

Colfax County
Juvenile Services
Comprehensive Community Plan
May 15, 2015 – May 15, 2018

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COMMUNITY TEAM

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Community Team: The Colfax County Juvenile Services/ Community Team (hereafter referred to as “The Team”) includes relevant stakeholders in the community, many of whom have participated in a systems analysis of the juvenile justice system in Colfax County with an eye toward identifying gaps and needs. The Team also includes several individuals who serve on the Colfax LB1184 Team, which meets monthly to address issues of child abuse, neglect, delinquency, and treatment resources. Several individuals on The Team are also members of the Colfax County Community who have been meeting on and off for the last several years with the goal of implementing prevention strategies on behalf of Colfax County juveniles.

Interdisciplinary networking between members occurs formally on at least a monthly basis incidental to the 1184 Team meetings and informally on a daily or weekly basis as team members interact with one another through their jobs. Juvenile Services funds and programs have been a regular topic of discussion by the Team members in these formal and informal interdisciplinary contests since 2002 when Colfax County’s first Juvenile Justice Services Plan was developed.

Team Members:

- Denise J. Kracl; Colfax County Attorney; 412 E. 11th Street, Schuyler, NE 68661; (402) 352-8502;
- Leslie J. Buhl; Deputy Colfax County Attorney; 412 E. 11th Street, Schuyler, NE 68661; (402) 352-8502;
- Chad Ferrari; Colfax County Diversion Officer, Drug Recognition Expert (DRE), and Colfax County Sheriff’s Department; 412 E. 11th Street, Schuyler, NE 68661; (402) 352-8502;
- Amy Johnson; Schuyler Central High School; 401 Adam Street, Schuyler, NE 68661-2400; (402) 352-3527;
- Kem Cavanah; Schuyler Economic Development; 1103 B Street, Schuyler, NE 68661-2400; (402)615-3179;
- Stephan Grammar; Principal, Schuyler Central High School; 401 Adam Street, Schuyler, NE 68661-2400; (402)352-2421;

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- Michelle Burton; Principal, Schuyler Middle School; 200 West 10th Street, Schuyler, NE 68661-2400; (402) 352-5514;
- Jeff Andel; Food Services Manager, Schuyler Community Schools; 200 West 10th Street, Schuyler, NE 68661-2400; (402)352-5514;
- Deanna Rodriguez; Services Director, Center for Survivors; P.O. Box 42, Columbus, NE 68602-0042;
- Paul Kruse; Colfax County Sheriff; 1184 Team Member; 411 E. 11th Street; NE 68661; (402) 352-8526;
- Tony Hemmer; Sergeant, Colfax County Sheriffs Department; 411 E. 11th Street, Schuyler, NE 68661; (402) 352-8526;
- Lennie Hiltner; Chief of Police, Schuyler Police Department and 1184 Team Member; 1020 A Street, Schuyler, NE 68661; (402)352-2415;
- Alejandra Dimas; Schuyler Middle School Staff, Student Advisory Council Member, and Schuyler Teammates Coordinator; 200 W. 10th Street; Schuyler, NE 68661; (402)352-5514;
- Sarah Heller; Human Resources Manager, Cargill Meat Solutions; 590 Road 9; Schuyler; Schuyler, NE 68661; (402)352-5411;
- Kim Parsons; Educator; Cargill Resource Center; West Highway 30; Schuyler, NE 68661;
- Missy Glodoski; Counselor, Schuyler Elementary School; 2404 Denver Street; Schuyler, NE 68661; (402)352-9940;
- Bill Comley; Principal; Schuyler Elementary School; 2404 Denver Street; Schuyler, NE 68661; (402)352-9940;
- Colleen Wigington; Public Representative, employed in the medical field and Local Business Owner; 210 East 17th Avenue, Schuyler, NE 68661; (402)615-1805;
- Carrie Rodriguez, Chief Deputy Probation Officer, District 5 Probation; 2610 14th St Columbus, NE 68601 (402) 641 9732;
- Guadalupe Marino; Schuyler Public Schools; (402) 352-9940;
- Paula Kment; Counselor, Schuyler Middle School; 200 West 10th Street, Schuyler, NE 68661; (402)352-5514;

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- Sidnee Pavel; Truancy Officer; 412 East 11 Street, Schuyler, NE 68661; (402) 802-5179;
- Carrie Hastreiter; Professional Partners, 2610 14 Street, Columbus, NE 68601; (402)562-7205;
- Dan Prohaska; Juvenile Probation Officer, District 5 Probation, 411 East 11 Street, Schuyler, NE 68661; (402)352-8513;

Juvenile Justice System Analysis Tool

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Due to time constraints and personnel changes, Colfax County stakeholders did not go through the entire Juvenile Justice System Analysis Tool by decision point. The Colfax County Team brought in Dr. Anne Hobbs to Schuyler in April of 2015 to work out final goals and priorities for this Colfax County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Community Plan.

Colfax County would like to review the System Analysis and undertake a Community Capacity Inventory in the next 12 months to update the Comprehensive Plan. The goal of the System Analysis and Community Capacity Inventory is to determine the gaps that need to be filled to make a seamless continuum of services for juveniles, and to make sure resources are being utilized in the most effective and efficient way possible. It should be noted that all points on the Colfax County Juvenile Court make a concerted effort to work together to improve the lives of all system-involved youth.

If a youth is detained by law enforcement for a serious crime or multiple crimes with the possibility of detention, and the youth is under 18, District Five Probation is contacted and a Probation Officer completes an assessment or Intake to determine an appropriate level of placement for that juvenile. Juveniles are not normally detained unless the Probation screening instrument or Probation Officer determines that the juvenile is a risk to society or determines that the juvenile is an obvious flight risk (typically this happens when a juvenile has fled a different jurisdiction and has been located in Colfax County).

Colfax County contracts with the Northeast Nebraska Juvenile Detention Facility to house juveniles who are detained in Madison, Nebraska.

Colfax County has applied for and received Community Aid dollars to add pre-adjudication services such as electronic monitoring (EM) and tracker services which allow more juveniles the alternative of returning to their home instead of being placed in detention. Colfax County would like to apply for more wrap-around services to provide immediate wrap around services to juveniles and families who are immediately in crisis.

Due to the large ethnic population in the City of Schuyler, including Hispanic and African-based population in the City of Schuyler, there are some significant cultural and language barrier issues which that cause concern in Schuyler. Disproportionate minority contacts are an issue that may be addressed by training and educational resources available at a state level and The Team would welcome any additional resources that can be offered.

