

Buffalo County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Community Plan

July 2015-June 2018



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

It is known that youth in the juvenile justice system are more likely to end up in the adult justice system. It is also known that more serious youth offenders many times start as truant youth. It is understood that high truancy rates and low connectedness/poor attitudes toward school are correlated. There are many reasons that youth are truant: avoidance of school-related objects or situations, attention-seeking from parents/guardians, and school-related anxiety and/or depression¹. All three of these areas are addressed in the Buffalo County plan, which will reduce truancy and serious youth offenses. The Buffalo County Youth Services Team is focused on how to prevent youth from entering the system starting and how to give youth every opportunity to leave the juvenile justice system.

The four priority areas that were selected were developed through the research of other communities' strategies, Buffalo County data, and discussions at several different group meetings throughout the years.

The four priority areas are:

- 1. Increase youth and family engagement in school.**
- 2. Effectively utilize and expand a continuum of alternatives and supports for youth in crisis.**
- 3. Identify appropriate behavioral health and substance abuse prevention programs and services for youth in Buffalo County.**
- 4. Improve system operation and coordination.**

Through each of these priorities there are themes. The Youth Services Team wants to ensure that the process is communicated to all stakeholders as well as ensuring everyone's focus is on prevention and assisting families in crisis. It is understood that providing funding in prevention resources and services will be more cost-efficient than more costly services in the long-term, such as detention. The team will be developing sub-committees to start working on how to accomplish these goals in the next three years. The team is confident that utilizing a community-based approach will be the key to solving these issues.

¹ Wilder Research, "Increasing School Attendance for K-8 Students: A review of research examining the effectiveness of truancy prevention programs", March 2007

COMMUNITY TEAM

Description of Team

The Buffalo County Community Team was formed as an advisory committee to the Buffalo County Board of Supervisors in 2002. The Buffalo County Community Team is comprised of representatives from agencies providing services to the youth and families of Buffalo County, i.e. education, the faith community, local business, youth of the community and community members at large. The Committee attempts to meet on a quarterly basis and functions as one committee with individual members working on various issues as specific needs arise. During the last year this team has met almost every month. There are no permanent standing committees.

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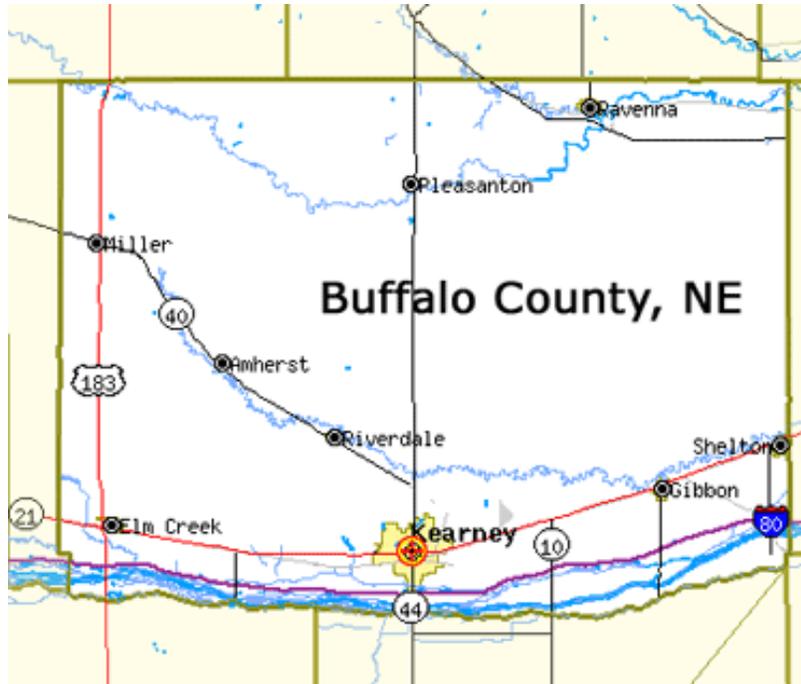
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COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

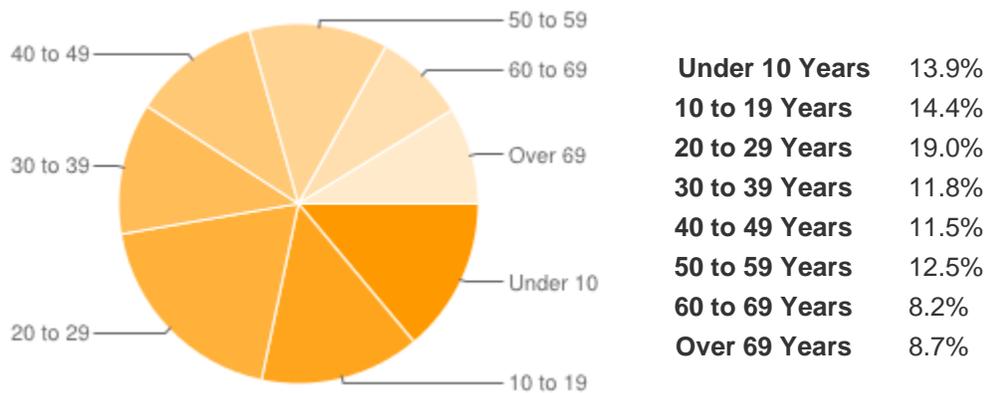
Buffalo County is located in south-central Nebraska and has a population of 46,102 residents (68% Urban and 32% Rural). It is a rural area made up of 9 towns within 975 square miles. The county seat is the City of Kearney which has 32,469 residents. The population density per square mile of land (44) in 2010; is almost double the population density for the state of Nebraska (22.3).



DEMOGRAPHICS

The percentage of youth 17 and under account for 24% of the population and 19 and under account for 28.3%.

