived previously and maintain ties to those groups, thus bringing the drug and gang problem into Dawson County.

The growth of gang activity in Dawson County has been significant. In 1994 there were 24 known gang members belonging to two prevalent gangs, one whose members were primarily from Central America and one which is an integrated and violent group which began in Los Angeles, California and filtered to the Midwest. The number of known gang members has grown to 124 as of December 1996. The 124 members belong to one of 8 gangs. Gang initiations are occurring in Dawson County as they are in Lincoln and Omaha. Schools, including elementary, are experiencing a variety of gang related incidents, such as wearing of colors, hand signs, graffiti on notebooks, fights, etc.

The most pernicious sign of increased gang activity is a corresponding acceleration in drug trafficking. Illegal drugs have infiltrated Nebraska communities, both urban and rural, at an alarming rate.

The following statistics from Nebraska's Uniform Crime Reports reflect drug arrests for Lincoln and Omaha which give a snapshot of what is occurring across the state.

Drug Arrests

	<u>1990</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1998</u>
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Urban

Omaha/	1818	2,889	4,222*(+46.14%)
Douglas County	1990	3,216	4,762*(+48.07%)
Lincoln/	489	759	960*(+26.48%)
Lancaster Co.	624	1,028	1,215*(+18.19%)

*Indicates the percentage of change from 1995 to 1998

Marijuana continues to be the prevalent drug of choice in Nebraska. From July 1, 1998 through June, 1999, task forces and the Nebraska State Patrol report seizing a total of 372 plants and 968,398 grams of marijuana compared to 54,255 grams of methamphetamine. In Nebraska, marijuana grows easily in road ditches and farming fields. There are three types of marijuana operations in Nebraska. One operation is the harvesting of marijuana plants which grow wild in fields, ditches and backyards. An increase in criminal activity occurs in August and September when harvesting of wild marijuana by organized groups from other states occurs. A large percentage of the harvested wild marijuana is transported out of the state and used primarily as a filler with higher quality marijuana obtained from other sources. Due to the fact the plant grows wild throughout rural Nebraska, the harvesting operations are frequently undetected.

While the greatest amount of marijuana in Nebraska grows wild, there is also a number of in-door growing operations. Individuals running the in-door operations use modern technology, such as electronically timed grow lights which move on a track to different plants at different intervals; humidity and heat monitoring devices; the electronic distribution of required chemicals; staging areas for various plants in different growing cycles; and the cloning of plants to improve their quality. In-door growing operations take place in a variety of places, including barns, basements, businesses and secretly accessed rooms.

The Nebraska State Patrol operates a marijuana eradication program in which the Nebraska Civil Air Patrol participates. Eradication efforts address both marijuana which grows wild as well as the in-door grow operations. As a result of this operation, 4,225 wild marijuana plants and 841 cultivated plants were eradicated in 1998; 25 arrests were made and \$10,692 worth of assets were seized.

Illegal drug activities are occurring in all parts of the state. However, the most significant activities occur in the more populous areas generally located along the interstate and major highway systems running south and north as well as east and west into our bordering states (South Dakota, Wyoming, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, and Iowa).

The availability of and demand for methamphetamine has increased at unbelievable rates across the state, especially in rural Nebraska. In 1998, the Nebraska U.S. Attorney was able to secure funding to conduct a pilot ADAM (Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring) project in four rural Nebraska communities to document the degree of meth use in rural Nebraska. Four communities participated in the study. Methamphetamine positive rates ranged from 2.3% in one rural community to 12% in another. This is more than the City of Omaha's 10.2% rate and comparative to Las Vegas' rate of 13.8%. The county whose rate was 12% has a population of only 23,183. The pilot ADAM project reflected methamphetamine to be more prevalent than cocaine in 3 out of the 4 rural sites. Marijuana was the most prevalent drug in all sites, ranging from 12.5% in one community to 23.3% in another. While the meth figures for two communities (3.8% and 2.3%) were much lower than the other two communities, they exceeded those of Dallas, Texas (3.4%) and San Antonio (2.0%) respectively.

Task Force arrest data reflects the rapid increase of methamphetamine in the state. In 1991, there were 25 arrests for meth; in 1995 there were 374 arrests and, in 1998 there were 798 arrests, a 113% increase from 1995.

Although methamphetamine has always been available, the purity of meth today and the large quantity available has made it a drug of choice in Nebraska. The new cold cooking process makes it easier to process and more readily available. While the majority of methamphetamine found in Nebraska is transported from Texas and Mexico, the number of clandestine labs found in the state are rising. In 1996, only one lab was discovered; in 1997 two were found; and, in 1998, 10 were found. As of December 25, 1999, 35 labs were found, of which 16 or 45% were found in the City of Omaha. Most of the labs in Omaha were found in suburbia homes. Some very small scaled labs are being found in the trunks of cars allowing dealers to make enough for their own use and to sell enough to support making meth. During the past several years, neighboring states, such as Missouri and Iowa, have experienced tremendous increases in clandestine

labs. For instance, in 1992 Missouri law enforcement uncovered only two labs. That number increased to 679 by 1998. In Iowa, the number of labs found in 1998 was 339, up from 85 in 1997. Nebraska is concerned about the continued increase in labs because other states experienced low number of labs found, but once the number of labs started increasing, they increased quickly. Law enforcement estimate that each meth "cook" they catch probably taught 10 other people how to make the drug.

Methamphetamine labs are very dangerous. Because methamphetamine production involves toxic, corrosive and potentially explosive mixtures, labs are a hazard to the operators, law enforcement, neighbors and the environment. This is especially true for smaller labs, which tend to have fewer safety precautions. There is not the sophistication or market for large scale labs in Nebraska as there is in the more populated states. This makes labs in Nebraska more dangerous because the individuals operating the labs are very uneducated regarding which chemicals to mix together and what precautions to take.

There is always the possibility of spontaneous explosions and fires as well as the dangers of inhaling unknown toxic chemicals. Because labs have been found in apartment complexes and motels, there is always concern for the safety of innocent people. Law enforcement officers receive special training in meth lab seizure techniques and must wear special gear and masks. Additionally, law enforcement must be aware of booby traps set up by lab operators to thwart intruders.

Waste created during meth production creates major environmental problems and is very expensive to clean up. Each pound of meth generated in a lab can result in as much as five pounds of toxic waste, which is routinely dumped into our nations' streams, rivers, and sewage systems.

The number of people on trial in Nebraska federal court for meth-related offenses increase 79% in 1998 (223) over 1997 (124).

Methamphetamine use is a stimulant which gives users a feeling of euphoria and energy that can last for days. While high on meth, the user feels no need to sleep or eat. High doses results in anxiety, irritability, confusion and hostility that can lead to violence. Strokes and heart attacks are also possible. Chronic users experience rapid weight loss and

becomes paranoid, bordering on schizophrenic. These effects on people pose dangers to law enforcement officers during investigations and arrests.

Nebraska Health and Human Services reports an increase of 173% (from 466 to 1,273) from Fiscal Year 1995 to 1998 in the number of uninsured persons accessing treatment programs which indicated methamphetamine as the primary related problem.

More individuals are dealing larger quantities of drugs in Nebraska. Drugs are being brought into the state via the airports, mail, and highway systems, especially the Interstate. Most drug trafficking through Nebraska originates in California or Mexico. To address the trafficking of drugs, an emphasis was placed on drug interdiction training for law enforcement. Due to their statewide jurisdiction abilities, the Nebraska State Patrol conducts a vast majority of interdiction efforts throughout the state.

During 1998, the Nebraska State Patrol conducted 42 Highway interdiction cases which resulted 64 arrests. Over 4,000 pounds of marijuana, 21 pounds of cocaine, 28 pounds of methamphetamine and 42 pounds of Psilocybin were seized. The street value of the seized drugs was approximately \$5,857,700. Currency in the amount of \$137,660 was also seized.