Colfax County
Community Socio-Economics

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Colfax County Profile:

Land Area: 411.66 Square Miles

(Source: United States Census Bureau. "Quick Facts." Online. Available: <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/31/31037.html>)

Persons Per Square Mile: 25.5 miles

(Source: United States Census Bureau. "Quick Facts." Online. Available: <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/31/31037.html>)

Population (2012 Estimate): 10,653

(Source: United States Census Bureau. "Quick Facts." Online. Available: <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/31/31037.html>)

Towns and Approximate populations:

Clarkson 658,
Howells 561,
Leigh 405,
Richland 73,
Rogers 96,

(Source: 2010 Census from the United States Census Bureau)

Schuyler 6,300

(Source: June 25, 2015, Schuyler City Clerk's Office)

Public School Districts Serving Colfax County: Clarkson Public Schools, Clarkson, District 501- Colfax County, District 505- Colfax County, Fisher's Public School, Schuyler, Howells-Dodge Public Schools, Howells; Leigh Community Schools, Leigh; Richland Public Schools, Richland, Schuyler Central High School, Schuyler; Schuyler Grade Schools, Schuyler, and Schuyler Alternative School, Rogers.

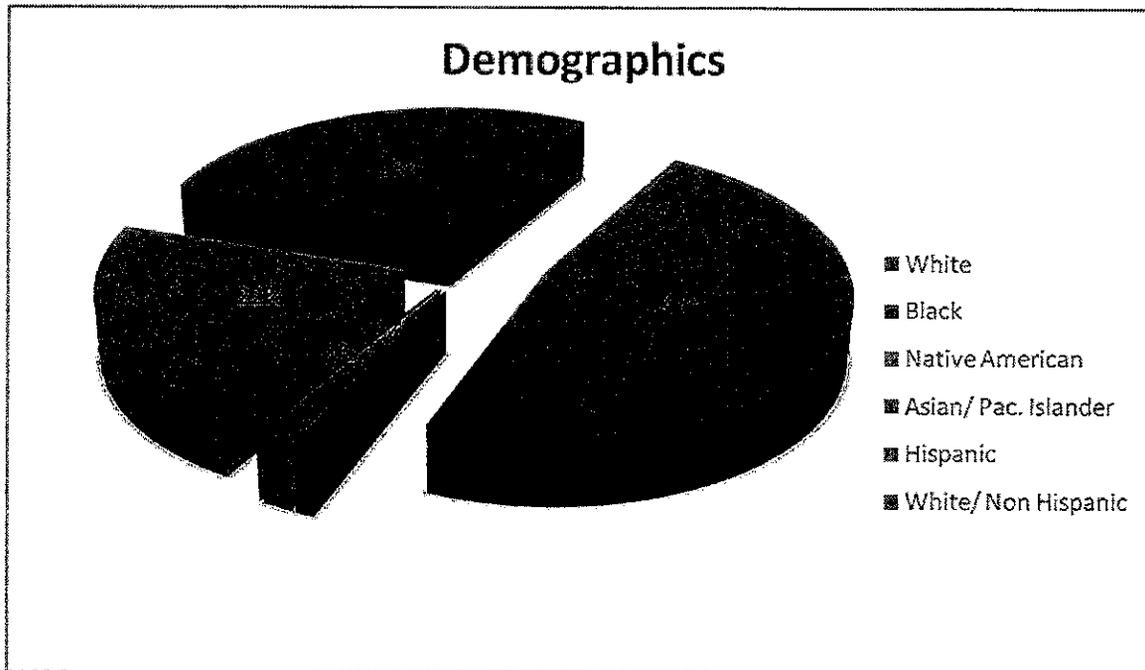
Private Schools in Colfax County: Howells Community Catholic Schools, Howells; St. John Neumann Elementary School, Clarkson.

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Demographics: White (2011) 93.4 %
Black (2011) 1.7%
Native American (2011) 2.9%
Asian/Pacific Islander (2011) .05%
White (2011) 93.4%

White Statistic Breakdown:

Hispanic Descent (2011) 42.3%
Caucasian (2011) 55.8%

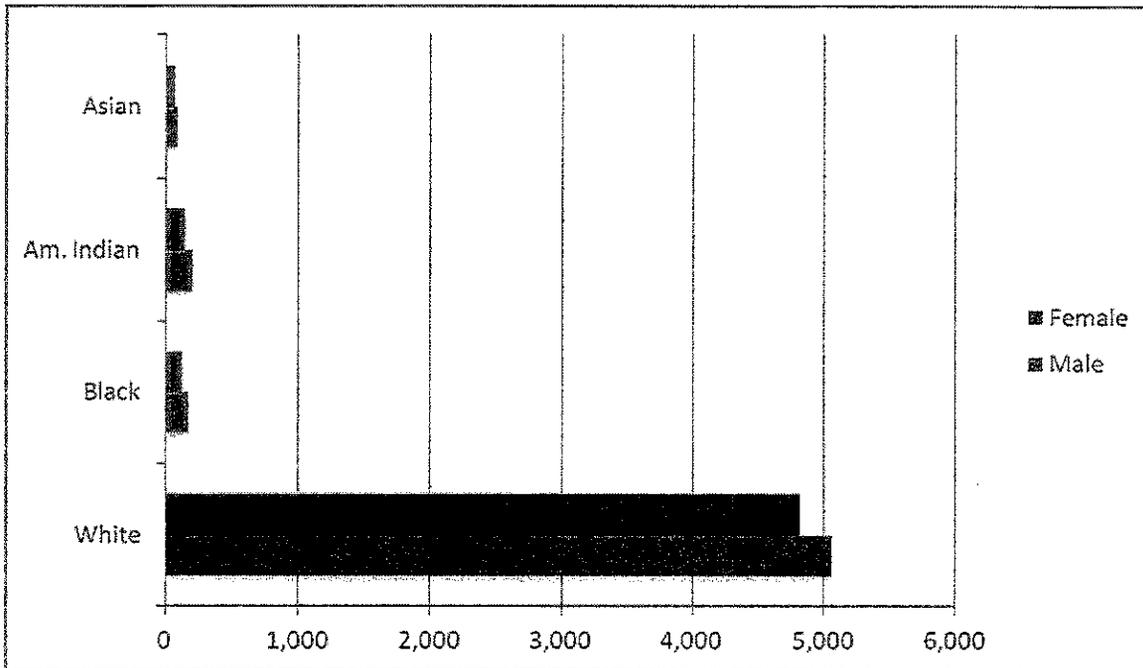


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2012 Population Ages 7-18 Breakdown

	White	Black	Am. Indian	Asian	Total
Male	5,065	166	197	87	5,515
Female	4,818	123	137	60	5,138
Total	9,883	289	334	147	10,652