Buffalo County 2010 Population by Age



Population by Gender, Age, and Race/Ethnicity, 2010 U.S. Census Data*

	Buffalo County		Behavioral Health Region 3		State of Nebraska	
	N**	%***	N**	%***	N**	%***
Total	46,102	100.0%	226,320	100.0%	1,826,341	100.0%
Gender						
Female	23,264	50.5%	113,793	50.3%	920,045	50.4%
Male	22,838	49.5%	112,527	49.7%	906,296	49.6%
Age						
<15	9,229	20.0%	46,224	20.4%	383,542	21.0%
15-17	1,840	4.0%	9,773	4.3%	75,679	4.1%
18-20	3,269	7.1%	9,722	4.3%	80,131	4.4%
21-24	4,017	8.7%	11,446	5.1%	102,396	5.6%
25-34	6,340	13.8%	26,160	11.6%	245,176	13.4%
35-44	5,043	10.9%	25,581	11.3%	220,838	12.1%
45-54	5,832	12.7%	32,486	14.4%	258,726	14.2%
55-64	4,954	10.7%	28,139	12.4%	213,176	11.7%
65+	5,578	12.1%	36,789	16.3%	246,677	13.5%
Race/Ethnicity^						
White	42,746	92.7%	207,599	91.7%	1,572,838	86.1%
Black	383	0.8%	1,845	0.8%	82,885	4.5%
Asian	596	1.3%	1,862	0.8%	32,293	1.8%
N. American	129	0.3%	1,051	0.5%	18,427	1.0%
Hispanic	3,432	7.4%	22,160	9.8%	167,405	9.2%
Minority	4,974	10.8%	28,505	12.6%	326,588	17.9%

*2010 population data from the U.S. Census Bureau

**Number of residents by demographic

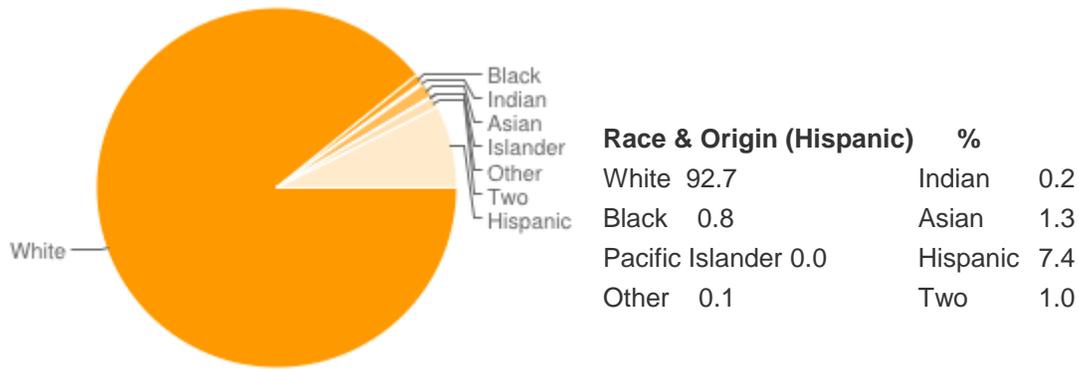
***Percentage of residents by demographic

^Race represents individuals who identified only one race (opposed to multiple races); Hispanic can be of any race; Minority represents individuals who identified themselves as being of a non-White race, multi-racial, or Hispanic.

As seen in the graph below, the racial profile of Buffalo County is predominately white. The county is not as racially or ethnically diverse as the state of Nebraska. Whites account for 92.7% of the population in Buffalo County and 86.1% statewide. This represents an approximately 3 % decrease in the White population from the 2000 Census.

In Buffalo County Hispanics represent the largest proportion of a racial group other than white with 7.4% followed by Asians (1.3%), African Americana (0.8), and Native American (0.3%). Overall, the Minority population in Buffalo County represents 10.8 % of the population in Buffalo County.

Buffalo County Census 2010 Race Data



Over ninety-percent of the population 5 years and older in Buffalo County speak English only. The village of Amherst contains the highest proportion of those who speak English only (98.2%) while the city of Gibbon has the lowest proportion (81.9%). County wide, 6.7% of the population speaks a language other than English at home. Gibbon again has the highest proportion (18.1%) followed by Shelton (16.3%). Pleasanton represents the lowest proportion with only 1.7% speaking a language other than English at Home. Less than three percent of the county population reports that they speak English less than very well.

ECONOMICS

The labor force of Buffalo County includes individuals 16 years and older and includes 27,189 individuals. As of May 2015, of those in the labor force 2.20% were unemployed (605 individuals). The lowest level of unemployment in the county is in Elm Creek (0.6%) and the highest level is in Riverdale (4.2%).



Nebraska ranks 47 out of 50 in the average time it takes to commute to work. The commute time in Nebraska is at least seven minutes less than the national average. The commute time for employees in Buffalo County is even less than the state average (15.6 minutes). Miller residents report the longest commute time (47.8 minutes) and Kearney

residents report the shortest time (13.8 minutes). Residents in four communities (Amherst, Elm Creek, Ravenna and Shelton) report commute times of more than 20 minutes but less than 30 minutes. The commute times of residents in the rural communities in the county indicate most of the residents must travel to another community for employment.

Population 16 Years and Over	In Labor Force	Unemployed	Commute to Work	Mean Time in Minutes of Commute
33,080	24,062	605 (2.2%)	23,078	15.6

Non-farm employment accounts for the majority of employment in Buffalo County (22,478). Trade, wholesale and retail comprise the largest employment sector (6,776). This is followed closely by services (5,574), Government (3,965), and manufacturing (3,505). Construction and mining, transportation, communications and utilities, and financing, insurance and real estate comprise 2,658 individuals.

The majority of those employed (8,908) are employed in non-manufacturing positions. Good Samaritan Hospital and the University of Nebraska at Kearney are the two largest non-manufacturing employers. Major employers include Baldwin Filters, Eaton Corporation, Coleman Powermate, Morris Press, Marshall Engines, West Company and Chief Industries Inc. Companies continually praise the efforts of the local work force.



INCOME

The median household income in Buffalo County (\$36,782) is below that for the state of Nebraska (\$39,250). Households in Riverdale report the highest median income in the county at \$44,375 and Ravenna the lowest at \$31,875.

The median family income in the county is \$46,247. Riverdale is slightly above the county median at \$46,786 followed closely by families in Kearney at \$46,650. Miller families earn the lowest median income at \$36,875.