During 1999, the Nebraska State Patrol interdiction efforts resulted in 17 marijuana shipments; 4 methamphetamine shipments; and, 5 cocaine shipments and 34 arrests. Information collected during interdiction stops confirm marijuana, cocaine and methamphetamine are the most

prevalent drugs in Nebraska. During 1999, the average quantity of marijuana discovered in interdiction stops was 145.5 pounds; average quantity of meth was 3.08 pounds.

A commercial interdiction team in the urban area of Nebraska consistently discovers extensive drug trafficking activities. The results of this interdiction effort is reflected below.

Time Frame	Dollars Seized	Marijuana Seized (Grams)	Cocaine Seized (Grams)	Meth Seized (Grams)
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Oct. '94-Sept. '95	\$245,558	80,640	2,016	756
Oct. '95-Sept. '96	\$209,213	23,836	3,032	10,571
Oct. '96-Sept. '97	\$254,442	102,888	12,397	9,137
Oct. '97-Sept. '98	\$585,248	113,665	5,678	13,086
Oct. '98-Sept. '99	\$492,163	138,670	3,413	6,445

Drug dealers and gang members do not restrict their criminal activities to one area of the state. They are very mobile and travel within the state as well as into other states participating in drug and gang activities. Drug use, distribution and trafficking occurs throughout Nebraska in varying degrees. Rural areas of the state continue to experience significant increases in drug activity with very limited resources available to address the problem. Coordination and cooperation of federal, state and local law enforcement assists in addressing the problem of limited resources.

The increasing number of illegal immigrants in the state continues to be a major issue. Because of plentiful jobs in Nebraska, the state continues to experience an influx of illegal immigrants. As illegal immigrants locate in these areas, the communities experience new problems of increased crime, housing shortages, language barriers, cultural differences, etc. Additionally, there is a burden placed on existing human services as well as law enforcement and the criminal justice system. Many of the stops made by INS, Border Patrol and the Nebraska State Patrol find as many as 40 or more illegal immigrants packed into a panel truck, or more if it is a larger truck or motor home. One critical issue after arresting a large number of illegal immigrants is the lack of local jail space. In many instances, the illegal immigrants must be transported to another area of the state to be held until they can be transported to their homeland.

The increases in the number of arrests for drug violations, juvenile disorders and violence places an additional burden on prosecutors, defense attorneys, the courts and corrections. Nebraska counties have limited budgets and are currently under a spending lid limitation as a result of legislation passed in 1994. The number of County Attorneys in the state remains at 90, of which 85% are part-time. They do not have the resources to increase their staff to sufficiently handle the increases in drug, juvenile, and violent crime cases. As a result, there is

a significant backlog of court cases. The same holds true for urban Douglas County, which handles an average of 4,000 juvenile cases alone each year. The increase in drug and violent crime cases has also placed a large financial burden for counties in providing defense counsel for indigent individuals.

Another indicator of the drug and violent crime problems facing Nebraska is demonstrated by the overcrowding issues in Nebraska's correctional facilities. Nebraska led the nation in inmate growth from June 30, 1995 to June 30, 1996, with a 165% increase. The number of inmates grew from 2,801 to 3,248 during the time period. As of December, 1999, the number of inmates grew to a total of 3,592 or 151.50% over design capacity. Nebraska's prison population is projected to climb to more than 6,000 by the year 2005. Such projections have historically been accurate within 1% and have recently been underestimated.

The following chart from the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services reflects the increases experienced at all of Nebraska's correctional facilities.

Adult Inmate Population Figures

Facility	Design Capacity	Dec., 1999 Inmates	% of Capacity
State Penn	768	1,198	155.99
Lincoln Center	308	511	165.91
Diagnostic Center	160	284	177.50
Omaha Center	396	695	175.51
Hastings Center	152	178	117.11
Center For Women	139	195	140.29
Community Corrections Center-Linc	200	267	133.50
Community Corrections Center-Omaha	90	131	145.56
NCYF	68	57	83.82

Offender Profiles -- 1999

- o Incarcerated males' most serious offense
 - 29.4% Drugs
 - 2.1% Homicide
 - 5.5% Robbery
 - 9.9% Burglary
 - 7.5% Assault
 - 7.7% Sex offenses
 - 12.6% Theft
 - 8.2% Motor Vehicle Theft
 - 4.1% Weapons

- o The percentage of prisoners convicted of drug offenses remains high, representing 29.4% of inmate population as of December,

1999.

- o 56.8% of the inmates are white, 27.9% are black; 10.3% are Hispanic and 4.5% are American Indian.
- o Approximately 45% of the male prisoners come from the Omaha area; 14% from the Lincoln and its surrounding area.

Changes in state law have resulted in longer sentences for many inmates. Legislative Bill 529, passed 1993, eliminated a statutory provision which prohibited minimum terms to be more than one-third of the statutory maximum sentence for offenses. Longer sentences are one primary factor for the rapid increase in the prison population.

A study of Nebraska's correctional system suggests that an estimated 22% of incarcerated offenders could be placed in other programs without endangering the public. To be able to meet the needs of this 22%, more alternative type programs would need to be implemented.

The number of offenders placed on probation for similar offenses remains high. A total of 31,223 offenders were placed on probation during 1998. The table below reflects the number of offenders on probation for more serious offenses. The number of Probation Officers providing traditional probation has not increase.

Adult Offenders Placed On Probation

<u>Committed Offense</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1998</u>
Sexual Assault	177	372	230
Sex Offenses	154	218	154
Drugs	1,275	2,037	2,020
Assault	999	2,619	2,501
Weapons	104	442	217
Family Offenses	335	458	422
Total	3,044	6,146	5,544

Juvenile Corrections

Children age 5 to 19 represent 23% (384,035) of Nebraska's

population (1,666,028) according to the Census Bureau's 1999 estimates. Nebraska continues to experience more youth in trouble at younger ages. Counting juvenile arrests, juvenile crime in Nebraska has increased significantly. Just how bad it is depends on what years and what level of crime considered.

Total arrest of juveniles increased 56% between 1977 and 1998 and 118% from the 1983 to 1998. From 1990 to 1998, juvenile arrests increased 49.29% (14,292 to 21,337 respectively). Juvenile arrests for drug violations increased 355.76% from 1990 to 1998 (269 to 1,226 respectively). Byrne funded multijurisdictional task forces have played a significant role in the increased arrests for drug violations.

Nebraska has two state correctional facilities for youth. The Nebraska Youth Rehabilitation Center (YRTC) in Geneva is for female youth under the age of 18. Immediate, short-term detention services for female safe keepers are also available for those counties which do not have the facilities for the proper detention of youth. The YRTC - Kearney is a facility for male youth under the age of 18.

The number of teens admitted to detention rose 32% and the number sent to state juvenile corrections jumped 89% from 1994 to 1998. Such increases have caused serious overcrowding issues which have resulted in significant shortened stays (2 months) and an overstretched staff. During Fiscal Year 1998/1999, the YRTC-Kearney for males daily population averaged 232 boys in buildings designed for 147. Geneva YRTC for females during the same time period was 98 in space designed for 78. The result of this is squeezing two girls into rooms meant for one and having 40 boys in open wards intended for 25 and more youth in treatment programs.

Many youth committed to the YRTs could be better served and benefit from alternative programs located in their community. Due to the overcrowding at these facilities, youth are not able to stay long enough to receive needed programming and treatment. However, sufficient alternative programming is either not available at all in the community or is extremely limited in the number of youth it can serve. In many communities, alternative programs are fragmented.

Decreases in lengths in stay do not allow youth the full benefit of assessment and treatment. Young people are more

aggressive and have more access to guns, increasing the severity of crimes. Many of the youth admitted to the YRTC's have been passed among family members, foster and group homes and institutions. There are few or no consistent role models and many develop distrust and behavior problems and have difficulty learning to become productive future citizens. From 1985 thru 1995, the number of Nebraska children in out-of-home-placements increased from 6,515 to 10,249. In 1997, the number grew to 10,502.

In addition to the state's Youth Rehabilitation Centers, youth are detained in local jails and Youth Detention Centers. Status offenders are not detained in locked facilities. In 1997, 3,252 juveniles were held detained in one of Nebraska's five secure juvenile detention facilities.

