

Howard County
Juvenile Services
Comprehensive Community Plan
July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2018

Prepared By: Celeste Heavilin-Penner, MSED,
L.M.H.P., Howard County Community
Prevention Coalition Coordinator, and
Connie Holmes, Executive Director,
Central Ne. Council on Alcoholism and
Addictions (CNCAA); CNCAA- 219 W.
2nd St., Grand Island, NE. 68801
Celeste@cncaa.info
Connie@cncaa.info

Chair of Team: Celeste Heavilin-Penner
Same as above

Council/ Board Chair: Kathy Hirschman, Chairman
Howard County Board of Commissioners
612 Indian St., St. Paul, NE 68873

SECTION II

COMMUNITY TEAM

Description of Team and how formed, how long meeting, how often meet/met, structure..

In the fall and winter of 2009, Celeste Heavilin-Penner and Connie Holmes of CNCAA began a drug and alcohol prevention assessment process in Howard County, utilizing the Strategic Prevention Framework. This included two community informational (town hall) meetings, many key informant interviews, two youth specific focus groups and several other small focus groups of key community leaders meeting for the purpose of assessment. The Strategic Prevention Framework/State Incentive Grant (SPF/SIG) assessment of prevention needs and factors contributing to drug and alcohol problems was the format used in these meetings. Alcohol use/abuse by minors, alcohol abuse by adults, easy access to alcohol for youth, low perceived risk of harm and consequences for drinking by youth and underage drinking as an accepted social norm in Howard County all arose as the issues needing to be addressed. Those who participated in the town hall meetings have met almost monthly since this initial process, at first calling themselves the Howard County Community Assessment Team. Once the initial assessment phase was over, the name of the team was changed to the Howard County Community Prevention Team. This team meets monthly throughout the year, facilitated by Celeste Heavilin Penner or Connie Holmes. The Howard County Treatment Team (LB1184) members participated in the initial Juvenile Justice System Point Analysis on April 26th, 2012. Several members of the Howard County Community Prevention Team members were also present in that meeting. The LB1184 team was established in Howard County in 2002. They have met quarterly since their inception. A current list of team members with email contact information follows.

Howard County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Community Plan
2015 - 2018
6/15/15

Connie Holmes

Contact Group Name: Howard County Community Team

Members:

Amanda D	dvoracek_95@hotmail.com
Ann Wood	ann.wood@nebraska.gov
Arlene Johnson	villageofelba@nctc.net
Bev Sack	bev.sack@nebraska.gov
Brenda Starkey	brenda.starkey@spwildcat.org
Casey Smith	Casey.smith@Nebraska.gov
Celeste	Celeste@cncaa.info
Connie	Connie@cncaa.info
Connie Thompson	connie@phonographherald.com
Cory Bohling	cbohling@esu10.org
Dan Fiala	Daniel.Fiala@nebraska.gov
Dave Brehm	brehmdrug@charter.net
David Schroeder	hcattomey@howardcountyne.com
Dr. Angela Brennan	angie-alan-brennan@hotmail.com
Erin Ackerson	eackerson@esu10.org
Gary Anderson	ganderson@howardcountysos.org
Heather Evans	hevans@esu10.org
Howard County Sheriff Office	hcsos@howardcountysos.org
Howard Jensen	howardjensen@hotmail.com
Jennifer Hagen	jenhagensph@gmail.com
Jenny Brown	jbrown@region3.net
Jesica Vickers	jvickers@centerforpsychsrvs.org
John Poppert	jpoppert8@gmail.com
Joleen Lewandowski	joleen.lewandowski@spwildcat.org
Julie Moore	julamoore@q.com
Julie Otero	julie.otero@esu10.org
Kathy Gorecki	gor4kd@gmail.com
Kathy Hirschman	bobkatcattle@hotmail.com
Katie Harvey	Katie.Harvey@nebraska.gov
Kay Carpenter	kcarpenter@esu10.org
Kris Hervert	krishervert@yahoo.com
Lacy Tonniges	ltonniges@howardcountysos.org
Mark Van Pelt	mvanpelt@spwildcat.org
mdrudik@nctc.net	mdrudik@nctc.net
Michelle Woitalewicz	LMAwoitalewicz@yahoo.com
Mick Klein	mjklein@charter.net
Mick Klein	mklein@midplainscenter.org
Mike Hoff	greytbones@yahoo.com
Mike Hoff	mhoff@howardcountysos.org
Police Chief Paczosa	msspspd@hotmail.com
Ross Lyon	ross.lyon@nebraska.gov
Sara Paider	sara.paider@spwildcat.org
Sean Wysocki	swysocki@howardcountysos.org
Shelly Harrahill	shelly.harrahill@gmail.com
Tammy Holcomb	tholcomb@esu10.org
Terry Webb	tvillage@nctc.net
Tom Busch	tbusch@howardcountysos.org
Wes Stevens	wesleystevenswes3@outlook.com

