

**Southwest Nebraska
Juvenile Services Comprehensive
Community Plan**

**Chase, Dundy, Furnas
Hayes, Hitchcock, and Red Willow**

July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2018

Prepared By: Christina Berry, BS
Diversion Program Specialist
802 West B St., Ste. 105
McCook, NE 69001
cberry@lfsneb.org

Chair of Team: Crystal Vette

**Southwest Nebraska Comprehensive Community Plan
2015 – 2018**

Chase County Board Chair:	Don Weiss P. O. Box 1299 Imperial, NE 69033 <u>ccclerk@chase3000.com</u>
Dundy County Board Chair	Scott A. Olson P. O. Box 506 Benkelman, NE 69021 <u>clerk@furnas.nacone.org</u>
Furnas County Board Chair	Don Tegtman P. O. Box 387 Beaver City, NE 68926 <u>clerk@furnas.nacone.org</u>
Hayes County Board Chair	Mark Clifford P. O. Box 370 Hayes Center, NE 69032 <u>clerk@hayes.nacone.org</u>
Hitchcock County Board Chair	Scott McDonald P. O. Box 537 Trenton, NE 69044 <u>67atty@swnebr.net</u>
Red Willow County Board Chair	Vesta Dack 502 Norris Ave. McCook, NE 69001 <u>clerk@redwillow.nacone.org</u>

SECTION II

COMMUNITY TEAM

**Southwest Nebraska Comprehensive Community Plan
2015 – 2018**

The Youth Task Force for Southwest Nebraska was formed for the purpose of community planning and collaboration for Southwest Nebraska. The team has been meeting on at least a quarterly basis since August 2014. In the spring and summer of 2015 meetings were conducted sometimes on a monthly basis to complete the updated comprehensive community plan for Southwest Nebraska. Research and updated statistics as well as extensive thought and collaboration created the 2015-2018 Juvenile Comprehensive Plan for Southwest Nebraska.

The coalition will expand in members with the primary focus to enhance and enrich the lives of area youth by helping them build strong and healthy relationships, believe in their community and become productive members of society.

Youth Task Force for Southwest Nebraska Team Members:

Christina Berry, BS
802 West B St., Ste 105
McCook, NE 69001
308-345-7783
E-mail: cberry@LFSneb.org

Crystal Vette, AA
810 East F Street
McCook, NE 69001
Phone: 308-350-4319
E-mail: cvette@hotmail.com

Rebecca Wiemers, LCSW, MPA
Licensed Clinical Social Worker
Masters Public Administration
P.O. Box 587
McCook, NE 69001
Phone: 308-345-4884
E-mail: unifiedtherapyclinic@gmail.com

Virginia Mowe
Office Assistance
1405 West 3rd St.
McCook, NE 69001
Phone: 308-344-1737
E-mail: sweetheartg2002@yahoo.com

Brenda Ruf, MS, CPC, LMHP, LADC, NCAC, SAP
Licensed Professional Counselor
71090 Rd 407
Cambridge, NE 69022
Phone: 308-340-8029
E-mail: bruf@LFSneb.org

Section III

Juvenile Justice System Analysis Tool

**Southwest Nebraska Comprehensive Community Plan
2015 – 2018**

**CHASE, DUNDY, FURNAS, HAYES, HITCHCOCK, & RED WILLOW
COUNTIES**

JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM POINT ANALYSIS

The Juvenile Justice System Analysis Tool (Tool) was developed by the Juvenile Justice Institute at the University of Nebraska at Omaha in conjunction with the Nebraska Crime Commission to assist in County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Planning.

The Tool consists of twelve areas of decision points that make up the formal juvenile justice system in Nebraska. Various factors are present at each decision point—oftentimes changing from year to year based on state or county dynamics within the system such as changes in policies, programs, and/or personnel.

There are formal factors dictating certain decision points in the system, such as statutory authority. In addition, each county or community has unique factors surrounding certain decision points within the local county juvenile justice system. Identifying such informal factors helps to understand and assess juvenile justice needs and issues in individual locales.

Available data might also inform the factors surrounding a data point. Anecdotal data might be compared with statistical data, for example, to assess the true state of the system. County data is assessed when applying the Tool where applicable.

Southwest Nebraska

Southwest Nebraska stakeholders went through the decision point of the Juvenile Justice System Analysis Tool individually, and Christina Berry, Diversion Specialist, Crystal Vette, Diversion Program Specialist interviewed each individual for input. Each of the twelve decision points were discussed as they relate to the juvenile justice system in the Southwest Nebraska Region. Stakeholders completing the process included County Court Judges Anne Paine and Edward Steenburg; County Attorneys Paul Wood (Red Willow County), Tom Patterson (Furnas County), Eugene Garner (Hitchcock County), Gary Burke (Dundy County), Eugene Garner (Hayes County), and Arlen Wine (Chase County); Probation representatives; School Counselors; and other Community Team members.

The following analysis names the decision point and states any *noteworthy* issue identified or problem acknowledged at the particular stage, particularly since the last application of the Tool for the Panhandle Region. Not all decision points are commented on. The interviews were more of an overview of the Tool as a whole. *See Appendix A*

**Southwest Nebraska Comprehensive Community Plan
2015 – 2018**

Issues Summary from Interviews:

1. **Out of Pocket Cost to Counties.** There is a gap in payment of emergency shelter, transportation and other emergency costs due to out of home placement of juveniles.
2. **Limitation of Placement of Juveniles to YRTC's.** Rural areas have few alternatives for placement services as needed for the high-risk youth.
3. **Short Notice Transportation.** Availability of transportation services for youth on short notice when court ordered shelter or emergency care is needed.
4. **Reporting Center.** There is a lack of services for a reporting center in our area for youth needing additional guidance and support for high risk youth and especially for those returning from out of home and area treatment.
5. **Adolescent Intensive Out-Patient Treatment Centers.** Due to the rural geographic area some youth are placed a great distance from home for residential substance abuse treatment. This limits access of family therapy sessions, sibling visits and the transition weekend visits are more difficult to obtain. Most Adolescent Intensive Out-Patient Treatment can give additional support for the youth returning from residential treatment for an additional eighteen month period. Long-term support and accountability leads to long-term success.

Southwest Nebraska Comprehensive Community Plan 2015 – 2018

Southwest Nebraska Region Data

Demographic and social economics data obtained for years 2000 and 2010

<http://www.census.gov>

Juvenile court offense data for the Southwest Nebraska Region for years 2011, 2012, and 2013 (Juvenile Citation Reporting—Nebraska Crime Commission)¹

http://www.ncc.nebraska.gov/statistics/data_search/arrest.htm

Arrest numbers for each year represent arrests made of 0 – 17 year-olds in the county.

Child Abuse and Neglect data for Southwest Nebraska Region for years 2012, 2013, 2014 was obtained from the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services website. (Children and Family Services Statistics and Reports) 2012, 2013, 2014 Annual Data Report <http://www.dhhs.ne.gov/efs/pdf>

2012, 2013, 2014 Kids Count in Nebraska Report <http://www.voicesforchildren.com>

School attendance and graduation rate for Southwest Nebraska Region for 2010-2011, 2011-2012, 2012-2013 was obtained from Nebraska Department of Education website (State of the Schools Report Card/School Attendance Rate) <http://www.reportcard.education.ne.gov/pg>

Probation data, State of Juvenile Justice 2014 Report, University of Nebraska Omaha, Juvenile Justice Institute. <http://www.juvenilejustice.unomaha.edu>

Developmental Assets, Search Institute - <http://www.search-institute.org/content/40-developmental-assets>.