The per capita income for Buffalo County residents is \$17,510. Kearney is the only community in which the per capita income (\$17,713) is higher than the county overall. Elm Creek is just below the county average at \$17,339 and Miller residents have the lowest per capita income at \$13,968.

Median Household Income	Median Family Income	Per Capita Income	Median Earnings Full-Time Year Round Workers	
			Male	Female
\$36,782	\$46,247	\$17,510	\$30,182	\$21,977

The proportion of families in Buffalo County living below the poverty level (6.3%) is slightly lower than the proportion statewide (6.7%) but is almost three percent better than the overall proportion for the United States (9.2%). Six hundred fifty-three families (6.3%) live below the poverty level. Of these families, 530 include related children under 18 years and 286 families include children under 5 years. The highest percentage of families in the county living below the poverty level live in Kearney (7.4%) followed closely by Shelton (7.2%). The village of Miller has no families living below the poverty level.

There are 4,395 (11.2%) individuals living below the poverty level in Buffalo County compared to a statewide average of 9.7%. Of these individuals, 1,048 live with related children under 18 years and 670 live with children age 5 to 17 years. Kearney has the highest proportion of individuals living below the poverty level (13.4%) and Miller reports the lowest proportion (4.1%).

Living Below Poverty Level	Number	Percent	With Related Children Under 18 Years	With Children Under 5 Years
Families	653	6.3%	530	286
Individuals	4,395	11.2%	1,048	378

Females with no husband present (1,316 individuals) represent 8.3% of the householders in Buffalo County. The majority of these householders live in Kearney (1,019 female householders). In all communities in the county with the exception of Riverdale, females with no husband present represent five to ten percent of householders. In Riverdale they represent 10.8% of householders.

HOUSEHOLDS AND HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

There were 15,930 households out of which 32.70% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 52.90% were married couples living together, 8.30% had a female householder with no husband present, and 35.80% were non-families. 26.10% of all households were made up of individuals and 9.60% had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older. The average household size was 2.48 and the average family size was 3.02.



TRANSPORTATION ROUTES



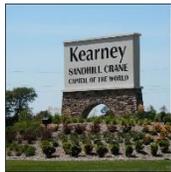
The southern border of the county runs parallel to Interstate 80. There is also a major highway running west to east, Highway 30. North to south are two important highways, Highway 10 and Highway 183. Great Lakes Aviation provides four daily flights to Denver International Airport in Denver, Colorado.

SCHOOLS

Overall there are twenty-five public and private schools in Buffalo County. There are six rural public schools (K-12). In addition, Kearney Public has one Class A high school, two middle schools, and ten elementary schools. The number of students enrolled from K-12 in the public school system is 7,625. There is one parochial high school, three parochial middle schools and two parochial elementary schools. The University of Nebraska - Kearney is also located in the county. There are 5,274 undergraduate students and 1,628 graduate students coming from 91 of the 93 Nebraska counties, all 50 states and over 50 foreign countries. Central Community College is also located in Kearney.



ATTRACTIONS



The City of Kearney is proclaimed as the Sandhill Crane Capital of the World. For 6 weeks, late February to early April, more than 80% of the world's population of Sandhill Cranes converges on Nebraska's Platte River.

Kearney is filled with historical and cultural museums and family-friendly activities. Unique shopping venues are featured in downtown Kearney, "The Bricks" and at the Hilltop Mall. There is an assortment of restaurants featuring local flare, international, national franchises and good ole Nebraska beef. There are local wineries and breweries.

Entertainment at its finest can be found in Central Nebraska. The Viaero Event Center



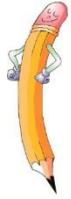
hosts numerous concerts, events and performances all year round and is home to the Tri-City Storm, a USHL Hockey Team. The Merryman Performing Arts Center and the Kearney Community Theatre offer theatrical and musical entertainment.

There is not only historic trails, such as the Oregon, California and Mormon Trails that converge through Central Nebraska but the City of Kearney features over 18 miles of trails. There are over a dozen parks which include disc golf, water parks, sport complexes, and golf courses.

Kearney, on average hosts a convention or an event per day. Some of which include: Cruise Night, Nebraska Chautauqua, Mr. and Mrs. Basketball, Senior Games, Art in the Park and much more.



NEBRASKA SHARP SURVEYS-BUFFALO COUNTY



SHARP is the umbrella encompassing the ONLY three student health surveys endorsed by the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) and the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (NDHHS). The administrations of the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), the Youth Tobacco Survey (YTS), and the Nebraska Risk and Protective Factor Student Survey (NRPFSS) were combined in 2010 to make up the Student Health and Risk Prevention (SHARP) Surveillance System.

The Results of the 2012 Nebraska Risk and Protective Factor Student Survey and the 2014 Youth Risk Behavior Survey were used in developing the plan. Buffalo County Community Partners has done an oversample for both surveys since 2000 to better understand issues facing youth in the county. The surveys were conducted in eight middle and high schools in Buffalo County, Nebraska, during the Fall of 2012 and 2014.

The NRPFSS taken by students in grades 8, 10, and 12 is designed to assess adolescent substance use, delinquent behavior, and many of the risk and protective factors that predict adolescent problem behaviors. The Nebraska survey is adapted from a national, scientifically validated survey and contains information on the risk and protective factors that are locally actionable. These risk and protective factors are also highly correlated with substance abuse as well as delinquency, teen pregnancy, school dropout, and violence.



The Nebraska Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) taken by students in grades 9-12 is part of the National Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System created and managed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This state-wide survey identifies and monitors priority health risk behaviors that are established during youth and result in sickness, disability, death, and social problems among youth and adults. The YRBS is designed to monitor trends in the following health risk behaviors: unintentional injuries and violence, tobacco, alcohol, and drug use, sexual risk behaviors, unhealthy dietary behaviors and physical inactivity. The YRBS also measures the prevalence of obesity and asthma among youth and young adults.

Along with other locally attainable sources of information, the information from the SHARP surveys can aid schools and community groups in planning and implementing local prevention initiatives to improve the health and academic performance of their youth using local level data. As a result, the SHARP surveys are implemented as a census survey, meaning that every public and non-public school with an eligible grade can choose to participate.