Section III

Juvenile Justice System Analysis Tool

Assessment is ongoing throughout the year as new data becomes available. Additionally, on May 29, 2015 a subgroup of the Coalition met to review specific data documents that included the following:

SHARP- 2012 State of Nebraska Student Surveys of Youth Risk Behavior including the Nebraska Risk and Protective Factors Students Survey (NRPFSS), Youth Tobacco Survey and the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS). 2014 Data is not yet available.

Hall County Juvenile Services Data Report – Number of juveniles referred from Howard County (July 2012- June 2013 and July 2013- June 2014) to Hall County Juvenile Services Program; numbers completed.

Kids Count in Nebraska Report 2014

Juvenile Justice Data 2012-13 (prepared by Juvenile Justice Institute, UNO University of Nebraska Lincoln Center on Children, families, and the Law “Through the Eyes of a Child Initiative” District 8 Case Progression and Court Improvement Data Report for 2013-14 (Custer, Howard, Loup, and Sherman Counties)

Community Needs Assessment Survey St Paul, NE May 2014

Nebraska Adolescents....Keeping Them Healthy 2012-13 (statewide data)

Region 3 Behavioral Health Services Data related to Mental Health Services provided in Howard County as reported to/by Magellan (youth and adults)

St. Paul Public Schools reported number of youth who would be eligible/benefit from proposed mental health counseling/assistance and types of mental health issues of youth

Juvenile Justice System Point Analysis generally reviewed at June 2015 meeting; no changes to the previous report noted.

Howard County Attorney Office Referral Data (July 2013 – June 2014)

Section IV

Community Socio-Economics

According to the Loup Basin Health Department, Howard County has a population of 6,355 people and St. Paul is the County Seat. 23.5 % are under the age of 18. 19.7% are over the age of 65; 95.9% are Caucasian. Howard County covers 569 square miles of land, with 11 people per square mile. The income in Howard County comes predominantly from Agriculture. Highways 281 and Hwy 92 are the main traffic corridors.

According to the 2011 Census, 9.9 % of Howard County citizens are living below the poverty level and 12.7 % of people under age 18 are living in poverty. The median income in the area is reported to be \$45, 453 annually. This may currently be affected by inflated agriculture, commodity and land sale prices. Also reported in the 2011 census is 37% of middle and high schools students receive benefits from the free and reduced lunch program. There are three primary school districts in Howard County and they are St. Paul Public Schools (279 students in grades 7-12), Centura Public Schools (250 students in grades 7-12) and Elba Public Schools (46 students in grades 7-12). During the 2012-13 school year St. Paul Public Schools reported 32% of youth receive reduced/free lunches, 61.64% at Elba, and 36.55% at Centura Public Schools compared to the state average of 44.18% The 2014 graduation rate of St. Paul Public, Centura Public Schools, and Elba Public Schools was 100%.

Section V

Identified Priority Areas & Corresponding Strategies

ORGANIZATIONAL PRIORITY AREAS

Priority #1: Increase capacity of Howard County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition

The HCSAP Coalition currently has strong support from and engagement with the St. Paul Public Schools, St. Paul Police Department, Howard County Sheriff's Department, Loup County Basin Health Department, TeamMates, Central Nebraska Council on Alcoholism and Addictions, and Howard County Board of Commissioners. Many other community stakeholders receive regular emails related to activities, events, grant reports, and other relevant information and are invited to the monthly meetings.

