

# Lancaster County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Plan

**July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2018**



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Copy of this plan can be found at <http://lancaster.ne.gov/hserv/juvenile/compplan.htm>

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## Executive Summary

Lancaster County has been setting goals and objectives for juvenile justice since 1998. We continue to plan because the nature of juvenile offending and the philosophy used to address it are constantly changing. We have implemented a graduated sanctions program, collected and analyzed volumes of data, and built a state of the art detention facility. Yet a disproportionate number of minority youth continue to be in the system; youth with truancies and incidents of youth running away are a constant struggle; and the issues of substance abuse, mental health and poverty continue to permeate families of the youth we serve.

In 2012, Lancaster County developed a three year plan with five key priorities: Increase school engagement; Effectively utilize and expand a continuum of graduated sanctions/detention alternatives for youth; Reduce the overrepresentation of minority youth in the juvenile justice system; Identify appropriate behavioral health and substance abuse services for youth in Lancaster County; and Improve system operation and coordination. We discovered that oftentimes, constraints and issues made successful completion of objectives addressing these priorities challenging. However, due to the dedicated collaborative efforts of many and commitment from our funding partners, we made significant contributions towards those identified priorities.

In 2015, Lancaster County's Juvenile Justice Review Committee convened a subcommittee to update the Comprehensive Juvenile Service plan. Each of the identified priorities is listed below.

- Priority One:** Utilize multi-disciplinary collaboration with the schools to partner in preventing juvenile justice system involvement.
- Priority Two:** Prevent the onset and reoccurrence of youth entering the juvenile justice system or committing future offenses.
- Priority Three:** Reduce the racial and ethnic disparity of youth in the juvenile justice system.
- Priority Four:** Ensure service availability for all youth and their families.
- Priority Five:** Infuse Restorative Justice throughout every system point.

The underlining mission of Lancaster County's Juvenile Justice System is:  
*"To provide individualized supervision, care, and treatment in a manner consistent with public safety to those youth under age 18 at the time of referral who violate the law. Further, the Juvenile Justice System shall recognize and encourage prevention efforts through the support of program and services designed to meet the needs of those youth who are identified as being at-risk or violating the law and those whose behavior is such that they endanger themselves or others".*

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### Community Team

In 1980, Lancaster County formed a Justice Council to discuss and plan for adult and juvenile justice issues. This included top department head representation from all departments within the adult and juvenile criminal justice systems. Key committees included: Juvenile Justice Review Committee (JJRC); Alcohol Advisory Committee; Alternatives to Incarceration; and Domestic Violence Coalition.

In 2000, a proposal was made to establish the Criminal Justice System as a separate department, but debate brought up questions regarding the appropriateness of juvenile and adult system issues being together. As a result, the Justice Council was dissolved. The focus of juvenile justice planning and services remained under the Human Services Administration.

Over the next several years, those at the table addressing justice issues were expanded to include Lincoln Public Schools, mental health and substance abuse agencies, youth organizations, juvenile justice professionals, cultural centers, UNL, and elected officials. This group of advocates is known as the JJRC-Juvenile Justice Review Committee

Today active teams guide and oversee the efforts of the identified priorities. They include: the Truancy Team, Substance Abuse Action Coalition, Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities Committee, Steering Committee and Graduated Sanctions Committee. Each of these teams meets at least monthly to address priority goals. The JJRC and these sub-committees will guide the

community over the next 3 years (2015-2018) as we strive to meet our plan's priorities. The Lincoln/Lancaster Human Services Office serves as the backbone organization for these planning efforts.

During the November 2014 JJRC meeting, members were asked to participate in a sub-committee to work on the Lancaster County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Plan. The individuals listed on the previous page volunteered to be part of this process.



This sub-committee participated in a day long planning retreat on January 30, 2015. This included a review of the current year plan, review of community data elements, and prioritizing goals and strategies for the next 3 years. Prior to this meeting, the Steering Committee completed the Juvenile Justice System Analysis. This analysis was reviewed during this planning retreat.

In addition to this subcommittee, input from each of the teams of the JJRC – Truancy Team, Substance Abuse Action Coalition, Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities Committee, Steering Committee, and Graduated Sanctions Team was also included. Once the plan was put into written format, it was sent to all JJRC members, Lancaster County Commissioners, and Lancaster County Juvenile Court Judges for review.

**Juvenile Justice System Analysis Tool**

The County Attorney, Sherriff, City Attorney, Public Defender, Police Department, Juvenile Probation, Juvenile Detention, and Juvenile Court Judges sent key representatives to five different meetings focused on completing the Juvenile Justice System Point Analysis Tool. Once the tool was completed, it was presented to the larger JJRC group.

Completing the Juvenile Justice System Analysis Tool this year consumed more time and was more challenging than past years due to the passage of LB 561 and LB 464. These bills basically rewrote the juvenile code. In summary, this legislation eliminated the Office of Juvenile Services, shifted pre-adjudicated youth under county supervision, added 43 new juvenile probation officers to our district and added funding to County Aid.

Below is a summary of what was found in each category and possible solutions to consider for each category:



**Arrest**

Crime Commission data reflects this system point has a Relative Rate Index of 2.33. Unique to our community is Lincoln Police Department responds to ALL calls for services. As part of the Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities Committee, LPD looked at referrals from schools and found that the arrest rate for minority youth is the same as

white youth when police are called to the school with an identified suspect.

	Suspect not arrested White	Suspect Not arrested NonWhite	Arrested White	Arrested NonWhite
Total Calls	47	36	383	327

A team of representatives from the RED Committee attended the Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities in the Juvenile Justice System training at Georgetown University. As a result of this training and data analysis (shared later in the plan), our County is focusing on establishing a process to divert youth from entering the system at the arrest system point through a collaboration with the school district.



**Secure Detention**

Crime Commission data reflects this system point has an RRI of 2.08. Lancaster County data shows 57% of calls for intakes are for minority youth. The Lancaster County RED Committee focused on the intake decision point. Individual level data was collected for all youth entering detention with a new law violation. Logistic Regression was computed on 106 new law violators entering detention in 2012. Research found the detention score is the most significant predictor of youth being detained in Lancaster County. Minority status of the youth is not a significant factor when controlling for other variables.

Per statute, every youth taken into custody by law enforcement for placement in detention is screened by Probation. Further evaluation and validation of this detention screen was recommended.

In 2014, Lancaster County implemented detention alternatives at the point of intake. These alternatives consist of electronic monitoring and shelter beds.

A majority of youth in detention are youth who have been adjudicated and violate probation. Many of these youth are waiting for placements. Since a majority of the youth in detention are adjudicated, it was suggested Probation consider a matrix or objective screening instrument to determine what youth should be placed in detention.

The County has a process in place to find youth who do not show up for court. The juvenile court doesn't issue the warrant until the Human Services Office has a chance to try and make contact with the youth. While this deters many youth from coming to detention on a warrant for a new law violation, the process should be formalized.



The committee recommended exploring emergency mental health and detox services and placements for youth. The idea of alternatives for juveniles in adult court and the option to complete community service instead of paying a fine were discussed. Researching options for local drug testing was also suggested.

### Charging Juveniles

Justice stakeholders agreed the Early Assessment Process of screening all diversion eligible youth using the Nebraska Youth Screen is working. County Attorney filings have decreased and youth who need help are getting their cases expedited through the system.

The City Attorney began using the Early Assessment Process and is also using a tiered diversion approach. This helps in getting the appropriate level of service to youth. Members of the committee suggested more communication regarding the sliding scale fee for diversion and keeping data on why youth are not participating in diversion.

### Juvenile Court

The process of evaluations in juvenile court has been challenging. There are many quality providers, but few who will go into detention to complete an evaluation. Medicaid is not active for youth who are detained. The judiciary is now responsible for identifying and ordering an evaluation when they are not familiar with the youth.

Lancaster County is one of the few counties that uses conditional release prior to the youth being placed on probation. Many youth are placed on conditional release after being adjudicated and while the disposition of their case is continued. This assists the judiciary in determining what works with the juvenile prior to placing them in a service or supervision status.