COMMUNITY CAPACITY INVENTORY

Community Capacity Inventory-University of Nebraska, Juvenile Justice Institute. In November 2011, JJI started the Buffalo County Capacity Inventory. On March 8th 2012, Julie Rodgers met with the Buffalo County Community Team in Kearney to provide the following summary.

In summary, 48 different programs responded to the CCI survey. The Programs survey the following programs:

- ▶ After School Program Legal Services
- ▶ Parenting
- ▶ Prevention
- ▶ Residential
- ▶ Domestic Violence
- ▶ Mentoring
- ▶ Truancy
- ▶ Job Skills
- ▶ Gender Specific
- ▶ Mediation
- ▶ Basic Needs
- ▶ Behavioral Health
- ▶ Child Welfare
- ▶ Community Service
- ▶ Culture Specific
- ▶ Early Education
- ▶ Education
- ▶ Employment & Job Skills
- ▶ Juvenile Justice

Services Needed in Buffalo County:

In developing the 2015-2018 Buffalo County Comprehensive Juvenile Services Plan, the Buffalo County Youth Team has been meeting monthly for all of the past 18 months to discuss the process and ask for all stakeholders to participate in developing the new plan.

From the November 2011 and March 8th 2012 Community Capacity Inventory meetings; additional information and data has been discussed. The new Buffalo County Comprehensive Juvenile Justice Services Plan takes previous responses and information into account, but also builds upon the data and current information provided by the Buffalo County Youth Services Team.

IDENTIFIED PRIORITY AREAS

The interests of juveniles in Buffalo County will best be served by the following strategies. These strategies are viewed as being the priority to be supported by the Buffalo County Juvenile Justice Community Team and the Comprehensive Plan for Buffalo County.

Priority One: Increase Youth and Family Engagement in School

Priority Two: Effectively utilize and expand a continuum of alternatives and supports for youth in crisis.

Priority Three: Identify appropriate behavioral health and substance abuse prevention programs and services for youth in Buffalo County.

Priority Four: Improve system operation and coordination.

PRIORITY ONE: INCREASE YOUTH AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT IN SCHOOL

The Buffalo County Youth Services Team realizes that in order to have successful youth who are not involved in the juvenile justice system, the focus needs to be on school engagement. Research has shown higher truancy rates and low school connectedness/poor attitudes toward school are correlated. There are also many reasons youth have these beliefs to cause truancy: avoidance of school-related objects or situations, attention-seeking from parents/guardians, and school-related anxiety and/or depression (Wilder, 2007).

Through data collected in the 2012 Nebraska Risk and Protective Factor Student Survey (NRPFS), over 30% (429 students) of Buffalo County youth reported low commitment to school and in relation there were 158 youth in 2013 who were enrolled in the truancy program.

The surveys also show that reasons for truancy are an issue. Youth avoiding school due to the environment or situations they may encounter, which may include bullying, physical fights, or few opportunities for pro-social involvement.



32.3% of youth report low commitment to schools

15.1% of youth reported being electronically bullied



17.5% of youth reported being in a physical fight

70.1% reported opportunities for prosocial involvement



Youth also may be truant to seek attention from their families/guardians. The survey also shows low percentages for family attachment, poor family management, and prosocial involvement within the family.



63.3% of youth report family attachment



27.2% of youth report poor family management

67.3% of youth report opportunities for prosocial involvement within their family

2012 NRPFS

It is also known that anxiety/depression can be causes for truancy, which the Youth Services Team separated into its own priority area #3.

The team has developed a sub-committee comprised of Families Care, Region 3, County Attorney's Office, Buffalo County schools, Probation, Law Enforcement, school counselors and others. This group's first step is to walk through truancy as a youth and their family to understand the reasons and motives behind skipping school. They will also identify evidence-based practices and enhance existing services/programs to engage families and increase student engagement. They will focus on prevention by targeting students and families who may be at-risk for becoming truant. Also they will collaborate with youth-serving organizations to develop a consistent policy for calling law enforcement on youth.

The focus on decreasing truant youth will reduce future youth from entering the system or prevent youth from more costly offenses.

Priority One: Increase youth and family engagement in school.

Strategies/Objectives	Action Steps	Responsibility	Timeframe	Resources	Outputs	Outcomes
1.1 Decrease truancy through a combined effort with the schools, families, law enforcement and service providers	Walk-through the truancy process from youth and family perspective	Youth Services, County Attorney, Juvenile Services, All Schools in Buffalo County	July 1, 2015-June 30, 2018	Jill, Jean and Doug will lead facilitation of group Evidence Based Practices (Source: www.k12.edu): Department of Education “Engagement” program, OJJDP, Univ. of Central Florida- “Parent Engagement Programs”; Lincoln and Omaha “Parent Connectors”, Parent Truancy Awareness Program, Mentoring, Cognitive-behavioral therapy+caregiver training, Community based court approach, Mediation and	Identified strengths, weaknesses, opportunity and threats of the truancy process.	# of truant referrals/enrollments to County Attorney (2013: 158, 2014: 177)
	Identify evidence-based and promising practices and/or individualized interventions to be implemented				Identify the underling symptoms of truancy.*	% decrease of truant youth
	Build upon strengths of existing services to increase student engagement				Better understanding of needs of truant youth and families. <i>(Pre- and post-tests will be done on all sessions)</i>	% of engaged adults <i>(From parent action plans)</i>
	Evaluate outcomes to adjust programing				Outcomes of individual evidence-based practice interventions	6,8,10 and 12 th grade 2012 NRPFS -32.3% Youth reporting low commitment to schools -63.3% Youth reporting Family Attachment -27.2% Youth reporting poor family management -67.3% Youth reporting opportunities for prosocial involvement within family
					Graduation Rates for Buffalo County Schools (2014: 96.15%)	Truancy Cost savings: \$70,000/year
					Improved attendance, achievement and school attachment <i>(low commitment to school)</i> .	Diversion Cost Savings (best estimate):
					# of youth referred/enrolled to county truancy program (2013: 158, 2014: 177)	