Many of the youth sent to the Youth Rehabilitation Centers and Youth Detention Centers would benefit from comprehensive alternative programs. Unfortunately, there are few alternative programs available and judges therefore do not have many options to hold juveniles accountable for their actions.

Summary

Juvenile disorders, drug use and trafficking and violence remain the problem areas which will be addressed during the next three years with the Byrne grant dollars. Byrne dollars alone are not sufficient to address these problems in totality, but will be leveraged when and where possible with other resources to develop and implement comprehensive approaches to the problems,

B. Resource Needs and Gaps In Service

Resource needs for Nebraska's Criminal Justice System for which Byrne funding will be used during the next three years include the following.

- C Multijurisdictional Task Forces
- C Additional Personnel
- C Travel
- C Training
- C Equipment
- C Confidential Funds and Buy Money
- C Computerized Information Systems

As evidenced by the statistical data provided in the previous section, it is clear Nebraska continues to experience problems with illegal drug activities, juvenile disorders, and violence. Unfortunately, the resources needed to address these problems have not always been available or to the degree needed. Members of the Nebraska Crime Commission realize the breakdown of the family structure is at the heart of many of the juvenile problems being experienced today. There are numerous efforts being implemented across the state to address family issues. During the past few years in Nebraska communities, human resource providers, education, business leaders, civic leaders, parents and concerned citizens, law enforcement and other criminal justice representatives at the federal, state, and local level have come together to develop and implement community plans to address these and other emerging issues. In many instances, law enforcement across the state have been the leaders in such efforts. Partnership efforts between federal, state and local entities must continue.

With limited resources, it is important to leverage available resources in the most effective and efficient manner possible. If the drug, juvenile and violent crimes are left unattended, it only stands to reason they will become worse. The following will address the priority needs in the State of Nebraska's criminal and juvenile justice system as determined by members of the Nebraska Crime Commission as a result of careful analysis of statistical data, information received from the public hearing, and the criminal justice forums conducted across the state.

Prevention Involving The Criminal Justice System

Numerous prevention efforts across the state have been implemented during recent years. Within the criminal justice system, such efforts included the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) Program which was administered by the Nebraska State Patrol and partially funded with federal Byrne dollars. Once funding limitations were reached with the Byrne dollars, the State Patrol reduced its operation and absorb the cost of the D.A.R.E. coordinator and one staff person. During the first semester of the 1999/2000 school year, 78 officers from 48 agencies taught DARE to 10,121 students, of which 7,597 were fifth and sixth grade students.

The City of Omaha no longer teaches DARE but has developed and implemented a K-12 program called TEAM (To Educate And Motivate). Some areas of the state teach the Gang Resistance Education And Training (GREAT) program. Numerous schools across the state have re-instituted the School Resource Officer program. Continued support for these and other prevention programs is needed. There is also a need to support the development of new innovative programs involving law enforcement, the schools, and the community.

Addressing gangs and gang activity must be continued. Byrne fund are being used in a limited fashion for this effort.

A variety of youth prevention programs are being supported with Federal JJDP and state Juvenile Services funds administered through the Nebraska Crime Commission and, in several instances, are being leveraged with other resources for their operation.

Other types of prevention/intervention projects which are comprehensive in nature, involve law enforcement and/or other criminal justice entities and address the priorities of drugs, juvenile disorders and/or violence are needed. The above mentioned efforts require funding for personnel, travel, and operational costs, and equipment.

Law Enforcement

Currently, Byrne funds are filling a much needed gap of law enforcement personnel, equipment, operating expenses and confidential funds for the multijurisdictional task forces. Multijurisdictional task forces are a top priority and must be

continued, and if possible, expanded to address the ever presence of illegal drugs, juvenile disorders and violence. One vital component which must be continued is the operation of the statewide computerized law enforcement intelligence system which provides officers 24 hour a day, seven day a week access to confidential intelligence information. It is necessary for investigators across the state to have immediate access to information about a suspect they have under surveillance.

Additionally, there is a need to enhance coordination between the multijurisdictional task forces within the state as well as between the state's task forces and the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) project. To continue the coordination between the multijurisdictional task forces within the state, there is a need to continue the efforts of the Task Force Coordinating Council which consist of representatives from the local task forces, the Crime Commission, the State Patrol, the Nebraska Attorney General's Prosecution Unit and the U.S. Attorney's Office. Some of the members of the task force Coordinating Council also serve on the HIDTA State Governing Board, thus providing a natural linkage and coordination. Funding needs for such a Council are minimal -- meeting expenses such as meals, lodging and cost of meeting rooms.

Law enforcement resources, such as personnel, travel expenses, operational expenses, are needed for other criminal justice addressing drugs, juvenile disorders and violence. When making funding determinations for submitted projects, the Crime Commission will take into consideration other existing projects in the community, such as COPS, HIDTA, local initiatives, Violence Against Women, Federal Law Enforcement Block Grant projects, etc. This will help to insure there is coordination of efforts, linkages established between existing projects, and the leveraging of resources.

With the increases in the number of drug arrests and the amount of drugs seized, the work load of the Nebraska State Patrol laboratory continues to increase. It is necessary to insure the turn around time for the testing of submitted drug samples is maintained at 10 days. Therefore, there is a need for continued support of chemists, training for the chemists and expenses related to the operation of the laboratory.

Training in the areas of drugs, juvenile disorders, and violence remains a need for law enforcement due to turnover in personnel; changing trends in the types of crimes being

committed, such as hate crime and terrorism; changing methods of criminal operations, such a utilization of the latest technology and new methods of trafficking drugs; etc.

A particular need in the area of legislation is changes in Nebraska law which allow the use of incarcerated individuals or those on probation and parole as confidential informants. In numerous instances, these individuals have reliable and valuable information relating to cases being worked by law enforcement. Information from these individuals could save law enforcement time and prove to be cost effective. However, law enforcement cannot interview these individuals about such cases. Over the past several years, legislation has been introduced to allow these individuals to be interviewed and use the information they provide in case development. However, the Legislature has failed to pass the needed changes.

One on-going need which is very difficult to address is the need for bi-lingual law enforcement officers and prosecutors. Nebraska's population population make-up continues to change. Recruiting and retaining bi-lingual officers is very difficult. However, the state must continue to try and address this need because it is estimated that the cultural make up of Nebraska's population will continue to grow in the near future.

Adjudication

With the increases in the number of adults and juveniles entering the criminal justice system, prosecution, defense and courts are experiencing an increased burden in adjudicating offenders.

C PROSECUTORIAL NEEDS

As previously state, 85% of Nebraska's 90 County Attorneys are part-time and all have limited resources. In addition, many may not have the time or experience to try some of the drug and more violent cases. Currently, the Byrne funds are used to support the Nebraska Attorney General's Drug and Violent Crime Prosecution Unit which provides assistance, such as research, case development, actual prosecution of cases to local county attorneys. Additionally, the unit handles all appeals relating to drug and violent crime cases and provides training to law enforcement and county attorneys. Continued maintenance of this

aspect of the unit is needed to fill the gap of insufficient prosecutorial resources.

Because of the increase in the number of conspiracy cases developed by the task forces, there is an added need to provide assistance in the prosecution of such cases.

C INDIGENT DEFENSE NEEDS

The increases in the number of individuals arrested for drug and violent crime offenses also significantly impacts counties financially in providing defense for indigent individuals. To address this strain on local counties, Nebraska established the Commission On Public Advocacy in 1996. State appropriations are providing the majority of the support for the Commission. The Byrne funds are being leveraged to provide for two attorneys in addressing drug and violent crime cases. Continued maintenance and expansion of this unit is needed to help insure balance of the criminal justice system.

C ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION NEEDS

The Nebraska Crime Commission recognizes that not all offenders need to be sentenced to prison and could benefit from an alternative program. However, such programs remain limited. Overcrowding in Nebraska's correctional facilities, both adult and juvenile, must be addressed. One solution is the development of new and expansion of existing alternative to incarceration programs for both adult and juvenile offenders. Needed programs include, but are not limited to, education, treatment, life and job skills training, literacy programs. Again, the leveraging of resources and coordination of efforts is a must.