State of Nebraska 2013 Youth Risk Behavior Survey Results, Jan 2014. Nebr Dept. of Education, Nebr Dept. of Health & Humane Services, University of Nebraska, Lincoln. <http://www.dhhs.ne.gov/search>

Risk and Protective Factors, National Institute on Drug Abuse

<http://www.drugabuse.gov/publication/preventing-drug-abuse-among-children-adolescents/chanter-risk-factors-protective-factors/what-are-risk-factors>.

Probation data, State of Juvenile Justice 2014 Report, University of Nebraska Omaha, Juvenile Justice Institute. <http://www.juvenilejustice.unomaha.edu><http://www.search-institute.org/content/40-developmental-assets-adolescents-ages-12-18>

Local Program Data contributed by Lutheran Family Services Diversion Program, Local School Districts, District 11 Probation Office.

**Southwest Nebraska Comprehensive Community Plan
2015 – 2018**

**NEBRASKA JUVENILE CITATION REPORT – SOUTHWEST NEBRASKA
(Nebraska Crime Commission)**

Citations Issued for Southwest Nebraska

	2011	2012	2013
Chase County			
Sheriff Department	0	0	1
Police Department	5	8	6
State Patrol	0	2	0
Dundy County			
Sheriff Department	0	0	0
State Patrol*	0	0	0
Furnas County			
Sheriff Department	0	0	0
State Patrol	0	2	9
Hayes County			
Sheriff Department	0	0	0
State Patrol	0	4	0
Hitchcock County			
Sheriff Department	1	0	0
State Patrol	1	3	3
Red Willow			
Sheriff Department	6	2	1
Police Department	46	96	63
State Patrol	6	10	6
Six-County Area	65	127	89

Nebraska Crime Commission Data

**Southwest Nebraska Comprehensive Community Plan
2015 – 2018**

Offenses for Southwest Nebraska

	2011	2012	2013
Chase County			
Burglary	0	0	2
Drug Violation	1	0	0
Liquor Violation	3	2	0
Simple Assault	0	0	2
Vandalism	0	0	1
DUI	1	0	0
Larceny	0	0	0
Weapons	0	0	0
Disorderly Conduct	0	0	0
Arson	0	0	0
Motor Vehicle Theft	0	0	0
Curfew	0	0	0
Runaway	0	0	1
Forcible Rape	0	0	0
All Other Offenses (excludes Traffic)	0	0	1
Dundy County**			
Burglary	0	0	0
Drug Violation	0	0	0
Liquor Violation	0	0	0
Simple Assault	0	0	0
Vandalism	0	0	0
DUI	0	0	0
Larceny	0	0	0
Weapons	0	0	0
Disorderly Conduct	0	0	0
Arson	0	0	0
Motor Vehicle Theft	0	0	0
Curfew	0	0	0
Runaway	0	0	0
Forcible Rape	0	0	0
All Other Offenses (excludes Traffic)	0	0	0
Furnas County			
Burglary	0	0	0
Drug Violation	0	0	1
Liquor Violation	0	0	8
Simple Assault	0	1	0
Vandalism	0	0	0
DUI	0	1	0
Larceny	0	0	0
Weapons	0	0	0
Disorderly Conduct	0	0	0
Arson	0	0	0
Motor Vehicle Theft	0	0	0
Curfew	0	0	0
Runaway	0	0	0
Forcible Rape	0	0	0
All Other Offenses (excludes Traffic)	0	0	0

**Southwest Nebraska Comprehensive Community Plan
2015 – 2018**

Offenses Continued:	2011	2012	2013
Hayes*			
Burglary	0	0	0
Drug Violation	0	0	0
Liquor Violation	0	4	0
Simple Assault	0	0	0
Vandalism	0	0	0
DUI	0	0	0
Larceny	0	0	0
Weapons	0	0	0
Disorderly Conduct	0	0	0
Arson	0	0	0
Motor Vehicle Theft	0	0	0
Curfew	0	0	0
Runaway	0	0	0
Forcible Rape	0	0	0
All Other Offenses (excludes Traffic)	0	0	0
Hitchcock County			
Burglary			
Drug Violation	0	0	1
Liquor Violation	1	3	2
Simple Assault	0	0	0
Vandalism	0	0	0
DUI	0	0	0
Larceny	1	0	0
Weapons	0	0	0
Disorderly Conduct	0	0	0
Arson	0	0	0
Motor Vehicle Theft	0	0	0
Curfew	0	0	0
Runaway	0	0	0
Forcible Rape	0	0	0
All Other Offenses (excludes Traffic)	0	0	0
Red Willow			
Burglary	0	0	2
Drug Violation	4	10	5
Liquor Violation	12	14	8
Simple Assault	8	9	3
Vandalism	5	7	5
DUI	0	2	2
Larceny	4	10	10
Weapons	1	2	1
Disorderly Conduct	2	4	1
Arson	0	2	0
Motor Vehicle Theft	0	5	0
Curfew	6	15	8
Runaway	6	2	4
Forcible Rape	0	0	1
All Other Offenses (excludes Traffic)	10	26	20

Nebraska Crime Commission

**Data Not Shown on Crime Commission Website

**Southwest Nebraska Comprehensive Community Plan
2015 – 2018**

Child Abuse and Neglect

2012	Abuse & Neglect Calls	Reports Accepted for Assessment	Substantiated	Unfounded	Out of Home Placement
Chase	28	14	0	13	NA
Dundy	17	6	1	5	NA
Furnas	52	24	5	17	NA
Hayes	8	1	1	0	NA
Hitchcock	49	28	1	24	NA
Red Willow	161	73	2	60	NA
Southwest Nebraska Total	315	146	10	122	NA

*Kids Count in Nebraska Report 2014, Department of Health & Human Services Nebraska

2013	Abuse & Neglect Calls	Reports Accepted for Assessment	Substantiated	Unfounded	Out of Home Placement
Chase	36	13	2	9	9
Dundy	17	8	0	8	5
Furnas	98	32	3	26	13
Hayes	3	1	0	1	1
Hitchcock	42	16	1	13	12
Red Willow	198	91	7	72	33
Southwest Nebraska Total	394	161	13	129	73

*Kids Count in Nebraska Report 2014, Department of Health & Human Services Nebraska

2014	Abuse & Neglect Calls	Reports Accepted for Assessment	Substantiated	Unfounded	Out of Home Placement
Chase	20	13	1	8	NA
Dundy	23	10	2	8	NA
Furnas	84	41	7	31	NA
Hayes	10	4	2	2	NA
Hitchcock	37	22	6	13	NA
Red Willow	157	74	6	60	NA
Southwest Nebraska Total	331	152	24	122	NA

*Kids Count in Nebraska Report 2014, Department of Health & Human Services Nebraska

Child Abuse and Neglect

As a state, Nebraska values hard work and family. Unfortunately, for many, hard work alone isn't enough to take care of their families each month. We know that Nebraskans work and they work hard but many still struggle financially. Multiple reasons contribute to this, including low wage jobs, limited growth in household income, the rising cost of goods and services, being unable to work desired hours, or lacking adequate benefits. With a large majority of children in Nebraska having all parents in the workforce, we as a state must do more to support Nebraska's working families and ensure that all our kids have the best possible opportunity to succeed.