(Pazzanchera, C., Sladky, A. and Kang, W. (2013). "Easy Access to Juvenile Populations: 1990-2012." Online. Available: <http://ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezapop/>)

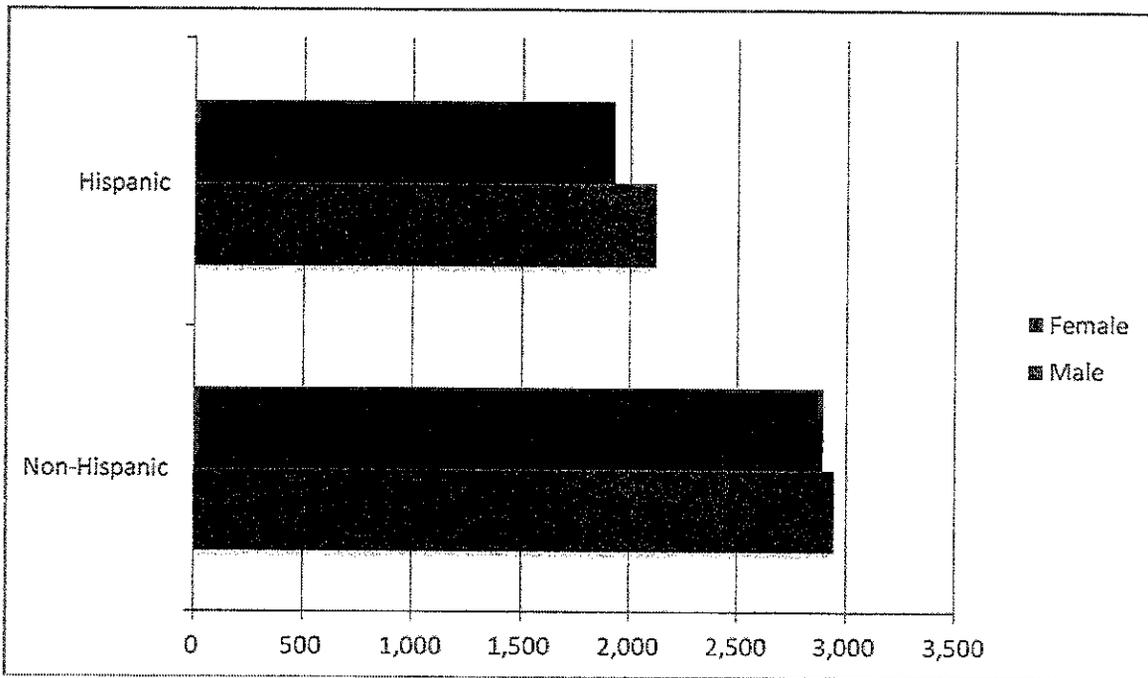


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2012 Colfax County Youth Ethnicity Population Estimates for Youth Ages 7-17

	Non-Hispanic	Hispanic
Male	2,945	2,120
Female	2,890	1,928
Total	5,835	4,048

(Source: Unites States Census Bureau. "Quick Facts." Online. Available: <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/31/31037.html>)



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**Percentage of Colfax County Households that speak other than English in the home,
2009-2013: 40.6%**

(Source: Unites States Census Bureau. "Quick Facts." Online. Available:
<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/31/31037.html>)

Percentage of Persons Living Below Poverty Level- 2008-2012: 17.1%

(Source: Unites States Census Bureau. "Quick Facts." Online. Available:
<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/31/31037.html>)

Population 2014 Estimate: Colfax County- 10,504

Population 2013 Estimate: Colfax County- 10,406
(<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/31/31037.html>)

Population 2010 Estimate: Schuyler- 6,143
(<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/31/3144035.html>)

Persons under 5 years, 2013 Colfax County 8.7%
(<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/31/31037.html>)

Persons under 5 years Schuyler-2010 11.5%
(<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/31/3144035.html>)

Persons under 18 years, 2013 Colfax County 29.4%
(<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/31/31037.html>)

Persons under 18 Years, 2010 Schuyler 33.8%
(<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/31/3144035.html>)

Persons 65 years and older and over, in 2013 Colfax County 13.4%
(<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/31/31037.html>)

Persons 65 years and older and over, 2010 Schuyler 9.7%
(<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/31/3144035.html>)

2013 Female Population in Colfax County 48.3%
(<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/31/31037.html>)

2010 Female Population in Schuyler 48.7%
(<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/31/3144035.html>)

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2013 Colfax County Population Statistics

2013 Population that Identified Themselves as White Alone, Colfax County (http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/31/31037.html)	91.6%
2013 Black or African American alone, percent, 2013, Colfax County (http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/31/31037.html)	2.6%
2013 Population that Identified Themselves as American Indian and Alaska Native Colfax County (http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/31/31037.html)	3.3%
2013 Population that Identified Themselves as Asian, Colfax County (http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/31/31037.html)	0.9%
2013 Population that Identified Themselves as Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, Colfax County (http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/31/31037.html)	0.5%
2013 Two or More Races, percent, Colfax County (http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/31/31037.html)	1.1%
2013 Hispanic or Latino, percent, Colfax County (http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/31/31037.html)	43.1%

2010 Schuyler Population Statistics

2010 Population that Identified Themselves as White Alone, Schuyler (http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/31/3144035.html)	56.7%
2010 Population that Identified Themselves as Black or African American alone, Schuyler (http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/31/3144035.html)	1.3%
2010 Population that Identified Themselves as American Indian and Alaska Native alone, Schuyler (http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/31/3144035.html)	1.7%
2010 Population that Identified Themselves as Asian Alone, Schuyler (http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/31/3144035.html)	0.2%
2010 Population that Identified Themselves as Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone, Schuyler	0%

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2010 Population that Identified Themselves as Two or More Races, Schuyler **3%**
(<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/31/3144035.html>)