C NEEDS OF THE COURT

Four counties in Nebraska, Douglas, Sarpy, Lancaster and Cheyenne, have implemented Drug Courts. The success of the Drug Courts is very significant and their continuation and expansion is needed throughout many parts of the state.

However, funding is limited for Drug Courts and the first priority is to insure existing ones continue.

Training for judges, county attorneys, defense attorneys and their staff remains a need.

Corrections

Overcrowding in Nebraska correctional facilities is a major problem which could in part be addressed by alternative programs. As indicated in the previous section, it is estimated that 22% of the adult prison population would be eligible for alternative type programs. There are limited alternative programs for juvenile offenders which need to be expanded and new programs need to be developed and implemented.

Treatment programs are available for both adult and juvenile offenders. The Nebraska Department of Corrections utilized the Byrne funds to implement a comprehensive treatment program for incarcerated adults. After four years of receiving Byrne funds for different phases of the program, the Department was successful in obtaining state general appropriations for their continuation. Byrne funds need to be used to enhance and expand treatment efforts.

Aftercare is also a vital need, especially for juveniles. The time juveniles spend at the Youth Rehabilitation Centers has dramatically decreased. If there is to be a lasting change in a juvenile's behavior, aftercare treatment must be available. Treatment of offenders is needed so the cause of their behavior can be effectively addressed and, as much as possible, insure that they can effectively cope with their problems.

Random drug testing of adult and juvenile offenders is conducted while they are incarcerated and on probation. The majority of the testing is funded through state general appropriations. For incarcerated adults who test positive, there is a graduated sanction process. Drug testing is an important tool in the effort to reduce drug use during incarceration and must be continued.

New Approaches

It is important to discover what approaches work and which ones do not work. Therefore, new approaches in addressing drugs, juvenile disorders and violence for all areas of Nebraska's criminal justice system must be explored and considered for funding.

All of the above mentioned needs may require additional personnel, travel costs, operational costs, confidential funds, and equipment.

Information Systems

The Nebraska Law Enforcement Information System (NeLEIS) became operational during 1999 and provides the task forces the ability to check to see if other law enforcement agencies have any information about an individual they are investigating. The continued operation of NeLEIS is needed.

The Nebraska Legislature created the Nebraska Intergovernmental Data Communication Advisory Council (NIDCAC) to examine issues pertaining to information use. CJIS was formed by the Crime Commission in response to a recommendation from NIDCAC. CJIS provides advice and direction on issues relating to data sharing and the use of information technology among criminal justice agencies. This includes establishing criteria and providing a forum for the examination of state and local criminal justice information systems, promoting coordination, promoting the use of voluntary standards, and providing technical assistance. Numerous state and local criminal justice agencies are represented on CJIS. The CJIS Committee hired consultant to assist in developing a data architecture and a multiple-agency organizational management and operational structure for the flow of criminal justice data. The 5% set-aside Byrne funds are utilized to assist in implementing the CJIS plan. The plan, which was completed in March, 1997, identified 70 plus projects in 11 categories which need to be implemented. The projects have been prioritized and are being implemented as funding becomes available. Other grant funds and state general appropriations are also being used to implement the plan.

A copy of the "CJIS Annual Report to the Nebraska Legislature", dated September 15, 1999 is included in the appendix of this strategy. The report provides the history of CJIS, its membership, funding sources, and funded CJIS projects and their status,

Part IV: Priorities, Program Responses And Current Efforts

Nebraska's Three Year (2001 - 2004) Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Drug and Violent Crime Strategy has three priorities: 1) to address the increase in the use, distribution and trafficking of illegal drugs; 2) to address the increase of juveniles involved in criminal activity; and, 3) to address the issue of violence. The programs under which funding may be considered are mostly the same for each priority. It is vital to insure there is a balance in programming within the criminal justice system to insure that one area does not become over taxed. Coordination among federal, state, and local level will be a requirement for each project funded. In making funding determinations for submitted projects under the Byrne grant program, the leveraging of other resources and the level of comprehensiveness will be a factor.

The Nebraska Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) plan is considered a part of this strategy and at least five percent of the total Byrne funding will be awarded to further Nebraska's CJIS Plan.

Each priority is listed below. Program areas under which funding may be considered is also listed for each priority. Objectives, performance indicators and current efforts are provided for each program area. The goals and objectives stated in this strategy are intended to be broad-based to allow for flexibility in programming.

**Priority #1: To Address The Increase In The
Use, Distribution And
Trafficking Of Illegal Drugs**

GOAL: To effectively utilize the Byrne Formula Block Grant Program funds to support programs which address the reduction of illegal drugs and drug activities in the State of Nebraska.

The Nebraska Crime Commission determined the number one priority issue to be addressed in Nebraska is the use, distribution and trafficking of illegal drugs. It is recognized there exists a connection between drugs, juvenile disorders and violence and many of the programs addressing drugs may also address juvenile disorders and violence. It is also recognized many times the core problem involving juveniles is the breakdown of the family structure and drugs, juvenile disorders and violence are symptoms of the problems. Efforts by numerous agencies and groups are working toward improving family structures. Some members of the Nebraska Crime Commission and Crime Commission staff are involved with these efforts.

The use, distribution and trafficking of drugs, especially methamphetamine continues to increase. Juvenile arrests from 1995 to 1998 increased 42.73% and 27.78% for adults. Law enforcement also continues to see a slow but progressive increase in the number of methamphetamine labs in the state. With the efforts of the regional HIDTA, Nebraska law enforcement expects the number of labs and the problems they cause to rapidly increase as they have in other surrounding states.

To actively address drug activity in Nebraska, it is vital to maintain and enhance cooperation and to improve methods of sharing information between task forces and other criminal justice agencies.

Numerous efforts addressing drug use, distribution and trafficking are taking place across the state. Such efforts

are designed to be coordinated and comprehensive. Therefore, efforts are not only addressing problems with drugs, but also juvenile disorders and violence.

Program Areas under which funding with Byrne grant dollars will be considered for Priority #1 are listed below.

Program Areas

Program Area: Multijurisdictional Task Forces

Goal: State and local jurisdictions will have the capacity to apprehend, prosecute and adjudicate drug and violent crime offenders

Objectives:

1. To maintain and expand the current number of law enforcement officers for drug and violent crime investigations

Performance Measures:

(a) Number of local funded task forces

Baseline:9

Projected: 9

(b) *Number of state funded task forces*

Baseline: 1 Projected: 1

(c) *Number of local law enforcement officers dedicated to drug and violent crime investigations funded by Byrne*

Baseline: 35 Projected: 40

(d) *Number of state law enforcement officers dedicated to drug and violent crime investigations funded by Byrne*

Baseline: 21 Projected: 25

2. *To maintain and enhance resources for the state laboratory*

Performance Measure:

(a) *Number of laboratory personnel funded*

Baseline: 3 Projected: 3

3. *To maintain and enhance resources devoted to the improvement of the criminal records system, including the Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS)*

Performance Measure:

(a) *Amount of funding provided for AFIS*

Baseline: 0 Projected: \$50,000

Current Activities and Accomplishments

Currently, Nebraska has nine local and one state multijurisdictional task force operating across the state which include 72 or 77% of Nebraska's 98 counties. The task forces receive funding from the Byrne grant dollars. Reports

of seized drugs from the task forces indicate the most prevalent drug types in and around Nebraska remain marijuana, cocaine and methamphetamine. In three of the task force areas, heroin and LSD have once again become available. Efforts of the METRO task force in Omaha resulted in the dismantling of a national heroin distribution ring operating out of Arizona and into three other states. The heroin was originating from Mexico. Thirteen individuals were indicted federally. This was an OCDETF case.

