

GARFIELD, LOUP AND WHEELER COUNTIES

**JUVENILE SERVICES
COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY PLAN**

JULY 1, 2015 - June 30, 2018

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County Federal I.D. Numbers

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47-6006485

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Section II

Community Team

Community Team Members

(GLW Children's Council, Inc. Board of Directors - 2012)

The Board of Directors of *GLW Children's Council, Inc.* functions as the **Community Team**. The governing board was formed when the coalition was incorporated in 2004,. meeting monthly at a central ly located bank office in Burwell. General membership meetings open to all members and partners of the coalition as well as the general public are held quarterly. Current officers and directors are indicated below:

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In 2004 GLWCC received a federal Drug Free Community grant requiring us to formalize our Coalition membership by including 12 required sectors of the three counties/communities (in BOLD below).

The resulting Coalition follows (team members are from this group):

6 Board of directors (2 from each county - traveling 20 miles (Loup Co) and 60 miles (Wheeler county)

Staff (Director, Coordinator & Fiscal Agent)

3 School Prevention Coordinators (Hired by GLWCC at half-time positions) -one in_ each county school

1. Religious or fraternal organizations - 2 churches - youth groups

2. Civic Group - Burwell Rotary Club_

3. Youth - Youth Advisory Board, focus & listening groups from each county, 3 county 4-H members, sports teams, Burwell Youth Rodeo, Photovoice_youth

4. Parent - 2-4 parents at Board Meetings - more as volunteers

5. Business - Great Western Bank, The Hub & KC Creations

6. Media - KNLV Radio & local newspapers

7. School - Administration & 2 teachers from all 3 county schools

8. Youth Serving organizations - Garfield, Loup & Wheeler 4-H staff(educators), Calamus Kids Pre-School(Head Start), Kamp Kaleo

9. Law enforcement - 3 area law enforcement & Nebraska State Patrol

10. Healthcare - Representatives from Valley County Health Services (Hospital). 3 area doctors, 1 dentist, 1 counselor, Loup Basin Health Department.

11. Government - 3 county boards, county attorney, LB1184 Team

12. Organization involved in reducing substance abuse. - Region 3 Behavioral Health

The GLWCC Board meets 11 times a year, with at least 4 Board of Directors present and 8-12 members present. The GLWCC Director receives input for the Board by being in contact with those that cannot attend every month. She facilitates yearly Town Hall Meetings, attends the monthly youth meetings and listening and focus groups. Data is collected from the Nebraska SHARP Survey (given every other year in all three county schools to 8, 10 & 12th grades), Developmental Asset surveys (SEARCH Institute), Pre/post surveys (From science-based curricula implemented in all 3 schools). And anecdotal information from law enforcement (law enforcement gives GLWCC a report each month), school prevention coordinators and counselors and the community in general and LB!!*\$ meetings. A survey of risks, protections and priorities is taken every three years for this plan, but the GLWCC board reviews their plan, challenges and hopes each year.

To determine the scope of the project and identify the problems to be addressed, various team members and the Project Planning Director or the GLWCC Director conducted a series of listening meetings with groups representing a variety of perspectives on juvenile issues.

Meeting format varied to suit the participants. Some were chalkboard "brainstorming" sessions, while others involved more individualized questioning. Participants were asked to respond to the same question asked three years ago, *what are the most important actions*

Section III

***Juvenile Justice System Evaluation Tool
(Omitted)***

Section IV

Community Socio-Economics

Overview - The Three Counties

Garfield, Loup and Wheeler counties are located in North-Central Nebraska at the gateway to the Nebraska Sandhills. These counties share a common frontier heritage, similar ethnic origins, and a primarily agricultural economic base. Each county is nominally twenty-four miles square, so together they form a rectangular strip seventy-two miles long (East-West) and twenty four miles wide (North-South), comprising a land area of some 1,715 square miles and over a million acres.

This is farm and ranch country, and that fact is evident in the lifestyle and economic welfare of the people. Population centers are few and far between. Loup and Garfield Counties each have only a single incorporated town. Wheeler County has two. Each county is served by portions of three state highways. Railroad service ended at least three decades ago. The only functioning airport located at Burwell, in Garfield County, has no scheduled passenger or cargo transportation service.

The Calamus Reservoir is located in the counties of Garfield & Loup and within 5 miles of each town. This has brought new challenges to our communities. The Park Service is very diligent but we have received 3 Diversion applicants resulting from underage drinking within park grounds.

All three counties face static or declining populations bases, and all are experiencing economic hard times. Loup and Wheeler Counties are among the 50 poorest counties in the United States, measured by adjusted gross income reported to the Internal Revenue Service on 2010 income tax returns, and Garfield County ranks in the bottom 12 percent among Nebraska counties. Persons below poverty level in Garfield county are (13.%), Loup (25.8% and Wheeler (16%), according to the 2012 census. The three contiguous counties, composed of more than 1700 square miles are

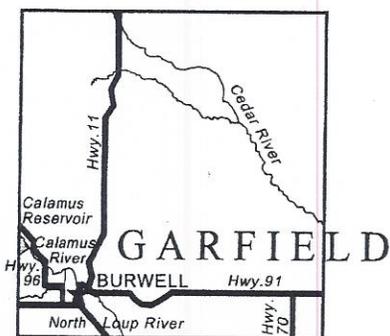
home to fewer than 3500 people, with a majority of the population concentrated in four small towns. It's a large area with a small population base and almost no private funding sources, so in order to provide essential services, we must join forces, share resources, and seek outside funding.

Residents of all three counties are almost entirely (99%) white, born in the United States, and of German, English, Irish and Czech ancestry. Nearly all speak only English at home. As in other rural communities, the population appears to be aging, with median age for both sexes ranges from 40.4 years in Wheeler County to 42.9 in Loup, to 45.9 in Garfield. Median ages in towns are somewhat higher. The shrinking economy and competition from larger population centers has resulted in business closings and fewer available jobs.

The three communities have a long history of forming coalitions and cooperative efforts, bringing together local governments, businesses, schools, civic and youth groups, and faith-based organizations to focus on solving problems and providing services. This long history of collaboration is especially noticed in the 3-Year Juvenile Plans that have been written since 2003 for the combined counties!

Each county supports a public school system consisting of a high school and one or more elementary schools. There are no established private or parochial schools, although a few children are home-schooled. None of the counties is served by any form of public transportation.

Garfield County



Land Area: 570 square miles
Population (1990): 2,141
County Seat: Burwell
County Clerk Address: P.O. Box 218, Burwell, NE 68823, phone (308) 346-4161
Town and Population (1990): Burwell, 1,278.
Public School Districts: Burwell Elementary School, Burwell; Burwell Junior-Senior High School, Burwell; District 70-Garfield County, Burwell; Midvale Public School, Burwell; Richland Public School, Burwell; Riverview Public School, Burwell; Rosehill Public School, Burwell.

Originally a part of Wheeler County, Garfield county was established as a separate legal entity in 1884. Named for assassinated U.S. President James A. Garfield, it is centrally located between Loup County on the west and Wheeler County on its eastern border. Located at the junction of the Calamus and North Loup Rivers, the county seat of Burwell lies at the intersection of State Highways 11 and 91 and the recently designated Highway 96, which runs along the north shore of the Calamus Reservoir.

Population

According to census figures, the county's estimated total population in 2014 was 2,003, an decrease of 2.2%, at least a 40% decline since 1940. The population density is now 3.6 persons per square mile. Ladies outnumber gentlemen, with 50.6 percent females vs. 49.4 percent males. Fifty-seven percent of the population, or 1,142 souls, live in Burwell, the county seat.

Industry and Employment

Cattle ranching and farming operations have long been the backbone of the local economy. The Burwell Livestock Market has been an important center for cattle sales for decades. Census figures indicate a total of 204 non-employer business establishments and 93 private non-farm businesses employing 578 workers in the

county. Local government entities employed 126 in 1999. Of 102 families with children under the age of six, 84.3 percent reported that all parents in the family were in the labor force.

Tourism

Since construction of the nearby Virginia Smith Dam and Calamus Reservoir was completed in 1985, tourism and recreation have become increasingly important to the local economy, as the area seeks to attract visitors to enjoy lake and river activities and visit historical sites such as nearby Fort Hartsuff, in adjoining Valley County. Nebraska's Big Rodeo, a four-day event held during the county fair every summer, draws visitors from many states.

Wage and Income Levels

Family income levels in Garfield County are relatively low. Census figures, which include families not required to file tax returns, put 2010 median household income for Burwell residents at \$41,892. Average adjusted gross income reported on federal tax returns filed in 2000 was \$22,092, placing Garfield County among the poorest Nebraska counties. Wage earners in the county fared even worse, ranking in the bottom two percent with average wages and salaries of \$15,998.

Standard of Living

In 1999, 9.7 percent of the overall population and 13.7% percent of families with children under five years of age were living below the federally determined poverty level, compared with a statewide average of 12.2% percent. A new study released in November, 2002 by the Nebraska Appleseed Center for Law in the Public Interest introduces a Self-Sufficiency Standard which documents the cost of living which families must meet to live independently, without public or private assistance. The study concludes that "for most parents, earnings that are well above the official poverty level are nevertheless far below what they need to meet their families' basic needs." For Garfield county, the study estimates that a single adult needs a wage of \$5.61 per hour,

or \$11,845 annually, to meet this standard of self-sufficiency. For an adult with an infant and a preschooler, the standard rises to \$9.96 per hour, or \$21,038 per year. Adding an additional school age child means the parent will need a \$14.59 hourly wage or \$30,819 each year to make ends meet. That figure is nearly twice the average wage in the Burwell area.