Federal law defines child maltreatment, otherwise known as abuse and neglect, as, "any act or failure to act that results in a death, serious physical or emotional harm, sexual abuse or exploitation, or any failure to act that represents an imminent risk of serious harm."

Every day in Nebraska, over 12 children experience some form of maltreatment.

In Nebraska, the vast majority of maltreatment is physical neglect, which is a failure to meet a child's basic needs like food, shelter, and clothing.

Why should we be concerned?

Exposure to childhood abuse and neglect hinders children's healthy social, emotional and cognitive development. If untreated, toxic stress makes it more likely that children will adopt risky behaviors which negatively impact their future health and success. Given the impacts, we need to strengthen families to prevent abuse and neglect whenever possible, and take swift, thoughtful action to ensure that all children grow up in loving homes.

Court vs. non-court

Children who are removed from their homes often experience traumatic and long-term consequences. For years, Nebraska had one of the highest rates of out-of-home placement in the entire country. More recently, DHHS has been seeking ways to keep families together while ensuring that safety can be maintained. This has been reflected in data from recent years in how families enter the system, with more and more families receiving services without judicial oversight ("non-court") when appropriate. The majority of non-court cases allow children to remain in their own homes, where they can continue to receive a stable source of love and care from their families.

In 2013, there were 12,034 kids *involved* in the child welfare system.

8447 (66%) were court involved

4,348 (34%) from 1,939 families were non-court involved.

In 2013, there were 6,584 kids that *entered* the child welfare system.

3,147 (48%) were court involved (*a decrease from 57% in 2012*)

3,437 (52%) were not court involved (*an increase from 43% in 2012*)

Of the approximately 52% of non-court involved cases, 98% of these families were able to receive services while keeping their children safe in their own homes, compared to just over 20% of the children who remained in their homes once there was court involvement.

**Southwest Nebraska Comprehensive Community Plan
2015 – 2018**

Southwest Nebraska Diversion Program

Grant Year: 2012-2013

New Clients	Red Willow	Furnas	Hayes	Hitchcock	Dundy	Chase	Adult 19/20 yrs	Juveniles 8-18 yrs	Diversion Fee
103 24(Carryover) <u>127 Clients</u> <u>Served</u>	51	19	6	18	5	4	29 2(Carryover) <u>31 Clients</u> <u>Served</u>	74 22(Carryover) <u>96 Clients</u> <u>Served</u>	\$11,685

Grant Year: 2013-2014

New Clients	Red Willow	Furnas	Hayes	Hitchcock	Dundy	Chase	Adult 19/20 yrs	Juveniles 8-18 yrs	Diversion Fee
80 37(Carryover) <u>117 Clients</u> <u>Served</u>	33	22	3	9	8	5	54 8(Carryover) <u>62 Clients</u> <u>Served</u>	26 29(Carryover) <u>55 Clients</u> <u>Served</u>	\$10,775

Grant Year: 2014-2015

New Clients	Red Willow	Furnas	Hayes	Hitchcock	Dundy	Chase	Adult 19/20 yrs	Juveniles 8-18 yrs	Diversion Fee
47 20(Carryover) <u>67 Clients</u> <u>Served</u>	21	1	1	8	3	13	17 5(Carryover) <u>22 Clients</u> <u>Served</u>	30 15(Carryover) <u>45 Clients</u> <u>Served</u>	\$4,295

*Data Provided by Lutheran Family Diversion Services

2014-2015 Youth Outcomes:

Pre Test 80.09% Post Test 82.21%
10 of 67 Active Clients Reoffended

2.12 % increase in decision making skills
85 % of clients served did not reoffend

Of the 10 reoffenders 5 paid fines or were placed on probation and 5 completed diversion for the second time. (Reoffenders – cost of additional court appearances, possible court appointed attorney fees, probation monitoring costs, mental health assessments or out of home placement in which the State of Nebraska or counties assumed the costs. In special circumstances some diversion clients repeat the program due to re-offending in different counties.)

Other facts:

- Total number of clients served decreased, but the number of juveniles served increased.
- \$1,560 in client fees waived due to income or hardship.
- 1 failed to attend intake appointment to sign into diversion.
- 2 failed to complete program by not completing requirements.
- 45 clients had successful completions.
- 1800 community service** hours completed (1800 times \$8.00 min wage equals **\$14,400.00** labor savings).

Data facts: (47 new referrals)

40 Caucasian, 5 Hispanic, 1 Black/African American, 1 American Indian
20 Males & 27 Females

Offenses:

**Southwest Nebraska Comprehensive Community Plan
2015 – 2018**

Ages:		Curfew Violations	1
9 or below	0	MIP (Minor in Possession alcohol)	25
10	0	Open Container	1
11	1	Possession of Marijuana	6
12	1	Possession Drug Paraphernalia	8
13	1	Criminal Mischief & Trespass	2
14	3	Third Degree Assault	1
15	8	Provisional License Violation	6
16	4	Traffic (Speeding)	1
17	7	Shoplifting	3
18 and over	22	Theft by Unlawful Taking	1
Total	47	Total (**Multiple Citations per ticket)	55 **

Post Program Surveys:

Of 45 clients completing the post program survey, 96% indicated that they would probably not or definitely not choose to break the law again. 91% of diversion clients also indicated that services received through the program helped them to deal more effectively with their situation.

When questioned on the intensity of the program, 93% indicated the contact with the Diversion Officer was about right. 89% of client also reported the intensity and requirements were about right.

Also on the program survey, 98% of clients reported the decision making class was helpful or very helpful. 87% of clients found community service was helpful to very helpful. 91% of the clients benefited from the goal setting and 87% of clients felt the apology letter was helpful. 89% of clients felt the drug and alcohol class helped them become more aware of the addiction and health consequences of drugs and alcohol.

Southwest Nebraska Probation Services

Current case load for District 11 of juveniles age 0-17 is 234 (August 2015).

WHAT IS PROBATION?

The Administrative Office of Probation provides supervision and treatment services for the rehabilitation of juvenile offenders. Probation goals include engaging juveniles and their families in the court process, eliminating barriers to treatment and services, and partnering with stakeholders.

LEGISLATIVE CONSIDERATIONS

LB 561 transferred juvenile court case supervision and services to the Administrative Office of Probation. The bill was influenced by the Nebraska Juvenile Service Delivery Pilot project, which started in judicial district 4J in June 2009. The goal of the project was to serve youth in their communities and provide access to services without requiring youth to become state wards in order to access funding. In July 2012 the pilot expanded to include districts 11 and 12 and became the foundation for the eventual transfer of juvenile court services.