				<p>problem solving, Family Workshops, Truancy Reduction Program</p> <p>Shelton and Ravenna Schools process</p> <p>Invite MYLife</p> <p>RISE Program: includes attendance and grade checks as well as skill building classes and focusing on truancy.</p> <p>Judge Rademacher</p>	<p>*List of underlying symptoms</p>	<p>\$1,500 per participant in diversion. (2013: 207 unduplicated youth served x \$1,500= \$310,500 2014: 272 unduplicated youth served x \$1,500= \$408,000)</p> <p>Probation Cost savings-track baseline</p> <p>RISE Program Cost of \$125.90 per youth.</p> <p>Cost savings of prosecuting a youth for 2-4 hearings=\$1,500 per youth.</p>
1.2 Prioritize K-9 th grade students who are at-risk for truancy	Select Evidence Based Prevention programs and strategies to reduce underlying symptoms of truancy.	Youth Services Team, United Against Violence coalition, Buffalo County Youth Advisory Board, Friends, Teammates,	July 1, 2015-June 30, 2018	Pyramid Model at Kearney Public Schools Preschools	<p>-# of schools participating in Second Step</p> <p>-# of students participating in Second Step</p>	<p>Reduction of underlying symptoms of truancy</p> <p>Improve Attendance Rates in Buffalo County Schools (2013-2014 school year: 95.77%)</p>

	<p>Build upon current evidence based mentoring programs</p> <p>Identify other current evidence based mentoring programs</p> <p>Identify and overcome barrier of accessing services</p>	Compass, Bright Futures			<p>-# of Buffalo County Youth Advisory Board members as mentors</p> <p>-# of new youth mentors (Friends/TeamMates)</p> <p>-# of successful matches and school reports of social and academic success</p> <p># of unsuccessful matches</p>	<p>Measure social emotional skill development (anger management, problem solving, etc)</p> <p>(mentoring) 2014</p> <p>-Youth reported being electronically bullied. 15.1% <i>(decrease 7%)</i></p> <p>-Youth reported participating in physical fight 17.5% <i>(decrease 7%)</i></p>
1.3 Collaborate with Buffalo County youth serving organizations to develop a plan that is consistent for calling law enforcement on truant youth	<p>Uniform policy concerning when law enforcement are called to the schools</p> <p>Diversion program for truant youth prior to adjudication</p>	Kearney Police Department, Buffalo County Sherriff's Department, School administrators, Youth Services Team, Richard Young Hospital	July 1, 2015-June 30, 2018		<p>-Less youth being referred to law enforcement from the schools</p> <p>-Schools work with students on redirecting undesirable behavior</p>	<p>-Reduction in youth sent to Detention** (2013=12)</p> <p>-Reduce cost to detention system based on one-on-one intervention</p> <p>**Best data presented from state at this time</p>
1.4 Increase family engagement of at-risk youth	<p>Identify barriers of family engagement-HHS Application</p> <p>Conduct parent focus groups and listening sessions</p>	Families Care, Juvenile Facilitation Programs, Mental Health Providers and Family Support	July 1, 2015-June 30, 2018	<p>Circle of Security Training (Several teachers in area)</p> <p>Lincoln and Omaha "Parent Connectors"</p>	<p>Circle of Security Evaluation</p>	<p>6,8,10 and 12th grade 2012</p> <p>-Youth reporting poor family management 27.2%</p>

		Services: Center for Psychological Services, Mid Plains, South Central Behavioral Services, Compass, Boystown, Pathfinders, Owens, Christian Heritage Home, Futures, Encouragement Center, Counseling Enrichment, A New Day Counseling, NE Children's Home Society, Kearney Public Schools				
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PRIORITY TWO: EFFECTIVELY UTILIZE AND EXPAND A CONTINUUM OF ALTERNATIVES AND SUPPORTS FOR YOUTH IN CRISIS.

The Buffalo County Youth Services Team has identified that in order to assist a youth to be successful in behavior change to exit the juvenile justice system there must be several opportunities along the way. With the changes in the system and who has responsibility to provide services to youth and families, there has been several discussions on how to develop a consistent community plan.

The sub-committee will work to first identify what additional resources probation needs to serve youth prior to pre-adjudication. They will walk through what community services/alternatives are available in the community for youth and families in crisis. They will discuss develop a list of potential contracted services as well as identify community organizations that can assist these youth in their programs.

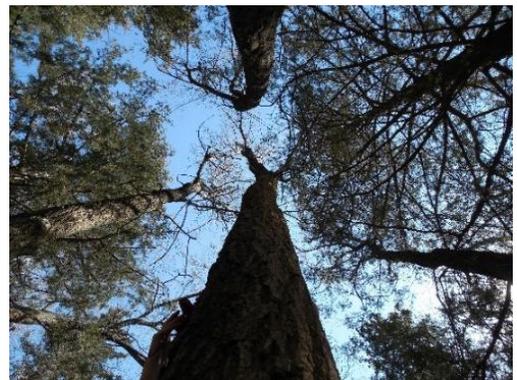
They will also work toward identifying services/alternatives to youth and their families at all stages of risk to reoffend (based on YLS determination). Based on research, there are many different approaches that can be taken to assist youth. Community-based and targeted approaches which eliminate social and economic barriers through community resource connections, such as PhotoVoice. Another approach of the multi-faceted approach, which integrates school and community resources, such as the Juvenile Facilitation Programs. Also, individualized treatments, which assign treatment on an individual basis to best address needs, such as Crisis Intervention Services or Diversion.

Through these strategies, youth will be better referred to appropriate services and supports at the right time.



Left: "Life is just made up of messes"-
PhotoVoice Participant

Right: "No matter how big the goal, it's always reachable"-
Photovoice Participant



Priority Two: Effectively utilize and expand a continuum of alternatives and supports for youth in crisis.