Concern was raised among the committee concerning placements of youth. The judiciary can't order a youth to a placement until the placement accepts the youth. There were concerns raised with the number of youth waiting for placements. Concern was also raised with the number of youth going to placements out of state. The suggestion was made to have a quality assurance study done on the referrals and timeliness of placements.



With the new statute pertaining to sealing juveniles' records, there is a lack of consistency between juvenile and county court. Other times, not all records are being sealed if there was a different docket and page number. A part-time person to research and work on this was suggested.

Regarding reentry, there are still many questions on what happens if the court doesn't approve the reentry plan. What if the prosecutor and probation don't agree on placement at YRTC? Determining if a youth has exhausted all levels of supervision when there are a lack of placements is challenging. Community safety should also always be considered when placing youth in the least restrictive community placement.

### Truancy/Ungovernable Youth

Lancaster County is fortunate to have a Truancy Program at 6 schools. Lincoln Public Schools, Juvenile Judges, and the County Attorney work together for this school based program by providing services and meetings at the school after the regular school day. Family services are provided in the home through a licensed community provider. The program has been evaluated and has shown to be effective in reducing truancies.

Table 6: Changes in Absences Over Time (Time 1) - All Cohorts

n=39	Type of Absence	T1: #Absences before enrolled	T2: # Absences While Enrolled	Percent Change from T1 to T2
	Truancy	2243	449	-79.9%
	Parent-acknowledged	596	285	-52.2%
	Illnesses	1128	396	-64.9%
	In-School Suspensions	106	40	-62.3%
	Suspensions	220	111	-49.6%

However, this model consumes a lot of the courts and county attorney's time and is not easily replicated at all schools. In addition, it doesn't serve youth who are on probation for a law violation. It was suggested an EBP programming be explored for youth on probation who are truant from school. The idea of a probation officer being collocated in the schools was also discussed. The notion of a legislative change not allowing youth to drop out of school until their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday if they were under juvenile court jurisdiction was also suggested.



**Community Description**

Lancaster County is made up of 22 cities, towns and villages in Southeast Nebraska, and comprises the state’s second largest metropolitan area, with 297,036. Since 2005, Lincoln has seen a 55% growth in the minority population (Lincoln Vital Signs).

**Economics**

The median income for a household in the County is about \$50,000. Lincoln’s cost of living is 10% below the national average. Lincoln’s poverty rate is now higher than the national average with a 58% increase since 2005. Six neighborhoods are considered to be in extreme poverty, compared to zero neighborhoods 10 years ago.

Homelessness has increased by 41% since 2007. It is estimated 1 in 5 children live in poverty. In 2013, the annual cost of care for an infant in a child care center was more than the in-state average of annual tuition and fees at a public 4 year college or university. This equates to 10% of the median family income of married couples and 32% of the median income of single mothers (Lincoln Vital Signs).

**Transportation Routes**

Lancaster County has several transportation routes that run through the County. These include Highway 77 North and South, Highway 2, ‘O’ Street and Interstate 80 East and West. Interstate 80 is one of the two most heavily traveled transcontinental highways in the United States. The Interstate is linked to about three-quarters of the estimated \$2.8 billion that travelers spent last year in Nebraska. On an average non-summer day, more than 15,000 vehicles drive on Interstate 80. In

the summer, the daily average surges to more than 20,000. (Nebraska Department of Roads). Interstate 80 is also one of the most commonly used transportations routes to transport illegal drugs (Nebraska State Patrol).



The City of Lincoln also has a bus system with 18 different bus routes. These routes incorporate most of the city. The buses run from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday. The city offers low income, month long bus passes for people in need.

**Population**

Lancaster County is a vibrant and growing community with youth ages 10 to 17 comprising almost 10% of the total population. The following chart is an outline of the demographics of the youth population:

<b>Data Points</b>	<b>Total Population</b>	<b>Juvenile Population (10-17)</b>
Total Population	297,036	28,363
Male	148,718	14,406
Female	148,318	13,957
White	267,481	24,458
Black/African American	13,920	2,050
Asian	12,453	1,424
Native American	3,182	431
Hispanic	18,884	2,721
Non Hispanic	278,152	25,642

\*\*OJJDP Website

### **Schools**

In Lincoln there are 38 public elementary schools, 11 middle schools, and 6 high schools. There are 4 alternatives schools for students who have difficulty learning in a regular setting. There are approximately 25 private schools. Four school districts are located outside of the Lincoln metropolitan area (Lincoln Public Schools).



There are four main colleges in Lincoln. The largest is the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. Attendance for this college alone was 19,376 in 2014. There is one trade school. There are five colleges and universities with satellite locations in Lincoln. With these colleges, Lancaster County residents have the opportunity to attend college in their home area. These colleges also have a positive financial impact on the community as well as an endless number of student volunteers for agencies to utilize.

However, with the colleges there comes a considerable amount of underage drinking, parties, and crimes associated with them. There are over 100 liquor licenses within a one-mile radius of the UNL campus. Nebraska ranks in the top 20 percent of states in underage and binge drinking.

### **Attractions**

Lincoln is the Capitol of Nebraska. Lincoln is also home to Memorial Stadium, where Nebraska football games

are played. Approximately 90,000 people per game attend these football games on a regular basis. Lincoln is also home to several museums and a zoo.

With the recent addition of Pinnacle Bank Arena to our community, we've seen a steady growth in the downtown area. Pinnacle Bank Arena plans to host over 125 events per year that brings in over 700,000 people annually.

The Lied Center is a venue for national tours of Broadway productions, concert music, and guest lectures. Lincoln has 2 shopping malls and several plazas. All of these attractions are a positive financial resource for Lancaster County; however, they also bring an increase in alcohol consumption, drug usage and overall crime.



Lancaster County has 5 different lakes for boating and/or camping. It is also home to Star City Shores and a number of city pools. These provide for pro-social activities for youth and their families to enjoy.

Lancaster County has an excellent reputation and history of working collaboratively, and services for youth are clearly a priority. Over the past twenty years, all of the major governmental and child-serving agencies have joined forces to focus on juvenile issues. The Juvenile Justice Review Committee and its' task forces are excellent examples of such collaboration.

## **Priority Areas**

- 1. Utilize multi-disciplinary collaboration with the schools to partner in preventing juvenile justice system involvement.*
- 2. Prevent the onset and reoccurrence of youth entering the juvenile justice system or committing future offenses.*
- 3. Reduce the racial and ethnic disparity of youth in the juvenile justice system.*
- 4. Ensure service availability for all youth and their families.*
- 5. Infuse Restorative Justice throughout every system point.*

Please note: Priorities are NOT numbered by importance

**Priority One:** *Utilize multi-disciplinary collaboration with the schools to partner in preventing juvenile justice system involvement.*

Decreasing truancy is a priority from the current years plan. The tasks of the Truancy Team are to identify intervention and prevention strategies to address the problems surrounding at-risk youth and provide a means of intervening with these youth prior to them becoming involved with the juvenile justice system. The team reviews policies on how to better address at-risk youth, gather and analyze data, review the current system, identify gaps in the system, review information on access and availability of services and explore ways to provide education regarding existing resources.



During the current plan year, the committee specifically accomplished the following:

- Truancy Diversion Program has been expanded to 5 additional schools.
- Why Try is being used district wide.
- An early assessment process was developed and funded through Region V (LINCS). The SMART Teams in the schools now have an avenue to refer youth in need of additional services to this program.
- School and Justice Collaboration was formed.

- Probation is piloting co-locating officers in the schools.

Truancy remains an issue in Lancaster County. The number of referrals where the school has requested a filing from the County Attorney’s Office are broken down by years in the table below:

10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14
577	580	571	668

Lancaster County continues to collaborate with Lincoln Public Schools to address truancy and assist students to reengage them in school.

Lancaster County is also working with Georgetown University to achieve the goal of reducing the number of law enforcement referrals from the schools. Arrest data collected and examined through planning for a school based diversion program has begun. This is a collaboration between Lincoln Public Schools (LPS), Lincoln Police Department (LPD), and the Lancaster County Attorney’s Office. The Center for Children, Family and the Law is collecting data concerning the number of referrals at school. Below is what was found thus far:

- A majority of school based referrals are for youth ages 15 and under (259 compared to 116 for school year 2013-14).
- When looking at offenses, minority youth were overrepresented when there was an assault referral (40% higher than projected).
- In almost every case, a suspect was identified when calling LPD (98%).