Strategy 1

To increase capacity for change in Howard County, the Coalition would like to engage more stakeholders within the community to increase collaboration among community organizations who serve youth and their families.

Stakeholders Involved

Howard County Board of Supervisors, St. Paul Public Schools, Elba Public Schools, Centura Public Schools, Parents of youth ages 12-18, Youth ages 12-18, local media, local businesses that employ youth ages 12-18, Howard County Prevention Team, Howard County Attorney, LB1184 Team members, St. Paul Police Department, Howard County Sheriff's Department, Howard County Fair Board, Big Brothers Big Sisters, 4-H Leaders, Faith-Based Youth Leaders and Youth Groups, School Leadership Organizations

Timeline

Year 1-

Educate community about Coalition and Coalition goals/objectives.

(newspaper articles, events, radio, word-of-mouth)

Identify additional key community stakeholders serving youth ages 12-18 in Howard Co. Coalition members make personal contact with each stakeholder and invite to Coalition meetings. Help them understand how they fit into the prevention system.

Identify specific ways that each stakeholder can help the community better serve youth in the community.

Work with law enforcement to report data on required datasets.

Howard County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Community Plan

2015 - 2018

6/15/15

Year 2-

Continue to educate community about Coalition and Coalition goals/objectives.
Review list of identified community stakeholders who serve youth ages 12-18 in Howard County.
Coalition members make personal contact with each stakeholder and invite to Coalition meetings. Help them understand how they fit into the prevention system.

Year 3-

Continue to educate community about Coalition and Coalition goals/objectives.
Review list of identified community stakeholders who serve youth ages 12-18 in Howard County.
Coalition members make personal contact with each stakeholder and invite to Coalition meetings. Help them understand how they fit into the prevention system.

Resources Required

Space to host regular Coalition Meetings; Time investment from individuals to attend meetings and assist with community initiatives and priorities; Support from Howard County residents for positive change within community;

Expected Results

Increased participation by community members at Coalition meetings
Increased collaboration among Howard County residents, businesses, and youth-serving organizations
Shared responsibility for developing enhanced system for serving youth and preventing substance use issues (throughout Howard County)
Increased awareness of Coalition and substance use issues in Howard County

ISSUE BASED PRIORITY AREAS

Priority #1: Enhance Juvenile Services in Howard County

Currently in Howard County, the general policy is that youth 15 years of age and older are initially charged in adult court. Diversion is offered depending on the youth's record and family circumstances. The Howard County Board of Supervisors and Howard County Attorney have chosen to continue making referrals to Hall County Juvenile Services for diversion and to not develop a local diversion program.

Strategy 1

The Howard County Prevention Team would like to enhance juvenile services in Howard County by hiring a School Resource Officer whose time can be shared among the three school districts. This would be a part-time position; a job description is being developed; additional funding will be sought in order to make this a full-time position. This is a more preventative, proactive effort towards juvenile justice issues.

Stakeholders Involved

Howard County Board of Supervisors, St. Paul Public Schools, Elba Public Schools, Centura Public Schools, Howard County Prevention Team, County Attorney, Hall County Diversion, LB1184 Team members, St. Paul Police Department, Howard County Sheriff's Department, Parents and Students,

Timeline

Year 1-

- Finalize development of job description.
- Hire and train law enforcement officer to serve in this position.
- Develop a rotation schedule among the three school districts in Howard County.
- Collect data related to changes within each school district, i.e., truancy, bullying, drug/alcohol issues, increase in positive relationships between students/law enforcement
- Collect data related to number of referrals to diversion
- Evaluate effectiveness
- Report data to community
- Seek out additional funding to make position full-time