Strategies/Objectives	Action Steps	Responsibility	Timeframe	Resources	Outputs	Outcomes
2.1 Identify level of supervision provided for pre-adjudicated and adjudicated youth during the law enforcement intake process	<p>Develop uniform screening process with law enforcement and probation</p> <p>Triage for crisis and de-escalation area</p>		July 1, 2015-June 30, 2018	Resource Officer Probation Officer	<p>-Ensure youth are being referred to appropriate services/supports</p> <p>-Ensure community safety and court attendance</p> <p>-Serve the right youth in the right place at the right time</p> <p>-Reduce recidivism</p> <p>-Reduce racial disparity</p> <p>-Stakeholder buy-in</p> <p>-Common vision of detention use</p> <p>-Serve the right youth in the right place at the right time</p>	<p>Based on screening tool</p> <p>*NYS</p>

<p>2.2 Determine level of alternatives needed in the community for youth in crisis</p>	<p>Analyze data from current objective screening instrument</p> <p>Review, approve and educate stakeholders on the consistent process described in the youth in crisis diagram</p>	<p>Probation, County Attorney, South Central Behavioral Services 24/7 Crisis Response Line, Positive Pressure</p>	<p>July 1, 2015-June 30, 2018</p>	<p>Region 3 “Youth and Family in Crisis” diagram</p>	<p>-Identify supervision/ service gaps</p>	<p>Based on Screening data from probation (# of probationers):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Admin-Interstate Transfer Out: 4 -JCBI: 51 -JCBI-JSH: 2 -JCBR-Low-Moderate: 13 -JCBR Admin Override: 2 -JCBR Low: 2 -Pre-Disposition: 1 -YRTC/Placement: 1
<p>2.3 Address needs of youth and their families when they are at low-risk to reoffend (<i>Risk to reoffend based on YLS Determination</i>)</p>	<p>Determine alternatives to detention for lower to medium risk youth (Examples: PhotoVoice)</p>	<p>United Against Violence, Juvenile Facilitation Programs</p>	<p>July 1, 2015-June 30, 2018</p>		<p>-Early intervention -Fiscal responsibility</p>	<p>Screening Tool TBD</p> <p>Juvenile Facilitation Programs data:</p> <p># of participants (2014: total 91, Breakdown: 27 referrals from Probation 56 referrals from EOC, Excel Academy, Alt. Ed 8 referrals from truancy/diversion)</p> <p>PhotoVoice Evaluation:</p>

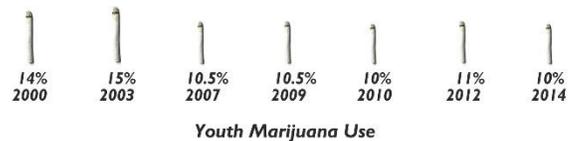
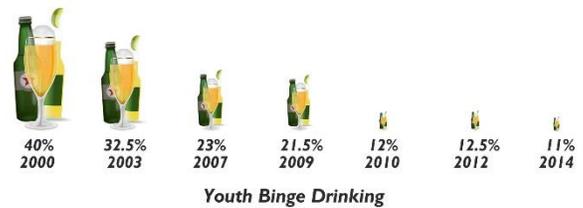
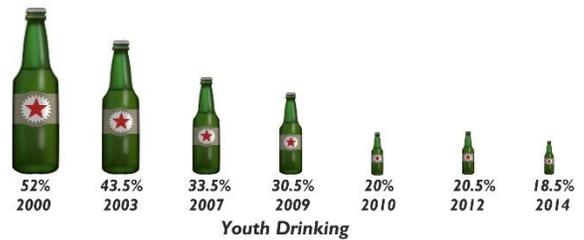
						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Better understanding of thoughts and feeling of others -More connected with adults -More connected with the community -Feel more positive about the future
2.4 Address needs of youth and their families when they are at medium-risk to reoffend	Explore expanding existing services and/or implement new services	Youth Services team	July 1, 2015-June 30, 2018		-Serve the right youth in the right place at the right time	Screening Tool TBD
2.5 Address needs of youth and their families when they are at high-risk to reoffend			July 1, 2015-June 30, 2018	Crisis Intervention Services for youth in crisis		Screening Tool TBD

PRIORITY THREE: IDENTIFY APPROPRIATE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR YOUTH IN BUFFALO COUNTY.

The Buffalo County Youth Services Team has identified two very distinct and important pieces for youth in the juvenile justice system: Behavioral Health and Substance Abuse issues. The team also recognizes that there is a need for prevention and treatment in those areas.

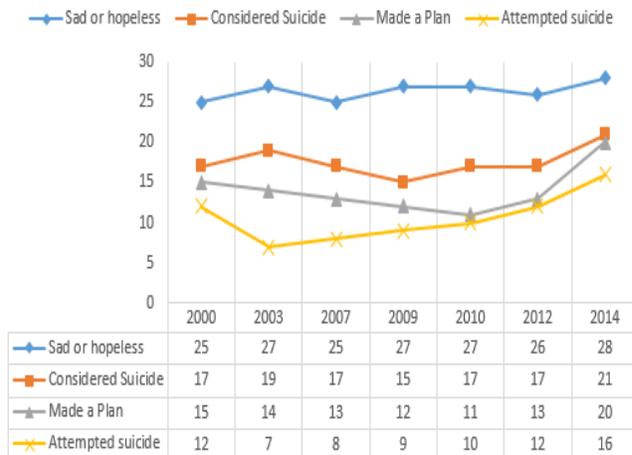
Through data collected in the SHARP surveys substance abuse and behavioral health are issues in Buffalo County. There has been a significant decrease in alcohol use by youth in the past several years thanks to prevention efforts, however other substance use is increasing (Pictured right).

Also there is notable increase in mental health issues, specifically in girls, the past couple of years.