**Priority One: Utilize multi-disciplinary collaboration with the schools to partner in preventing juvenile justice system involvement.**

Strategies/Objectives	Action Steps	Responsible Party	Time Line	Resources Needed	Expected Results
Decrease truancy through a combined effort with the schools, families, law enforcement, and service providers	Evaluate Truancy Diversion Program and possibility of expanding the program.	Judiciary, County Attorney, LPS	June 30, 2016	Funding for data analysts and program personnel (including County Attorneys)	Improved attendance, performance, and school attachment  Decreased truancy filings and less truancy adjudications
	Collaborate with Probation to assist youth on probation who are struggling in school	Probation and LPS	June 30, 2016	System coordination & collaboration	Consistent delivery of services
	Reengagement of youth who have stopped attending school	LPS & Community Providers	June 30, 2017	Funding, data, collaboration	Increased graduation rate
Collaborate with LPS to triage youth in crisis and provide follow-up services to those youth	Work with LPS Homeless Advocate in securing community resources	Region V & LPS	June 30, 2017	Collaboration & funding	Continuum of care for homeless youth in Lincoln
	Identify training and service providers using trauma informed care	Region V	June 30, 2016	System coordination and funding	Trained service providers on trauma when working with our youth
	Insure families are included in service delivery	Region V	June 30, 2016	Collaboration	Family voice in all decisions

Collaborate with LPS in determining when students should be referred to the juvenile justice system	Establish a school based restorative justice diversion program and extended learning activities for low level offense	Lincoln Police Department, LPS, and County Attorney	June 30, 2016	System coordinator	Less youth entering the juvenile justice system at the point of arrest
	Uniform policy concerning when police are called to the schools	Lincoln Police Department and Lincoln Public Schools	June 30, 2018	Staff time	Less youth being referred to law enforcement from the schools Schools work with students on redirecting undesirable behavior

**Priority Two:** *Prevent the onset and reoccurrence of youth entering the juvenile justice system or committing future offenses.*

This is a new priority for Lancaster County. Lancaster County has several programs and processes in place to prevent youth from entering the juvenile justice system. The Early Assessment Process was developed from a Juvenile Justice System Analysis of Lancaster County. The number of youth assessed through this process over the course of the last three years is:

2012	2013	2014
809	520	591



Additionally, Lancaster County contracts with a multitude of agencies for preventative programming. This includes cultural specific programming, Region V, mentoring, employment programs, and school based programs. These programs focus on providing prevention and early intervention efforts.

Recently many of these agencies have united to address the uptick of gang membership and violence in our community. Gangs are established in Lincoln, with 31 known gangs and 965 documented members. We believe that Lincoln is at a tipping point with gangs and gang violence.

In 2014, Operation Tipping Point began. This is a collaboration among many agencies to prevent and intervene with early gang involvement. Referrals are identified through the schools, probation, and law enforcement. The Operation Tipping Point team wraps services around the youth. To date 5 youth have been served in this program.



The County recently implemented the Pre-Adjudicated Community Services Program. Youth enter the program after being brought to detention by law enforcement and screened for this service through the Probation detention screen. They may also be placed in this program by the judge at the initial hearing. A majority of youth in the program have an electronic monitor and are in the reporting centers. Since inception of this program in July 2014, over 30 youth have been served.

Mentoring has been one of the most successful prevention and early intervention programs recognized by OJJDP as being EBP. However, mentoring comes with limitations. The average time a mentee spends waiting for a mentor is 12 to 18 months. Through reentry, we partnered with UNL to provide mentors. However, matches through UNL are limited to time when school is in and is dependent on class enrollment size.

**Priority Two: Prevent the onset and reoccurrence of youth entering the juvenile justice system or committing future offenses.**

Strategies/Objectives	Action Steps	Responsible Party	Time Line	Resources Needed	Expected Results
Identify a coordinated level of response for all pre-adjudicated youth	Continue to explore, support and evaluate the early assessment process and programs that divert youth out of the system	Justice Stakeholders & Community Partners	June 30, 2018	Programs, Collaboration, & Funding	Ensure community safety & court attendance  Serve the right youth in the right place at the right time  Reduce Recidivism
	Build on community supports to further develop the Early Assessment Process and Pre-Adjudication Program	Justice Stakeholders	On-going	Programs, Collaboration, & Funding	Reduces racial disparity  Individualized programming
	Incorporate Developmental Assets & Protective Factors programs	Juvenile Justice Coord & Community Providers	June 30, 2017	Training	Evidence based supported programming
	Insure parents are a part of the process	Region V	June 30, 2016	Collaboration	Family voice in all decision
	Further explore and support mentoring options for all youth	Community Partners	June 30, 2016	System Coordination and Funding	Positive role models for youth

Reduce gang membership and gun violence among our youth	Continue to collaborate with law enforcement for prevention, intervention, and suppression efforts of gang and gun violence	Law Enforcement, Justice Stakeholders, & Community Providers	On-Going	Collaboration & Funding	Reduction in gang and gun violence
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**Priority Three:** *Reduce the racial and ethnic disparity of youth in the juvenile justice system.*

Reducing the disproportionate minority contact in the juvenile justice system is a priority from the current year’s plan. Lancaster County is fortunate to have an active Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities Committee that meets regularly, reviews juvenile justice data, and takes direct action to meet this priority. This committee was able to accomplish the following during 2012-2015:

- 35 juvenile justice documents were translated into Arabic, Russian, Spanish, and Vietnamese.
- RED Committee was restructured after attending training from the Burn’s Institute.
- Core RED Committee applied to, was accepted, and participated in the Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparity Program through Georgetown University.
- An individualized level data study found the biggest predictor of if a youth was detained for a new law violation was the detention screening instrument score.
- Study of youth referred to law enforcement from schools found a majority of non-traffic related calls are for youth ages 15 and under. Of these calls, a majority of them are assaults. Work has begun on a school based pre-arrest diversion program. For youth 15 and under, school based LPD referrals were 136 or 52.5% white and 123 or 47.5% minority youth.

- Contact rate for minority families in the Early Assessment process was examined. Different methods of reaching out to families were implemented (texting, instant messaging, letters). Further work on this is being examined.

Race/Ethnicity	% Youth Interviewed Jul – Sep 2014	% Youth Interviewed Oct – Dec 2014
African American or Black	48%	60%
American Indian or Alaskan Native	33%	50%
Asian or Pacific Islander	33%	50%
Hispanic	59%	78%
Unknown/Other	75%	75%
White	72%	80%

However, with all of these efforts, there continues to be a disproportionate number of minority youth in the juvenile justice system. In 2010, 33% of all arrests were minority youth, while they account for only 17% of the population. Even more significant, 49% of all cases which resulted in confinement involved minority youth. While we know there is DMC in our system, justice stakeholders do not agree with numbers reflected in the Relative Rate Index and efforts are being made to work on a common definition and source of accurate data in future years.

Lancaster County will continue to focus efforts on reducing the number of minority youth in the juvenile justice system. Strategies include follow-up trainings on Implicit Bias, follow-up with evaluating system point data, and continuing to collaborate with Georgetown in our School and Justice Collaborative.