Year 2-

- Continue implementation
- Collect data related to changes within each school district, i.e., truancy, bullying, drug/alcohol issues, increase in positive relationships between students/law enforcement
- Collect data related to number of referrals to diversion
- Evaluate effectiveness
- Report data to community
- Seek out additional funding to make position full-time

Howard County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Community Plan

2015 - 2018

6/15/15

Year 3-

Continue implementation

Collect data related to changes within each school district, i.e., truancy, bullying, drug/alcohol issues, increase in positive relationships between students/law enforcement

Collect data related to number of referrals to diversion

Evaluate effectiveness

Report data to community

Seek out additional funding to make position full-time

Resources Required

Financial – County Aid dollars to hire and train a part-time School Resource Officer to be utilized by all three school districts in Howard County; Office Space at School, Courthouse, or Sheriff’s Department; Computer; Office Supplies; Travel to/from Schools; Ongoing Training; Seek out additional funding to make position full-time

Expected Results

This position would offer a more preventative, proactive stance at juvenile justice issues. We expect that this position, a consistent positive law enforcement presence within the schools will provide:

- Assistance with truant youth (getting them to school, meeting with parents)
- Reduce the number of truancy cases that get referred to the CA
- Positive role model for youth
- More positive relationship between youth and law enforcement
- Prevention education related to substance use/abuse therefore reducing rates of use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs

Priority #2: Mental Health Promotion

This is a new priority and focus for Howard County. The Howard County Community Prevention Team meets monthly to discuss a variety of issues of concern, initially focusing on substance use prevention. Most recently at the meetings many discussions started out to be about truancy or substance abuse, but have ultimately been peeled back several layers to be more about mental health needs of students – needs that aren’t being met. Not because the school administration doesn’t care, but because they’re not equipped to be able to identify nor meet all of these needs. We have discussed possible solutions, including referring the youth/families to resources in central Nebraska (but many do not have the finances nor insurance needed to pay for services), or if they do make referrals that the families choose not to follow through (or are not able to follow through because of adult mental health issues or distance to services), or the need for more staff, staff who are trained mental health professionals. This last option seemed to be the best solution, at least for St. Paul Public Schools.

Howard County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Community Plan

2015 - 2018

6/15/15

After discussions at the Coalitions meetings, St. Paul Public Schools scheduled a Trauma-Informed Schools Training for all of their staff, helping all of the staff get a better understanding of the types of trauma that youth (and adults) face each day and constructive ways to deal with them. Following this training, the St. Paul Schools High School and Elementary School Principals met with Region 3 to discuss local issues and potential services. Next, the Prevention Team met with Region 3 Behavioral Health Services and the Center for Psychological Services (Kearney, NE) to discuss a potential solution which could provide a professional Mental Health Therapist onsite weekly at St. Paul Public Schools to provide needed counseling services (individual or family). Center for Psychological Services, PC has a contract with Region 3 Behavioral Health Services to provide services through an outpatient school counseling program. Students who meet financial eligibility requirements may access services at a reduced rate through financial assistance from Region 3 Behavioral Health Services. A barrier identified in providing counseling services is the financial support to pay for mileage to/from Kearney for services to be provided weekly.

St. Paul High School Principal Jen Hagen has provided the following information about the mental health issues at the middle and high school levels – As of 5/1/15 there are 31 youth who could benefit from the on-site counseling service. Some of the mental health issues that have been identified (and may lead to other issues related to truancy, delinquency, substance use) include:

- 1) Anxiety and depression. These issues affect the largest number of youth identified. Some of these youth are already on medication but not receiving counseling/support to identify and deal with life issues.
- 2) Trauma - Divorce, mother overdosed and killed herself, mom in prison, drug history in the family, one student's parent has charges pending for sexual harassment of minor.
- 3) Self-Injury. We have had five student self-report that they cut themselves; there are probably more but have not reported it to anyone.
- 4) Three of these students have talked about suicide.

Sara Paider, Principal of the St. Paul Elementary School has reported that she has six youth who could benefit from this service. There are additional youth who are already involved in outside therapy but may choose to take advantage of on-site counseling if it were available to them (and perhaps save them money and travel time). These youth are struggling with self-injury, anxiety, depression, anger outbursts, threatening to hurt other children, early childhood trauma, and thoughts of suicide.