Medical Care

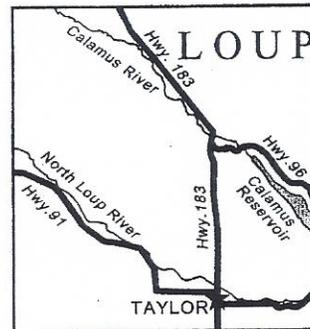
The local hospital, traditionally one of the area's largest employers, ceased operations in 1989, and the facility now houses a nursing home and assisted living center. Medical needs of residents are met by a resident physician and a satellite clinic associated with the Ord Family Health Center, located 17 miles Southeast of Burwell, in Valley County.

Education and Schools

2013 census figures show that 94 percent of the adult (over 25) population are high school graduates, and 13.8 percent have a bachelor's degree or higher. 19 percent of the population is under 18 years of age. Of 437 children over the age of three enrolled in school in 2000, 44 were attending preschool and kindergarten, 362 were enrolled in elementary or secondary schools, and 31 were college or graduate students. The county's only Junior-Senior High School and its largest elementary school are located in Burwell.

Loup County

Land Area: 570 square miles
Population (1990): 683
County Seat: Taylor
County Clerk Address: P.O. Box 187, Taylor, NE 68879, phone (308) 942-3135
Towns and Population (1990): Almeria, unincorporated; Taylor, 186.
Public School Districts: Loup County Public Schools, Taylor.



With its county seat at Taylor, located on the scenic North Loup River at the junction of State Highways 183 and 91, Loup County was formally organized in 1883, about ten years after white settlers first arrived in the area. Although settlements once existed at Kent and Almeria, Taylor is the county's only remaining village.

Population

The population of Loup County, once as high as 2,188 in 1910, dipped to 683 in 1990, and then rebounded slightly to 712 in the 2000 census, and dipped again to 632 and the 2014 estimate is 588, making Loup county the fifty least county in Nebraska and the tenth least populous in the United States. With approximately 570 square miles in the county, the population density is only 1.3 persons per square mile. Men and women both comprise 50% of the population. 207 people listed the Village of Taylor as their home in the most recent census count.

Business and Employment

Loup County residents depend upon agriculture for their livelihood. Only 8 private, non-farm businesses were left in Loup County in 2010 along with 79 non-employer establishments listed as of 2013. The county has no medical facilities. Taylor's only grocery store closed in 2001, leaving only a service station/convenience

store to serve the needs of area residents. Private non-farm employment dropped a whopping 36.8 percent from 1990 to 1999, and now there are no calculations as the amount is less than 10%, the same for people employed in private non-farm businesses in the entire county. Local government employed the equivalent of 44 full-time workers.

Wages and Income

Economic data for Loup County is not encouraging. On the basis of income and earnings, Loup residents are among the poorest in the nation. 72.7 percent of all families with children under six years of age report that all parents in the family were part of the labor force. Still, based on federal income tax returns filed in 2010, average family Adjusted Gross Income was \$18,923, placing the county in the bottom one percent in the state. Wage and salary income, averaging only \$11,753, was also in the bottom percentile. In fact, *Loup County ranked 6th from the bottom in adjusted gross income among all counties in the United States, and 4th from the bottom in wages and salaries reported to IRS in 2000.* Area news media reported that the county had the very lowest per capita income in the entire country. Low income does not mean low expenses, though. To add insult to injury for tenants, average rents and royalties ranked among the *highest* in the state, in the top three percent.

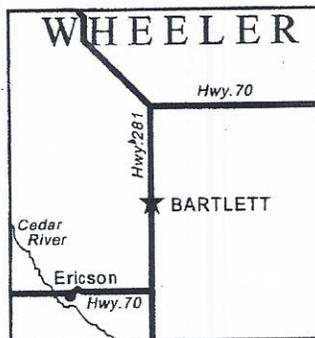
Standard of Living

In view of the previous paragraph, it may not be surprising that one in seven families (14.2%), one out of every four (25%) families with children under five years of age, and 25.8% of all residents were living below the federal poverty level in 2013. The average Loup County worker earned less than the minimum amount needed to support a single adult and barely one-third of the amount needed for a family with two children, applying 2002 Self-Sufficiency Standards established by the Nebraska Appleseed Center for Law in the Public Interest.

Education and Schools

Loup County takes pride in its public school system, although of course, enrollment numbers are low due to the small population base. A total of 168 students over the age of three were enrolled in school in 2000. Of these, 24 were attending preschool and kindergarten, 89 were in elementary school, and high school enrollment was 47. Eight students were enrolled in college or graduate school. 94.58 percent of the adult (over 25) population completed high school or higher, and 11.1 percent had earned at least a bachelor's degree.

Wheeler County



Land Area: 575 square miles
Population (1990): 948
County Seat: Bartlett
County Clerk Address: P.O. Box 127, Bartlett, NE 68622, phone (308) 654-3235
Towns and Population (1990): Bartlett, 131; Cummingsville, unincorporated; Ericson, 111.
Public School Districts: Wheeler Central Schools, Bartlett.

Originally composed of government lands including the area now known as Garfield County, Wheeler County was established in 1881. The county seat of Bartlett is located in the center of the county on State Highway 281, while the Village of Ericson lies south and west near the Cedar River on Highway 70.

Population

As in Garfield and Loup Counties to the east, the second half of the 20th Century saw declining population and disappearing towns in Wheeler County. From a high level of 2531 in 1920, the population fell below 1000 in the 1980 census, and by 2000, numbers had dwindled to 886, and by 2010 to 818, and 2013 to 766 or 1.33 persons per square mile. Just over half of all residents (50.5 percent) are male. Twenty-six percent live in two incorporated villages with 128 people making their homes in Bartlett, the county seat, while Ericson has 104 inhabitants.

Business and Employment

According to census information for the county, 21 private non-farm establishments had a total of 104 paid employees in 2013, a decline of nearly one-third since 1990. All parents in the family were in the work force in 81.2 percent of families with children under the age of six, 93 non-employer establishments were recorded in 2013. Local government provided forty-six full-time equivalent jobs. The county lacks medical facilities, and does not have a resident physician.

Wages and Income

When it comes to economic difficulty, unfortunately, Wheeler County residents have much in common with their counterparts in Loup County to the west. Federal income tax returns filed in 2000 show Wheeler County families ranked in the bottom one percent of Nebraska counties with average adjusted gross income of \$22,403, and in the bottom two percent with respect to earned income, with wages and salaries averaging \$16,625. As a result, Wheeler was number 38 of the bottom 50 U.S. Counties in the year 2000. Rural families were a bit less fortunate than their village neighbors, as 1999 median household incomes were higher in town, with Bartlett averaging \$33,250 and Ericson \$25,278. Rents and royalty levels across the county, on the other hand, were in the top five percent of Nebraska counties..

Standard of Living

Although the average 1999 wage earner in Wheeler County earned a bit more than his or her counterpart in Garfield and Loup Counties, that wage income was barely adequate to sustain an adult and a preschool child according to Self-Sufficiency Standards published in November, 2002. It was just 57 percent of the amount needed to support a family of two adults with an infant and a preschooler. Census data shows that 15.4 percent of all families in the county were living below the federal poverty level in 1999. This number rises to 21 percent for families with related children under 18 years of ages. A shocking 39.1 percent of families with related preschool children (under 5 years of age) lived in poverty in 1999.

Education and Schools

14.9 percent of Wheeler County residents over 25 years of age hold bachelor's degrees or higher, while 90.8 percent completed high school or its equivalent. 236 children over the age of three are enrolled in school, with 23 in preschool and kindergarten, 196 in elementary and high schools, and 17 attending college or graduate school.

Section V

***Problems
and
Solutions***

Problems Identified

A number of issues were identified as problems affecting youth in all three counties. The issues often overlap, and have been grouped into three priority groups:

A. Awareness and Access to Activities and Services

Every group highlighted the scarcity of businesses, services and activities in these three counties. Many participants mentioned the need to travel great distances at times to obtain necessary services, purchase goods and supplies, and find entertainment and recreation. Neither Loup or Wheeler Counties has a resident doctor or attorney. None of the three counties has an emergency medical center or an acute-care hospital. At-risk juveniles dealing with lifestyle and health issues such as substance abuse, truancy, premature sexual activity and pregnancy, gender identification issues, underage tobacco use and eating disorders often must travel significant distances to neighboring counties to receive assistance. Education on the above problems is limited due to school schedules and dollars for new curriculum or training and adult perception of the problems. There is little knowledge of brain development among the youth and the results of their actions. Parents are wanting this knowledge for better understanding.

Due to economic and geographic limitations, support services and activities for at-risk youth and their parents are often limited within the three-county area. Affordable after school programs and day care are limited and youth are often left unsupervised. Supervised activities, outside of sports or church, are nonexistent except for Wednesday night church.

Receiving a Drug Free Community Grant in 2008 enabled a central office to open in 2008 for GLW Children's Council. Fully staffed, it is located in Burwell, Garfield county, between the other two counties. This office now serves as a clearinghouse for information on services and activities available to youth, including legal, medical and

social services as well as opportunities for recreation, social interaction and community service. The Director and Assistant are available to provide individual assessment and assistance, and coordinate referrals to existing agencies, service providers and mental health professionals as needed. This service was noted as a need in the Juvenile Service Plan since 2008. This office can provide, coordinate and facilitate Town Hall Meetings, educational programs and materials but is not able to provide the needed direct services.

Region 3 Behavioral Health Services is providing State Block Funds to provide a half time Prevention Coordinator in each of the three county schools to implement activities and science based curriculum. There is still a need for full time Prevention Coordinators in each county.

When reviewing the risk factors noted in the Nebraska Risk and Protective Factor Student Survey since 2003 and the Nebraska SHARP survey since 2012, all participants agreed on a need to work on education of risks of abuse, low commitment to school, family management and favorable attitudes concerning alcohol use. Preventative messages are still considered the number one need for our youth and families.