Reporting Period **Jan / 2010**  
through **Dec / 2010**

System Points:	Total Youth	White	Black or African-American	Hispanic or Latino	Asian	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islanders	American Indian or Alaska Native	Other/ Two or More Races	All Minorities	Percentage of Minority
1. Population at risk (age <b>10</b> through <b>17</b> )	28,480	23,510	1,746	1,827	1,130	0	267	0	4,970	17%
2. Juvenile Arrests	3,332	2,233	759	258	2	0	80	0	1,099	33%
3. Refer to Juvenile Court	422	287	74	41	10	0	10	0	135	32%
4. Cases Diverted	723	495	121	56	17	0	23	11	228	32%
5. Cases Involving Secure Detention	423	214	121	50	10	0	21	7	209	49%
6. Cases Petitioned (Charge Filed)	422	287	74	41	10	0	10	0	135	32%
7. Cases Resulting in Delinquent Findings	332	75	42	12	9	0	5	189	257	77%
8. Cases resulting in Probation Placement	365	216	78	33	9	0	8	21	149	41%
9. Cases Resulting in Confinement in Secure Juvenile Correctional Facilities	142	61	39	22	2	2	10	6	81	57%
10. Cases Transferred to Adult Court	67	51	8	5	1	0	2	0	16	24%

**\*Data provided by Statewide DMC Coordinator – most recent data**

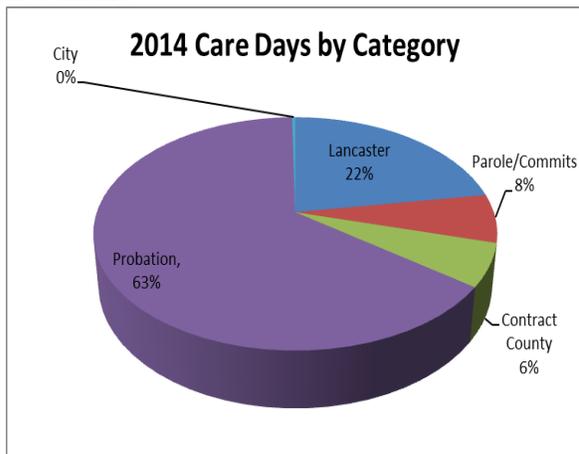
**Priority Three: Reduce the racial and ethnic disparity of youth in the juvenile justice system.**

Strategies/Objectives	Action Steps	Responsible Party	Time Line	Resources Needed	Expected Results
Education on Implicit Bias	Confirm following trainings with Dr. Marsh to present this information	Juvenile Justice Coordinator	July 1, 2016	Funding	Community and justice members have a better understanding of implicit bias
	Increase diversity of JJ system staff and/or volunteers	All Stakeholders	June 30, 2018	Funding	Diverse workforce that may decrease implicit bias
Evaluate each system point to determine disparity	Continue examining individual level data	Stakeholders	June 30, 2018	Funding for evaluator	Determine if and why there is disparity in our system
Continue working with Georgetown on Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities	Support community policing and organizations	LPS & Stakeholders	June30, 2017	Collaboration & Funding	Positive relationships between community and police will be formed
	Support cultural and gender programming	Community Stakeholders	June 30,2017	Collaboration & Funding	Family and youth will be engaged in service delivery

**Priority Four:** *Ensure service availability for all youth and their families.*

Lancaster County is fortunate to have a Substance Abuse Action Coalition that meets monthly to focus on behavioral health issues and ensure information sharing occurs between youth treatment providers and juvenile justice system stakeholders. Lancaster County juvenile justice system also has a strong collaboration with Region V to address issues in behavioral health of our youth.

During the current year’s plan, state statute was changed that dissolved the Office of Juvenile Services and shifted this responsibility to Probation. With the change of the supervising entity, our community has experienced a lag time in youth being accepted and moved to placements. Additionally, the number of local placements for youth has decreased. Some of this lag time can be attributed to securing funding for treatment.



Detention population for 2014

The Substance Abuse Action Coalition reviewed data collected by Juvenile Probation of 16 youth in out of state placements. It was determined the most difficult youth to find placements for in-state are youth who have assaultive and

sexual-perpetrating behaviors. It is also difficult to place youth with an IQ between 68-71 because they do not meet DSM diagnosis requirements. However they still lack the intellectual skills necessary to effectively participate in services. Our committee has reached out to NABHO to assist with this.

We also continue to struggle with youth who are in need of the service once provided by the Lincoln and Hasting Regional Centers. It seems the Youth Services Center has now become a holding facility for behavioral health youth.

Competency was discussed at length. Statute does not provide for if a juvenile is found incompetent. There needs to be further discussions among stakeholders concerning better practices for serving this population.

Lancaster County received a reentry grant to develop a plan for youth leaving the YRTC’s and returning to Lancaster County. Over 150 youth were served throughout the 2.5 year period of the grant. With the transition from OJS to Probation, there needs to be consistency in reentry to ensure partnerships formed during this grant and resources developed are not lost.

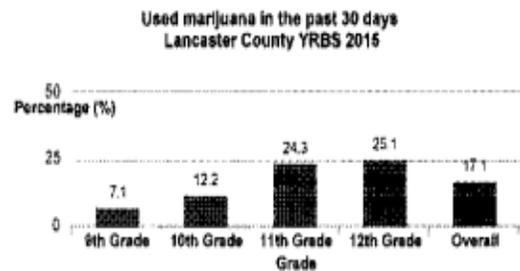
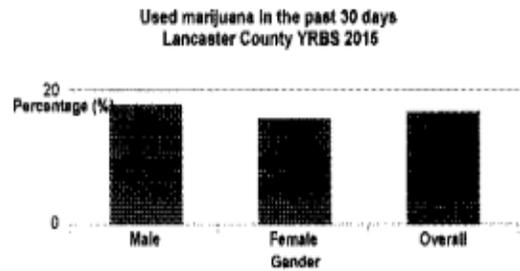
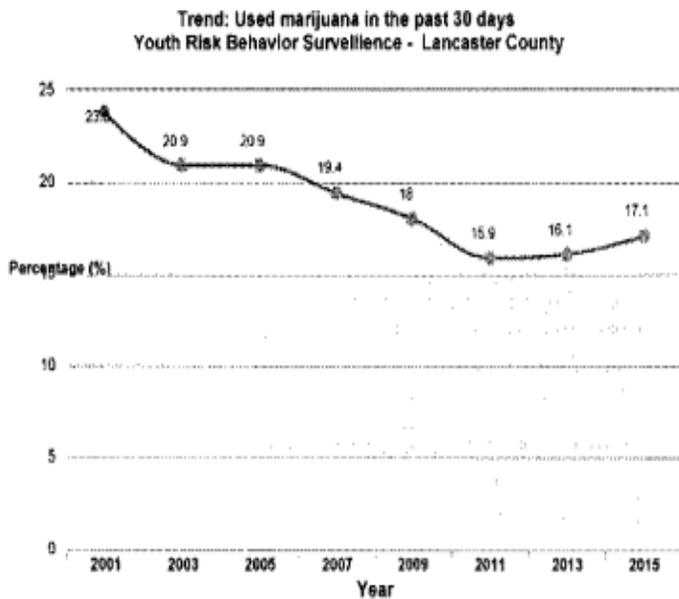
Youth who are transitioning out of the juvenile justice system often find themselves with limited resources, including a place to live. Collaboration among agencies will continue to assist in insuring these youth have needed resources in place prior to reaching the age of majority. According to Nebraska Appleseed, a night count of homeless youth in Lincoln on January 25 yielded 257 youth.

Our community has seen an increase in marijuana use, including synthetic marijuana (K2). In fact, in April 2014, Lancaster County Community leaders called K2 overdoses a “crisis in our community”. During this time, 90 people overdosed on K2 in one week alone. The community hospital has had 9 beds taken by K2 patients at one time. During the writing of this report, the Lincoln/Lancaster Health Department is treating the K2 crisis similar to an outbreak of a disease or food contaminant and trying to find the source -- whether it’s a single product, a geographic area or some other pattern.



The tables below are taken from the latest YRBS (2015). Students reported 25% of 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders used marijuana in the last 30 days. Overall marijuana usage has steadily increased in recent years in our community.