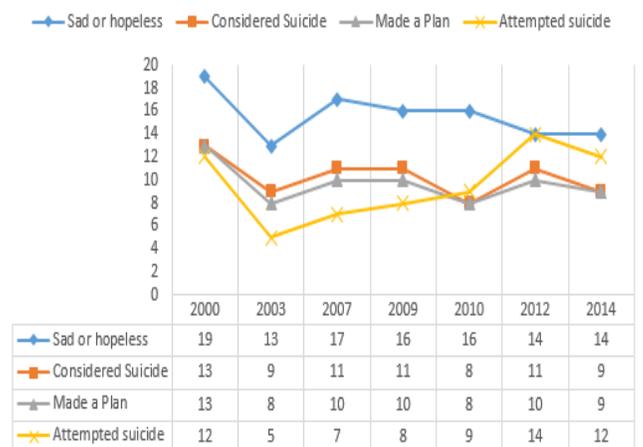


YRBS

GIRLS-MENTAL HEALTH/THOUGHTS OF SUICIDE



BOYS-MENTAL HEALTH/THOUGHTS OF SUICIDE



There are many community coalitions doing prevention work around both of these areas. The Youth Services Team will support these coalitions to continue their efforts and continue participation at their coalition meetings. These efforts include: Trauma-Informed Care, Mentoring, Second Step social-emotional curriculum, community-wide messages around substance abuse, youth advisory board work, and countless other activities. Research shows several prevention strategies that are effective that these coalitions currently use.

Relationship-based interventions engage youth through weekly relationship building sessions, similar concept to PhotoVoice. Another similar strategy of mentoring is being used through Friends and TeamMates. Also school-wide, ongoing interventions that target all students, such as the Second Step curriculum.

The other side to prevention is treatment for youth who may need extra support. The team will support and promote referrals to behavioral health services and programs that utilize many individual strategies for youth. One example of an effective strategy is cognitive-based therapy which is utilized by behavioral health providers.

Through prevention and treatment programs and services within the community, there are many opportunities for youth to be served.

Priority Three: Identify appropriate behavioral health and substance abuse prevention programs and services for youth in Buffalo County.

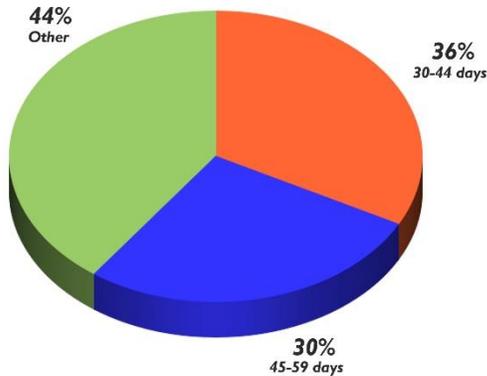
Strategies/Objectives	Action Steps	Responsibility	Timeframe	Resources	Outputs	Outcomes
3.1 Partner with prevention groups to explore and coordinate mental health promotion and substance abuse prevention programs for juveniles	<p>Building a Trauma Informed Community</p> <p>Providing Trauma Informed Care (TIC) trainings</p> <p>Providing Mental Health Promotion training</p> <p>Developing cognitive therapies that mitigate the long term effect of trauma</p> <p>Develop a consistent county-wide message mental health promotion and substance Abuse prevention</p> <p>Reduce youth access to alcohol, marijuana,</p>	<p>United Against Violence, Positive Pressure, County Attorney, United Against Violence, Friends Program, Buffalo County Sheriff’s Office, Kearney/Holdrege Elks Lodge #984, CHI Health Good Samaritan, Buffalo County Youth Advisory Board, Century21//25th St. Landlords, Owners, University of Nebraska Kearney, Peer Health Education, Communications, Buffalo County Parents/Civilians, Walgreens (other retailers), Region 3 Behavioral Health, Two Rivers Public Health Department, Kearney Police Department, All Schools in Buffalo County, Compass</p>	July 1, 2015-June 30, 2018	<p>Region 3 trainers</p> <p>United Against Violence Coalition</p> <p>Positive Pressure Coalition</p> <p>Grant funded social media campaigns for parent and youth</p>	<p>-# of leaders identified and engaged for TIC implementation</p> <p>-# of businesses TIC trained</p> <p>-# of employees TIC trained</p> <p>-# of TIC policy changes</p> <p>-# of people reached by campaign message</p> <p>-Range of distribution</p> <p># of Minor In Possession or other youth citation during cruise night</p> <p># of compliant liquor license holders</p> <p># of trained license holders</p>	<p>-increase the number of Trauma-Informed businesses, schools and organizations in Buffalo County</p> <p>2014 YRBS</p> <p>-Youth reported being electronically bullied. 15.1% (decrease 7%)</p> <p>-Youth reported participating in physical fight 17.5% (decrease 7%)</p> <p>-Reduce underage and binge drinking among youth and adults in Buffalo County</p> <p>*2014 youth reporting drinking in past 30 days: 18.6% (YRBS)</p> <p>*2014 youth reporting drinking 5 or more drinks in a row in past 30 days: 10.2% (YRBS)</p>

	tobacco, and prescription drugs Continue utilization of Responsible Beverage Server Trainings				# of permanent prescription take back locations # of Parent blogs and education materials on Youth Alcohol abuse Youth tobacco abuse Youth marijuana abuse Youth Rx abuse	*2012 Adult binge drinking: 18% (BRFS) -Reduce Prescription Drug Use in youth and adults in Buffalo County *2014 Youth 30 day use: 4.4% (YRBS) *2012 Adult use: 3.1% (BRFS) -Reduce Marijuana Use in youth and adults in Buffalo County *2014 Youth 30 day use: 10% (YRBS)
3.2 Services utilized with behavioral health and substance abuse treatment programs	Professional Partner Program, MST, Family Advocacy, Specialized Adolescent SA Services, Outpatient, TF-CBT, CPP, Center for Psychological Services, New Day Counseling	Region 3, Midplains, Families CARE, South Central, private clinicians	July 1, 2015-June 30, 2018	Provide Wraparound, intensive home based therapy (MST), advocacy and engagement (Families Care), trauma focused Lincoln and Omaha "Parent Connectors"	Identify youth with mental and behavioral health needs. Provide access to appropriate services based on needs. Ensure family voice and choice	Increase family engagement Identify and refer youth in need of mental and behavioral health need to appropriate services. Family voice and choice

PRIORITY FOUR: IMPROVE SYSTEM OPERATION AND COORDINATION.

The Buffalo County Youth Services Team has discussed several processes that are not consistent or known to all stakeholders. As a result, the amount of time for youth spent between first encounter with law enforcement to final disposition has become increasingly too long which is no fault to anyone involved. The subcommittee's first steps will be to focus on defining what impacts the number of days between first encounter to disposition.