B. Supervision, Accountability and Skill Development

A second theme expressed in all three counties relates to the inability or unwillingness of some parents to supervise their children and hold them accountable for unacceptable behavior, or to provide wholesome examples and instruction in basic life skills. Minors are frequently required to assume adult responsibilities such as cooking, home maintenance and child care, for which they are ill-equipped and unprepared. Education in basics of home management, beginning at an early age would lead to more stable families.

In every adult focus group, lack of parental supervision and involvement in the lives of children was identified as a significant problem. A related problem facing many parents of young children is the unavailability of affordable day care. Whether failure of supervision stems from a scarcity of day care providers, economic pressures requiring parents to work extended hours or shifts outside the home, illness or disability, substance abuse, or from irresponsible or immature behavior on the part of the parent, the result is that children are left to fend for themselves, often assuming responsibility for maintaining the household, cooking, cleaning, and caring for younger siblings or their own children. There is a concern for the time spent on TV, *Facebook*, *MySpace*, *YouTube* and other social networking avenues by many of the youth. Parents and teachers are looking for more education on these topics. An after school program would be able to provide educational material about abuse issues for both youth and their parents as well as holding educational meetings with parents/families. A priority established is for an after school program in Garfield county; coordinating with the grade school as to the needs. The goal is to offer a free after school program as many of the youth who need supervision are from low-income families and are now home, alone, and unsupervised. A program was offered sever years ago for \$15.00 per month but many of our low income families found even this much too much for their budgets. This would also be a wonderful addition to Loup & Wheeler Counties but the school bus service limits time when youth are available before returning home.

There is a need for low-cost, individualized programs to assist parents and young people to acquire skills necessary to improve employment opportunities, avoid financial pitfalls and live healthier lives. Principal topics might include improving parenting skills, dealing with special problems facing children of divorce, budget management and check writing, prevention of the underage use of alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, and other drugs, the dangers of social networking and anger management. Employment-related skills such as resume writing, interviewing and personal presentation would be especially useful. Some clients need help with very basic skills

such as survival cooking and personal hygiene.

All three county schools participate in the Nebraska risk and Protective Factor Student survey administered in the schools in 2003, 2005, 2007, 2010 & 2012. At least 90% of the students in grades 6th, 8th, 10th & 12th have participated. This has been a great way for GLWCC to track the progress of the strategies we have implemented. As we move forward we have discovered that more evaluation is needed for state and federal grants as well as a closer evaluation of each strategy and of parent and community reactions and thoughts. A Local Evaluator was hired in 2008, on a part time basis, and is available to help accomplish this priority and to devise survey instruments that will help us track progress. Although funds for that evaluator are no longer financially available, Region 3 has helped to connect us with Schmeeclee Research in Lincoln, Ne. Who has been able to pull together our outcomes, which have been great! We continue to look at our budget to see if there is a possibility of hiring them every two years to continue this work. There is a need to discover "How do we know it's working and that we are making a difference?"

C. Law Enforcement Issues

Participants in every community found some fault with existing law enforcement efforts and yet understand the financial strain on the counties to add more law enforcement and the strain on the law enforcement officers who are often acting on their own.. Not surprisingly, alcohol and drugs were a major concern, as is the use of marijuana and prescription drugs. In Loup and Wheeler counties, where law enforcement has been limited to a single officer in each county, patrons expressed frustration with a perceived lack of success in solving a number of vandalism and theft incidents and reporting and arrests of underage drinking participants..

Virtually every contributor acknowledged that the use/abuse of alcohol and

controlled substances by minors is a serious concern in its own right, and a contributing factor in many other problem situations. The 2008 Nebraska Epidemiology Report noted three concerns; binge drinking, driving in a car with a drunk driver and riding in a car while drinking. Theft and vandalism by juvenile offenders was cited as a problem in two of the three counties. Teenage driving habits and offenses such as speeding and careless driving were seen as problems, along with youth-involved vehicle accidents. Patrons were concerned about perceived inadequate or ineffective law enforcement efforts and a general lack of respect for persons and property on the part of some young people. They were also concerned about county budgets and the cost of legal counsel for juvenile offenders as the majority come from families that need a court appointed lawyer.

A Diversion Program for Juvenile Offenders , designed by the three county attorneys, judges and law enforcement in 2012 has begun to help with these problems. Increased funding from the Nebraska Crime Commission through the Community-based Juvenile Funds will help to assure that a Diversion Coordinator remains educated and available to offer classes. Our referrals are few so the Director of the GLWCC has added that responsibility to her job.

More effective methods are needed to prevent and deal with unlawful and/or dangerous behaviors by youth, including early intervention for at-risk youth, alternatives to court-ordered criminal sanctions in cases involving minor or first-time offenses (juvenile diversion), and improved law enforcement. Enhancement of law enforcement visibility is needed and funds are needed to allow the Nebraska State Patrol to do compliance checks in our area. Enhancement of local law enforcement could be accomplished with the addition of part-time personnel that would be available to spend more time on education with area youth in the schools, participate in GLW Children's council media campaigns concerning the abuse of ATOD;s, supervising youth dances and events, more patrols during the Rodeo weekend, as well as patrols around the county roads during graduation, prom time and with the lake traffic..

Risk Factors

Discussions among participants were wide-ranging and unstructured. In many respects it was difficult to distinguish between the definition of a problem and discussion of its associated risk factors. Restated and combined, the following risk factors were identified:

1. Underage Drinking. The consumption of alcohol by minors, the ease with which it can be obtained, the willingness of otherwise law-abiding adults to make it available to teenagers and even younger children, the fact that beer is often cheaper to purchase than soda pop, peer pressures to conform, cultural emphasis on the use of alcohol in social situations, a need or desire to deaden emotional pain or release inhibitions - it all adds up to a huge problem in Garfield, Loup and Wheeler counties, as it is everywhere else. Kids drink for many of the same reasons that adults do - but at an age when attitudes and habits are being formed that will affect them and our communities for decades to come. The 2008 Nebraska Epidemiology Report listed three areas for concern; binge drinking, drinking while driving and riding with a drunk driver. All have proved to be a concern in our three counties.

2. Attitude Toward Alcohol. Teenagers' attitudes toward alcohol consumption are modeled on behavior they have witnessed at home, in the community and in the mass media. All too often, substance use/abuse is a problem at home and parents lack the maturity, strength or moral authority to advise or instruct their children to avoid underage drinking. Some parents suffer from a form of denial, choosing to "look the other way", or refusing to acknowledge the fact that their children are involved with alcohol. Particularly disturbing is the fact noted by law enforcement officers, teachers and concerned parents that some adults actively encourage or support the use of alcohol by their children, supplying beer to minors, allowing alcohol at teen parties on private property, and obstructing law enforcement efforts. There is little, if no, education

and awareness of the risks to brain development of youth by either youth or their parents.

3. Underage use and attitudes toward marijuana use. Although marijuana use has always been a concern, since the legalization in surrounding states we have found that our youth are asking more questions, especially “if it becomes legal, I will try it.”, isn’t that OK?..We learned from our “7th Grade, Start Smart Retreat” that 75-80% of our youth were this interested in marijuana use. We want to work on prevention NOW.

4. Discussions among youth on suicide and mental health issues. At our focus and listening groups with youth this past year, all three county youth listed suicide as a risk. It is not easy being a youth; peer pressure, identity issues, stress, schedules, the future and many seemingly “little” problems that are hugh to them. There was discussion about the need for more professional help, more discussion and more information and speakers. We know that in our area, there can be great distances, few dollars and time to access services.

5. Bored Youth. It’s a universal problem. In every city, with every group of young people - “There’s nothing to do!” is the number-one complaint. In small communities such as Bartlett, Burwell, Erickson and Taylor, it is a fact of life that there are fewer commercial entertainment options than in larger cities. None of these towns has a franchised “fast food” restaurant of any kind. For the most part, the only place to get a meal or snack food after dark is in a tavern or bar. Entertainment and recreation facilities are few and far between. Unfortunately, the Calamus Lake offers unsupervised free time and can result in “beer parties” if not caught by the Game Warden, who has an extremely large area to supervise. “Pasture Parties” are also a problem, especially if sanctioned by parents.

Burwell, the largest town in the three-county area, has a swimming pool, golf course and tennis courts, but none are accessible in the winter and there is no

organized program of instruction, coaching or team play available to youth. Indoor recreation facilities are extremely limited. Although Burwell has a bowling alley (closed in the summer) and a movie theater which is open most weekends, there are no such facilities in Loup or Wheeler counties.

6. Too Much (Unsupervised) Free Time. Every adult group cited the need for more supervised and constructive activities for youth. Parents, teachers and law enforcement officers all lamented the fact that some kids have too much time on their hands. Closely related to the boredom factor, this problem is magnified during the Summer and at other times when school is not in session. With no organized activities to attend, teenagers tend to gather in groups to "hang out" in parking lots, "cruise the square," circling aimlessly in downtown areas, or driving to nearby towns just for something to do. All too often, these rites of passage involve high-risk driving behavior and frequently, the consumption of alcohol. Social networking and an interest in internet gambling have been cited as worrisome activities.

Grade school youth go unsupervised and have too much access to risky messages from television or older teens. A \$15.00 charge per month for an after school program in 2003 proved to be an economic barrier for the families most needing this service..

Free time, lack of supervision, access to vehicles and alcohol are factors associated with underage sexual activity and unplanned pregnancies, as well as vandalism and theft, which have been problems in all three counties. 'Booze Cruising" on country roads have made for dangerous driving by underage adults as well as licensed youth and have made rural mailboxes an easy target for unsupervised teenagers looking for excitement. Sign damage and theft by juveniles has been a big headache for property owners and law officers, but investigation and prosecution can be difficult in villages and counties where the law enforcement presence may consist of a

single officer patrolling the entire county.