YOUTH SUPERVISED BY PROBATION

In 2014, the Administrative Office of Probation supervised 5,997 juveniles. The majority of supervised youth (53%) were 16-17 years old. There were more males (65%) supervised than females (35%). Of the youth supervised, 55% were White, 19% were Black, 22% were Other, 3% were American Indian or Alaska Native, and 1% were Asian or Pacific Islander; 22% were of Hispanic origin. (Nebraska Probation Administration, 2014)

Southwest Nebraska Comprehensive Community Plan 2015 – 2018

GENDER OF YOUTH SUPERVISED BY PROBATION IN NEBRASKA 2014

33,881 MALE

2,116 FEMALE

Source: Administrative Office of Probation, 2014

EQUITABLE TREATMENT

The Administrative Office of Probation has sought to address disproportionate minority contact among juvenile offenders by using objective criteria. In 2013, minority youth (including those of Hispanic origin) made up 25% of the Nebraska population ages 10-17. However, 47% of the youth supervised by probation in 2014 were non-white (including those of Hispanic origin). Males were slightly overrepresented in probation, as they comprised 51% of the general Nebraska population (ages 10-17) in 2013 but made up 65% of youth supervised by probation in 2014. (Administrative Office of Probation, 2014 & OJJDP Easy Access to Juvenile Populations, 2013)

TYPES OF OFFENSES

Youth are placed on probation for a wide range of offenses. The highest referred offense category is juvenile offenses, which includes truancy, uncontrollable, and endangerment to self and others. Other offenses range in severity from traffic offenses to drug- and alcohol-related offenses to assault.

LEVEL OF SUPERVISION

When a juvenile is placed on probation, his or her supervision level is determined based on a risk and needs assessment that identifies the level of services needed for the juvenile to be successful and the level of supervision necessary to refrain from reoffending. Juveniles that are determined to be high or very high risk are placed on Juvenile Community-Based Intervention (JCBI) supervision. Juveniles that are deemed moderate to low risk are placed on Juvenile Community-Based Resource (JCBR) supervision. In 2014, 58.0% of youth supervised by probation were placed on low-risk JCBR supervision, while 37.6% were placed on high-risk JCBI supervision.

TAKEAWAYS

- Of the juveniles on probation, the majority are at low to moderate risk of reoffending. Many are in need of community-based services to be successful.
- Most youth on probation have committed a “juvenile offense,” such as truancy, uncontrollable, or endangerment to self or others.
- Minority juveniles are disproportionately placed on probation in Nebraska.

**Southwest Nebraska Comprehensive Community Plan
2015 – 2018**

School Attendance and Graduation Rate

Attendance Rate				
	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	Graduation Rate 2013-2014
State of Nebraska	95.18%	95.55%	95.30%	88.47%
Chase County	94.36%	94.26%	95.76%	86.25%
Chase Co Schools	95.02%	95.42%	95.28%	87.88%
Wauneta Palisade Schools	93.69%	93.10%	96.24%	84.62%
Dundy County	95.01%	95.01%	95.22%	100%
Dundy Co Schools	95.01%	95.01%	95.22%	100%
Furnas County	94.91%	95.37%	94.69%	100%
Arapahoe Schools	95.84%	95.87%	95.80%	100%
Cambridge Public Schools	96.13%	96.58%	95.22%	100%
Southern Valley Schools	92.76%	93.64%	93.05%	100%
Hayes County	93.07%	94.69%	95.12%	100%
Hayes Center Schools	93.07%	94.69%	95.12%	100%
Hitchcock County	94.55%	95.15%	95.35%	100%
Hitchcock Co Schools	94.55%	95.15%	95.35%	100%
Red Willow	94.46%	94.98%	95.12%	97.9%
McCook Schools	94.02%	94.52%	94.45%	99.8%
Southern Valley Schools	94.89%	95.44%	95.79%	96%
Six-County Area	94.40%	94.91%	95.21%	97.36%
State/Area Comparison	-.78%	-.64%	-.09%	+8.89%

*Nebraska Department of Education/Report Card

*Graduation Rate- School Reporting

The six county attendance comparisons are below the state average. Currently most schools handle truancy with referrals to the county attorney and or LB1184 Teams. All schools have credit recovery guidelines and internal alternative school programs. These programs are contributing to the high graduation rate.

According to the 2014 Kids County in Nebraska Report (2012/13), the Nebraska public and nonpublic school absences were (341,458 enrolled):

19.4% absent 10-19 days

3.6% absent 20-29 days

2.3% were absent 30 plus days

In Nebraska students attending public and non public schools suspension rate was 4.1% (14,043 students). The rate of expulsions for public and nonpublic students was .25% (881 students). The public and nonpublic students drop out were 1,443 students.

Section IV

Community Socio-Economics

Southwest Nebraska Comprehensive Community Plan 2015 – 2018

Community Description

The six County Region in Southwest Nebraska is comprised of 4,676 square miles of wide open spaces with rich agricultural and farmland includes: Chase 895 sq. miles, Dundy 920 sq. miles, Furnas 721sq. miles, Hayes 713 sq. miles, Hitchcock 710 sq. miles and Red Willow 717 sq. miles. The counties border Kansas to the south and Colorado to the west.

The majority of communities in Southwestern Nebraska are rural, with very sparse population. The nearest metropolitan statistical area in Nebraska is Lincoln approximately 228 miles to the east and north. The city of McCook in Red Willow County, population 7,987 is the largest residential area in the region and serves as the commercial hub. As such, many residents of the area come to McCook for employment, shopping and health care. McCook has a strong network of concerned HHS workers, educators, law enforcement, lawyers, probation, court system; youth care workers and counseling centers that collaborate and come together to meet the needs for youth in Southwest Nebraska Region. Also participating in the collaboration for the Southwest Nebraska Region are county attorneys, county boards and county law enforcement. With youth living in sparsely populated areas and combined school districts, collaboration between counties are key to monitor behavior of area youth.

The population of Chase County is 3,966, Dundy 2,008, Furnas 4,959, Hayes 967, Hitchcock County 2,908 and Red Willow County 11,055. The total regional population for Southwest Nebraska is 25,863. Other communities in the area are Arapahoe, Beaver City, Oxford, Holbrook, Cambridge, Wilsonville, Hedley, Lebanon, Danbury, Bartley, Indianola, Culbertson, Trenton, Hamlet, Palisade, Hayes Center, Wauneta, Stratton, Benkelman, Parks, Haigler, Enders, Imperial and Champion.

The major highways serving the Region are Highways 6/34 that run from east to west connecting the counties. Highway 6 branches off in Hitchcock County to run east and west through Hitchcock and Chase Counties to the Colorado border. The smaller highways include Highway 283 that runs north and south through Furnas and Gosper Counties. Highway 89 runs east and west through Furnas and Red Willow Counties. Highway 25 runs north and south through Hitchcock and Hayes Counties. Highway 61 runs north and south through Dundy and Chase Counties.

Each of the major communities in the Southwest Region offers a wide variety of recreational activities for youth and their families. The Region is served by youth serving organizations that include, school and community sports leagues, 4-H groups, Boy and Girl Scouts, tae kwon do, dance, gymnastics and faith based youth groups. The YMCA located in McCook hosts an after school program and youth are transported for after school care to the YMCA.