Number of days between adjudication and disposition



Another strategy to improve system operation and coordination is to more easily provide

services for youth re-entering the community. The team wants to decrease the gap and time in providing re-entry services. They will work to determine what services are available or needed for these youth. For example, one service discussed was victim-offender mediation. The goal will also be to develop a plan to provide services and supervision for these youth within 48 hours of less. The team is confident that this will lower recidivism among youth.

The Buffalo County team will also work to ensure there is open communication between all those serving the youth, especially those making decisions for the youth. Those stakeholders may include Office of Juvenile Services, Juvenile Probation, Judiciary, and County Attorney. They would like to what the current information sharing process looks like and explore allowing prosecuting attorneys and judges to read sealed records.

It has come to the attention of many stakeholders that homelessness is an issue in Buffalo County. However, there is a severe underreporting to the state. Currently, 44 youth are homeless in only two of the nine schools and the team know there are more based on conversations. The team is focused on developing a plan with resources for homeless youth, transition-age youth, and youth returning from out-of-home placement. The goal will be to develop an accurate data collection method to identify youth living in unstable environments and what services can be provided.

Through continued conversations and work to build consistent systems and processes that all stakeholders are aware of, more youth will be better served with appropriate services.

Priority Four: Improve system operation and coordination.

Strategies/Objectives	Action Steps	Responsibility	Timeframe	Resources	Outputs	Outcomes
4.1 Expedite the process of youth in the juvenile justice system	<p>Define the process of youth going through the system</p> <p>Evaluation to determine if certain charges are consistently ending up in juvenile court</p> <p>Reduce the number of days between adjudication and disposition</p> <p>Evaluate processing time from the point of arrest to the time it takes to begin the disposition of the case and implement resources to shorten this amount of time</p> <p>Identify incentives for youth to participate (ex: Community Service hours reduced)</p>	<p>Youth Services Team</p> <p>County Attorney</p> <p>Probation, County Attorney</p> <p>County Attorney, Law enforcement</p>	July 1, 2015-June 30, 2018	Juvenile Justice Coordinator, Behavioral Health	<p>-Alternative choices to refer youth outside the court system</p> <p>2014 Top 5 Offenses (12-17 years old)</p> <p>-Shoplifting (21)</p> <p>-Possession of Marijuana, <1 oz. (20)</p> <p>-Possession of Drug Paraphernalia (20)</p> <p>-3rd Degree assault (18)</p> <p>-Minor in Possession (14)</p> <p>2013 Top 5 Offenses (12-17 years old)</p> <p>-Minor in Possession (55)</p> <p>-Shoplifting (36)</p> <p>-Possession of Drug Paraphernalia (33)</p> <p>-Possession of Marijuana, <1 oz. (27)</p> <p>-3rd Degree assault (25)</p>	<p>Based on Process</p> <p>Begin collecting baseline data:</p> <p>-Consistent charges ending up in juvenile court</p> <p>-Number of days between adjudication and disposition (2013-2014; 36% of the cases went from adjudication to disposition in 30-44 days; 30% took 45-59 days.)</p> <p>-Processing time from point of arrest to beginning disposition (55 to 95 days is the range of processing youth from arrest through disposition)</p> <p>-list of incentives for youth</p>

					<p>2014 Minor In Possession (18-20 year olds)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -18 year olds: 36 -19 and 20 year olds: 129 <p>2013 Minor In Possession (18-20 year olds)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -18 year olds: 81 -19 and 20 year olds: 152 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Better understanding of offenses that are always handled in juvenile court -Secure funding to pay for services pre-adjudication -Decreased delay in treatment -Fiscal responsibility (court time, detention) -Understanding of where resources need to be used to expedite process 	
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					-Youth will be held accountable for their actions as close to the date of offense as possible	
4.2 Reentry into community	<p>Complete plan for youth exiting facilities and returning to Buffalo County</p> <p>Services for youth exiting facilities and returning to Buffalo County will be developed and implemented</p> <p>Reentry process will be evaluated</p>	Central Mediation Center	July 1, 2015-June 30, 2018	Victim-offender mediation	<p>-An agreed upon plan will exist to provide services and supervision for these youth with 48 hours or less to transition</p> <p>-Youth leaving facilities will have a successful transition with services upon returning home</p> <p>-The reentry plan will be effective in lowering recidivism among these youth</p>	Decrease gap and time in re-entry services
4.3 Ensure necessary juvenile justice officials are getting and sharing information needed to make decisions on juveniles	<p>Discuss process in Buffalo County of sharing information</p> <p>Explore possibility of having restrictions lifted so prosecuting attorneys</p>	CASA*** ***Funding from other sources not	July 1, 2015-June 30, 2018		<p>-Clear understanding of what information can and cannot be shared and why</p> <p>-Juvenile Justice Officials will have the right information to place the right youth in the right place at the right time</p>	<p>CASA Data:</p> <p>*In 2014-163 children were referred to CASA and 114 were accepted.</p> <p>The others were placed upon their waiting list. Age 9 or below of the above number: 117 referred and 85 accepted</p>

	and judges could see records that were sealed	through Juvenile Justice grants			-Serve the right youth in the right place at the right time -Key justice stakeholders will be kept updated on the progression of youth through the system	
	Explore collaboration with OJS, Juvenile Probation, Judiciary, County Attorney to share information					
4.4 Develop a plan and resources with community providers for homeless youth and/or transition age youth and/or youth returning from out-of-home placements	Collaborate with existing service providers to build capacity Develop an accurate data collection method to identify youth not in stable living environments	All Schools in Buffalo County	July 1, 2015-June 30, 2018	Nebraska Department of Education-Cathy Mohnike Region 3, Crossroads, RAFT, Mid-Nebraska Individual Services	-Build capacity of existing services and identify need for new services -Accurate number for youth -More youth community engagement	44 Buffalo County youth** (Only two schools reporting homeless youth) **Severe underreporting in Nebraska Schools—National Ave=10% in each school *McKinney-Vento Guidelines