7. Lack of Adult Supervision. Many times, young people are left without adequate supervision because their parents are simply unavailable. Often the cause is basically economic - all of the adult members of the household may be required to work outside the home in order to provide the basic necessities of life. One or more parents may be physically absent from the home due to death, illness or divorce. For youngsters who are not involved in high-school sports or extracurricular activities, few adult-supervised after-school programs are available. This scarcity particularly impacts elementary-school age children.

Where no parent is available but a grandparent is part of the household, the grandparent often assumes the child-rearing function. However, it is not unusual for children 12 or 13 years of age or even younger to be left to fend for themselves, preparing their own meals, getting themselves to and from school, performing housecleaning duties, and supervising younger siblings. Discussion group participants reported numerous examples of young people left without adult supervision late into the night while the parent(s) worked late shifts or spent time socializing in local taverns.

School officials identify lack of parental supervision as a major factor affecting truancy, low commitment to school, and school dropout rates.

8. Limited Employment Opportunity. Teens and young people seeking employment to supplement family income or provide spending money for recreation or personal pursuits are faced with a grim reality: job opportunities in Garfield, Loup and Wheeler Counties - especially non-farm part-time positions, are extremely limited, and without a car and a driver's license, there are few transportation options. In a tight job market, juveniles compete with adults for the positions that do exist. Many jobs which traditionally were performed by youngsters, such as lawn care, snow removal,

newspaper routes and restaurant wait-staff, are now sought by adult heads of households. A few positions are open to school-aged teens in area grocery stores and nursing homes, but for many young people, working outside the home is just not an option.

8. Poverty, Low Economic Prospects, and Poor Financial Skills. U.S. Census 2013 figures report that for families with children under 5 years of age, 13.0% of Garfield County residents, 25.8% of Loup County inhabitants and 16% of those living in Wheeler County are living below the poverty level. *Loup and Wheeler Counties are among the 50 poorest counties in the nation as measured by average Adjusted Gross Income reported on federal tax returns for the year 2010. Only five counties in the United States reported lower income figures than Loup County for that year. Nine of the bottom 20 counties were in Nebraska and neighboring South Dakota.*

Naturally, such a negative economic picture affects families and youth. According to figures furnished by the Garfield County Court Clerk/Magistrate for the most recent three-year period, legal counsel was provided at state expense in 100 percent of juvenile cases in which the juvenile or parent was represented by counsel, because they were unable to afford a lawyer. The Garfield County Attorney reports that during the same period, bad check cases outnumbered all other non-traffic cases *combined*.

Protective Factors

After stating their problems and concerns for our youth and identifying risks that contribute to the problems, each participant was asked to name helpful factors already in place and available to the communities.

Schools and School Activities

All three counties are fortunate to have successful, adequately funded schools in place. Participants felt that our schools are doing a good job and are producing quality graduates who are well prepared to enter college or begin careers in agriculture or business. High school faculty and staff are generally well respected and highly regarded. Each of the three high schools systems can point to faculty members and programs which have received statewide recognition for excellence. They are also able to point to the School Prevention Coordinators, even though they are now only part-time, as being a success, with the schools actively working with GLWCC to give the Coordinators access and time with the students. The schools have reported positive results in the science-based strategies taught but also in the involvement these coordinators have had with the youth. They have been able to spend more time with "at-risk" students and have been able to work on an improved interest in school and activities among many of the youth. Having a paid Youth Advisory Board leader has increased the number of youth involved in having an interest and working on abuse issues outside of the school day; the Youth Advisory board grows each year..

In all three systems, school programs and activities are a major source of entertainment and recreation not only for students and their immediate families, but for the entire community. Many social events are centered around high school sports and extracurricular activities, and the achievements of students in each community are a source of pride for the entire town.

For many students, involvement in after-school athletics and activities is both a source and an outlet for energy and enthusiasm. Considerable time and energy is invested in these activities by students, and oftentimes by their parents and friends as well. This year's Photovoice project has given "voice" to the 19% of all 7th grade students who stated a lack of interest in school and involvement in sports or creative activities, (DAP survey)

On the other hand, school administrators and boards of education are facing severe budget constraints. In an era of increased financial pressures, extracurricular activities and "non-essential" course curricula are increasingly subject to the budgetary axe. Several participants lamented the loss of traditional classes in home economics and life skills, pointing out that for many children, this training is not available at home or elsewhere.

Faith-Based Activities

As in most communities, many young people are involved in church activities and youth groups, meeting weekly or more often for lessons, study and social interaction. In addition to church-affiliated youth groups, some students are active in spiritually-oriented interfaith groups such as Bible study groups and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Through such groups, kids are exposed to positive messages which can help build confidence and a sense of purpose. Several of the local churches have expressed an interest in helping with an after school program by providing space and volunteers. The churches generously offer two "church nights" a year to GLWCC for Town Hall Meetings or other educational events. This has given us a captive audience for our prevention messages and has encouraged non-church attending youth to attend these meetings. It has also increased the parent involvement.

Evidence-Based Character-Building & Prevention Programs

Integrated into the school curricula, science-based, proven, character-building and prevention programs such as *All Stars, Character Counts, Slick Tracy, Too Good for Drugs, Too Good for Violence, All Stars, Project Northland, Protecting You/Protecting Me, Safe dates, Communities Mobilizing for Change on Alcohol and Responsible Beverage Server Training and East Texas Experiential*, seek to provide young people with tools to assess troublesome situations, make informed wise choices, and avoid harmful associations. *Alternatives and Alternate Routes* are the science-based curricula used for Diversion youth and their parents. A part time School Prevention Coordinator in each school system allows science based strategies to be implemented; these Coordinators also seek to establish a relationship with the students and impart positive messages and the education of risk behaviors. Along with the strategies mentioned above, there are many Promising-Strategies such as 40 Developmental Strategies, John Underwood's Life of an Athlete and Pure Performance and Love Notes as well as other Method and No-Evidence Strategies. Combined these strategies have enabled GLWCC to concentrate on 4 core measures of concern for youth and have been effective in reducing the percentage in all.

We are fortunate to be in the schools each day of the year to implement these strategies.

Vocational Clubs

Vocational organizations such as the Future Farmers of America (FFA), and rodeo clubs provide important activities and opportunities for youth with an interest or background in agriculture.

GLW Extension

The three-county Nebraska Extension Service provides wonderful opportunities

for the youth in our area. 4-H represents a large group of youth and provides education in many areas. Extension Educator, Jen Schoen, actively works in all three counties to be involved with youth and the activities of GLWCC.

B.A.D.D

A number of years ago, a group of concerned parents helped to organize an extracurricular group known as *Burwell Against Drinking and Drugs*. B.A.D.D., as it is known, sponsors alcohol and drug-free teen dances on a regular basis throughout the year. These events are very popular, especially with younger teens, and attendance has been gratifying to sponsors. The dances, which are held in Burwell, draw large numbers of teens from surrounding communities, including Valley and Custer counties as well as Garfield, Loup and Wheeler.

GLW Youth Advisory Team

In 2008 a Youth Advisory Team was formed with local adult supervision. This group is active, once a month, in discussing abuse issues and planning fun, alternate activities. They have made floats for the local parades and worked on Red Ribbon Week, help plan news releases and spoke on the radio. This group continues to have a large impact on the youth in our area. GLWCC supports 2-4 youth to attend training each year and to return with that knowledge and impart it to other students through focus groups, retreats, school meetings and attendance at other civic groups. Their yearly calendar of events and speaking is full.

Law Enforcement Liaison

Area law enforcement officers and firemen have made a special effort to maintain a good rapport with teens, and in general, they are respected and well-regarded by the

kids. This good relationship has paid off in Burwell, where incidents of mischief and vandalism, once a problem, are now considered rare. Volunteer firemen patrol the streets of Burwell at Halloween, passing out candy and keeping watch to prevent vandalism and property damage.

Community-Based Wraparound

Beginning in 2000, a Community-Based Wraparound Program has been established in Burwell to provide community-based help for children and families in need of individualized assistance. A companion School-Based Wraparound serves to coordinate services for youth with serious mental health issues affecting school performance. Although intended to serve all of Garfield, Loup and Wheeler counties, the community-based program has been constrained by funding and travel limitations, with the result that most services have been provided in the Burwell area. 2009 was the last year for funding but the needs were assimilated through the School Prevention Coordinators, Burwell Food Pantry, the GLWCC office, and hopefully through an after school program.

Food Pantries

Community food pantries have provided invaluable aid to low-income residents in the three-county area. Mobile Food Pantries have also provided needed help. Privately operated by churches and charities, staffed by volunteers and disbursing provisions provided through the generosity of area residents, these informal agencies have provided desperately needed food, grocery vouchers, clothing and household essentials to their neighbors-in-need. Often, the beneficiaries have been families with children who would have gone hungry without the help.

Public Housing and Social Services

A number of public housing units In the Burwell area are available to low-income families at rental rates based on income levels, through the Burwell Housing Authority. In addition, social services agencies such as Central Nebraska Community Services (CNCS), Region III Behavioral Health Services, and the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services provide various forms of assistance to qualified applicants, including families with children.

Counseling

Mental health and substance abuse counseling services are available on a limited basis from private practitioners, or under contract with agencies such as the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services.

Loup Basin Health Department

Burwell houses the Loup Basin Health Department for nine surrounding counties. One of the educators and a nurse sit on the GLWCC Board; we work with them on prevention messages during t their annual Health fair, they provide an educator on chew tobacco for the 7th Grade “Start Smart Retreat” and help us with education on STD’s pregnancies and other topics.