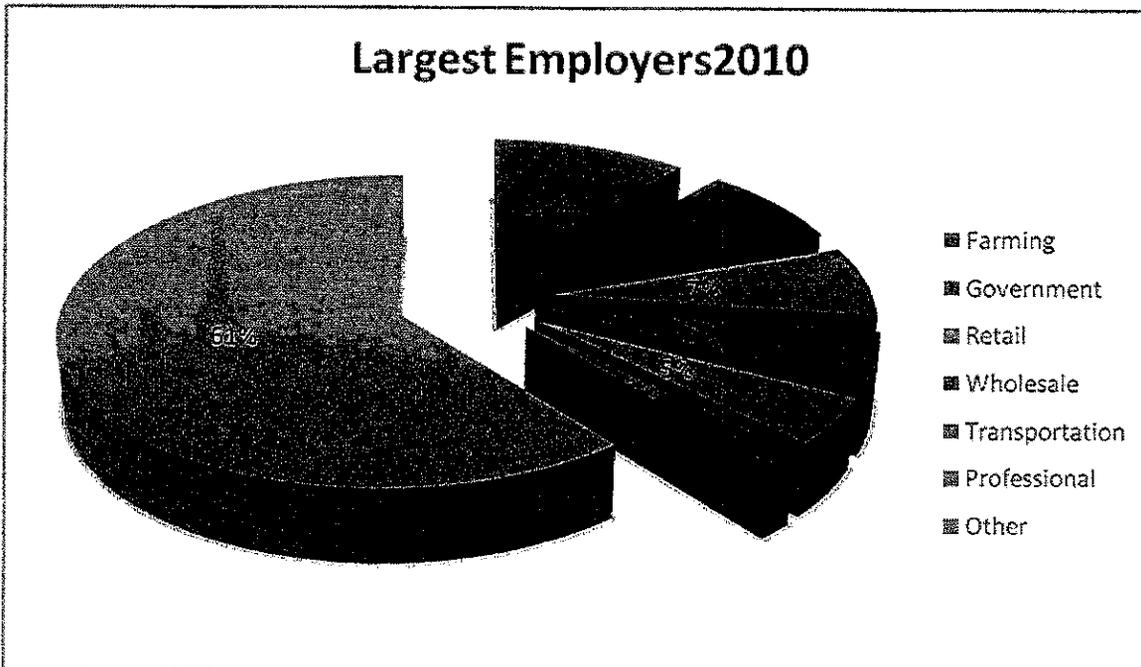
2010 Hispanic or Latino, Schuyler **65.4%**
(<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/31/3144035.html>)

2013 Residents who Identify Themselves as White, Not Hispanic or Latino, Colfax County **54.2%**
(<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/31/31037.html>)

2013 Residents who Identify Themselves as White, Not Hispanic or Latino, Schuyler **32.5%**
(<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/31/3144035.html>)

Economics: Median Household Incomes (2012) 48,561

Largest Employers 2010	Farming	759	11.3%
	Government	564	8.4%
	Retail	496	7.4%
	Wholesale	367	5.4%
	Transportation	330	4.9%
	Professional	114	1.7%
	Other		60.9%



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**2014-2015 Fisher's 24 Rural School Students who Qualified for
Free and Reduced School Lunches:**

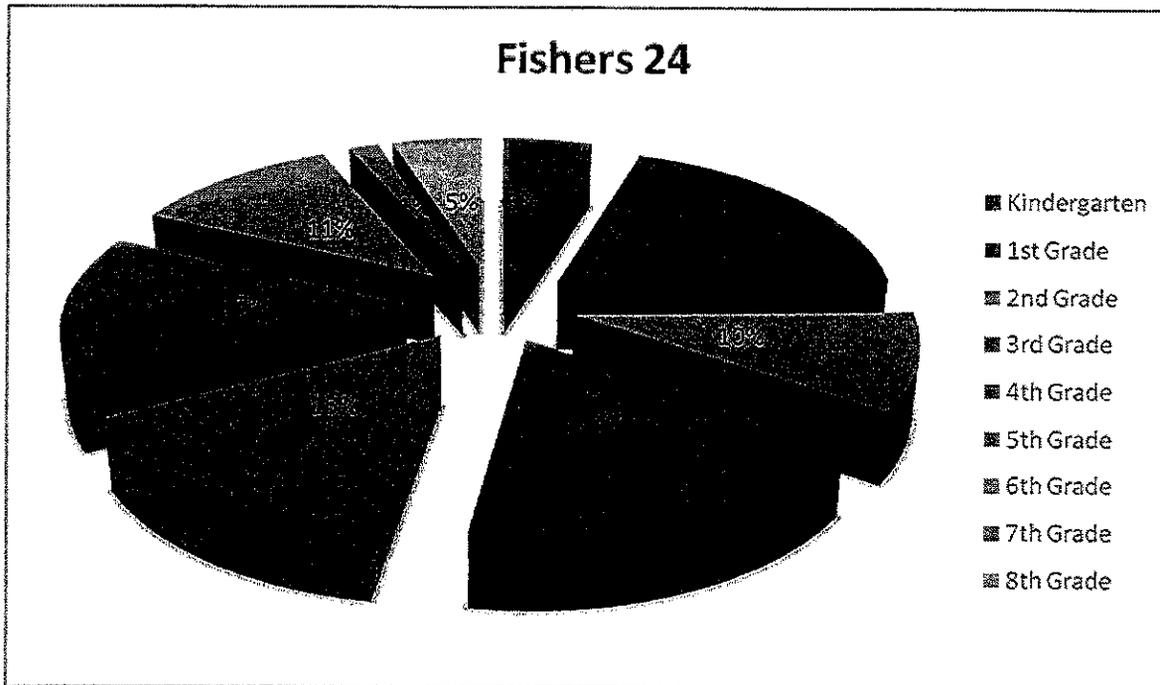
K=3 6th=7
1st= 12 7th=1
2nd=6 8th=3
3rd=11 Total-20
4th=9
5th=9

Total number of students at Fischer's 24 Rural School: 67

Total number of students at Fischer's 24 Rural School that Qualify: 20

Percentage of students that qualify for free and reduced lunch: 30%

(Source: Schuyler Community Schools Data Collection)



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**2014-2015 Richland Rural School Students who Qualified for
Free and Reduced School Lunches**