**During the past 30 days, how many times did you use marijuana?**



Source: Lincoln Lancaster County Health Department

**Priority Four: Ensure service availability for all youth and their families.**

Strategies/Objectives	Action Steps	Responsible Party	Time Line	Resources Needed	Expected Results
Identify gaps and establish a continuum of behavioral health programs	Provide holistic wellness services	Community Agencies	June 30, 2016	Funding	Youth engaged in programming and pro-social activities
	Partner with Medicaid in ensuring benefits for those eligible	SAAC	June 30, 2017	Information Sharing & Collaboration	Youth waiting for treatment have their apps expedited
	Research local drug testing options	SAAC	June 30, 2017	Information sharing & Funding	Local drug testing options that are fast & reliable
	Identify and increase availability for out of home placements in Lincoln	SAAC & Probation	June 30, 2016	Collaboration	Youth stay in their community
	Work with providers in accessibility of trauma informed care	SAAC & Region V	June 30, 2016	Training & Quality measurement	Youth will receive trauma informed care
	Identify specific behavioral health programming for younger teens	SAAC & Region V	June 30, 2017	Training & Funding	Younger teens will have appropriate programming to meet their needs
	Alcohol Profile Survey will be used by community providers	SAAC & Region V	June 30, 2016	Training & Funding	Lancaster County will have a better idea of alcohol consumption among youth

	Continue to work on educating our youth on K2 and assist in prevention efforts	Stakeholders	December 31, 2016	Education and Collaboration	Decreased use of synthetic marijuana among our youth
Decrease out of home placements through crisis response, coordination of services, wrap around, and “continuum”	Support and build on detention alternatives	Stakeholders	June 30, 2018	Funding	Serving the right kids and the right level
	Encourage family engagement and cultural competency, and ICWA compliance	Stakeholders	June 30, 2017	Training & Funding	Families will be engaged to the process and provide input
	Provide support for youth who are reentering the community from out of home placements	Stakeholders	June 30, 2016	Collaboration & Funding	Youth will have supports in place as well as an individualized plan when returning to the community
	Training for foster parents for high risk, treatment level youth	Stakeholders	June 30, 2016	Training & Collaboration	Youth will be allowed to remain in the community
Research and develop effective system in providing services to youth who run away from home	Look for EBP to assist Homeless youth	Youth Homeless Coalition	June 30, 2018	Collaboration & Funding	No youth in Lancaster County should be homeless
	Research mentoring programs effective with this population	Community Providers	June 30, 2017	Funding	Mentoring programs that are research based
	Drop-in Center	SAAC	June 30, 2018	Collaboration, Training, & Funding	Place for youth to visit and get their needs met

**Priority Five: *Infuse Restorative Justice throughout every system point***

This is a new priority for the current year's plan. Restorative justice offers alternatives to our traditional juvenile and criminal justice systems and school discipline processes. Rather than focusing on punishment, restorative justice seeks to repair the harm done. Restorative justice results in consensus-based plans that meet victim-identified needs in the wake of a crime.

Restorative Justice programming can take many forms, most notably conferencing models, victim-offender dialogue, and circle processes. In applications with youth, it can prevent both contact with the juvenile justice system and school expulsions and suspensions. Applying restorative justice principles is an evidence based approach.

Restorative justice also holds the potential for victims and their families to have a direct voice in determining just outcomes, and reestablishes the role of the community in supporting all parties affected by crime. Several restorative models have been shown to reduce recidivism and, when embraced as a larger-scale solution to wrongdoing, can minimize the social and fiscal costs of crime.

When recognizing the harm done during the course of committing a crime, familial impact cannot go unnoticed. While it's difficult to gage the interest families of system involved youth may have in receiving help from the system, the following information illustrates the need for such services. The number of calls to the Boystown Helpline for Lancaster County from July 1, 2013 -

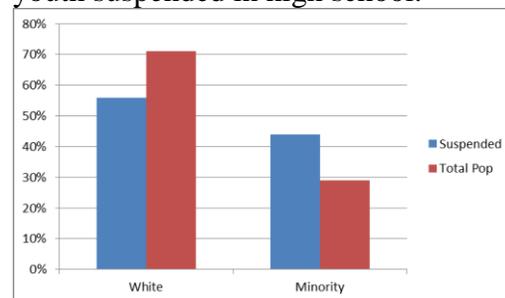
June 30, 2014 was 460. From July 1, 2014 - April 30, 2015 there were 417 calls.



**Justice That Promotes Healing**

Lancaster County currently has a mediation program for juveniles. This mediation program is a partnership between Lancaster County and the Mediation Center. In the last 5 years, there have been over 70 referrals for mediation. Discussions with Lincoln Public Schools on incorporating victim offender mediation and circles into their Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports are occurring.

The table below compares the average minority percent of students enrolled in high school to the percent of minority youth suspended in high school.



**Priority Five: Infuse Restorative Justice throughout every system point.**

Strategies/Objectives	Action Steps	Responsible Party	Time Line	Resources Needed	Expected Results
Research & develop methods to instill victim empathy among our youth	Encourage and provide opportunities for victim participation	Stakeholders	June 30, 2017	Training & Funding	Youth will develop a sense of empathy for others
	Implement mediation in a variety of settings	Stakeholders & Community Service Providers	June 30, 2017	Training & Funding	Youth will learn to repair the harm caused by their actions
Engage Families in the process	Educate families on the juvenile justice system	Stakeholders & Community Agencies	June 30, 2016	Collaboration	Families will be engaged in the process
Establish different community service learning opportunities	Promote meaningful volunteer opportunities for youth	Community Service Providers	June 30, 2016	Collaboration	Youth will be connected to their community through positive pro-social activities
	Support LPS as they implement Restorative Justice within their existing structure	Stakeholders & LPS	June 30, 2018	Collaboration & Funding	Youth will achieve cognitive development through restorative principals

# Appendix

## JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM POINT ANALYSIS TOOL

<b>SYSTEM POINT: ARREST/CITATION</b>	
Decision: Whether an information report should be filed, or what offense, if any, under which juvenile should be cited or arrested	
<p><b>Formal/Informal Factors</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sufficient factual basis to believe offense was committed</li> <li>• Victims and Family Input</li> <li>• Officers Inclination/patience</li> <li>• Citizens choose to call law enforcement</li> <li>• Majority of calls are reactive</li> <li>• Organization/policies on reporting criminal behavior</li> </ul>	<p><b>Unique to our Community</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Problem oriented/community policing</li> <li>• Law Enforcement responds to ALL calls</li> <li>• Policy enforces what crimes require a written investigative report</li> </ul>
<p><b>Data</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DMC data has arrest RRI at 2.33</li> <li>• Data on school referrals demonstrate when police are called to the schools they arrest minority youth at the same rate they arrest white youth</li> </ul>	<p><b>Specific Problems</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of shoplifting referrals coming from businesses</li> <li>• School based law enforcement referrals</li> </ul>
<p><b>SOLUTIONS</b></p> <p><b>Existing Resources</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shoplifting diversion program</li> <li>• Collaborate to address referrals generating at schools</li> </ul>	<p><b>Developed Resource</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data specific to shoplifting from businesses</li> <li>• Further data analysis on school based referrals</li> </ul>
<p><b>Policy/Procedure Program</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Screen out lower tiered calls</li> <li>• Collaborate with LPS to determine: how the decision is made to refer on to LPD and to handle internally at LPS; Consistency among LPS on when LPD is called</li> <li>• City/County Attorney don't file if a category of offenses are handled internally at LPS</li> </ul>	<p><b>Training</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• System and school personnel trained on Restorative Justice concepts</li> </ul>

Decision: Whether to cite or arrest juvenile for juvenile or adult offense	
<b>Formal/Informal Factors</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State Law Determines this</li> </ul>	<b>Unique to our Community</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>
<b>Data</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DMC data has arrest RRI at 2.33</li> </ul>	<b>Specific Problems</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lengthy amount of time to get cases transferred out of adult court and filed in juvenile court</li> </ul>
<b>SOLUTIONS</b> <b>Existing Resources</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LB 464 allows for an avenue to start more offenses out in juvenile court instead of adult court</li> </ul>	<b>Developed Resource</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evaluation of impact on LB 4654 to our current system</li> </ul>
<b>Policy/Procedure Program</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>	<b>Training</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Training for stakeholders on LB 464 and how it impacts the system</li> </ul>