Gaps/Needs

A comparison of the Risk Factors identified by discussion participants with the strengths and resources listed as Protective Factors makes it evident that a number of gaps exist – there are a number of holes in the safety net.

In the four domains listed in the Nebraska Risk & Protective Factor Student Survey, there are several risk factors that remain larger than the state percentages. For the Community Domain; Laws & Norms favoring drug use and perceived availability of drugs are larger. In the Family Domain; Poor Family Management and in the School domain; Low Commitment to School are larger. For the peer-individual domain; Attitudes Favorable to alcohol and drug abuse and low perceived of risk are the largest percentages. All of these areas need further education for both youth and their parents. In order to bring down these percentages more time and effort must be spent.

Having a centrally located office for the GLW Children's Council and full time staff enables information to flow to the public as well as give voice to the Council and their message. This office also provides educational opportunities, activities, Town Hall meetings, stays up to date on prevention issues and opportunities and supplies the School Prevention Coordinators. The office is responsible for writing and implementation of grants and for all fiscal matters. This is help to some youth and families, yet for other juveniles, important resources such as mental health counseling or specialized skill training are effectively unavailable because services are provided only at service delivery points or educational facilities at distant sites, and they don't have reliable or affordable transportation.

While school athletic and extracurricular programs provide valuable support for many young people, a small but significant number of kids are falling through the cracks. For children who are not involved in athletics due to physical limitations, insufficient

talent or inclination, the spectrum of available activities is narrowed considerably.

Parents, teachers and other discussion group participants feel there is a need for more supervised, structured activities for juveniles, both grade school and high school age, especially after school, on weekends and during summer school breaks, when working parents are not available and productive jobs are hard to come by. In particular, there is a need for new or expanded vocational clubs and activities for youth who may not be college-bound, but do not plan to pursue a career in agriculture, and for kids who are not involved in sports.

For youth and their parents who are struggling to make ends meet and need help with basic life skills, a series of short, low-cost classes or seminars would be a big help.

Participants at Burwell suggested more organized lifetime sports activities such as golf, tennis and soccer programs, or a pee-wee football team. They also thought kids need affordable after-school day care and a safe place to go to "hang out" and listen to music.

Loup county participants noted that the Village of Taylor already has a community center, but lacks funds and personnel to provide needed supervision. They also noted a need for funds to support affordable after-school day care for working parents. Other ideas, as reported before, included a paintball court, car club, more teen dances, and adding frisbee golf to the park.

In Wheeler County there was little change in the needs over the past three years. Participants continued to see the need for a recreation center or gathering place with youth activities and equipment such as a pool table, air hockey, etc. A center could include a place to get ice cream and snacks. With adult sponsorship, the center could

be staffed by youth, providing productive part-time employment and some extra spending money for area youth.

Realistically, counties and communities in the region cannot turn to local private donations for substantial financial support because, frankly, those sources don't exist within these counties. Garfield, Loup and Wheeler Counties lack a retail or manufacturing base to draw on, and the agricultural core industry is caught in a major economic squeeze. Efforts to identify charitable foundations or similar organizations which might serve as funding sources have produced few prospects and no commitments to date.

In Garfield, Loup and Wheeler Counties, participants felt that increased law enforcement efforts are needed. Especially in Garfield and Loup county where the Calamus Reservoir is host to 350,000 to 400,000 visitors each year, law enforcement enhancement and presence is needed. There area only so many places in a large county that law enforcement can be seen at one time. Many of the MIP"S come from youth outside of our area and publicity concerning enforcement needs to be provided. "Pasture Parties" and "booze cruising" are common entertainments for youth. The use of cell phones alerts youth as to the locations of law enforcement and again, law enforcement can't be everywhere. There is a need for more education for youth, as well as their parents, as to the dangers of drinking and driving and the brain development of youth involved with alcohol and drugs. Law Enforcement needs to be involved with this education. There is a need for a continued Diversion Program for education as well as to contain the county budgets. Additional compliance checks and shoulder taps are needed. Law enforcement agencies in all three counties have a lot of ground to cover, with serious limitations on budget and resources.

Although budget constraints and a shortage of qualified officers may limit the counties' ability to expand law enforcement presence in the three counties, community cooperation could make it possible for existing officers to serve more effectively.

“Neighborhood Watch” - type groups have been effective in other areas, where citizens organized and combined their resources to detect and report unlawful or suspicious activity, helping to overcome some of the obstacles confronting jurisdictions with hundreds of square miles of area patrolled by a lone sheriff or deputy.

All of these counties now have an authorized, voluntary, court diversion program for juveniles who get into trouble with the law. Although the referral numbers have been small (very few appropriate cases available), the program has benefited youth who commit minor or first-time offenses. In all likelihood, none of the three counties can justify or support the cost of such a program based solely on cases generated within the county. At this time, a trained Diversion Officer is employed by GLWCC and provided Diversion Classes when needed.

Being able to measure and show that our efforts are working has been limited. The Nebraska Risk and Protective Factor Student Survey has been our main measurement tool. A plan to measure all of the efforts involved is being facilitated by a new, part time, Local Evaluator.

Identified Priority Areas

A number of issues were identified as ongoing problems affecting youth in all three counties. The issues often overlap, and as before, the proposed juvenile services plan seeks to build on the successes achieved under the previous plans.

It is evident that there is no single solution or set of solutions that will solve all of the challenges identified in Garfield, Loup and Wheeler Counties. The difficulties and frustration experienced by youth and parents in these three rural Nebraska counties are not unique - and to the extent that they stem from harsh economic reality and geographic isolation, with long distances from commercial shopping and entertainment centers, some of the difficulties may literally "come with the territory."

Much can be done, though, to improve the situation and help to make rural and small-town life a bit more interesting and for our young people. First of all, we need to build upon our strengths - preserving the resources we have in the three-county area, taking full advantage of them and making them fully accessible to the broadest possible constituency. Secondly, we need to continue to expand the range of those resources and services by drawing on our own communities and seeking out new resources as they become available from public and private sources.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRATEGIES:

Priority 1. Sustain the GLW Children's Council and its office as the backbone and hub for public awareness and access to activities & efforts to create community change.

Due to economic and geographic limitations, support services and activities for at-risk youth and their parents are often limited within the three-county area, and the general public is often unaware of the existence of the resources and services that

are available.

Every focus group highlighted the scarcity of businesses, services and activities in these three counties. Many participants mentioned the need to travel great distances at times to obtain necessary services, purchase goods and supplies and find entertainment and recreation. Neither Loup or Wheeler Counties has a resident doctor or attorney. None of the three counties has an emergency medical center or an acute-care hospital. At-risk juveniles dealing with lifestyle and health issues such as substance abuse, suicide, truancy, premature sexual activity and pregnancy, gender identification issues, underage tobacco use and eating disorders often must travel significant distances to neighboring counties to receive assistance. Affordable after-school programs and day care are limited and youth are often left unsupervised

A Drug Free Community Grant in 2008 enabled GLWCC to establish and maintain a central office in donated office space. Fully staffed, it is centrally located in Burwell, in Garfield County. This office now serves as a clearinghouse for information on services and activities available to youth, including legal, medical and social services as well as opportunities for recreation, social interaction and community service. The Director and a part-time Assistant are available to provide individual assessment and assistance, and coordinate referrals to existing agencies, service providers and mental health professionals as needed. This service was noted as a need in the 2006-2008 Juvenile Service Plan. The office can provide, coordinate and facilitate Town Hall Meetings, educational programs and materials, but is not able to provide needed direct services. The GLWCC director has taken the diversion classes offered by the Nebraska Crime Commission and has spent time with two other state Diversion Offices and serves as the Diversion Coordinator for GLW counties and is available as needed.

Various grant funds have been the primary source for maintaining a centrally located, fully staffed office. This office has been used to coordinate all GLWCC activities, write and administer grants and serve as a clearinghouse for youth and

parents in identifying and accessing needed resources, as well as helping to make them aware of alcohol, tobacco and other drug abuse, the dangers of prescription medication abuse, dangers of texting while driving, health issues, youth activities and opportunities. In recent years, grant funds have been made available to provide for part-time school prevention coordinators in each school to implement science based and proven prevention strategies, as well as the Director and part-time Assistant. Together, they cooperate with law enforcement, youth Advisory Teams and others to serve as additional resources for youth and their parents. We also use grant funding to keep our staff trained in prevention education and working with youth, parents and the communities, by attending webinars, seminars and training, both locally and nation wide. Training has been a high priority if you want your words and actions to be creditable.

Grant funds will continue to be important as our county governments and local businesses are not in a fiscal position to pick up the slack. Although Region 3 Behavioral Health Services is currently providing some State Block Grant Funds to fund a half-time Prevention Coordinator in each of the three county school, there is a critical need for additional funding to maintain this worthwhile outreach effort and keep the central office open.

When reviewing the risk factors noted in the 2010 Nebraska Risk and Protective Factor Student Survey, now called the *SHARP*, participants agreed on the need to improve public education on the risks facing young people and address issues such as low commitment to school, family management and unhealthy attitudes concerning abuse of many substances. Without a central office to manage the programs, supervise the Coordinators, provide and schedule training and work with the youth and their parents, such activities as we know them would not be possible.

Priority 2. Maintain a Court Diversion Program for juvenile and first-time offenders

in a non-felony cases for Garfield, Loup & Wheeler Counties.

Garfield, Loup and Wheeler Counties are served by a single County Judge who handles both adult and juvenile cases, and who serves other counties as well. Court is held only one day per month in each three county. For young people who run afoul of the law, even simple cases may take months to resolve due to delays inherent in the schedule. As the saying goes, "justice delayed is justice denied."