Due to the diligent work of Byrne funded task force investigators, federal law enforcement agencies and the U.S. Attorneys office, numerous drug cases become designated as an OCDETF case. OCDETF designation allows agencies to develop the larger conspiracy cases which would normally be cost prohibitive. The District of Nebraska has the second highest number of indictments returned, defendants indicted and defendants convicted in the West Central Region. During the past year Nebraska's OCDETF program has been responsible for dismantling several large-scale drug trafficking organizations.

During calendar year 1998, the Byrne funded task forces reported the following accomplishments.

- C 1,866 arrests for drug activities
- C 354 new confidential informants developed
- C 788 "buys"
- C 3,560 drug Intelligence Reports developed
- C 34,641 grams of cocaine seized
- C 3,552 grams of crack seized
- C 968,398 grams and 372 plants of marijuana seized
- C 1,562 grams of Heroin seized
- C 54,255 grams of methamphetamine seized
- C \$1,369,212 in currency seized
- C 125 weapons seized

The task forces also report that from 1994 to 1996, task force arrests for methamphetamine increase 73% (from 160 in 1994 to 278 in 1996) and 187% from 1996 to the end of 1998 (from 278

in 1996 to 798 in 1998). During the first six months of 1999, the task forces made 365 arrests for meth. Seizures of methamphetamine remained about the same (from 65,706 grams in 1996 to 67,885 in 1998). During the first six months of 1999, 41,250 grams of meth were seized.

Due to the significant increase in the use and distribution of methamphetamine in Nebraska and surrounding states (South Dakota, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas), a regional High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) was established by the region's U.S. Attorneys. Nebraska's U.S. Attorney, Superintendent of the State Patrol and the Executive Director of the Nebraska Crime Commission serve as members of the regional committee as well as the state's HIDTA committee. Additionally, representatives from each Byrne funded multijurisdictional task force and other federal law enforcement agencies located in Nebraska serve on the state HIDTA committee. This greatly enhances the coordination efforts between federal, state and local agencies in addressing our drug and violent crime problems in the state.

Nebraska's HIDTA initiative receives \$1,031,000 of the \$8 million dollar regional HIDTA award to address the methamphetamine problem. HIDTA funds provided for 10 additional drug investigators, law enforcement training regarding methamphetamine and meth labs, lab take down training for the Take Down Team, and needed equipment for task forces and HIDTA officers. HIDTA officers work in coordination with existing Byrne funded task forces to avoid duplication of efforts and to enhance investigations. HIDTA sponsors a meeting of drug investigators and task force intelligence analysts every two months to discuss current cases, suspects and issues.

Criminalist at the Nebraska State Patrol's Crime Laboratory reported significant increases in the number of times methamphetamine was discovered in urine samples. In 1997 methamphetamine was discovered in only 12% of the 483 urine samples submitted. In 1998 the number increased to 19% of 822 urine samples.

Clandestine methamphetamine labs are also on the rise in Nebraska. In 1996, only one such lab was discovered. In 1997

two were found and in 1998 ten were located. As of December 25, 1999, 35 labs have been found, of which 16 or 45% were found in Omaha. What is most concerting is the fact that the majority of the labs in Omaha were found in suburbia homes. Nebraska law enforcement believe the increase in meth labs will continue due to the HIDTA (High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area)

During 1998, the Nebraska State Patrol interdiction efforts resulted in 45 marijuana shipments; 9 methamphetamine shipments; and, 9 cocain shipments and 76 arrests. Information collected during interdiction stops confirm that marijuana, cocaine and methamphetamine are the most prevalent drugs in Nebraska. Drug quantities distributed are also increasing - for example, the average quantity or marijuana discovered in interdiction stops increased from 27 pounds in 1992 to 179 pounds in 1998; average quantity of meth discovered climbed from .16 lbs in 1996 to 2.6 lbs in 1998. A multi-agency interdiction team operating in Omaha is addressing extensive drug trafficking through commercial transportation businesses. Results of the multi-agency interdiction team's investigative activities is reflected below.

Time Period	Currency Seized	Marijuana Seized (grams)	Cocaine Seized (grams)	Meth Seized
Oct. 1995 - Sept, 1996	\$209,213 10,571	23,836	3,032	
Oct. 1996 - Sept, 1997	\$254,442	102,888	12,397	9,137
Oct. 1997 - Sept, 1998	\$585,248 13,086	113,665	5,678	
Oct. 1998 - Sept, 1999	\$492,163 6,445	138,670	3,413	

MULE (Mid and Upper Level Enforcement) is the statewide Byrne funded drug and violent crime task force operated by the Nebraska State Patrol in cooperation with the nine local task forces. MULE cases originate two ways - 1) at the street level when an undercover officer investigates and arrests a suspect who is either buying or selling small quantities of a

controlled substance; and, 2) through tips received by the State Patrol. When the information indicates a low level suspect is capable of leading investigators to a supplier close to the ultimate source of the drugs, a MULE cases begins. MULE cases are very complex and time-consuming. It is not uncommon for a MULE investigator to spend one or more years investigating an illicit drug distribution enterprise. MULE cases often lead to suspects in other states or countries which requires not only travel to such places, but cooperation and coordination of investigative efforts with law enforcement and prosecutors in other states and countries.

Recent trends of both the local and state task forces involve more conspiracy cases. While it takes longer to investigate conspiracy cases and the number of arrests are fewer, the long term effect is more significant when a supplier is removed from the streets. The time dedicated to conspiracy cases by the MULE task force increased from 555 hours in the first five months of 1998 compared to 1,276 hours during the same time period in 1999.

Activities for MULE is outlined below.

	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u> Jan-June
# of Cases Opened	113	57
Value of Seizures	\$2,615,663	\$1,031,564
# of Intelligence Reports	191	141

Enhancement of investigative efforts through the task forces requires continued enhancements to the State Patrol's crime laboratory. Byrne funding is provided for two chemists and a lab clerk to help handle the increase in drug samples submitted by the task forces. One objective of the grant relating to the crime lab was to reduce the number of days it takes the lab to test submitted drug samples and notify the law enforcement agency of its findings to 10.7 days. As reflected by the data below, this objective was reached. However, sometimes maintaining this rate is difficult due to the turn-over rate of drug chemists. It takes significant time to hire and train a new chemist. Additionally, the existing chemist loses productivity while providing new chemists needed

training.

	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>
(June)			
Average # days for case process	25.7	13.6	
# of samples submitted	17,225	8,143	9.3
# of analyses performed	31,850	38,923	3,972
# of Cases Submitted	6,338	3,618	18,550
# of hours spent on analysis	7,933	7,989	1,816
			4,012

The Task Force Coordinating Council, consisting of representatives from each funded task force, the Crime Commission, the Nebraska Attorney General's Office and the U.S. Attorney's office, continue to meet at least twice a year to discuss and address issues common to all task forces. First on the Council's agenda to be addressed was a computerized intelligence information system for all funded task forces. Byrne funds were awarded to the Nebraska State Patrol for the development and implementation of the pointer index system which allows the task forces to share up-to-date intelligence information 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Task force investigators need to have access to intelligence information on the individuals they are working to insure

their safety and to be aware if other agencies are working the same individuals. Investigators also need background information to conduct their investigation properly. An Intell Committee with representatives from some of the task forces, the Crime Commission, the U.S. Attorney's office and the State Patrol oversees the operation of the computerized system. The system is to interface with the Mid-States Organized Crime Information Center (MOCIC) and the regional HIDTA information center. While the project took longer to complete than originally anticipated, it is currently active and task forces are on line. As of September, 1999, there were 203 user accounts representing 52 agencies, 19,001 names in the system and 40,702 intelligence record in the system which are linked to these names. The system has successfully handled fifty (50) concurrent users with no stress on the system. A second server is on line and the development of the photo feature is underway.