Decision: Whether to take juvenile into custody or to cite and release	
<p><b>Formal/Informal Factors</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Citation in lieu of arrest</li> <li>• Immediate risk to community and/or juvenile</li> <li>• Seriousness of offense (felony or misdemeanor)</li> <li>• History of failure to appear</li> <li>• Warrants</li> <li>• Extent to which parent or other responsible adult is able to take responsibility for youth</li> <li>• Probation detention screen</li> </ul>	<p><b>Unique to our Community</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Every youth who may be taken into custody by law enforcement is screened by Juvenile Probation. This is time consuming for law enforcement to wait for Probation</li> <li>• Lancaster County has a detention center, pre-adjudication community services, &amp; shelter options</li> <li>• Community policing</li> </ul>
<p><b>Data</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DMC data has arrest RRI at 2.33</li> </ul>	<p><b>Specific Problems</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are a limited number of group homes and shelter beds to place youth</li> <li>• There are no emergency mental health placements for youth</li> <li>• There is no youth specific detox</li> </ul>
<p><b>SOLUTIONS</b></p> <p><b>Existing Resources</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Free assessments through the Assessment Center</li> </ul>	<p><b>Developed Resource</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examine Blue Valley TASC and see if it can be replicated for youth</li> </ul>
<p><b>Policy/Procedure Program</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review policies pertaining to intakes to detention</li> <li>• Review fit for confinement policies</li> </ul>	<p><b>Training</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training for new Probation employees on the intake process</li> </ul>

<b>SYSTEM POINT: INITIAL DETENTION</b>	
Decision: Whether juvenile should be detained or released	
<b>Formal/Informal Factors</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Risk assessment outcome – with override options</li> </ul>	<b>Unique to our Community</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pre Adjudicated Community Services</li> <li>No Show Program for Warrants</li> <li>Lancaster County has a detention facility, staff secure, shelter, and a hospital psychiatric ward</li> </ul>
<b>Data</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DMC data has detention RRI at 2.08</li> <li>57% of calls for intake are for minority youth</li> <li>Evaluation determined the main factor for someone being detained is the score of the detention screen</li> </ul>	<b>Specific Problems</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Over representation of minority youth at this system point</li> </ul>
<b>SOLUTIONS</b> <b>Existing Resources</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lancaster County has a RED Committee</li> </ul>	<b>Developed Resource</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evaluation should be done on overrides of detention screen broken down by race/ethnicity/gender</li> <li>Detention screen should be validated</li> </ul>
<b>Policy/Procedure Program</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Formalized process for referring youth to the no-show program for youth and adults</li> <li>Establish alternatives for juveniles in adult court who fail to pay fine &amp; don't appear for court</li> <li>Consider community service in lieu of fines</li> </ul>	<b>Training</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>JDAI training and resources on serving the right kids in the right places at the right time</li> </ul>

<b>SYSTEM POINT: CHARGE JUVENILE</b>	
Decision: Whether to prosecute juvenile	
<b>Formal/Informal Factors</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diversion</li> <li>• State statute</li> <li>• Victim input</li> <li>• Prior history</li> <li>• Warning letters</li> <li>• Severity of crime</li> <li>• Family consequences/response</li> <li>• Age of juvenile</li> <li>• School response</li> </ul>	<b>Unique to our Community</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lancaster County has a Juvenile Screener who completes the NYS with all diversion eligible offenses</li> <li>• SMART Teams in LPS middle and high schools</li> <li>• Diversion, Intensive Diversion, and Tiered Diversion</li> </ul>
<b>Data</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DMC data reflects this system point is proportionate</li> </ul>	<b>Specific Problems</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are different charging decisions based on if the filing originates in the City or County Attorney's Office</li> <li>• There is still lag in time from the arrest point to the family being notified of the filing decision</li> <li>• Fines for juvenile diversion should be evaluated and fining per charge needs to be reconsidered</li> </ul>
<b>SOLUTIONS</b> <b>Existing Resources</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More communication with juveniles on sliding scale fee</li> </ul>	<b>Developed Resource</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluation needs to occur on if our work is impacting the community</li> </ul>
<b>Policy/Procedure Program</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore the County Attorney only prosecuting juvenile cases</li> </ul>	<b>Training</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>

Decision: Whether youth should be prosecuted as a juvenile or adult	
<b>Formal/Informal Factors</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State Statute</li> </ul>	<b>Unique to our Community</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Juvenile Drug Court</li> <li>• Pre-trial release programs</li> </ul>
<b>Data</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>	<b>Specific Problems</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Takes time to get cases transferred to juvenile court</li> </ul>
<b>SOLUTIONS</b> <b>Existing Resources</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>	<b>Developed Resource</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need to evaluate the impact of LB 464</li> </ul>
<b>Policy/Procedure Program</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre Adjudicated Community Services for youth in adult court</li> </ul>	<b>Training</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training on how LB 464 impacts stakeholder</li> </ul>

Decision: Offense for which juvenile should be charged	
<b>Formal/Informal Factors</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State statute/city ordinance</li> <li>• Prosecutor discretion</li> </ul>	<b>Unique to our Community</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The same judge and county attorney keep the youth throughout the system</li> </ul>
<b>Data</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>	<b>Specific Problems</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>
<b>SOLUTIONS</b> <b>Existing Resources</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>	<b>Developed Resource</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>
<b>Policy/Procedure Program</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>	<b>Training</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>

**SYSTEM POINT: PRE-ADJUDICATION DETENTION**

Decision: Whether juvenile detained at the time of citation/arrest should continue in detention or out-of-home placement pending adjudication

**Formal/Informal Factors**

- Detention Screen

**Unique to our Community**

- Graduated Sanctions (Day, Evening, and Weekend Reporting Centers, House Arrest Probation Officers, Trackers, Electronic Monitor, Employment Service, Alternative School)
- Drug Testing
- Staff Secure & Detention
- Shelter
- Child Psychiatric Unit

**Data**

- DMC Statewide Assessment
- Evaluation determined detention score was the highest factor predicting if youth was detained

**Specific Problems**

- Component of K-2 are always changing
- Lack of mental health treatment facilities
- Lack of out of home placements in the community
- Engaging parents

**SOLUTIONS**

**Existing Resources**

- Graduated Sanctions (Day, Evening, and Weekend Reporting Centers, House Arrest Probation Officers, Trackers, Electronic Monitor, Employment Service, Alternative School)

**Developed Resource**

- Nebraska based drug testing lab
- Research program similar to TASC for juveniles
- Establish more beds and availability in out of home placements

**Policy/Procedure Program**

- Allow for juvenile court to have more authority over parents

**Training**

- Training on drug testing and the use of quant levels

**SYSTEM POINT: PROBABLE CAUSE HEARING**

Decision: Whether State can show that probable cause exists that juvenile is within the jurisdiction of the court

<p><b>Formal/Informal Factors</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completed at detention hearing</li> </ul>	<p><b>Unique to our Community</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Felonies are booked in adult court and reviewed by the County Court then reviewed by the County Attorney for a filing decision</li> </ul>
<p><b>Data</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>	<p><b>Specific Problems</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interface between change in law and PACS program</li> </ul>
<p><b>SOLUTIONS</b> <b>Existing Resources</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>	<p><b>Developed Resource</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>
<p><b>Policy/Procedure Program</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>	<p><b>Training</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Training for LPD on PACS Program</li> </ul>

**SYSTEM POINT: COMPETENCY EVALUATION**

Decision: Whether juvenile is competent to participate in the proceedings

<p><b>Formal/Informal Factors</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does the juvenile understand the nature of the offense, the penalties and his/her rights</li> <li>Can the juvenile participate in his defense</li> <li>If under 12, more caution is given in looking for competency</li> </ul>	<p><b>Unique to our Community</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of psychologists or psychiatrists with expertise in evaluating adolescent competency</li> <li>Lack of funding</li> </ul>
<p><b>Data</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>	<p><b>Specific Problems</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No statutory authority for procedure when juvenile found incompetent.</li> </ul>
<p><b>SOLUTIONS</b> <b>Existing Resources</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Several youth serving community agencies</li> </ul>	<p><b>Developed Resource</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>
<p><b>Policy/Procedure Program</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>	<p><b>Training</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More training for clinicians for evaluation and treatment</li> </ul>