In particular, cases which involve minor or first-time offenses need to be resolved quickly, with consequences which are perceived to be fair, proportionate and certain, with minimum involvement by the Court. An effective juvenile diversion program, with real consequences and opportunities for counseling and supervised, structured community service will continue to be a welcome improvement.

GLWCC received a Nebraska Crime Commission Grant for Juvenile Services in 2010 to create and implement a Diversion Program. Staff was trained and supplies and curricula purchased and currently the GLWCC Director serves as the Diversion Coordinator, offering the classes and doing case management, when needed. The curricula is science-based.

Priority 3. Establish better coordination and enhanced collaboration with law enforcement in Garfield, Loup & Wheeler Counties.

In Garfield, Loup and Wheeler Counties, team participants felt that increased law enforcement efforts are still needed. Especially in Garfield and Loup Counties, where the Calamus Reservoir is host to 350,000 to 400,000 visitors each year, law enforcement enhancement and increased presence is still needed. There are only so many places in a large county that law enforcement can be seen at one time.

A continuing, coordinated effort is needed to improve cooperation and support

among law enforcement agencies serving the three counties, continue efforts to deal with underage alcohol and drug use and other youth problem areas, and improve relations between law enforcement officials and the general public, including juveniles.

Participants in every community found some fault with existing law enforcement efforts, yet they understand the stresses faced by law enforcement officers who are often acting on their own, and the financial constraints which make it impossible for counties to add more officers. The use of cell phones and texting often put the officers at a disadvantage when there are "pasture parties" and "booze cruising", common entertainments of youth in our area. Reports of vandalism and theft incidents were also a concern.

Law enforcement agencies must continue to work together to maximize effectiveness. For the past seven years they have met regularly with the GLW Council to continue to coordinate efforts and share information, ideas and resources. These meetings have helped to maintain a friendly, helpful presence in each community and school system, and have helped law enforcement officers to be more active in youth and community activities. Historically, GLWCC has been able to provide modest assistance with training on issues that involve our youth and parents. These activities need to continue. Law enforcement needs to be involved in the continued education of our youth and their parents. Since 2001, GLWCC has worked with local law enforcement to increase the date reporting. Law enforcement officers supply GLWCC with a monthly report and antidotal information, even though there are few cases to be referred to Diversion. We encourage our law enforcement to do state reporting.

There will continue to be a need for better data collection, more Compliance Checks, continued Beverage Server Training and Distracted Driving classes. Funding for the above is limited, so sustainability is always a concern. Continuing education

for law enforcement on youth issues is necessary to keep officers informed and motivated.

ISSUE-BASED PRIORITIES:

Priority 1: Area youth , parents and community members will be provided opportunities for prevention education on a multitude of issues by attending an annual Town Hall Meetings, with known speakers, retreats, and other events.

Although it is still felt that our area has many positive, protective factors to offer our youth and their families, such as great schools and school activities, faith-based activities, Vocational Clubs, GLW Youth Advisory Teams, Law enforcement Liaisons, Food pantries, public Housing and Social Services and some available counseling, there are still gaps and needs.

All three county schools participated in the Nebraska Risk and Protective Factor Student Survey administered through 2009 and the Nebraska SHARP survey in 2010 and 2012, which provide a database dating back to 2003, in which at least 90% of the students in grades 6th, 8th, 10th, and 12th have participated. This has given us the data we have needed to track the progress of the strategies we have implemented. While we can rejoice that some areas show improvement, the studies also disclose emerging, adverse trends such as an increase in smokeless tobacco use, binge drinking, continued problems with drinking and driving, texting and distracted driving, and increased misuse of prescription drugs.

In the four domains listed in the 2009 Nebraska Risk & Protective Factor Student Survey, several risk factor scores remain larger than the state percentages. In the Community Domain; the perception of Laws & Norms favoring drug use and the perceived availability of drugs are larger than state norms. In the Family Domain; Poor Family Management is identified as a problem area, and in the School Domain,

Low Commitment to School is identified as a risk factor. In the Peer-individual Domain; Attitudes Favorable to alcohol and drug use receive high scores and early initiation of alcohol is higher than the state average.

Survey results indicate that lifetime use of alcohol in grades 6, 8, & 10th still remains higher than the state average. 12th grade lifetime use is slightly lower, which we attribute, at least in part, to exposure to the education and prevention programs we have implemented since 2003. 30-day use has decreased to a level slightly lower than the state average, which we also attribute to increased awareness and continuing education. These statistics are wonderful, but we find that our Seniors still do not adequately perceive the dangers of driving after drinking or using illegal drugs, and too many parents (38%) still do not appreciate the risks associated with drug use. These statistics led the Team to express concern about the inability or unwillingness of some parents to supervise their children and hold them accountable for unacceptable behavior, or to provide wholesome examples and instruction in basic life skills. There is also concern about the use of chew tobacco, interest in marijuana and the perception of harm by both youth and parents regarding these substances.

In the past five years we have gained a greater understanding of developments in the area of "brain science" and how brain function and development is affected by alcohol and drugs. The Team noted the need to continue to provide better information for parents and young people on this subject.

Working with the communities in each county to provide educational opportunities for youth and their families is a big priority. Continuation of our annual "Seventh Grade Start Smart Retreat", athletic educational events, Town Hall Meetings, participation in the Annual Health Fair, "The Best of You" events, educational information on abuse issues and educational events dealing with youth health issues will continue to be essential. The team felt that it was also essential to continue the use of School Prevention Coordinators in each school to implement science-based-proven curricula to students and to coordinate with parents. In order

to continue this good work there will be a continued need to keep all staff educated.

Priority 2. Sustain evaluation efforts involving strategies of prevention and youth related activities.

Since 2003, GLWCC has relied on data collected by the Nebraska Risk & Protective Factor Student Surveys and the SHARP Survey. This past year GLWCC offered the Developmental Asset Profile (from the Search Institute, concerning the 40 Developmental Assets) to the 7th grade students. The results are available to school counselors and teachers. Additional data has come from focus groups and anecdotal information. In the past GLWCC was able to hire a part-time Evaluator to assist with analysis of our surveys and to help us to determine "How do we know we are making a difference". Two of our staff have taken evaluation courses through CADCA(Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America); we tabulate surveys ourselves, except for the SHARP. GLWCC anticipates funding to enable our coalition to hire an evaluator (Schmecklee Research) from Lincoln, Nebraska to help us in the future. This evaluation helps us to continue to improve the measurement of strategies used, initiated new survey instruments, and helped to pinpoint the classes and groups of students that are at most risk.

Helping to make the lives of our youth and their families better has always been part of our mission. Without a clear understanding of the surveys implemented it would be hard to know where to put our limited resources and efforts.

ORGANIZATIONAL PRIORITIES

Priority 1: Sustain the GLW Children's Council organization, office and staff as the backbone and central hub for coalition activities, including promotion of community awareness, access to prevention programs and services, and efforts to create favorable changes in community perception and attitudes.

Strategy	Action Steps	Timelines	Responsible Parties	Resources Needed	Outcomes/Barriers
1. Prove a fully staffed office for GLW Children's Council, Inc to represent Garfield, Loup & Wheeler Counties with clearly defined roles and appropriate training.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Engage and retain qualified professional staff and contract partners. + Secure office space + Annual Staff Reviews + Provide ongoing training for staff on youth related issues. 	Each year, renewal in January, continuing in July, 2015, for staff and office space	<p>GLWCC President & Board (2 members from each county)</p> <p>GLW Director</p> <p>Nebraska Crime Commission and Region 3 Behavioral Health, other state and national training</p>	<p>Funding for staff salaries, supplies and training.</p> <p>Available office space</p> <p>Funding for training and enthusiasm of staff</p>	<p>Barrier - Loss of funding for Director and supplies to operate office would result in loss of centralized contact for resources and prevention services as well as a loss of representation at state and regional prevention meetings and planning sessions.</p>

<p>2. Promote available resources for families through printing of an area resource brochure.</p>	<p>+Research GLW counties and surrounding areas for available services</p> <p>+ Prepare brochure</p> <p>+Make brochure available to communities and public through businesses and youth related services</p>	<p>Jan/May 2016</p> <p>April/May 2016</p> <p>June 2016</p>	<p>GLWCC Assistant, county agencies and area businesses</p>	<p>Funding for paper & printing, time of GLWCC Assistant and interested stakeholders</p>	<p>Without a central contact, resource center, and brochure, families would have a difficult time discovering available services in times of need.</p>
<p>3. Conduct student SHARP surveys to grades, 8, 10th and 12th to provide a continued baseline and trend data.</p>	<p>+Offer Nebraska Risk & Protective Student Factor Surveys, every other year in all three county schools</p>	<p>2014, 2016 (October)</p>	<p>NDHHS, School Prevention Co-ordinators, and GLW Director, schools from all 3 counties</p>	<p>Cost of surveys and Commitment of schools to make students available for surveys. Commitment of GLWCC Evaluator and staff to analyze and publish results.</p>	<p>Survey results since 2003 show (percentages) a reduction in youth risks and perception of risks by parents because of increased education.</p>

<p>4. Provide School-Based, trained, Coordinators to implement science-based, proven prevention strategies in all three county schools as well as a Youth Advisor to work with youth at after school activities.</p>	<p>+Agreements with GLWCC and 3 county schools to support, part-time, paid, School Coordinators ; provide office/preparation area</p> <p>Advertise for staff (qualified teachers)</p> <p>+Hire staff as employees of GLWCC</p> <p>+Yearly Staff Reviews</p> <p>+Provide training in curriculum and education on youth related issues of risk & abuse.</p>	<p>June-July each year (2015-2018)</p> <p>May/each year</p> <p>June, each year</p>	<p>GLWCC Director, schools,</p> <p>Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services, Region 3 Mental Health Service and Nebraska Crime Commission</p>	<p>3 part-time salaries plus supply budget.</p> <p>Funding for Training</p>	<p>Loss of School Coordinators would mean loss of contact with youth, in schools, and implementation of science-based, proven strategies, which are our best hard data and proof of prevention as to our efforts</p>
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<p>5. Provide yearly Town Hall Meetings, 7th Grade "Start Smart Retreat" Health Fairs, alcohol free events, and focus groups, highlighting youth issues and needs, with parents and youth</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> +Research needs of community using available data and antidotal information to realize concerns of parents, community and youth. +Prepare yearly calendar of meetings and events +Coordinate calendar with communities, schools and staff +Calendar available to public +Provide speakers for community events on youth issues 	<p>January each year (2015-2018)</p>	<p>GLWCC Director, staff, schools, Health Dept, Faith Community, and volunteers</p>	<p>Time & Cooperation of community stakeholders</p> <p>Funding for speakers</p>	<p>Outcomes from Town Hall meetings have provided local input concerning needs and risks facing youth in our communities; these events have also been educational for the parents and community who might not realize the risks and dangers facing our youth.</p>
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Priority 2; Continue a Court Diversion Program for juvenile and first-time offenders in non-felony cases for Garfield, Loup & Wheeler Counties.