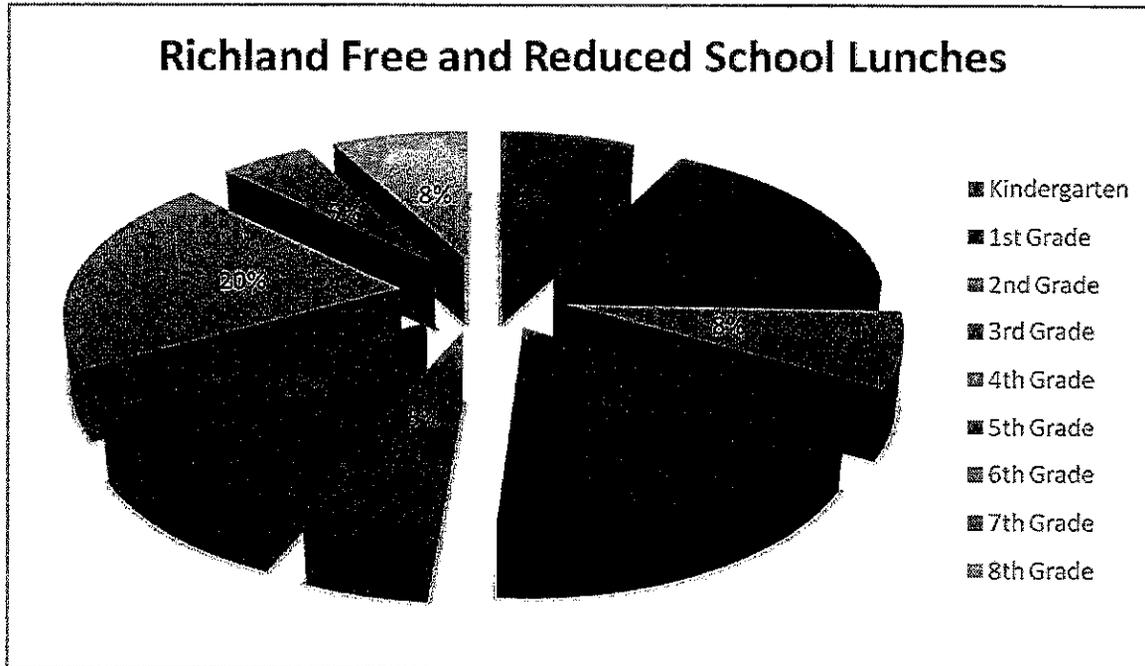
K=3 6th=8
1st= 7 7th=2
2nd=3 8th=3
3rd=7 Total-12
4th=2
5th=4

Total number of students at Richland Rural School: 36

Total number of students at Fischer’s 24 Rural School that Qualify: 12

Percentage of students that qualify for free and reduced lunch: 33%

(Source: Schuyler Community Schools Data Collection)



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**2014-2015 Schuyler Middle School Students who Receive
Free and Reduced School Lunches:**

Total number of students at SMS: 367

Total number of students at SMS that Qualify: 308

Percentage of students that qualify for free and reduced lunch: 84%

(Source: Schuyler Community Schools Data Collection)

**2014-2015 Schuyler Central High School Students who Receive
Free and Reduced School Lunches:**

Total number of students at SCHS: 492

Total number of students at SCHS that Qualify: 378

Percentage of students that qualify for free and reduced lunch: 77%

(Source: Schuyler Community Schools Data Collection)

**Identified Priority Areas
& Corresponding Strategies**

ACTION PRIORITY AREAS

Priority #1: Diversion

ISSUE 1: The Team believes that there are actions our community can take even after a juvenile has been accused of breaking the law, which will be beneficial to both the juvenile and the community as a whole. Team members recognize that, based on current studies swift and concise action when a juvenile has initially been caught committing a criminal act can significantly decrease the likelihood of that juvenile offending again. The Team also recognizes that is moving toward more evidence-based practices to increase a juvenile's chances at success in the Diversion Program.

The Colfax County Community Team believes that there are actions that our community can take even after a juvenile has been accused of breaking the law, which will be beneficial to both the juvenile and the community as a whole. Team members recognize that, based on current studies, swift and concise action when a juvenile has initially been caught committing a criminal act can significantly decrease the likelihood of that juvenile offending again. The Team also recognizes that moving towards more evidence-based practices to increase a juvenile's chances at success in the Diversion Program.

DATA: The Diversion Program began approximately six years ago and serves approximately 40 to 50 juveniles annually. The current Diversion Program uses evidence-based tools such as the YLS, the EARL, the Arizona Risk Assessment Instrument and Why Try. In the last year the Diversion Program also partnered with local resources such as the Center for Survivors Domestic Violence Shelter in Columbus, Nebraska to create and present a Health Relationships class to all Diversion participants as well as a Responsible Decision Making Class which is offered on a quarterly basis in Schuyler. In 2013 47 juveniles were referred to Diversion out of 105 juvenile court filings (source: JDCMS and the Nebraska Crime Commission Website). It should be noted that it is unknown whether the juvenile court filing data includes 3(a) or abuse and neglect cases as well as law violations.

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Current Diversion statistics for Colfax County youth who were enrolled in Diversion from July, 2013 to July, 2014 is as follows:

Total Enrolled in Diversion from July 31, 2013 to July 1, 2014:

47 youth (100%)

Successful completion with no new law enforcement contacts as of 12/31/2014:

37 youth (79%)

Successful completion with a new law violation within 6 months after completion:

3 youth (6%)

Successful completion with a new law violation within 1 year after completion:

1 youth (2%)

Successful completion with a new law violation over 1 year after completion:

1 youth (2%)

Number of youth with a new law violation while on Diversion

5 youth (11%)

Source: Colfax County Diversion statistics and data search by the Colfax County Attorney's Office dated December 31, 2014

The Colfax County Community Team believes that the number of youth in detention is decreasing as a result of pre-adjudication deterrent programs such as Diversion. According to the Northeast Juvenile Detention Center in Madison, Nebraska the number of Colfax County youth housed in their facility is down from a high of 17 youth in 2012 to 7 youth held in detention in 2013 and 8 youth held in detention in 2014. The Community Team believes that keeping youth in the community and in school is a much better alternative than placing them in detention.

TIMELINE:

Year 1:

- A. Improve equipment and training for Diversion personnel
- B. Decrease time between law enforcement contact and contact from the County Attorney's Office or Diversion Personnel with juvenile offenders.
- C. Seek and implement more evidence based practices and curriculum.
- D. Seek out and find better assessment tools to help better assess the level of needs and strengths that youth in the diversion program have.
- E. Promote healthy and respectful relationships between peers and prevent abusive dating relationships.

Year 2

- A. Increase the number of community resources to help families who are in crisis.
- B. Increase the number of services or resources for families who are struggling with mental health or substance abuse issues (issues of either parent, child, caregiver, or others living in the home).

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Year 3:

- A. Hire a full time Diversion Coordinator and Diversion Officer.
- B. Continue to seek out and find funding sources to send Diversion Officers to training and educational opportunities.
- C. Have all personnel trained in the most up-to-date juvenile intake and evaluation tools.
- D. Increase the knowledge of youth regarding the power of positive and negative decisions in their lives.

Goals to be accomplished per our Community Plan:

- A. Promote healthy and respectful relationships between peers and prevent abusive dating relationships (see explanation below).
- B. Decrease the amount of violence between youth in the Colfax County Area
- C. Increase evidence based practices
- D. Increase the amount of data collected regarding Diversion and its success

RESOURCES REQUIRED: Evidence Based Training Opportunities that are Financially Reasonable; Cooperation from local stakeholders such as: Nebraska State Patrol or Nebraska Attorney General's Office Presenters Regarding Internet Awareness, County Attorney's Office, Schools, Parents, Center for Survivors (Juvenile Advocate Personnel); Community Support; Educational Opportunities for Youth to Increase Knowledge in Areas Such as Bullying, Healthy Relationships, and Responsible Decision Making; Service Providers; and Local Health District.