The Peter and Dolores Graff Events Center on the McCook Community College campus is a host site for a number of youth sports camps and tournaments that involve not only all the schools in Southwest Nebraska as well as schools from central and northern Nebraska. During the school year, McCook Community College hosts various high school regional and district basketball and volleyball tournaments, as well as an occasional exhibition or regular season game and weekly practices upon special request. The McCook Community College Indians basketball and volleyball teams host summer camps for youth of all ages, as well as weekly summer leagues for area high school athletes. The Graff Events Center also is a host site for local organizations

**Southwest Nebraska Comprehensive Community Plan
2015 – 2018**

youth basketball tournaments, such as the McCook Optimist Club yearly Mac Attack Youth Basketball Tournament which brings in large numbers of boys and girls youth basketball teams from towns all over Nebraska. Lastly, McCook Community College works in conjunction with the McCook Area Chamber of Commerce to host random specialty sports exhibitions for families, such as the Harlem Ambassadors basketball game versus local celebrities.

Built in May 2002, the Kiplinger Arena is located on the Red Willow County Fairgrounds and is available to 4-H and FFA activities and practice time. The arena hosts 4-H horse practice every week on Tuesday as well as 4-H events during the Red Willow County Fair. Other usage is for organized roping events, barrel racing, rodeos- including a High School rodeo for youths 14 years of age and older and the Farm and Ranch Expo which has participation by adults and area youth.

Community support for the construction of a public skate park has been growing since 2012. The new skate park will be located at east M Street at Kelley Park. The lack of a designated place to skate/ride increases the risk of injury to skaters/riders and pedestrians, as well as property damage from skating in areas not designed or designated for this type of use. Additionally, not all youth are interested or can afford to participate in competitive/organized team sports. A skate park has the potential to become a community gathering space where youth can learn vital social and life skills, stay healthy and form unique bonds that transcend age, sex, race and socio-economic background.

The need for a skate park is great, as evidenced by the growing community support of the project. A community recreation survey was conducted by the City of McCook in May 2014. Survey respondents rated a new skate park as the second highest priority/need. Seed money of \$30,000 was offered by the City Council of the City of McCook in 2013. This made possible the hiring of a professional design firm, Gridline Skateparks of Portland Oregon, to produce concepts that were approved by the local committee. This was leveraged through the extensive fundraising efforts of a small band of local skaters, parents and supporters. In July 2015 it was announced that the goal of \$125,000 had been achieved. Dozens of citizens, local business and banks, the McCook Elks Lodge, Rotary, Optimists, McCook Community Foundation as well as the Kiewit Foundation and Tony Hawk Foundation have all contributed to the successful drive. Bids have now been requested for construction of the facility, to be located within Kelley Park in McCook. The facility will consist of 3,000-5,000 square feet of poured in place skate-able concrete, surrounded by green space with grass and shade trees.

The Kelley Creek Disc Golf Course located at East 3rd & M St. in Kelley Park is an 18-hole course for the competitive disc golfer or for just knocking around with the kids. This delightful course winds its way through the rolling hills of Kelley Park and takes advantage of the canopy of mature trees and the well maintained park area. A picnic area, sand volleyball, children's playground and the City of McCook municipal swimming pool are also close by in the park.

In the Southwest Nebraska Region we have many devoted parents who organize, coach and sponsor youth activities outside the school setting. Such activities include baseball, softball, basketball, football, soccer and dance. These organized sports, whether it is through the YMCA or other local organizations, provide structured athletic activities for youth to have constructive use of their time as well as enhancing their overall health.

In smaller communities the majority of youth activities are centered on faith based organizations, 4-H and school activities. If youth are not involved in school or family activities then it is very difficult for them to find meaningful entertainment. Youth and their families also have the opportunity to enjoy hunting,

Southwest Nebraska Comprehensive Community Plan 2015 – 2018

fishing, camping, water sports, and many other fun activities in the natural beauty of Nebraska at many different lakes and recreational areas including:

- Hugh Butler Lake, Red Willow Reservoir Harry D. Strunk Lake in Frontier County
- Swanson Reservoir in Hitchcock County
- Enders Dam in Chase County

Located in McCook is the historic Senator George Norris Home, which offers tours on the historic and legislative life of Senator Norris. Senator Ben Nelson also has his boyhood home on the Nebraska Historic Registry.

Education

Southwest Nebraska's six county region offers quality education for youth and families in all of its communities. Educational services include public school districts, two-year community college, continuing education and distance learning centers, home schools, private schools, a beauty academy, alternative education center, and an area training center for adult mentally handicap.

Mid Plains - McCook Community College Campus, founded in 1926 as part of the McCook Public School System and named McCook Junior College, was the first two-year institution in Nebraska. In 1973, McCook Community College joined with the North Platte Junior College and Mid-Plains Vocation-Technical College to become the Mid-Plains Community College Area, one of six legislative degrees and course work designed for academic transfer. Mid-Plains Community College, an 18-county district in West-Central Nebraska, is a comprehensive, open access, public, two-year community college system that offers associate degrees, diplomas, and certificates. MPCC consists of three campuses, one located in McCook, Nebraska and two located in North Platte, Nebraska. Additionally, there are extended campus sites in Broken Bow, Imperial, Ogallala and Valentine with satellite classrooms located throughout the area. The College offers vocational-technical education, general academic transfer education, developmental education, continuing education, student services, public service programs, and institutional support services.

The two private schools in the area are St. Patrick's Elementary School and Victory Academy. Home schools are active in the area.

After several school district consolidations, the Public School Districts in the six county regions in Southwest Nebraska includes:

Chase County

- Chase County Schools District (located in Imperial, NE)
Alternative Education Program – "A+ Program" for credit recovery
Wellington Alternative School Program (located in Imperial, NE)
TeamMates Mentoring Program instituted in spring 2015
- Wauneta-Palisade School District (located in Wauneta, NE and Palisade, NE)
Alternative Education - University of Nebraska High School On-Line Classes
STEP Alternative School Program (located in McCook, NE)

Dundy County

- Dundy Co Stratton School District (located in Benkelman, NE, and Stratton, NE)

**Southwest Nebraska Comprehensive Community Plan
2015 – 2018**

Alternative Education Program – “A+ Program” for credit recovery (located in Benkelman, NE)

Furnas County

- Cambridge Public School District (located in Cambridge, NE)
Alternative Education – ODYSSEYWARE (On-Line Credit Recovery)
- Arapahoe Public District (located in Arapahoe, NE)
Alternative Education – NovaNET (On-Line Credit Recovery)
- Southern Valley School District (located between Beaver City/Oxford, NE)
uses an online program called Odysseyware for students who need to be placed in an alternative school setting. They also use this program for credit recovery. Odysseyware has also been used for students who are suspended, home for medical issues or pregnancy, as well as other special circumstances.