Program Title: Training

Goal: The state will have the capacity to apprehend, prosecute and adjudicate drug and violent crime offenders

Objectives:

1. To maintain and enhance training for law enforcement, prosecutors, and defense attorneys representing indigent clients regarding juvenile disorders; drug use, distribution and trafficking; and violence, including family violence and guns

Performance Measures:

<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u> <u>1999</u>
		Jan-Sept.

of attending training 1,126 1,000 1,110 334

Program Activities and Accomplishments

Training is a vital component of successful case investigations. Tiered training sessions in drug investigation (basic, intermediate, and advanced) continues to be a need due to the turn over in investigators within law enforcement agencies and task force investigators. Nebraska's strategy expanded to include a focus on family violence. As a result, the training project was expanded to develop a training package for these new areas of focus. Training sessions are held both at the Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center in Grand Island as well as regionally. Regional training provides small local law enforcement agencies a cost effective means of insuring their officers receive training. If training were to be held only at the Training Center in Grand Island, a large number of law enforcement officers would spend up to two days traveling to the training plus the time spent in the training session. Not only can small agencies not afford to have their officers gone for extended periods of time, but travel costs also become prohibitive, especially since local governments are under a zero percent budget lid.

Program: Improving The Court Process

Goal: The state will have the capacity to apprehend, prosecute and adjudicate drug and violent crime offenders

Objectives:

1. To maintain, as possible, attorneys who provide assistance to locals in the prosecution and defense of drug and violent crime offenders

Performance Measures:

- (a) Number of prosecutors at the state level available to assist local county attorneys

Baseline: 4 Projected: 4

- (b) Number of defense attorneys at the state level available to assist local public defenders or assigned counsel for indigent clients

Baseline: 2 Projected: 2

Program Activities And Accomplishments

A Drug and Violent Crime Prosecution Unit under the office of the Nebraska Attorney General was established to assist local prosecutors with drug and violent crime cases. Such assistance is needed because 83% of Nebraska's County Attorney's are part time and lack the sufficient resources needed to prosecute drug and violent crime cases. This assistance may include research for the county attorney; assistance in developing a drug and violent crime case and/or the direct prosecution of a case. Additionally, the Unit is involved in the review of all wiretap applications submitted by the courts, which requires prompt responses and coordination with the applicant agencies. Another function of the unit is the handling of drug and violent crime cases which are appealed to the Supreme Court. During the reporting period the following accomplishments occurred.

	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u> Jan-Sept
# of violent crime cases prosecuted	11	16
# of drug cases prosecuted	22	44
# of federal cases prosecuted	30	
# of grand jury investigations	N/A	3

# of conspiracy cases presented	N/A	29
# of requests received for research	66	40
# of task force meetings attended by the Unit	9	10
# of training sessions held by the Unit	11	7
# of officers trained by the Unit	142	164
# of appeals handled	28	42

In Nebraska 71% of the state's 93 counties (66 counties), indigent defendants are represented by private attorneys who are appointed by the court on a case-by-case basis. Elected public defenders provide indigent defense representation in 24% of the counties (22 counties). However, in 14 of these 22 counties the elected public defenders are part time. Five counties employ public defenders on a contract basis. To assist in creating a more balanced criminal justice system in the state, the Public Advocacy Commission was created in 1995. The Commission receives support through state general appropriations. However, to address drug and violent crime cases, the Commission receives Byrne funding for the Drug and Violent Crime Defense

One noted impact of the Public Advocacy Commission is the amount it saves local communities on providing defense services to the indigent. From January to September, 1999, the Commission saved local communities \$174,000 in defense costs.

Accomplishments of the Indigent Defense Unit are as follows.

	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u> Jan-June
# of violent crime trials	28	38
# of drug cases	24	19
# of requests for assistance	25	28
with trials		
# of appeals in which Unit was involved	12	8
# of hours devoted to appeals	730	383

# of training sessions held	2	1
# of attendees	133	95

Program: Treatment

Goal: The State correctional facilities will have the capacity to provide drug treatment and testing for adult offenders

The State correctional facilities will have the capacity to provide treatment, assessment and aftercare programs for adult drug and violent crime offenders

Objectives:

- 1) To maintain education and treatment programs for drug-dependent adult offenders as identified in the Department of Corrections comprehensive treatment plan

Performance Measures:

Number of types of treatment programs maintained

Baseline: 4 Projected: 4

Program Activities And Accomplishments

Adult Offenders

At the state level, the Department of Correctional Services conducts drug testing of inmates. Inmates testing positive received graduated sanctions as well as substance abuse education and counseling. The Department of Probation also conducts drug testing on probationers and those testing positive may be referred to substance abuse education classes, treatment and/or have their probation rescinded.

Byrne funds were used to assist in the development and implementation of a comprehensive treatment plan for adult offenders housed at the state correctional facilities. Data acquired through phase I (Assessment of Offenders), which was funded with Byrne dollars and was subsequently funded through state general appropriations, found that the substance abuse problem in the prison is at approximately the 75% - 85% level.

The Department of Correctional Services (DCS) is extensively involved in the provision of Substance Abuse treatment services for offenders. The Nebraska Correctional Treatment Center (NCTC) for males and the Nebraska Correctional Center for Women (NCCW) provide intensive residential correctional substance abuse treatment programs for adult inmates. All treatment programming is coordinated by the NCTC. Outpatient substance abuse treatment services are also provided within other adult correctional institutions within the state. The programs are similar in content to the intensive residential substance abuse treatment program at the NCTC in that each program provides recovery/relapse education with a cognitive/behavioral aspect.

DCS leverages various funding sources, state appropriations and federal grant funds, to support their comprehensive treatment program. Currently, the DCS has two substance abuse treatment grants. The federal "Residential Substance Abuse Treatment for State Prisoners" provides for the staffing of the NCCW Residential Treatment Program and Byrne funding provides for the staffing of the outpatient treatment services. The NCTC is located in a ninety-bed treatment facility/minimum security prison and the NCCW Residential substance Abuse Treatment Program is located in a separate designated unit at the NCCW and can house up to 19 female inmates.

The NCTC Outpatient Substance Abuse Services addresses treatment needs of inmates who, during the course of their sentence structure or due to the nature of their sentence or problem, are not eligible for residence the residential treatment programs at NCTC and NCCW. The NCTC Outpatient Services fall into an ongoing continuum of care in treatment provision and are dependent on an individual's level of

substance abuse treatment need. Primary assessment of all male inmates occur at the Diagnostic and Evaluation Center (DEC) and of all females inmates at the NCCW.

Outpatient Services provide a "stepping" process for substance abuse treatment which enhances the provision of services within the DCS and decreases the substance usage and criminal behavior once an inmate has been paroled or discharged. Each level of care is determined on an individual basis by qualified substance abuse counselors who are responsible to the NCTC.

Currently, the Department of Correctional Services (DCS) has a four level substance abuse treatment program in place. These treatment levels include:

- o an intensive residential inpatient substance abuse treatment level which was established in September, 1994. The inpatient program level at the Nebraska Correctional Treatment Center is designed to meet the substance abuse treatment needs of 90 inmates for a nine-month period.
- o an intensive outpatient substance abuse treatment level which was established in March, 1996. This level is located at the Nebraska State

Penitentiary, Omaha Correctional Center and at the Lincoln Correctional Center. Each of these programs can treat 15 male inmates in a 32 week program.

- o an outpatient substance abuse treatment level. This level is located at the Hastings Correctional Center, the Nebraska Center for Women, Community Corrections Center at Lincoln, and at the Community Corrections Center at Omaha. Each of these program levels can treat 15 inmates at a time for 8 to 16 weeks.
- o a continuing care/aftercare level which is available at all Department institutions except the NCTC and can treat 15 inmates per group on an on-going basis.

Byrne funds were awarded to enhance the outpatient treatment program. The following accomplishments occurred.

- o The number of treatment groups as of June, 1999 was 124*
- o A total of 245 inmates attended to the Outpatient or Aftercare treatment programs as of June, 1999*
- o A total of 149 inmates completed the Outpatient and Aftercare treatment programs as of June, 1999*
- o A total of 503 inmates completed the Drug Education classes as of June, 1999*
- o 12 inmates used substances following completion of the outpatient treatment group as of June, 1999*

The impact of the Department of Corrections treatment program is reflected by the data collected through June, 1999 which was compared to the data collected since October, 1996 regarding the number of parole revocations, the number of new felony convictions and substance usage for graduates of the outpatient and aftercare treatment programs. The combined total of revocations and new felony convictions is 63, approximately 14% of the outpatient graduates. The projected result for this category was 15.8%. Additionally, the total number of new felony convictions since October, 1996 is 17, which is considerably less than the projected annual new felony conviction number of 15. Basically, this mean that 3.8% (17/449) of the Outpatient and Aftercare graduates have been convicted of new felonies since their graduation in October of 1996.