Further, The Team is also seeking new and better youth offender assessment tools, location of and funding for training and education opportunities for both youth as well as diversion officers, and seeking new and better services and resources for families who are struggling with mental health and substance abuse issues because these struggles directly affect our youth. Better communication between law enforcement, the county attorney's office and diversion offices will be needed to decrease the time between law enforcement contact and contact with youth by diversion officers or the county attorney's office. Finally, The Team would like any assistance possible in collecting data to show that the methods currently employed are making an impact or suggestions as to how to better make an impact among Colfax County youth.

EXPECTED RESULTS: The Team hopes to decrease the time between law enforcement contact and then having follow up contact from the County Attorney's Office or diversion officers. Further, the Team hopes to increase the percentage of youth that successfully complete diversion or and increase the number of juveniles who do not reoffend after completing diversion.

Priority #2: School Based Programs & Education/ Truancy

ISSUE 1: Team members recognize that the schools are the front line in the effort to prevent and reduce juvenile delinquency issues. Colfax County Schools and especially Schuyler schools lack the resources to properly address school related delinquency issues and/or contributing factors i.e. truancy, lack of parental involvement, lack of student participation, and gang related behaviors. One of the most important and significant ways to keep students out of the criminal justice system is to make sure they are attending school regularly. The number of students who are regularly truant or habitually tardy from school has risen in Colfax County in the last five years. Lack of parental involvement is also a problem that has reoccurred in the Colfax County Schools. Team members believe that a school resource officer or a truancy officer is an important of the delinquency prevention team and can provide a missing link in the chain of communication between a child's school life and home life.

The goal of the truancy officer or school resource officer is to have a dedicated person whose job it would be to make contact with parents and students when students are struggling to get to school on time or struggling to get to school at all. An additional goal of the truancy officer or school resources officer is to help families identify the barriers that are preventing a student or students from getting to school on time and provide referrals to local resources in an effort to eliminate those barriers. The school resource officer would ideally have access to the school's Infinite Campus computer system to log when he or she has contact with students, the nature of the contact, the barriers to education, and solutions offered to the families regarding those barriers. It is the goal of the Team that the school resources officer will work with families in a spirit of cooperation and assistance and in less of an adversarial or enforcement role.

DATA

The Colfax County Truancy Program was created in 2013. Since its inception the truancy program has contacts, monitors and works with an average of 189 students per week. The Schuyler Community School System alone serves 1,967 children as of January 5, 2015 (source: Schuyler Middle School). Truancy can often be directly correlated to students eventually dropping out of high school. Historically Schuyler Central High School has the largest problem with truancy and drop-outs in Colfax County. According to the Nebraska Department of Education 2013-14 State of the Schools Report:

Years	Average drop out rate for schools in Nebraska	Average Drop out rate for Schuyler Community Schools
2012-13	1.05%	2.25%
2013-14	1.11	2.44%

Finally, another challenge for many of the parents and guardians of children who attend school at the Colfax County schools is an innate distrust of any form of governmental authority including the public school system. According to the 2012 Schuyler Housing Assessment

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(www.SchuylerNebraska.net) and the United States Census, 1990, 2000, 2010 the number of Foreign Born residents has increased significantly in Schuyler:

The Team defines a student missing 12 percent or more of school as a significant truancy issue. From August of 2014 through December of 2014 the truancy program worked intensely with a core group of 19 Schuyler Central students with significant truancy issues. During that time 63% of students improved their attendance.

The Team believes that home visits and regular interaction with truancy staff will decrease the amount of fear some parents have of schools and increases a child's knowledge that if he or she skips school that the Truancy Officer will come looking for them has decreased the truancy rates at all of the schools the Truancy Officer is working with.

TIMELINE:

Year 1:

- A. Improve equipment and training for truancy personnel, specifically training the truancy officer with the same training as new teachers receive so that the truancy officer can understand and assist educators at all levels in the school systems.
- B. Decrease contact between law enforcement and students who are truant from school – giving the truancy officer and school officials opportunities to handle truancy issues before the student is drawn into the juvenile justice system.
- C. Work with the local schools to create a full-time truancy position

Year 2

- A. Increase knowledge and awareness by truancy officer, school officials, parents and the public on the importance of understanding how traumatic events in a child's life affects them and increasing trauma informed care.
- B. Increase knowledge and training for the truancy officer, school personnel, and the public's knowledge of the effects of domestic violence on youth and families in Colfax County.
- C. Increase understanding of truancy officer, school personnel and the public in their ability to identify dating violence and bullying as it occurs in and outside of schools.

Year 3

- A. Hire a full time diversion officer who can work with local law enforcement and school officials to identify at risk and truancy cases before they occur.
- B. Obtain additional resources for truancy officers to help parents and families who are experiencing immediate crisis.

RESOURCES REQUIRED: Community commitment, matching funds, identification of training opportunities in person and technology-based training. Further cooperation from local schools, the Colfax County Attorney's Office, local law enforcement, the Colfax County LB1184 Team, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, District 5 Probation, the Diversion Officers and local community stakeholders. Finally, parental involvement, parental support, public involvement, coordination with local mental health and substance abuse providers, and

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support from local agencies such as Professional Partners, Center for Survivors, etc. are keys to the truancy program success.

EXPECTED RESULTS:

1. Increase the amount of home visits and home contacts with students and parents in their home environment to decrease fear of authority figures especially among our minority communities.
2. Hiring an individual to work with students and families to eliminate barriers to children getting to school each day.
3. Decrease the amount of absent, truant, and tardy students in Colfax County.
4. Decrease the number of juveniles truant from school.
5. Decrease the number of juveniles involved in the juvenile justice system.
6. Communicate with and reach out to parents who are hesitant to work with school personnel and facilitate more one-on-one meetings between parents and school officials.
7. Increase the number of parents who are involved in their child's school experience.

**PRIORITY AREA #3: Increased Family Involvement
(The Challenge of Single-Parent Led Families in Colfax County)**

ISSUE 1: The Team believes that our county has experienced a significant disconnect between the family unit and the community. This disconnect is directly affecting our youth, youth success in school and law enforcement violations in the community. Colfax County has seen a significant rise in single parent households and many families living below the poverty line.