In order for children to be in a position to learn in school, they need to feel safe and supported and be able to concentrate; it's hard (if not impossible) to do that if the child is

Howard County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Community Plan

2015 - 2018

6/15/15

struggling with the mental health issues noted above. This service would be invaluable to the youth and families in Howard County.

Strategy 1

Arrange for and provide weekly counseling sessions with youth who have mental health needs.

Stakeholders Involved

St. Paul Public Schools, Youth ages 12-18, Parents, Region 3 Behavioral Health Services (Kearney), Center for Psychological Services (Kearney, NE);

Timeline

Year 1-

Identify funding source to provide mileage for Center for Psychological Services staff to travel to/from St. Paul weekly.

Develop agreement with Center for Psychological Services, Region 3 Behavioral Health, and St. Paul Public Schools to provide on-site counseling services at St. Paul Public Schs

Develop any necessary policies at the school-level to implement program.

Identify students needing services.

Secure parent permission/agreement for services to be provided.

Schedule and hold weekly counseling sessions.

Work with Schmeckle Research to develop evaluation tools for this strategy

Evaluate success of program regularly with all stakeholders

Years 2 and 3 -

Secure funding for travel expenses

Continue agreement with Region 3 and Center for Psychological Services if stakeholders determine it to be successful

Use data in community planning

Resources Required

Financial – funds to cover travel to/from Kearney/St. Paul weekly (\$130 miles roundtrip x 52 weeks x \$.575/mile = \$3887 yearly); Collaboration of St. Paul Public Schools, Region 3 Behavioral Health Services and Center for Psychological Services; referrals to program from St. Paul Public Schools; Cooperation from Parents and Youth; Meeting/Counseling space at St. Paul Public Schools; Funding from Region 3 Behavioral Health Services for counseling services;

Expected Results

Reduced number of incidents of mental health breakdowns at school

Increased resiliency by youth

Fewer referrals to office/principal for issues

Increased mental health by youth (and family)

Increased capacity for learning by youth

Howard County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Community Plan

2015 - 2018

6/15/15

Strategy 2

Arrange for and provide Compassion Fatigue, Trauma-Informed Care, and 40 Developmental Assets Trainings in Howard County.

Stakeholders Involved

St. Paul Public Schools, Centura Public Schools, Elba Public Schools, Students, Parents, Region 3 Behavioral Health Services (Kearney), Central Nebraska Council on Alcoholism and Addictions, Inc. (Grand Island), Collaboration with local CARE Team (focus on mental health wellness)

Timeline

Year 1-

Meet with each school to discuss potential benefit and time/schedule for training events
Schedule, publicize, and host training events

Years 2 and 3 -

Continue to share information about Trauma Informed Care, Compassion Fatigue, 40 Developmental Assets, and Resources available to help
Develop media related to the same
Provide additional training events as necessary/requested

Resources Required

Collaboration with St. Paul Public Schools, Centura Public Schools, Elba Public Schools, Trainers to provide Trauma Informed Care (Schools and Community) and Compassion Fatigue Trainings, Space for Training Events, Collaboration with Local Newspapers to Publicize Events, Howard County Residents to Attend Training Events

Expected Results

Increased understanding of trauma and how it affects all aspects of life for children and adults
Increased confidence within school staff related to dealing with mental health challenges exhibited by youth in school
Better mental health and/or self-care strategies for teachers and school administration
Increased understanding of the 40 Assets and how to build assets in youth

**Priority #3: Prevention of Underage Drinking and Binge Drinking
(Youth and Adults)**

Alcohol use and abuse by minors, alcohol abuse by adults and underage drinking/binge drinking as accepted social norms in Howard County were major issues identified in the assessment process completed by the Howard County Community Prevention Team as described in the first section of this document. Assessment is ongoing and includes the SHARP survey completed every two years and as well as the focus groups with youth and parents. Alcohol compliance checks and Responsible Beverage Servers Training are also part of the overall comprehensive prevention plan for Howard County funded by a small mini grant from Region 3 Behavioral Health Services.