Strategy	Action Steps	Timelines	Responsible Parties	Resources Needed	Outcomes/Barriers
1. Retain a part-time Diversion Coordinator with administrative supervision and support to continue to implement a three-county Diversion Program for juveniles facing first-time conviction for non-felony offenses	+Secure agreement with Crandall Law Office for space to house Diversion Coordinator	July -August, 2015-2018	GLWCC Director	Match from Crandall Law Office	Outcome - Office secured
	Continue to retain a Diversion Coordinator educated in diversion. Continued training.	July-August, 2015-2018	GLWCC Director & Board	Funding for Diversion Coordinator and for supplies.	This program would be almost impossible to operate without funding
	Implement Diversion classes and required case management	July - August, 2015-2018	GLWCC Director	Funding for Diversion materials	This is a positive alternative to juvenile court and can provide better, social, outcomes for youth. It can also reduce recidivism.

	+Year-end employment Review	August 2015-2018	GLWCC Board of Directors, County Commissioners	Time & effort from Board & Commissioners	Barrier - Without a 3 county Diversion Program, area youth are at a disadvantage when charged with a first time, non-felony offense. Diversion offers youth and their families education and incentives for changes in behavior.
	+Training for Diversion Coordinator	When available 2015-2018	Nebraska Crime Commission	Funding and availability of training	Successful program will demonstrate cost-effectiveness of diversion vs probation or incarceration.
2. Retain Memorandum of Understandings from all three county boards to implement community-based funding.	Contact Garfield, Loup & Wheeler County Commissioners for MOU's.	December, 2015-2018	Diversion Coordinator	Time & effort of Director and commissioners	Diversion will not operate from GLWCC office without MOU's

<p>3. Meet with three County Attorneys, law enforcement and County and District Judges serving our area</p>	<p>+ Contact and secure meetings with necessary parties</p>	<p>January, 2015-2018</p>	<p>Diversion Coordinator & GLWCC Director</p>	<p>Match time from parties involved and support from stakeholders</p>	
<p>4. Collect & share Diversion Data</p>	<p>+ Plan monthly meetings with Law Enforcement + Update files & data monthly, case management, as needed + Share data with Courts, attorneys and NE Crime Comm.</p>	<p>March -July, 2015-2018</p>	<p>Diversion Coordinator, Law Enforcement, Ne. Crime Commission and County Attorneys</p>	<p>Match time of law enforcement, attorneys and stakeholders.</p>	<p>Barrier: local law enforcement doesn't report data to the NE. Crime Comm. Or keep statistics. GLWCC and Diversion Program will strive to improve reporting and collection of data.</p>

<p>5. Receive youth referrals to Diversion, from County Attorneys.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Meet with youth and families + Do approved assessments of youth + Plan individualized Diversion Program and implement necessary classes or strategies + Prepare follow-up and report results to Attorneys and Court. 	<p>March, 2015 - 2018</p>	<p>County Attorneys and judges, Diversion Coordinator, youth & families</p>	<p>Time and cooperation of Diversion officer, cooperation of County Attorneys, youth and families.</p>	<p>Without a Diversion Program youth and their families do not receive conviction options and education for problems.</p>
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Priority 3: Establish better coordination and enhanced collaboration with law enforcement in Garfield, Loup & Wheeler Counties.

Strategy	Action Steps	Timelines	Responsible Parties	Resources Needed	Outcomes/Barriers
1. Coordinate with law enforcement to collect data on youth related issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> +Continue monthly meetings with Law Enforcement +Continue use of reporting forms for information needed +Contact NE State Patrol and collaborate for Compliance Checks and report data for all three counties 	<p>January, 2015- 2018</p> <p>July, 2015- June, 2018</p>	<p>Diversion Coordinator, Law Enforcement Officers</p> <p>NE State Patrol and local law enforcement</p>	<p>Paid, and/or match time for Law Enforcement</p> <p>\$600 for Ne State Patrol for Compliance Checks</p>	<p>A Diversion Program would offer law enforcement officers an incentive to collect and post data and would receive additional support from communities for their efforts.</p> <p>Without funding for the Compliance Checks they might not be possible; our youth would be at a greater risk of being served alcohol.</p>
2. Supervision of alcohol/drug free events by Law enforcement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> +Collaborate on calendar for youth events with schools and Youth Boards +Arrange for supervision of events 	<p>March 2015-July 2018</p>	<p>GLWCC Youth Coordinator, Youth, GLWCC Assistant and Diversion Coordinator</p>	<p>Time and Coordination of those involved</p> <p>Paid, and /or match time for Law enforcement</p>	<p>Youth would have fewer alcohol/drug free events to attend and more un-supervised time</p>

<p>3. Provide an annual Drug Take-Back program for all three counties, supervision by law enforcement</p>	<p>+ Plan yearly calendar + Contact DEA (Drug Enforcement) in Kansas City to coordinate efforts and publicity + Collect drugs returned + Turn over returned drugs to NE State Patrol</p>	<p>January 2015, July, 2018</p>	<p>GLWCC Director, local Law Enforcement, DEA Officer Local Law Enforcement and NE State Patrol</p>	<p>Time and efforts of parties involved</p>	<p>Without this program many community members would not have a safe place to dispose of prescription medications .</p>
<p>4. Provide Beverage Server Training to all liquor-serving establishments or organizations.</p>	<p>+ Provide 3 counties with a Certified Beverage Server Trainer + Set yearly calendar for trainings + Report results of training to business</p>	<p>July, 2015- June 2018</p>	<p>GLWCC Board & staff, local law enforcement</p>	<p>Time & effort of GLWCC Board and law enforcement to see that we have a certified trainer; available funding for certification Time, effort, interest and funding of classes by local establishments.</p>	<p>Without the option to take this training, more establishment would fail the compliance Checks given by the Ne State patrol and more underage youth would be vulnerable to being served alcohol.</p>

<p>5. Offer Distracted Driving classes to youth in community.</p>	<p>+Coordinate calendar with GLWCC Youth Director, schools, and Youth Board.</p> <p>+Teach annual class</p>	<p>January, 2015 - July 2018</p>	<p>GLWCC Director & Assistant, Law Enforcement, Youth Boards</p> <p>Law Enforcement</p>	<p>Time and effort of Law Enforcement, schools, families, GLWCC and Youth Boards</p> <p>Funding for Distracted Driving education, curriculum, meeting space and supplies</p>	<p>Youth are vulnerable to Distracted Driving, including alcohol and drug affected driving, as well as texting while driving. Education of risks is needed o improve their chances of injury or death.</p>
<p>6. Honor efforts of local Law Enforcement at annual Town Hall Meeting</p>	<p>+ Coordinate calendar with Law Enforcement officers</p> <p>+Prepare Honor Plaque and present to Law Enforcement</p>	<p>April, 2016</p>	<p>GLWCC Director & Assistant, Law Enforcement</p> <p>Law Enforcement & Media</p>	<p>Time and efforts of those involved</p> <p>Time & effort of Law enforcement & Media</p>	<p>Law enforcement deserved to be recognized for their efforts involving youth</p>

ISSUE-BASED PRIORITIES

Priority 1: Area youth will be provided opportunities for prevention education on a multitude of issues by receiving prevention education in all three county schools, attending an annual retreat for all seventh grade students, a focused program directed at student athletes, Town Hall Meetings and an annual Health Fair. Breakout session topics will include healthy decision making and personal responsibility, underage use of alcohol, tobacco, marijuana and other drugs (including performance-enhancing substances), binge drinking, distracted driving (including cell phone use and texting); gambling, internet safety, self defense, and personal health issues such as abstinence, unplanned pregnancy, STDs, and suicide.