DATA: Schuyler Middle school currently serves 367 students; 308 of those students, or 84% of students qualify for free and reduced lunch making their family income at or near the federal poverty line. (These numbers were directly provided by Schuyler Middle School on November 24, 2014.) According to the 2013-2014 Nebraska Department of Education State of Schools Report during the school years 2012-2013 the average school in Nebraska provided 44.18% of its students free or reduced price lunch. For that same period, 2012-2013, 62.68% of children in the Schuyler Community Schools qualified for free/reduced lunch.

According to Nebraska Department of Education statistics just 70% of the population in Colfax County has a high school degree or GED equivalent compared to 90.5% of the population throughout the State of Nebraska. The Community Team believes that poverty is a major reason why students are unable or unwilling to attend school; for example many older male sons of single mothers choose to quit school and begin working so that they can help their mothers support their younger siblings. In support of that theory the Community Team located the data which confirmed that the number of single-parent households has increased dramatically in Colfax County over the last decade. According to the United States Census examining Family Households with Children under 18 (2000-2012):

	<u>2000</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>Change From 2000-2012</u>
Number of Single Parent Households with children under 18	215	461	+114.4%
Number of married couple family households with children under 18	1,173	985	- 16%

According to the U.S. Census Bureau the median household income (2012) was:

Schuyler	Colfax County	State of Nebraska
\$43,073	\$48,561	\$51,381

Schuyler Central High School currently has 492 students; 379 of those students, or 77% of students qualify for free or reduced lunch making their family income at or near the federal poverty line. (These numbers were directly provided by Schuyler Central High School on May 14, 2015.) According to the 2013-2014 Nebraska Department of Education State of Schools Report during the school year 2012-2013 the average school in Nebraska provided 44.18% of its

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students free or reduced price lunch. For that same period, 2012-2013, 62.68% of children in the Schuyler Community Schools qualified for free/reduced lunches.

These Free and Reduced Program numbers are a stark contrast from Schuyler Community Schools data ten years ago:

School Year	Percentage of Schuyler Community Schools Students Who Qualify for Free & Reduced Lunch
2003-2004	45.65%
2013-2014	73.77%

(Source: Nebraska Department of Education: Nebraska State of the Schools Report for 2013-2014)

TIMELINE

Year 1:

- A. Provide positive family-based activities and support to single parents and children of single parents through school and other community based activities.
- B. To allow greater attendance at supportive family-based events where meals and child care will be provided for younger children.
- C. Asking for donations from the community to help to defray the cost of meals for these community-based events.

Year 2

- A. Increasing the number of community-based resources for single parents, especially single mothers.
- B. Locating and making available to parents and families in crisis more immediate services to allow youth to remain in the home and to enable parents to handle their children without the need to remove youth from the home.
- C. Develop criteria to identify single-parent families, collect data regarding single-parent families and assist single-parent families to be more active in their local schools.
- D. Bringing together more local resources and resources from outside of the community to inform and educate the public about youth-related issues and to help and support families in times of crisis or challenges.

Year 3

- A. Hiring a coordinator to assist parents in dealing with juveniles who are in crisis and to help prevent the youth from reaching crisis levels.

RESOURCES REQUIRED: Cooperation from local school districts, cooperation from parents, coordination with local service providers, coordination of crisis intervention teams, District 5 Probation, Region IV assistance, support of our partners on the LB1184 Team.

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EXPECTED RESULTS: One goal is to make parents, especially single parents, feel supported by their community and to empower all parents to care for their families. Further, The Team hopes to provide a community of support for single parents to work together and support each other to improve the lives of local youth. Finally, The Team hopes to improve the lives of our local students and children so that no child feels as though he or she has a network of caring and supportive adults in their lives.

PRIORITY AREA #4: Substance/Dual Diagnosis
Transportation to and from treatment

ISSUE 1: Substance abuse is a problem in Colfax County. In addition many of our youth begin to experience the first onset of mental illness during their teenage years. The Team is unaware of any substance abuse or mental health specialists who currently treat patients in Colfax County. The closest mental health and substance abuse treatment that a youth can obtain is either in Columbus, Nebraska (20 minutes away by car) or in Fremont, Nebraska (40 minutes away by car). One bilingual substance abuse counselor was practicing in Colfax County one day per week but that counselor has since suspended his practice.

DATA: The Community Team has had a more difficult time compiling information for this section. We requested information from District Five Probation and learned the following numbers related to juveniles on probation in Colfax County:

Year	Number of Probationers Drug/Alcohol Tested	Number of Positive Drug/Alcohol Tests Or Admissions	Percentage of Positive Tests Or Admissions
2013	133	28	21%
2014	83	17	20%

Colfax County would like to pursue better data collection to strengthen the amount of data that we have on this particular subject. The Team knows that there are currently no substance abuse providers or mental health providers who practice in Colfax County.

TIMELINE:

Year 1:

- A. The Community Team will designate a liaison to represent the Community Team on the local behavioral health advisory counsel currently sponsored by CHI Alegant Creighton Hospital, Schuyler to increase the number of mental health and substance abuse providers in Colfax County.
- B. The Team will work on a public relations campaign to change and decrease the stigma of mental health illness and substance abuse.

Year 2:

- A. The Community Team would like to create a voucher system that will allow school officials as well as diversion officers and other service providers a mechanism to get juveniles and families not currently involved in the juvenile justice system help with counseling, evaluations, and treatment.
- B. Design a voucher system that will transport juveniles and their families to and from treatment or counseling.

Year 3:

- A. Attract and recruit former mental health and substance abuse providers back to Colfax County.

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RESOURCES REQUIRED: Parties willing to provide mental health and/or substance abuse treatment services, parties willing to provide transportation for youth and parents who do not have access to their own transportation to and from evaluation and appointments.

EXPECTED RESULTS: Make families in all socio-economic area of Colfax County aware of opportunities for treatment for mental illness and substance abuse issues, remove stigma of mental illness and substance abuse.

**PRIORITY AREA #5:
Intentional Selection of Juvenile Justice as a Career /
Prevention services and Teacher Education**

ISSUE 1: The Team believes that in order to strengthen our community and the juvenile justice resources of Colfax County that Colfax County needs to grow future juvenile justice resources at home. The Team envisions shaping young leaders in our communities to become educated in the juvenile justice field. Ideally those young leaders would then return back to Colfax County and become juvenile justice leaders in areas like probation, diversion, law enforcement or possibly working in the education field.