Several highlights from the 2012 Nebraska Risk and Protective Factor Student Survey for Howard County include ---

- Reported Past 30-day ALCOHOL Use --- 14.8% of 8th graders compared to 6.3% for the State; 27.3% of 10th graders compared to 18.4% for the State; and 31.9% of 12th graders which is very close to the state average of 31.4%
- Reported Past 30-day BINGE DRINKING --- 6.8% of 8th graders compared to 2.8% for the State; 11.4% of 10th graders compared to 11.3% for the State; and 19.1% of 12th graders compared to 21.7% for the State
- Reported Past 30-day Alcohol-Impaired Driving/Riding in a Vehicle --- 15.2% of 6th graders, 24.7% of 8th graders, 28.9% of 10th graders, and 25% of 12th graders report having ridden in a vehicle driven by someone who had been drinking alcohol; 8.9% of 10th graders reported driving a vehicle after drinking.

Strategy 1

Provide education to youth and adults about the risks associated with alcohol use by minors, binge drinking and prevention of the same.

Stakeholders Involved

Parents, Youth ages 12-18, School Administration, Church/Community Youth Groups, Howard County Community Prevention Team, Loup Basin Health Department, School Resource Officer, Local Law Enforcement Agencies, Prevention Specialists, Radio, Newspapers, Television, Central Nebraska Council on Alcoholism and Addictions, County Attorney's Office, Region 3 Behavioral Health Services

Timeline

Year 1-

Work with prevention specialists to review educational resources

Develop a plan and timeline for multiple face-to-face educational opportunities for both youth and adults

Howard County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Community Plan

2015 - 2018

6/15/15

Work with the Central Nebraska Council on Alcoholism and Addictions to prepare for and implement the Grim Reaper Project

Develop a plan and timeline for at least quarterly educational articles in local newspapers

Utilize Nebraska Statewide Campaign materials throughout community (banners, ads, posters; distribute at ball fields and swimming pool where kids/families spend time

Collaborate with local media to record educational PSAs

Develop a short pre- and post-survey for each educational event

Year 2-

Implement plans and promote opportunities

Collect and Evaluate data (pre- and post-surveys)

Year 3-

Implement plans and promote opportunities

Collect and Evaluate data (pre- and post-surveys)

Resources Required

Adults/Parents, Youth ages 12-18, School Administration, Church/Community Youth Groups, Howard County Community Prevention Team, Prevention Specialists, School Resource Officer, Local Law Enforcement Agencies, Radio, Newspapers, Television, Print Materials from SAMHSA, CDC, NIDA; CNCAA Library Materials; 40 Developmental Assets resources; Funds for materials/supplies necessary to implement Grim Reaper Project

Expected Results

Reduce 30-day use of alcohol (NRPFSS results)

Reduce 30-day use of tobacco (NRPFSS results)

Reduce reports of binge drinking (NRPFSS and young adult survey results)

Reduction in MIP arrests and referrals

Increased perception of harm (to health)

Increased health in youth and adults

Begin to change social norm related to alcohol use

Strategy 2

Continue to conduct focus groups among youth who chose to abstain from the use of alcohol to help us better understand what protective factors may be the most helpful in prevention. (May also interview parents/adults to get adult perspective) Share results with community.

Stakeholders Involved

Howard County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Community Plan

2015 - 2018

6/15/15

Parents, Youth, School Administration, School Resource Officer, Church/Community Youth Groups, Howard County Community Prevention Team, Loup Basin Health Department, Law Enforcement,

Timeline

Years 1, 2 and 3 -

Review and revise (if necessary) the youth survey questions for focus groups.
Consider use of ACE Survey (trauma informed)
Schedule and facilitate at least 3 youth focus groups.
Tabulate and share results with Coalition/community.
Use data to plan for community planning.