Hayes County

- Hayes Center Public Schools District (located in Hayes Center, NE)
Alternative Education – STEP Program

Hitchcock County

- Hitchcock County School District (located in Trenton, NE and Culbertson, NE)
STEP Alternative School Program (located in McCook, NE)
“A+ Program” for credit recovery (summer school)

Red Willow County

- McCook School District (located in McCook)
LIFT Alternative Education Program (located in McCook)
“A+ Program” for credit recovery (summer school)
Team Mate Mentoring Program
- Southwest School District (located in Bartley, NE and Indianola, NE)
STEP Alternative School Program (located in McCook)

Students in area school districts receive additional services through Educational Service Unit #15 with offices in McCook, NE and Trenton, NE. The STEP Alternative Education Program, located in McCook ESU office is administrated by ESU #15 and available by application to school district students serviced by ESU #15. Furnas County receives additional services through the Educational Service #10 with office in Holdrege, NE.

Southwest Nebraska Comprehensive Community Plan 2015 – 2018

Population & Economy

According to the U.S. Census Bureau 2010 American Community Survey, the median household income for Nebraska was \$51,672. The average median household income for Southwest Nebraska was \$43,770.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey, the high school level graduation percentage was at 90.5% and the average high school graduation rate for Southwest Nebraska was 89.9%. There are 28.5 % of Nebraskans with a bachelor's degree or higher education level with an average of 22.05% education level of bachelor's degree or higher education in Southwest Nebraska.

The poverty and participation in government programs for Nebraska was 12.8% of people were in poverty. The average poverty rate for the six counties in Southwest Nebraska is 14.27%.

**Southwest Nebraska Comprehensive Community Plan
2015 – 2018**

Chase County

Juveniles between the ages of 0-18 make up 23.8% of the total population in **Chase County** located in Southwest Nebraska. The following tables show the breakdown of the total county population by gender and ethnicity. (Source of data: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey)

Population	Chase County Population	
	2010	2000
Total	3,966	3,702
Male	1,965	1,871
Female	2,001	1,831
Median age (years)	43.3	46.4
Under 5 Years	280	215
18 years and over	3,022	7,832
65 years and over	810	877
Gender & Ethnicity	Chase County Population	
	2010	2000
White	3,644	3,601
African American	5	0
Native American	3	12
Asian	4	0
Hispanic	442	192
Other	289	89
Median Household Income	Chase County Population	
	2010	2000
Median Household Income	\$45,610	\$37,192
In labor force (population 16 years and over)	2,281	2,098
Average household size	2.30	2.16
Average family size	2.88	2.64
Households and Families	Chase County Population	
	2010	2000
Family households	65.7%	
Married–couple families	56.1%	59%
Other families	9.5%	10%
People living alone	29.9%	31%
Other nonfamily households	34.3%	31%
Poverty and Participation in Government Programs	Chase County Population	
	2010	2000
People in poverty	11.3%	12%
People age 65 and over	6.6%	9%
Related children under 18 below poverty	22.6%	18%
All families	10.6%	8%
Female householder families	54.1%	23%

EDUCATION: In 2010, 90.8 percent of people 25 years and over had at least graduated from high school and 18.2 percent had a bachelor's degree or higher. In 2000 ten percent were dropouts; they were not enrolled in school and had not graduated from high school. By 2009-2013 there was 13.5% drop out rate. According to Chase County Schools by 2014 there were 87.88% of students successfully graduated. Wauneta-Palisade had a successful graduation rate of 84.62% for 2014.

**Southwest Nebraska Comprehensive Community Plan
2015 – 2018**

The total school enrollment in Chase County was 851 in 2010. Nursery school and kindergarten enrollment was 160 and elementary & high school enrollment was 596 children. College or graduate school enrollment was 95 students.

INDUSTRIES: In 2010 for the employed population 16 years and older the leading industries in Chase County were Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting and mining, 20.2 percent, and Educational services, health care, and social assistance, 14.5 percent.

OCCUPATIONS AND TYPE OF EMPLOYER: Among the most common occupations were: Management, professional, and related occupations, 33.6 percent; Sales and office occupations, 29 %; production, transportation, and material moving occupations, 9.8%; Construction, extraction, maintenance, and repair occupations, 17.2 %; and Service occupations, 10.%. Sixty five point seven percent of the people employed were Private wage and salary workers; 14.6 percent were Federal, state, or local government workers; and 16.8 percent were Self-employed in their own not incorporated business.

INCOME: The median income of households in Chase County was \$45,610. Eighty point six percent of the households received earnings and 1.6% received retirement income other than Social Security. Thirty four point one percent of the households received Social Security. The average income from Social Security was \$17,395. These income sources are not mutually exclusive; that is, some households received income from more than one source.

POVERTY AND PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS: In 2010, ten point six per cent of people were in poverty & 22.6 percent of related children under 18 were below the poverty level, compared with 4.2 percent of people 65 years old and over. Ten point six percent of all families were below the poverty level and 29.38 % of families with a female householder and no husband present had incomes below the poverty level.

**Southwest Nebraska Comprehensive Community Plan
2015 – 2018**

Dundy County

Juveniles between the ages of 0-18 make up 22.2% of the total population in **Dundy County** located in Southwest Nebraska. The following tables show the breakdown of the total county population by gender and ethnicity. (Source of data: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey)

Population	Dundy County Population	
	2010	2000
Total	2,008	1,939
Male	1,006	905
Female	1,002	1,034
Median age (years)	47.9	49.1
Under 5 Years	105	55
18 years and over	1,562	1,538
65 years and over	461	455
Gender & Ethnicity	Dundy County Population	
	2010	2000
White	1,914	1,889
African American	7	0
Native American	13	3
Asian	2	0
Hispanic	117	87
Other	44	47
Median Household Income	Dundy County Population	
	2010	2000
Median Household Income	\$47,431	\$38,346
In labor force (population 16 years and over)	1,138	1,065
Average household size	2.19	2.15
Average family size	2.84	2.61
Households and Families	Dundy County Population	
	2010	2000
Family households	62.1%	69%
Married–couple families	54.3%	65%
Other families	9.5%	4%
People living alone	35.1%	30%
Other nonfamily households	37.9%	% 1
Poverty and Participation in Government Programs	Dundy County Population	
	2010	2000
People in poverty	14.0%	9%
People age 65 and over	5.4%	7%
Related children under 18 below poverty	6.8%	15%
All families	3.8%	5%
Female householder families	23.7%	.05%

EDUCATION: In 2010, 93.7 % of people 25 years and over had at least graduated from high school and 16.7 % had a bachelor's degree or higher. In 2000 twelve percent were dropouts; they were not enrolled in school and had not graduated from high school. From 2009-2013 there was 8.8% and according to Dundy County Stratton Schools Class of 2014 there was 100% of students graduated successfully.

**Southwest Nebraska Comprehensive Community Plan
2015 – 2018**

The total school enrollment in Dundy County was 381 in 2010. Nursery school and kindergarten enrollment was 55 and elementary & high school enrollment was 275 children. College or graduate school enrollment was 51.

INDUSTRIES: In 2010, for the employed population 16 years and older, the leading industries in Dundy County were Educational services, and health care, and social assistance, 26.2 percent, and Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining, 34.7 percent.