<b>SYSTEM POINT: ADJUDICATION</b>	
Decision: Whether juvenile is, beyond a reasonable doubt, “a person describe by 43-247”	
<b>Formal/Informal Factors</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legal sufficiency of evidence presented during adjudication hearing</li> <li>• Whether juvenile admits the allegations of the petition</li> </ul>	<b>Unique to our Community</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low number of cases progress to a trial</li> </ul>
<b>Data</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>	<b>Specific Problems</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Court is busy and time is limited</li> <li>• Too much time lapses between offense and court</li> </ul>
<b>SOLUTIONS</b> <b>Existing Resources</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>	<b>Developed Resource</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need more judges and attorneys</li> </ul>
<b>Policy/Procedure Program</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>	<b>Training</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>
Decision: Whether to order probation to conduct a Pre-Disposition Investigation (PDI)	
<b>Formal/Informal Factors</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 21 days is allowed for detention</li> <li>• 30 days for a youth not in detention</li> </ul>	<b>Unique to our Community</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quality providers</li> <li>• Access to a number of resources</li> </ul>
<b>Data</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>	<b>Specific Problems</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providers aren’t willing to go to detention</li> <li>• Medicaid is not active while detained</li> <li>• Difficult to determine when type of eval is needed for youth new in the system</li> </ul>
<b>SOLUTIONS</b> <b>Existing Resources</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pilot Program for Probation vouchers in Omaha</li> </ul>	<b>Developed Resource</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>
<b>Policy/Procedure Program</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Share NYS and assessment interview with probation</li> </ul>	<b>Training</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training for court personnel over process for ordering correct eval</li> </ul>

<b>SYSTEM POINT:      DISPOSITION</b>	
Decision: Whether to place juvenile on probation	
<b>Formal/Informal Factors</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delinquent history</li> </ul>	<b>Unique to our Community</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of conditional release prior to Probation</li> </ul>
<b>Data</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>	<b>Specific Problems</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where does Drug Court fit in?</li> <li>• Truant youth aren't excelling on probation</li> <li>• Difficult to prevent youth from running away</li> <li>• Lack of community placements</li> <li>• Court can't order placements until the placement accepts them</li> <li>• Levels of care are often denied by Magellan</li> <li>• Difficult to exhaust all levels of care</li> <li>• Referral process for placements is lengthy</li> </ul>
<b>SOLUTIONS</b> <b>Existing Resources</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Truancy Diversion Program for non-court involved youth</li> </ul>	<b>Developed Resource</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secure placement options for youth with significant mental health issues</li> </ul>
<b>Policy/Procedure Program</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Study/quality assurance on timeliness of referral/placement process</li> </ul>	<b>Training</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>

**SYSTEM POINT: ADMINISTRATIVE SANCTIONS**

Decision: Whether to impose administrative sanctions

**Formal/Informal Factors**

- Statewide matrix of sanctions

**Unique to our Community**

- Graduated Sanctions (Day, Evening, and Weekend Reporting Centers, House Arrest Probation Officers, Trackers, Electronic Monitor, Employment Service, Alternative School)

**Data**

- Largest detention population is probation violators

**Specific Problems**

- Lack of mental health programming built into graduated sanctions
- Monitors are easy to cut off
- Lack of gender specific responses
- Truancy while on probation

**SOLUTIONS**

**Existing Resources**

- Graduated Sanctions (Day, Evening, and Weekend Reporting Centers, House Arrest Probation Officers, Trackers, Electronic Monitor, Employment Service, Alternative School)

**Developed Resource**

- Collaborate with the schools for sanctions

**Policy/Procedure Program**

- Implement a screen for probation violators
- Co-locate probation officers in the schools

**Training**

- None

**SYSTEM POINT: MOTION TO REVOKE PROBATION**

Decision: Whether to file a motion to revoke probation

**Formal/Informal Factors**

- Statute

**Unique to our Community**

- Prosecutors exercise discretion

**Data**

- None

**Specific Problems**

- Lack of mental health programming built into graduated sanctions
- Monitors are easy to cut off
- Lack of gender specific responses
- Truancy while on probation

**SOLUTIONS**

**Existing Resources**

- None

**Developed Resource**

- None

**Policy/Procedure Program**

- Legislation needs to be changed so youth who have a truancy filing are not allowed to drop out of school until their 19th birthday

**Training**

- None

**SYSTEM POINT: SETTING ASIDE ADJUDICATION**

Decision: Whether juvenile has satisfactorily completed his or her probation and supervision or the treatment program of his or her commitment

<p><b>Formal/Informal Factors</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NRS 43-2 (102 &amp; 103)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Unique to our Community</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>
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<p><b>Data</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>	<p><b>Specific Problems</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New statute puts burden on prosecutor’s office due to “automatic” sealing of records</li> <li>• Co-defendants listed on police reports probation is using for PDI’s are blacked out</li> <li>• Families don’t understand when records are sealed (sat. vs. unsat. release)</li> <li>• Statue problematic for Law Enforcement for sealing co-defendants</li> <li>• Statute problematic for DMV concerning loss of points</li> </ul>
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<p><b>SOLUTIONS</b></p> <p><b>Existing Resources</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JUSTICE database</li> </ul>	<p><b>Developed Resource</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Part-time person to implement a seamless process for sealing of records</li> </ul>
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<p><b>Policy/Procedure Program</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Statutory changes</li> <li>• Consider sealing records immediately if they were dismissed</li> </ul>	<p><b>Training</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training on how to search for juveniles under different dockets and page numbers</li> </ul>
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Decision: Whether juvenile should be discharged from custody and supervision of OJS	
<b>Formal/Informal Factors</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Statute</li> </ul>	<b>Unique to our Community</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lancaster County had a reentry grant that allowed for planning and programming</li> </ul>
<b>Data</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>	<b>Specific Problems</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Question on what happens if the court doesn't approve the reentry plan</li> <li>• Question on what happens if the prosecutor and probation do not agree on YRTC (prosecutor has burden of proof)</li> <li>• Prosecutor is required to be made aware of all the facts</li> </ul>
<b>SOLUTIONS</b> <b>Existing Resources</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reentry grant for youth leaving the YRTC's and returning to Lancaster County</li> </ul>	<b>Developed Resource</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>
<b>Policy/Procedure Program</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Statutory change</li> </ul>	<b>Training</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>

# Lancaster DMC Assessment

DMC Assessment

## The Nebraska State DMC Assessment Lancaster County Data

Dr. Anne Hobbs  
Presented to the Lancaster County DMC Subcommittee  
September 27, 2012

### The DMC Mandate

The goal of the state assessment is to identify the factors that contribute to DMC so that Nebraska's juvenile justice stakeholders can design appropriate intervention strategies.

### Differs from the Relative Rate Index

- ✓ This assessment involves statewide data and more in depth research questions, but we are also able to look at county-level data.
- ✓ It goes beyond percentile comparisons, and examines level of offense, population differences, gender, etc. (dependent on good data).

*Designed to help us understand "why?"*

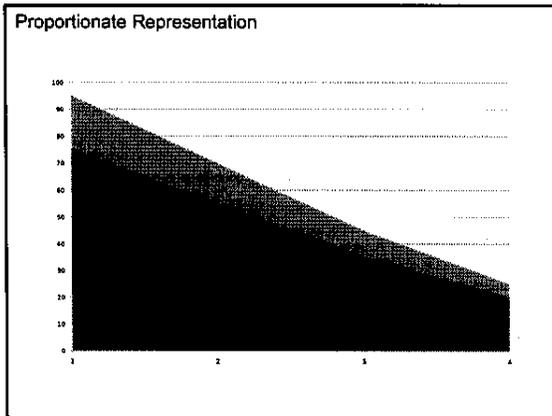
### Nebraska's Juvenile Population

Race/Ethnicity	Youth Ages 10-17	Percentage
Asian	4,012	2.0%
Black	13,636	6.9%
Hispanic	26,312	13.3%
Native American	2,531	1.3%
White	151,894	76.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>198,385</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

### Lancaster County Juvenile Population

Race/Ethnicity	Youth Ages 10-17	Percentage
Asian	1,693	4.4%
Black	2,614	6.8%
Hispanic	3,513	9.2%
Native American	347	.9%
White	30,136	78.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>38,303</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

- ### Points in the Juvenile Justice System
- Law Enforcement
  - Juvenile Diversion
  - Juvenile Court
  - Adult Court
  - Juvenile Probation
  - Detention / Secure Detention
  - Office of Juvenile Services