DATA

The District 5 Probation Office opened a permanent office in Schuyler, Colfax County, Nebraska in 1999. At that time two full time probation officers and one support staff were hired to staff the office. One probation officer handled what was then known as “traditional” probation which included all juveniles, adults, misdemeanors and felons. That traditional probation officer handled all pre-sentence reports to the county courts and limited pre-sentence reports to the district courts. District 5 probation covers 11 counties. The traditional probation officer regularly carried one of the highest caseloads, if not the highest caseloads, in the entire probation district. The other probation officer was an intensive supervision probation (“ISP”) officer. That ISP officer handled higher-risk cases. The traditional probation officer lived in Colfax County before they were hired for that position. The traditional probation officer worked in Colfax County for five years, from 1999 to 2004 before leaving to pursue higher educational opportunities. Since 2004 Colfax County has seen over seven (7) juvenile probation officers pass through the same office. One of the probation officers that was hired had ties to Colfax County before she was employed by the District 5 probation. The Team believes that if Colfax County can cultivate future juvenile justice leaders who have ties to Colfax County that those future leaders will invest more in Colfax County, will understand the dynamics of Colfax County better and will tend to stay in Colfax County providing stability for youth services for longer periods of time.

Goals to be Accomplished:

- A. Survey the juvenile population of Colfax County to better understand current trends and opinions regarding jobs working with youth to gain an understanding of current opinions and feelings about adults working in the juvenile justice field.
- B. Survey the juvenile population of Colfax County to better understand current trends and opinions regarding jobs working with youth to gain an understanding of current opinions and feelings about being future employment in a juvenile justice field, preferably in Colfax County.
- C. Survey the juvenile population of Colfax County to better understand what jobs the youth of Colfax County would aspire to have and why they aspire to those jobs.
- D. Survey youth and current employees in the juvenile justice and law enforcement field to see how The Team can better engage current employees in the juvenile justice and law enforcement field to interact with youth interested in working in the juvenile justice field in the future.

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- E. Survey current Colfax County teachers to see if they are willing to encourage youth to work in the juvenile justice field and/or if teachers are willing to sponsor youth in juvenile justice-related events such as a juvenile justice club.
- F. Once the surveys are completed and data collected the Team would work with local educators to try and create an environment that encourages all youth to increase their knowledge base about future jobs in juvenile justice, specifically opportunities in Colfax County.
- G. The Team would also like to work with local schools to increase awareness of juvenile justice as a potential employment field for local youth. Specifically working with counselors and teachers to encourage them to implement juvenile justice clubs.
- H. One of the key goals for The Team is to encourage students who may be considered “on the fringe” or students that educators have identified as perhaps starting down a negative path to enter the juvenile justice clubs. The goal of these surveys and clubs is to provide positive role models to youth who may be struggling.

STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVED: Colfax County Attorney’s Office, Members of the Community Team, Members of the Colfax County Community, All Colfax County Schools that serve students ages 13 and over, District 5 Probation, Local Law Enforcement, Local Courts, Students and Parents.

TIMELINE:

Year 1:

- A. Obtain funding and technical assistance for surveys to youth about juvenile justice jobs and issues (goal time period: fiscal year 2017)
- B. Obtain commitments from local schools to support juvenile justice surveys (goal time period: fiscal year 2017)
- C. Identify groups/individuals/organizations to complete juvenile justice, law enforcement and stakeholder surveys (goal time period: fiscal year 2017)

Year 2:

- A. Identify groups to compile data from surveys (goal time period: fiscal year 2017)
- B. Implement suggestions and/or youth clubs, education, and opportunities (goal time period: fiscal year 2018)

Year 3:

- A. Identify field trip locations and speakers to come into Colfax County to encourage youth to consider jobs in the juvenile justice field.
- B. Identify people in Colfax County who are willing to bring youth into their juvenile justice place of work or allow youth who are not court-involved to be positive role models to other children in the community.

RESOURCES REQUIRED: Cooperation from local schools, law enforcement, the courts, and County Attorney’s Office. The Team would also like to involve higher-level learning institutions like community colleges, state colleges and universities in educating students in Colfax County about programs which are available to students interested in working in the juvenile justice field.

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EXPECTED RESULTS: The Team hopes to encourage Colfax County youth to consider or pursue jobs in the juvenile justice field in Colfax County. The Team hopes to use these activities as an opportunity to not only serve youth who are interested in the juvenile justice field but also to give youth who may be demonstrating more criminalist behaviors an organization where they can belong and have more positive role models. An additional goal is to show Colfax County youth that they can make a difference in their own community.

ORGANIZATIONAL PRIORITY AREAS:

PRIORITY AREA #6: Data Collection

ISSUE: Data collection has been a significant challenge for Colfax County in the last several years. When individuals and organizations, such as the Juvenile Justice Institute would attempt to locate law enforcement data on juveniles there was none listed on the Nebraska Crime Commission websites. There is no penalty or punishment for law enforcement agencies that do not report their data regularly. Further, The Team would also like to implement a system of surveys and other means of collecting data which will strengthen and focus the goals of this community plan and future grant applications.

DATA: Colfax County Diversion and Truancy programs regularly report their cases and numbers to the Nebraska Crime Commission and use the Nebraska Crime Commission databases. Colfax County has very little additional data to provide for this section.

TIMELINE:

Year 1:

- A. Research the types of data which are most beneficial to The Team to determine how grant dollars can be put to the most efficient use in Colfax County.
- B. Communicate with local law enforcement and the Nebraska Crime Commission to see where the breakdown in communication of data is happening.
- C. Consult with agencies such as the Juvenile Justice Institute, Nebraska Crime Commission and other counties to see how and what types of data they are collecting.

Year 2:

- A. Examine whether Colfax County could hire an individual to help collect and analyze local data.
- B. Send the person in charge of local data to other agencies or sites for training on how to most effectively collect, handle, and analyze data collection.
- C. Work with our local resources such as the local school districts and the District Five Probation District to see how they analyze and collect data.

Year 3:

- A. Use the data collected over the last two years to project trends on how the next three-year plan should be amended to create goals that will help decrease the number of youth in the juvenile justice system and decrease the number of youth in detention.

RESOURCES REQUIRED: Cooperation of local law enforcement, schools, the District Five Probation District, the Colfax County Attorney's Office and other Colfax County organizations that collect and keep youth-related data. It is also important to receive training and cooperation from other agencies that currently collect youth-related data. The Team believes that observing

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how and what other counties collect for data and how other counties analyze data will be educational for Colfax County to understand different ways that data can be used. Finally, even more important than the collection of data is the proper analysis of data. The Team would like to receive training and instruction from experts on how to properly use and analyze the Colfax County data that is collected.

EXPECTED RESULTS: Colfax County would like to use data to help create better programs and grant applications based on the needs of our community. Further, The Team would like to analyze data to not only spot trends or spikes in juvenile behaviors but also use data to eliminate programs that are not making an impact on the youth of Colfax County.

Appendix

- A. Approval Letter/Minutes from County Board