OCCUPATIONS AND TYPE OF EMPLOYER: Among the most common occupations were: Management, professional, and related occupations, 44.5 %; Sales and office occupations, 14.1 %; Construction, extraction, maintenance, and repair occupations, 21.1 percent; Service occupations, 9.8 percent; and Production, transportation, and material moving occupations, 10.5 percent. 58.2 percent of the people employed were Private wage and salary workers; 19.9 percent were Federal, state, or local government workers; and 21.9 percent were Self-employed in their own not incorporated business.

INCOME: The median income of households in Dundy County was \$47,431. 80.9 percent of the households received earnings and 11.6 percent received retirement income other than Social Security. 35.1 % of the households received Social Security. The average income from Social Security was \$17,644. These income sources are not mutually exclusive; that is, some households received income from more than one source.

POVERTY AND PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS: In 2010, fourteen percent of people were in poverty. Six point eight percent of related children under 18 were below the poverty level, compared with 5.4 percent of people 65 years old and over. Three point eight percent of all families were below the poverty level and 16.7% of families with a female householder and no husband present had incomes below the poverty level.

**Southwest Nebraska Comprehensive Community Plan
2015 – 2018**

Furnas County

Juveniles between the ages of 0-18 make up 23.3% of the total population in **Furnas County** located in Southwest Nebraska. The following tables show the breakdown of the total county population by gender and ethnicity. (Source of data: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey)

Population	Furnas County Population	
	2010	2000
Total	4,959	4,681
Male	2,423	2,268
Female	2,536	2,413
Median age (years)	47.4	46.9
Under 5 Years	257	245
18 years and over	3,803	3,635
65 years and over	1,127	1,070
Gender & Ethnicity	Furnas County Population	
	2010	2000
White	4,804	4,584
African American	10	0
Native American	20	59
Asian	10	9
Hispanic	132	86
Other	59	29
Median Household Income	Furnas County Population	
	2010	2000
Median Household Income	\$39,603	\$38,406
In labor force (population 16 years and over)	2833	2,435
Average household size	2.23	2.10
Average family size	2.85	2.66
Households and Families	Furnas County Population	
	2010	2000
Family households	61.7%	63%
Married–couple families	52.4%	56%
Other families	9.2%	8%
People living alone	34.9%	36%
Other nonfamily households	38.3%	1%
Poverty and Participation in Government Programs	Furnas County Population	
	2010	2000
People in poverty	16.2%	14%
People age 65 and over	1.3%	10%
Related children under 18 below poverty	21.7%	22%
All families	10.5%	9%
Female householder families	10.19%	39%

EDUCATION: In 2010, 88.9 percent of people 25 years and over had at least graduated from high school and 16.8 percent had a bachelor's degree or higher. In 2000 fourteen percent were dropouts; they were not enrolled in school and had not graduated from high school. From 2009-2013 there was 29% who had not graduated. In 2014, Arapahoe Public Schools report 100% had graduated from high school. According to Cambridge Public Schools 100% graduated in 2014. Southern Valley School report 100% of students graduated in 2014.

**Southwest Nebraska Comprehensive Community Plan
2015 – 2018**

The total school enrollment in Furnas County was 1,072 in 2010. Nursery school and kindergarten enrollment was 111 and elementary & high school enrollment was 795 children. College or graduate school enrollment was 166.

INDUSTRIES: In 2010, for the employed population 16 years and older, the leading industries in Furnas County were Educational services, and health care, and social assistance, 23.2 percent, and Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining, 19.2 percent.

OCCUPATIONS AND TYPE OF EMPLOYER: Among the most common occupations were: Management, professional, and related occupations, 33.9 %; Service occupations, 16 %; Sales and office occupations, 20.7 %; Production, transportation, and material moving occupations, 13.9 %; and Construction, extraction, maintenance, and repair occupations, 15.5 %. Seventy three point three percent of the people employed were Private wage and salary workers; 13.9 percent were Federal, state, or local government workers; and 12.5 percent were Self-employed in their own not incorporated business.

INCOME: The median income of households in Furnas County was \$39,603. Seventy two point five percent of the households received earnings and 12.6 percent received retirement income other than Social Security. Forty point five percent of the households received Social Security. The average income from Social Security was \$15,955. These income sources are not mutually exclusive that is, some households received income from more than one source.

POVERTY AND PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS: In 2010, sixteen point two percent of people were in poverty. Twenty one point seven percent of related children under 18 were below the poverty level, compared with 1.3 % of people 65 years old and over. Ten point five percent of all families were below the poverty level and 10.19 % of families with a female householder and no husband present had incomes below the poverty level.

**Southwest Nebraska Comprehensive Community Plan
2015 – 2018**

Hayes County

Juveniles between the ages of 0-18 make up 23.1 of the total population in **Hayes County** located in Southwest Nebraska. The following tables show the breakdown of the total county population by gender and ethnicity. (Source of data: U.S. Census Bureau 2010 American Community Survey)

Population	Hayes County Population	
	2010	2000
Total	967	1,044
Male	510	550
Female	457	494
Median age (years)	47.7	46.1
Under 5 Years	46	68
18 years and over	744	823
65 years and over	191	182
Gender & Ethnicity	Hayes County Population	
	2010	2000
White	939	993
African American	0	0
Native American	2	0
Asian	3	13
Hispanic	33	51
Other	21	38
Median Household Income	Hayes County Population	
	2010	2000
Median Household Income	\$49,125	\$39,427
In labor force (population 16 years and over)	623	588
Average household size	2.34	2.08
Average family size	2.83	2.61
Households and Families	Hayes County Population	
	2010	2000
Family households	70.5%	67%
Married–couple families	65%	64%
Other families	5.6%	3%
People living alone	28%	33%
Other nonfamily households	29.5%	0%
Poverty and Participation in Government Programs	Hayes County Population	
	2010	2000
People in poverty	15.9%	8%
People age 65 and over	6.9%	7%
Related children under 18 below poverty	8.1%	9%
All families	4.2%	6%
Female householder families	40%	50%

EDUCATION: In 2010, 88.4 percent of people 25 years and over had at least graduated from high school and 19.8 percent had a bachelor's degree or higher. In 2000 eleven percent were dropouts; they were not enrolled in school and had not graduated from high school. From 2009-2013 there was 21.5%. Graduating Class of 2014 had 100% of students whom successfully graduated from high school.

**Southwest Nebraska Comprehensive Community Plan
2015 – 2018**

The total school enrollment in Hayes County was 257 in 2010. Nursery school and kindergarten enrollment was 33 and elementary & high school enrollment was 178 children. College or graduate school enrollment was 46.

INDUSTRIES: In 2010, for the employed population 16 years and older, the leading industries in Hayes County were Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining, 32.6 %, and Educational services, and health care, and social assistance, 18.66 %.

OCCUPATIONS AND TYPE OF EMPLOYER: Among the most common occupations were: Management, professional, and related occupations, 40.5 %; Sales and office occupations, 12.1 %; Construction, extraction, maintenance, and repair occupations, 21.5 percent; Production, transportation, and material moving occupations, 15.2 %. Fifty nine point eight percent of the people employed were Private wage and salary workers; 19.1% were Federal, state, or local government workers; and 20 % were Self-employed in their own not incorporated business.