A total of 39 Outpatient and Continuing Care program graduates received 1H violations for substance usage since October, 1996. The projected annual result was 31. This indicates that only 8.7% of program graduates have used substances since their graduation. This is significant because inmates who participate in and complete Outpatient programming have traditionally been inmates who have significant substance about issues. The Substance Abuse Treatment - Outpatient

Program within the Department of Correctional Services has experienced a rate of less than 4% of their program graduates returning to prison with a new felony conviction compared to the Department's overall return rate of over 20%.

The Criminal Justice Coordinated Response Coalition, a substance abuse coalition, was formed to ensure the continuing substance abuse treatment services are available for discharged or paroled offenders. Due to the efforts of the Coalition, a Substance Abuse Task Force was established to formally study the statewide continuum of treatment services and make recommendations for future directions. The Executive Director of the Nebraska Crime Commission serves as Coalition Chair.

One problem being addressed through Byrne funding is the continued access to and use of drugs by inmates and parolees. Random urine analysis is one method of addressing this problem. Another method is through interdiction efforts.

The Nebraska Department of Corrections implemented a comprehensive drug control strategy to combat drugs entering facilities which includes: background checks on employees and visitors; searches of persons, vehicles, property, mail and all areas within institutions; telephone monitoring; investigations; intelligence gathering; supervision of staff and inmate activities; surveillance activities; and referring criminal matters to law enforcement and prosecutors. The Department also has a comprehensive drug testing program which tests inmates and parolees under the following programs: 1) Targeted Testing; 2) Random Testing; 3) Treatment Testing; and, 4) special Program Testing. Byrne funds are used in the Random Testing program.

The Department randomly samples between 15 to 25% of its total population on a monthly basis. Results from this testing are reflected below.

	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u> (Jan- Sept)
# of inmates tested	4,549	10,519	

		3,805	
# of inmates testing positive	390		412
		95	
% of inmates testing positive	8.6%		3.9%
		2.5%	

Before the Department of Correctional Services (DCS) implemented a comprehensive drug control strategy, there was a 17.35% positive rate for drug use among inmates. The total positive drug use rate among all inmates entering DCS was 16.7% in 1998.

The reductions of drug use while incarcerated and for parolees is a direct reflection of DCS testing, interdiction and sanctioning activities funded through Byrne.

Interdiction of drugs entering DCS facilities is achieved through the use of drug dogs. Canine units are used to search all facilities, property and persons (employees and visitors) entering DCS facilities. Searches are conducted seven days a week. From January through September, 1999 there were 78 canine searches conducted of visitors to the correctional facilities; 136 canine searches conducted of DCS staff; 34 canine searches conducted of parking lots and vehicles; and, 19 canine searches within the DCS facilities.

Female Offenders

Within the criminal justice system in Douglas County, there are few alternatives for the rehabilitative treatment of female offenders and there are limited community based programs provided specifically for women. Compounding this problem is the fact that more women are moving through the system in increasing numbers. In Douglas County in 1983 there were 596 female inmates process through the Douglas County Corrections System. During 1989, the number rose to 1,122. In 1995, the increase rose to 1,509, a 34.50% increase since 1989. Because there was no formal tracking system in place, the Department did not have statistical data which reflected the number of female inmates with drug problems. Therefore, on one specific day (March 29, 1996), the Department examined the female inmate population. On that particular day, there

were 80 adult females being held. Additionally, there were 15 females participating in the House Arrest program, bringing the total number of confined females to 95. Of the 80 female inmates, the following was found.

- o 36 (62%) were single or divorced
- o 44 (75.8%) had children
- o 28 (48.2%) were being held on felony crimes while 25 (43.1%) were being held on misdemeanors; 10 were charged with felonies related to illegal substances
- o 20 had felony records which included drug arrests, while 4 had misdemeanor records which included drug arrests

The Department Corrections officials believe that the period of original incarceration may be an ideal opportunity to begin successful value modification or rehabilitation process.

To address this belief, the Douglas County Corrections facility, with funding from the Byrne program, implemented the Primary Application of Reality Therapy for Females Through Intervention and Value Enhancement (Reality Therapy). Reality Therapy as used in this project is simply a "psychiatric version of the three R's -- namely, reality, responsibility and right and wrong. The three R's are essentially the intervening variables which will modify, in a positive way, the core values of the offender. It is believed that the only time this adjustment can be made is when a person experiences a significant emotional event in their lives. Incarceration for many represents a significant emotional event. The Reality Therapy program involves several stages from a very intensive program to a gradually reduced program with an aftercare program upon release. A specific program is developed for each inmate based on an evaluation.

Program Activities and Accomplishments:

	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u> Jan-Sept
<i>assessments were completed</i>	110	134
<i>female inmates completed parenting classes</i>	137	18
<i>female inmates participated in conflict resolution classes</i>	30	12
<i>female inmates participated in chemical dependency sessions</i>	44	26
<i>female inmates participated in individual therapy sessions</i>	16	8

One problem area in the operation of this program is effective classroom space due to the increase in the male population at the Douglas County Correctional facility and due to the increase in the use of the outside recreation areas. The primary classroom shares a wall and window with an outside recreation area so classes and recreation cannot occur at the same time.

The impact of this program can be illustrated by the fact that female inmates involved with the Reality Therapy program are more active participants in other types of groups which meet at the jail when compared to other inmate populations. Staff members continue to observe improved problem-solving skills which are being developed by the females in the program. Efforts also continue to improve methods of pre-release planning and after-care.

During the past year to year and a half, awareness and success of the program has been increase which has resulted in involvement of more treatment centers outside the jail. Additional therapists are attending the volunteer orientation class for the Reality Therapy program and are conducting intake screenings to determine if inmates are appropriate for one of the outside treatment centers. If the inmate is judge to be appropriate for one of the treatment centers, the program aftercare specialist will talk with the treatment center, jail staff and the inmate about her treatment plan after release. She will also transport the inmate to

treatment at the end of the inmate's sentence.

In past years, Byrne dollars were utilized to fund a substance abuse therapy program for female offenders in the Douglas County correctional facility. Because there were not sufficient funds available during the 1999 award process, this program did not receive funding. However, due to staff turn overs, the program will continue to operate with Byrne dollars through December, 1999. Continuation funding was secured through the Douglas County Board of Supervisors as well as other sources.

Program: New Approaches

Goal: New approaches which work or do not work will be identified for detecting, apprehending, adjudicating, and treating adult and juvenile drug offenders.

Objectives:

To increase the number of projects which provide a new approach in detecting, apprehending, adjudicating, and treating adult and juvenile drug offenders.

Major Accomplishments and Activities Intended:

Because the Crime Commission's grant process is competitive, it is not possible to ascertain intended accomplishments and activities at this time. However, when an innovative approach is identified, either through contact with the Crime Commission or through the submission of a grant proposal, Crime Commission staff will work with the applicant in developing the project to insure coordination with appropriate entities and to avoid any duplication of efforts.

**Priority #2: To Address The Increase Of
Juveniles Involved In Criminal
Activity**

Goal: *The State will have programs which address and motivate youth to reject illegal drugs and involvement in criminal activity.*

The number two priority was selected because of the increase number of juveniles involved in criminal activity in Nebraska. As previously stated, the number of juveniles becoming involved in gangs is significantly increasing in both urban and rural areas; the number of juveniles arrested for drug violations has increase 219% since 1990; and the number of youth being committed to the Youth Rehabilitation Centers has also significantly increased. Without intervention efforts, a large percentage of these juveniles will continue with their criminal path and gradually become involved in more serious crimes, thus ending up in the state correctional system. Crime Commission members and staff will continue to be involved in and support efforts across the state.