Strategy	Action Steps	Timelines	Responsible Parties	Resources Needed	Outcomes/Barriers
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1. Annual 7 th Grade "Start Smart" Retreat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> +Prepare & Coordinate calendar with all three county schools +Secure Kamp Kaleo for housing +Secure staff sponsors & break-out session instructors and School Prevention Coordinators. 	July, 2015 - July, 2018	<p>GLW Director, Assistant & School Coordinators</p> <p>GLWCC Director</p> <p>GLWCC Director, Burwell Rotary Club, Good Samaritan Pharmacist, NE Nat'l Guard, parents and volunteers</p>	<p>Time & effort of staff</p> <p>Community-based funding</p> <p>Time & efforts of presenters, staff and volunteers.</p>	<p>Students entering the secondary school system in the seventh grade spend two days in a fun, camp environment where they receive extensive education and motivational training to reduce substance abuse and risky behaviors. Participants receive follow-up contacts and correspondence, and participate in post-activity surveys and social activities.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> +Prepare permission slips & info sheet of all activities for all parents. Prepare cabin and session numbers based on those attending. Provide break-out sessions +Host overnight camp +Send survey results 		<p>GLWCC School Coordinators</p> <p>GLWCC staff and Board, Director</p>	<p>Time & coordination with schools, parents and staff</p> <p>Community-based funding</p>	

	and camp info to all parents +Coordinate with Burwell Rotary for postcards to all students.		GLWCC Assistant & Burwell Rotary members	Time & cooperation of stakeholders. Funding for letters and postage	Collaboration with interested business leaders who will implement their leadership strategies and stay in touch during the year.
	+Plan and implement annual camp T-Shirt and followup survey day for all 7 th grade students; provide drawings and report survey info +Plan & implement annual Swim Party for 7 th grade students that attended camp and for 7 th grade students and parents that will enter the next year.		GLWCC School Coordinators GLW Director, Assistant and School Coordinators	Time & coordination with schools & Coordinators, funding for drawings Community-based funding for rental of pool, time and efforts of staff and volunteers	Students are reminded of the sessions from camp and are surveyed as to what they remember and how they are doing. Students are again surveyed as to their experience the previous year at camp, lessons learned and then serve as mentors for the new 7 th grade students.

2. Sportsmanship Summit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> +Prepare & Coordinate calendar with all three county schools +Secure retreat facilities for activities +Secure staff sponsors & break-out session instructors; 	July, 2015 - July, 2018	<p>GLW Director, Assistant & School Coordinators; school athletic directors and coaches</p> <p>GLWCC Director, camp facility director.</p> <p>GLWCC Director, coaches, presenters, parents and volunteers</p>	<p>Time & effort of staff</p> <p>Time & efforts of parties involved</p> <p>Time & coordination with schools, parents and staff, community-based funding for speakers.</p>	<p>Area secondary school football team rosters include a majority of our teenage boys, we also cover girl's activities and last year added all interested students..</p> <p>Athletes and coaches are often admired and held up as role models for younger youth of both genders. The planned retreat will provide an intensive program focused on health, substance abuse and risk prevention, presented by respected coaches and authorities in a no-nonsense atmosphere without distractions.</p>
3. Host a booth at the annual Health Fair.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> +Prepare permission slips & info sheet of all activities for all parents. +Host camp + Prepare break-out on tobacco products and abuse of alcohol. 	April, 2015-2018	<p>GLWCC School Coordinators, coaches.</p> <p>GLWCC staff & Board</p> <p>GLWCC staff and Board, Director, Loup Basin Health Dept, 4-H educators</p> <p>GLWCC staff, youth</p>	<p>Community-based funding for supplies & postage</p> <p>Time & effort of all involved, community-based funding for educational</p>	<p>Area youth and parents gain knowledge of prevention risks and efforts. One on one</p>

<p>4. Host Town Hall Meeting</p>	<p>+Prepare and coordinate calendar with all three county schools and community calendar + Secure facility +Secure speaker & staff</p>	<p>March 2016</p>	<p>GLWCC Director, Board, School Prevention Coordinators GLWCC Director GLWCC Director</p>	<p>Community-based funding for speaker community-based funding for supplies</p>	<p>contact is made with many parents, community. Community (all 3 counties) youth & parents receive prevention education from notable speaker, GLWCC will receive survey data</p>
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Priority 2: Sustain evaluation efforts involving strategies of prevention and youth related activities.

Strategy	Action Steps	Timelines	Responsible Parties	Resources Needed	Outcomes/Barriers
<p>1. Provide Nebraska SHARP Surveys to all three county schools for grades, 8, 10, & 12.</p> <p>2. Compile data from other surveys (DAP, pre/post from curricula, antidotal and surveys designed by GLWCC used in focus and listening groups and gathered from community.,</p> <p>3. Provide data to evaluator</p> <p>4. Provide report to communities</p>	<p>+Provide surveys to all three county schools every other year.</p> <p>+School Prevention Coordinators implement strategies</p>	<p>October, 2016</p>	<p>Nebraska NDHHS GLWCC, three county schools, GLWCC Director and staff, Evaluator, media</p>	<p>Funding provided by NDHHS</p> <p>community-based funding for supplies, paper, etc. for surveys</p> <p>community-based funding for evaluator</p>	<p>Barrier - Funding for surveys uncertain from NDHHS</p> <p>Data drives our efforts and hopes. It is necessary to look at our data to see if we are making the difference that we want.</p> <p>Adjustments to our efforts and educational curricula may change according to our data results.</p>

Section VI-VII

County Board Approvals

Resolution 2014-19

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Juvenile Services Act, ("the act"), § 43-2401 *et seq.*, Laws 2001, LB 640, Garfield County has joined with Wheeler County and Loup County to develop and implement a regional Three Year Juvenile Services Plan 2013-2015 ("the plan") to identify and address the needs of juveniles in the three-county area, (Resolution 01-19 passed by the Garfield County Board of Commissioners on August 30, 2001), and

WHEREAS, the goals identified in the Plan include (1) providing area youth and their parents with a variety of educational programs, recreational opportunities and services, (2) providing expanded "wraparound" service, and (3) improving coordination among law enforcement agencies, and

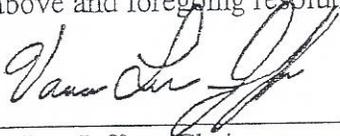
WHEREAS, Garfield County was previously designated as applicant for grants supporting the regional Plan and given authority to receive grant funds for developing the Plan, and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that Community Based Juvenile Services Aid Funds may now be available for distribution from state agencies, and additional funds may become available to support Plan activities in the future,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of Garfield County, Nebraska, as follows:

1. That the Garfield County Clerk is hereby designated as authorized fiscal agent for purposes of the Juvenile Services Act, authorized to receive and disburse to GLW Children's Council, Inc. County Aid Funds, grant proceeds or other grant funds for the implementation of the Juvenile Services Plan.
2. All Juvenile Services Plan funds received by or on behalf of Garfield County shall be remitted to Garfield County to be combined with grants received by Wheeler and Loup Counties and used for Plan purposes.
3. This designation shall continue in effect during the term of the Plan, as revised, amended or extended, from time to time.

The above and foregoing resolution was passed and adopted the 12th Day of November 2014.



Vance Lee Jeffres, Chairman

ATTEST:



Stacia Quinn
Garfield County Clerk



RESOLUTION NO. 14-28

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OF LOUP COUNTY, NEBRASKA

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Juvenile Services Act, ("the Act"), 43-2101 *et. seq.*, Laws 2001, LB 40, Loup County has joined with Garfield County and Wheeler County to develop and implement a regional Three Year Comprehensive Juvenile Services Plan ("the Plan") to identify and address the needs of juveniles in the three-county area, (Resolution 2-1-10-02), and:

WHEREAS, the goals identified in the Plan include (1) providing area youth and their parents with a variety of educational programs, recreational opportunities and services, (2) providing expanded "wraparound" service, and (3) improving coordination among law enforcement agencies, and:

WHEREAS, Garfield County was previously designated as applicant for grants supporting the regional Plan and given authority to receive grant funds for developing the Plan, and:

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that Community Based Juvenile Services Aid Funds may now be available for distribution from state agencies, and additional funds may become available to support the Plan activities in the future,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Chairman and County Board of Loup County, Nebraska, as follows:

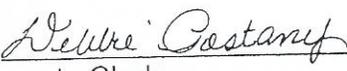
1. That the Garfield County Clerk is hereby designated as authorized fiscal agent for purposes of the Juvenile Services Act, authorized to receive and disburse County Aid Funds, grant proceeds or other grant funds for the implementation of the Juvenile Services Plan.
2. All Juvenile Services Plan funds received by or on behalf of Loup County shall be remitted to Garfield County to be combined with grants received by Garfield and Wheeler Counties and used for Plan purposes.
3. This designation shall continue to be in effect during the term of the Plan, as revised, amended or extended, from time to time.

The above and foregoing resolution was passed and adopted the 12th day of November, 2014.



Chairman

WITNESSES:



County Clerk



RESOLUTION NO. 20150101

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Juvenile Services Act, ("the act"), § 43-2401 *et seq.*, Laws 2001, LB 640, Wheeler County has joined with Garfield County and Loup County to develop and implement a regional Three Year Juvenile Services Plan ("the plan") to identify and address the needs of juveniles in the three-county area, Resolution 2001-10-02), and

WHEREAS, the goals identified in the Plan include (1) providing area youth and their parents with a variety of educational programs, recreational opportunities and services, (2) providing expanded "wraparound" service, and (3) improving coordination among law enforcement agencies, and

WHEREAS, Garfield County was previously designated as applicant for grants supporting the regional Plan and given authority to receive grant funds for developing the Plan, and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that County Juvenile Services Aid Funds may now be available for distribution from state agencies, and additional funds may become available to support Plan activities in the future,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Chairman and County Board of Wheeler County, Nebraska, as follows:

1. That the Garfield County Clerk is hereby designated as authorized fiscal agent for purposes of the Juvenile Services Act, authorized to receive and disburse to GLW Children's Council, Inc. County Aid Funds, grant proceeds or other grant funds for the implementation of the Juvenile Services Plan.

2. All Juvenile Services Plan funds received by or on behalf of Wheeler County shall be remitted to Garfield County to be combined with grants received by Garfield and Loup Counties and used for Plan purposes.

3. This designation shall continue in effect during the term of the Plan, as revised, amended or extended, from time to time.

The above and foregoing resolution was passed and adopted the 8th day of January 2014



Jack Poulsen,
Chairman

ATTEST: 



Cara Snider
Wheeler County Clerk