Resources Required

40 Developmental Assets surveys, Parents, Youth, Collaboration with schools and other youth-serving organizations, Volunteer or paid time for implementation and tabulation of surveys, Church/Community Youth Groups, Howard County Community Prevention Team,

Expected Results

Increased awareness of risk factors and protective factors
Increased awareness of 40 Developmental Assets
Additional local data to assist with community planning

Strategy 3

Continue to examine arrests for and related prosecution of underage drinking, public intoxication, and drinking and driving.

Stakeholders Involved

Law Enforcement, County Attorney, Hall County Juvenile Services, Howard County Community Prevention Team

Timeline

Years 1, 2, 3 -

Schedule and facilitate monthly Howard County Community Prevention Team Meetings
Invite law enforcement officials and Howard County Attorney to monthly Community Prevention Team meetings to facilitate discussions related to alcohol and other drug arrests/issues and any barriers to the process of receiving consequences for those who break these laws.
Include any identified barriers and their removal in the annual strategic plan of the Howard County Community Prevention Team.
Work with law enforcement to report data on required datasets.
Review regularly local arrest data
Evaluate data and report back to community

Howard County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Community Plan

2015 - 2018

6/15/15

Resources Required

Collaboration with County Attorney's Office, Local Law Enforcement Agencies, Probation, Hall County Juvenile Services; Possible policy change that may include stiffer school/community penalties for all listed offenses which requires political will within communities; Training regarding positive outcomes of stiffer penalties for alcohol-related offense may be helpful to all stakeholders; staff necessary to report data to State;

Expected Results

Consistent enforcement and prosecution of penalties for alcohol related offenses
Increased perception of risk of harm to health
Increased perception of risk of negative consequences
Reduce 30-day use of alcohol by youth
Reduce drinking and driving by adults
Healthier, safer community overall

Priority #4: Promotion of Kindness and Respect

The problems of disrespect and bullying are not new, rather, issues that have received and continue to receive more and more attention perhaps due to the severity of some of the bullying behaviors, and the use of social media to bully, which for some youth across the nation has led to suicide. It is a concern among many communities in Nebraska. In Howard County, in particular St. Paul, there might be even more of a perception by the adults in the community that bullying is a major problem. It was noted several times within their most recent Community Needs Assessment Survey (May 2014) by adults in their community and according to the 2012 Nebraska Risk and Protective Factor Student Survey (NRPFSS), students in Howard County reported the following bullying behaviors during the past 12 months, by type and location:

6th Graders

36.7% reported any bullying behavior
30.4% reported having been bullied on school property
12.7% reported having been bullied away from school property
6.3% reported having been electronically bullied (by email, text, chat, etc.)

8th Graders

38.2% reported any bullying behavior
32.6% reported having been bullied on school property
21.3% reported having been bullied away from school property
16.9% reported having been electronically bullied (by email, text, chat, etc.)

Howard County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Community Plan

2015 - 2018

6/15/15

10th Graders

35.6% reported any bullying behavior

27.3% reported having been bullied on school property

20.5% reported having been bullied away from school property

15.9% reported having been electronically bullied (by email, text, chat, etc.)

12th Graders

27.1% reported any bullying behavior

25.0% reported having been bullied on school property

18.8% reported having been bullied away from school property

12.5% reported having been electronically bullied (by email, text, chat, etc.)

Additionally, during the summer of 2013 a young St. Paul middle-schooler committed suicide, reported by some within the community -- a result of bullying behavior -- others believe it had nothing to do with bullying. It was reported at a subcommittee meeting recently that within the past 18 months there have been five reported suicides within a 50-mile radius of St. Paul (not all youth, some adults).

Strategy 1

Provide education to youth and adults about respect, kindness and prevention of bullying.