The 2001-2004 strategy will utilize the following programs to address juveniles involved in criminal

activity.

Program: Alternatives To Incarceration

Goal: *The State will have alternative programs which provide positive direction, guidance and structure for juveniles involved in criminal activity.*

Objectives:

To expand and increase the number of alternatives to incarceration programs available for juvenile offenders.

To expand and increase the number of community programs helping youth who are identified as at-risk of becoming involved in criminal behavior.

Accomplishments and Activities Intended:

Douglas County's Youth Diversion Program was funded with Byrne dollars to provide a structure in the placement of youth in the Diversion Program based on need as opposed to the type of crime committed. Prior to funding this project, the Douglas Deputy County had no structured method of determining who could benefit from a diversion program or which diversion programs youth needed. A Diversion Coordinator was hired and an needs assessment tool was developed for youth 10 - 13 and some 14 year old. Two risk assessments are being used, the P.O.S.I.T. (Problem Oriented Screening Instrument for Teenagers) which each youth 13 and older completes. If further information is needed, an LSI (Level of Service Inventory) is completed. Based on the results of the assessments, youth may be sent to several different programs within the community.

Some of the activities of this program include:

	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u> Jan-June
Number of POSIT Assessments Completed	385	199
Number of LSI Assessments Completed	13	5
Number of youth referred to Boy Scouts Program	417	176
Number of youth referred to Project Outreach	149	38
Number of youth referred to Step Forward Program	283	154
Number of youth referred to Alcohol/Drug Programs	353	142
Number of youth referred to Teen Court	35**	35

***The Teen Court program was implemented part way through the grant period.*

The Dawson County Sheriff's office implemented a Gang Officer program which is currently being funded and it is anticipated it will continue to receive funding as part of their multijurisdictional task force. The Dawson County Sheriff and other community leaders formed a community team to address the increasing gang problem. Elementary youth are becoming more involved in gang activities -- wearing colors; showing gang signs; drawing graffiti; and becoming involved with drugs. As one method of addressing this, a gang officer was hired to work with the schools. The officer teaches school officials how to identify drug and gang activities; conducts presentations about the affects and impact of drugs and gang activities for youth; develops a relationship with youth to assist them with problems; conducts drug and gang presentations for parents; and serves as a liaison between the community, school and multijurisdictional task force.

Program: Treatment

Goal: *The State correctional facilities will have the capacity to provide drug treatment and testing for*

juvenile offenders

The State correctional facilities will have the capacity to provide treatment, assessment and aftercare programs for juvenile drug and violent crime offenders

Objectives:

- 1) *To maintain education and treatment programs for drug-dependent juvenile offenders.*

Performance Measures:

Number of youth committed to the Youth Rehabilitation Centers

Baseline: 725 Projected: 700

Number of youth attending substance abuse education classes

Baseline: 1,018 Projected: 700

Number of youth participating in Chemical Dependency group sessions

Baseline: 326 Projected; 340

Program Activities And Accomplishments

Byrne funding was used to meet the treatment and evaluation needs of adjudicated youth served annually by the Nebraska Department of Corrections--Office of Juvenile Services. The Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Centers (YRTC) implemented steps to address the numbers of youth with documented substance abuse and risk issues which include identification through assessment, provision of substance abuse education for all youth at the YRTCs, specialized Chemical Dependency Groups for designated youth during their stay at the YRTCs and

referral to community programming. Original Byrne funding provided the Positive Peer Culture modality to address youth's substance abuse. However, substance abuse has become so prevalent among those served that stronger intervention is needed. Additionally, the length of time youth are able to stay at the YRTC's has decreased to an average of 3 months. This does not provide sufficient time to truly address substance abuse problems. It is to be noted that there are several efforts underway to reduce the number of youth at the Youth Rehabilitation Centers because statistics reflect that a large percentage could be better served in alternative programs, such as Day Reporting Centers, the use of Trackers, electronic monitoring, etc. Currently, the Department of Health and Human Services is working toward providing such alternatives and the state retained Juvenile Accountability dollars are being used for this effort which also will provide youth on probation the same services.

The following information reflects the activities which occurred from January, 1999 through September, 1999 at the Youth Rehabilitation Centers (YRTC) in Kearney (for male juvenile offenders) and Geneva (for female juvenile offenders).

Kearney	Geneva	Total		
		(Males)	(Females)	
# of Youth Committed		611	114	725
# of Medium & High Risk Youth (Determined by Assessments)		557	26	583
# Participating in				

Substance Abuse Education	933	85	1,018
Number Participating in Chemical Dependency Group Session	238	88	326

Treatment Types Recommended

Inpatient			50
Outpatient/Partial Care			243
Urine Drug Tests # of Positives	81		631
			(12.8%)
#Admitting Without Testing			60
			(10%)

Program: Demand Reduction

Goal: The State will have demand reduction programs available which involve law enforcement and/or criminal justice agencies.

Objectives:

To increase the types of demand reduction projects available in the state.
 To maintain existing demand reduction projects in the state, where possible.

Performance Indicators:

Number of Demand Reduction programs implemented or expanded with Byrne funding

Baseline: 0 Projected: 1

Activities And Accomplishments Intended

Some law enforcement agencies have implemented a School

Resource Officer or a School/Community Liaison Officer project which provides a stronger law enforcement presence in the school and community. Law enforcement is able to develop a better relationship with youth and school officials as well as provide instruction on various law enforcement related topics and assist in solving problems. It is anticipated these projects will be replicated in other areas of the state and may be supported through Byrne dollars.

The Nebraska Crime Commission supports the development and implementation of any new type of demand reduction project involving law enforcement, the schools and community.

Program: *New Approaches*

Goal: *The State will have innovative methods in addressing and motivating youth to reject illegal drugs and involvement in criminal activity.*

Objectives:

To increase, when possible, new innovative projects which provide new approaches in motivating youth to reject drugs and criminal activity.

Major Accomplishments and Activities Intended:

Because the Crime Commission's grant process is competitive, it is not possible to ascertain intended accomplishments and activities at this time. However, when an innovative approach is identified, either through contact with the Crime Commission or through the submission of a grant proposal, Crime Commission staff will work with the applicant in developing the project to insure coordination with appropriate entities and to avoid any duplication of efforts.

Priority # 3: To Address The Issue of Violence

Goal: *The State will have programs which address violence committed by adults and juveniles.*

While Nebraska does not have a high homicide rate, violence related to gang activities, assaults, sexual assaults, child abuse and domestic violence continues to increase. The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant programs, which are administered by the Crime Commission, are utilized to address domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse. The Byrne dollars will be used to enhance the investigation, apprehension, prosecution, adjudication and confinement of violent offenders.

Law enforcement and prosecutors are addressing violent crimes but need additional resources. Lincoln and Omaha Police Departments are the only agencies having a Gang Unit. Several agencies have implemented a gang tracking system and submit information to the Omaha Police Department's Gang Unit. Other law enforcement agencies across the state can inquiry the data base for information. To enhance efforts in addressing gangs and gang violence, the Crime Commission included a \$100,000 request in it's Fiscal Year 1999/2000 state general appropriations budget. Task forces will be able to request up to 10% of their required match from the \$100,000. However, the task force must have a component which addresses gangs and gang activities.

Programs To Address Violence

Program: **Multijurisdictional Task Forces**

Goal: *Federal, state and local law enforcement will work collaboratively in the detection, investigation and apprehension of individuals involved in gang activity and other serious offenses.*

Objectives:

To increase the number of programs addressing gang violence and other serious offenses.

Performance Indicators:

The number of programs addressing gang violence and other serious offenses.

Baseline: 0 Projected: 1

Major Accomplishments and Activities Intended:

- o If possible, increase the number of law enforcement officers assigned to the investigation of gangs and gang related activities and other serious offenses.*
- o Provide specialized training for law enforcement and prosecutors relating to gangs, gang activities and other serious offenses.*