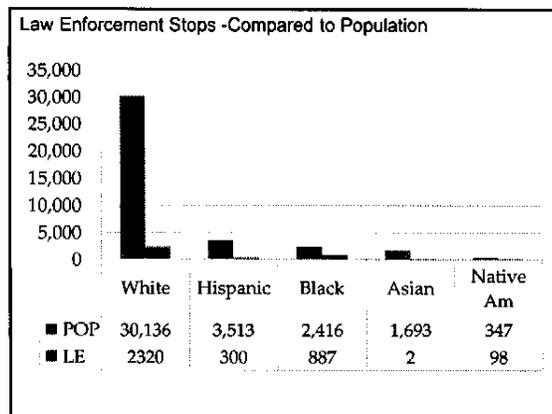
## Law Enforcement

### Youth with Law Enforcement Contact

Race/Ethnicity	Number of Youth	Percentage of Youth
Asian		
Black		
Hispanic		
Native American		
Other		
Unknown		
White		
<b>Total</b>		

### Lancaster County Law Enforcement

Race	Number of Youth	Percent
Asian*	2	0.1%
Black	887	24.6%
Hispanic	300	8.3%
Indian	5	0.1%
Other	4	0.1%
White	2320	64.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,617</b>	<b>100.0%</b>



### Are minority youth more likely to have LE contact?

	White	Black	Asian	Native American	Hispanic
LC Juvenile Population (10-17)	78.7%	6.8%	4.4%	2%	9.2%
LC Law Enforcement Contact	64.3%	24.6%	0.1%	1.7%	8.3%
Standardized Residual	-9.74	40.96	-12.44	32.29	1.79
	<b>Under</b>	<b>Over</b>	<b>Under</b>	<b>Over</b>	---

**Bold Numbers: p<.001**

**Conclusions**

- Black and Native American youth are more likely to be stopped by law enforcement for a law violation.
- White and Asian youth are less likely to be stopped by law enforcement.

**Next steps**

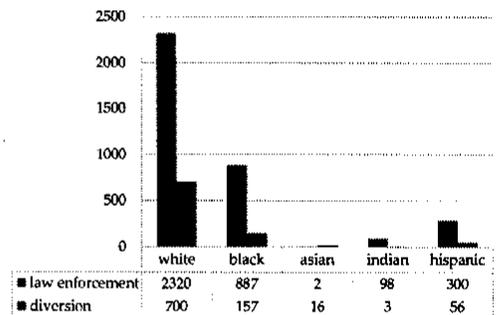
1. Determine why so few youth are categorized as Asian, in law enforcement data sent to NCC.
2. Work with law enforcement to determine why data indicates that some minority youth are more likely to be stopped by law enforcement (even after controlling for age, type of law violation, and gender.)

**Diversion**

**Lancaster County Diversion**

	Youth Referred	
	Number	Percent
Asian	16	1.8%
Black	157	17.7%
Hispanic	56	6.4%
Indian	3	0.34%
White	700	71.2%
Missing /Other	23	2.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>899</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Comparing Law Enforcement and Diversion**



**Referred to Diversion**

	White	Black	Asian	Native Indian	Hispanic
Contact with Police	64.2%	34.6%	8.1%	2.7%	8.3%
Population Referred to Diversion	71.4%	17.0%	1.8%	0.3%	6.5%
Diversion Rate	11.1%	4.9%	2.2%	0.1%	7.8%
	Over	Under	Over	Under	-

Build Numbers possible

**Diversion Outcomes**

	Disposition			
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	159	17.2	17.2	17.2
Disposition	1	.1	.1	17.4
Graduated	557	62.0	62.0	79.3
Other	40	4.4	4.4	83.8
Terminated	148	16.2	16.2	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>899</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	

### Lancaster - Successful Completion

	White n = 563	Black n = 107	Asian n = 11	Indian n = 1	Hispanic n = 37
Juvenile Whose Cases Closed FY2011	80.1%	15.2%	1.6%	0.1%	5.3%
Successful in Diversion	83.3%	12.2%	1.6%	0.2%	5.7%
Standardized Residual	.8	-1.8	0.1	0.6	0.5
	—	Other*	—	—	—

Bold Numbers: p<.001

### Lancaster County Diversion Recommendations

- Lancaster County has one of the highest success rates in the state: 78.2% compared to 62% of the cases that closed statewide in FY2011.

#### Next steps

1. Determine why Black and Native American youth are significantly less likely to be referred to diversion.
2. Look at why Black Youth have significant "other" outcomes for diversion.

## Detention

### Who "referred" the Youth Booked-In?

	Number	Percent
LANCASTER CO CORRECTIONS LINCOLN	13	1.4
LANCASTER CO SO LINCOLN	240	25.3
LINCOLN PD	658	69.5
SP HQ LINCOLN	11	1.2
STATE PATROL LINCOLN	7	.7
U.S. MARSHALS - LINCOLN	5	.5
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA PD	12	1.3
US IMMIGRATION LINCOLN	1	.1
Total	947	100.0

### Population in State vs. Booked into Detention

	White	Black	Asian	Indian	Hispanic
Percentage of LC population	78.7%	6.8%	4.4%	.9%	9.2%
Percentage of youth booked into detention	56.0%	25.4%	2.2%	3.2%	11.8%
Standardized Residual	-7.89	21.73	-3.20	7.35	2.67
	Under	Over	Under	Over	Over

Bold Numbers: p<.001

### Population in State vs. Booked into Detention in Lancaster County

	White	Black	Asian	Indian	Hispanic
Percentage of state population	76.6%	6.9%	2.0%	1.3%	13.3%
Percentage of youth booked into detention	56.5%	21.6%	2.2%	3.9%	14.7%
Standardized Residual	-5.79	14.10	0.37	5.84	0.95
	Under	Over	--	Over	--

Bold Numbers: p<.001

Why? Other relevant factors . . .

The data so far doesn't tell us why, so we examined other relevant factors:

Type of offense,

Age,

Gender

. . . In addition to race/ ethnicity

Results

The type of law violation (property, person, drug, alcohol) doesn't influence whether someone is booked into detention as much as age and race.

When we controlled for the type of offense, age and African American were the statistically significant factors that led to someone being booked into detention.

Average Days in Detention – all youth referred

Youth Detained in Lancaster Co: Mean days spent in Detention Facility by Race

Race/Ethnicity	Mean # of Days in Detention
White	21.3
Black	33.5
Asian	25.7
Hispanic	22.5
Native American	20.5
Other/Unknown	18.0
Average	24.1

Average Days in Detention – LC youth

Youth Referred in Lancaster Co.: Mean days spent in Detention Facility by Race

Race/Ethnicity	Mean # of Days in Detention
White	14.2
Black	22.2
Asian	16.0
Hispanic	18.4
Native American	24.1
Other/Unknown	11.4
Average	17.0

OJS Commitments

Lancaster County OJS Youth

A total of 818 youth were made OJS wards in FY 2011, of those 34.6 % were dual adjudicated.

This is higher than state wide average (30%), or Douglas (26.3%) or Hall counties (19%).

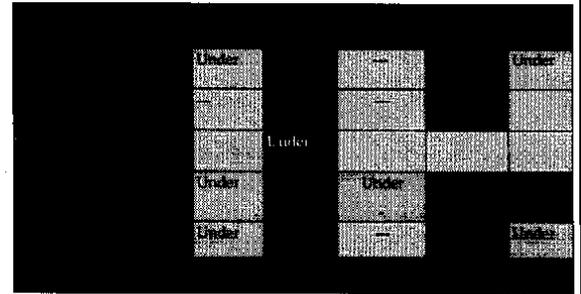
DualAdjudicated

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid No	535	65.4	65.4	
Yes	283	34.6	34.6	100.0
Total	818	100.0	100.0	

### Findings & Recommendations

- Predictive factors did not operate the same for all racial and ethnic groups in OJS.
- Efforts need to be taken to identify and reduce the number of youth who crossover between the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

### Lancaster County -- DMC Patterns



### Local Recommendations

1. Discretion points characterized by subjective criteria/processes can lend themselves to implicit bias.
2. Start a dialogue in your community about these findings, and important data points you need to continue the discussion.
3. Examine specific points and really dig into what is happening at this point.

Questions?

# JJRC MEMBER LIST

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