Stakeholders Involved

Parents, Youth, School Administration, Church/Community Youth Groups, Howard County Community Prevention Team, Loup Basin Health Department, School Resource Officer, Local Law Enforcement Agencies, Prevention Specialists, Radio, Newspapers, Television, Howard County CARE Team

Timeline

Year 1-

Develop a taskforce in the community to review educational resources (to include schools, parents, youth, prevention specialists, community prevention team members)

Develop a plan and timeline for multiple community educational opportunities for both youth and adults in collaboration with the CARE Team

Implement 40 Developmental Assets in school and community environments

Develop a plan and timeline for at least quarterly educational articles in local newspapers

Collaborate with local media to record educational PSAs

Develop a short pre- and post-survey for each educational event

Year 2-

Implement plans and promote opportunities

Collect and Evaluate data (pre- and post-surveys)

Use data for community planning

Identify additional school and community resources that may be needed to address issue

Seek out additional funds, if necessary, to purchase identified resources

Howard County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Community Plan

2015 - 2018

6/15/15

Year 3-

Implement plans and promote opportunities
Collect and Evaluate data (pre- and post-surveys)
Use data for community planning

Resources Required

Adults/Parents, Youth, School Administration, Church/Community Youth Groups, Howard County Community Prevention Team, Bullying Prevention Specialists, School Resource Officer, Local Law Enforcement Agencies, Radio, Newspapers, Television, Print Materials from SAMHSA and other credible resources, CNCAA Library Materials; 40 Developmental Assets resources

Expected Results

Increased acts respect and kindness behaviors in youth
Decreased reports of bullying behaviors and incidents on NRPFS
Increased knowledge about what bullying is and is not
Increased awareness of how to help someone who exhibits bullying behavior
Increased awareness of how to help someone who is being or has been bullied
Increased resiliency skills in youth

Strategy 2

Implement bullying prevention strategies in the school and/or community setting.

Stakeholders Involved

Schools, School Resource Officer, Parents, Students, Law Enforcement Agencies, Howard County Community Prevention Team, CARE Team, Concerned Citizens, Bullying Prevention Specialists, SAMHSA and other Bullying Prevention Curriculum Suppliers

Timeline

Year 1 -

Meet with each of the Howard County Schools to review what is already in place related to kindness and respect promotion and bullying prevention
Review what bullying prevention resources are available within the community settings
Develop a taskforce in the community to review new or additional educational resources (to include schools, parents, youth, prevention specialists, community prevention team members)
Bullying Taskforce facilitates regular meetings to identify potential prevention curricula
Bullying Taskforce meets as need to review, evaluate and recommend potential curricula
Bullying Taskforce shares recommendation with Community Prevention Team

Howard County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Community Plan

2015 - 2018

6/15/15

Year 2-

Seek out and provide funding (if necessary) to purchase new/additional bullying prevention curricula/programs

Implement curricula/programs

Collect and Evaluate data (pre- and post-surveys)

Use data for community planning

Year 3-

Continue implementation

Collect and evaluate data

Consider expansion of bullying prevention programs if necessary

Use data for community planning

Resources Required

Adult and youth leaders for the Taskforce, Funding for new/additional programs as necessary; Collaboration with Schools, School Resource Officer, Parents, Students, Law Enforcement Agencies, Howard County Community Prevention Team, CARE Team, Concerned Citizens, Prevention Specialists; SAMHSA resources, Bullying Prevention Strategies

Appendix

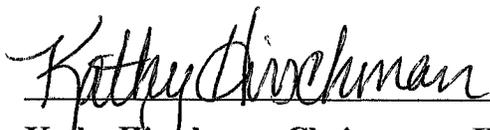
1. Howard County Board Approval Letter.

The Howard County Community Prevention Team will present this updated Howard County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Community Plan document (printed copies provided for each) before the County Board for full approval on Tuesday, June 23, 2015.

Howard County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Community Plan
2015 - 2018
6/15/15

Howard County Board Approval Letter

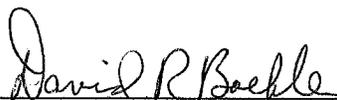
We have read and understand this updated Howard County Juvenile Services Plan for 2015-2018. We approve it as a general plan for our area.



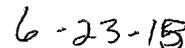
Kathy Hirschman, Chairperson, Howard County Board



Date



Dave Boehle, County Commissioner



Date



Rance Lierman, County Commissioner



Date