INCOME: The median income of households in Hayes County was \$49,125. Eighty one point three percent of the households received earnings and 9.6 percent received retirement income other than Social Security. Thirty eight point six percent of the households received Social Security. The average income from Social Security was \$17,621. These income sources are not mutually exclusive; that is, some households received income from more than one source.

POVERTY AND PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS: In 2010, fifteen point nine percent of people were in poverty. Eight point one percent of related children under 18 were below the poverty level, compared with 6.9 % of people 65 years old and over. Four point two percent of all families were below the poverty level and 35.3 % of families with a female householder and no husband present had incomes below the poverty level.

**Southwest Nebraska Comprehensive Community Plan
2015 – 2018**

Hitchcock County

Juveniles between the ages of 0-18 make up 21.4% of the total population in **Hitchcock County** located in Southwest Nebraska. The following tables show the breakdown of the total county population by gender and ethnicity. (Source of data: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey)

Population	Hitchcock County Population	
	2010	2000
Total	2,908	2,858
Male	1,446	1,368
Female	1,462	1,490
Median age (years)	48.2	47.9
Under 5 Years	159	149
18 years and over	2,287	2,256
65 years and over	665	676
Gender & Ethnicity	Hitchcock County Population	
	2010	2000
White	2,839	2,799
African American	7	8
Native American	12	7
Asian	3	2
Hispanic	42	62
Other	22	42
Median Household Income	Hitchcock County Population	
	2010	2000
Median Household Income	\$39,702	\$36,307
In labor force (population 16 years and over)	1,704	1,421
Average household size	2.22	2.28
Average family size	2.78	2.71
Households and Families	Hitchcock County Population	
	2010	2000
Family households	64%	70%
Married–couple families	54.3%	56%
Other families	9.8%	14%
People living alone	32.9%	27%
Other nonfamily households	36%	2%
Poverty and Participation in Government Programs	Hitchcock County Population	
	2010	2000
People in poverty	15.5%	13%
People age 65 and over	14.61%	10%
Related children under 18 below poverty	22.2%	19%
All families	12.5%	10%
Female householder families	20.5%	18%

EDUCATION: In 2010, 92.9 percent of people 25 years and over had at least graduated from high school and 13.8 percent had a bachelor's degree or higher. In 2000 thirteen percent were dropouts; they were not enrolled in school and had not graduated from high school. From 2009-2013 there was 15.7% and by 2014 there was 7.1% of students who had not graduated from school. Graduating Class of 2014 had 100% of students whom successfully graduated from high school.

**Southwest Nebraska Comprehensive Community Plan
2015 – 2018**

The total school enrollment in Hitchcock County was 589 in 2010. Nursery school and kindergarten enrollment was 72 and elementary & high school enrollment was 390 children. College or graduate school enrollment was 127.

INDUSTRIES: In 2010, for the employed population 16 years and older, the leading industries in Hitchcock County were Educational services, and health care, and social assistance, 20.2 %, and Retail trade, 10.2 %.

OCCUPATIONS AND TYPE OF EMPLOYER: Among the most common occupations were: Management, professional, and related occupations, 34 %; Sales and office occupations, 21.3 %; Service occupations, 12.2 %; Construction, extraction, maintenance, and repair occupations, 5.8 %; and Production, transportation, and material moving occupations, 20.5 %. Sixty two point five percent of the people employed were Private wage and salary workers; 20.7 percent were Federal, state, or local government workers; and 13.6 percent were Self-employed in their own not incorporated business.

INCOME: The median income of households in Hitchcock County was \$39,702. Seventy five percent of the households received earnings and 15.2 percent received retirement income other than Social Security. Thirty seven point nine percent of the households received Social Security. The average income from Social Security was \$16,474. These income sources are not mutually exclusive; that is, some households received income from more than one source.

POVERTY AND PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS: In 2010, fifteen point one percent of people were in poverty. Twenty two point two percent of related children under 18 were below the poverty level, compared with 14.61 % of people 65 years old and over. Twelve point five percent of all families were below the poverty level and 10.11 % of families with a female householder and no husband present had incomes below the poverty level.

**Southwest Nebraska Comprehensive Community Plan
2015 – 2018**

Red Willow County

Juveniles between the ages of 0-18 make up 23.0% of the total population in **Red Willow County** located in Southwest Nebraska. The following tables show the breakdown of the total county population by gender and ethnicity. (Source of data: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 American Community Survey)

Population	Red Willow County Population	
	2010	2000
Total	11,055	10,755
Male	5,483	5,195
Female	5,572	5,560
Median age (years)	41.8	42.6
Under 5 Years	675	629
18 years and over	8,517	8,386
65 years and over	2,072	2,015
Gender & Ethnicity	Red Willow County Population	
	2010	2000
White	10,612	10,425
African American	81	19
Native American	52	14
Asian	32	56
Hispanic	462	388
Other	154	241
Median Household Income	Red Willow County Population	
	2010	2000
Median Household Income	\$42,345	\$39,671
In labor force (population 16 years and over)	6,892	5,871
Average household size	2.29	2.17
Average family size	2.88	2.70
Households and Families	Red Willow County Population	
	2010	2000
Family households	63.5%	66%
Married–couple families	51.8%	56%
Other families	11.7%	9%
People living alone	31.6%	29%
Other nonfamily households	36.5%	6%
Poverty and Participation in Government Programs	Red Willow County Population	
	2010	2000
People in poverty	12.7%	9%
People age 65 and over	7.0%	3%
Related children under 18 below poverty	13.3%	8%
All families	7.8%	5%
Female householder families	48.7%	28%

EDUCATION: In **2010**, ninety three point seven per cent of people 25 years and over had at least graduated from high school and 19.5 % had a bachelor's degree or higher. In 2000 eight percent were dropouts; they were not enrolled in school and had not graduated from high school. From 2009-2013 there was 15.3% of students who had not graduated. Graduating Class of 2014 had 99.8% of students whom successfully graduated from high school.

Southwest Nebraska Comprehensive Community Plan
2015 – 2018

The total school enrollment in Red Willow County was 2,554 in 2010. Nursery school and kindergarten enrollment was 308 and elementary & high school enrollment was 1,823 children. College or graduate school enrollment was 423.

INDUSTRIES: In 2010, for the employed population 16 years and older, the leading industries in Red Willow County were Educational services, health care, and social assistance 22.1 %: Retail trade was 18.5 %.

OCCUPATIONS AND TYPE OF EMPLOYER: Among the most common occupations were: Management, professional, and related occupations, 27.9 %; Sales and office occupations, 27.5%; Service occupations, 17.9 %; Production, transportation, and material moving occupations, 14.9 %; and Construction, extraction, maintenance, and repair occupations, 6.9 %. Seventy two point eight percent of the people employed were Private wage and salary workers; 14.5% were Federal, state, or local government workers; and 12.5% were Self-employed in their own not incorporated business.

INCOME: The median income of households in Red Willow County was \$42,345. Seventy three point five percent of the households received earnings and 14.6 percent received retirement income other than Social Security. Thirty five point four percent of the households received Social Security. The average income from Social Security was \$17,381. These income sources are not mutually exclusive; that is, some households received income from more than one source.

POVERTY AND PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS: In 2010, twelve point seven percent of people were in poverty. Thirteen point three percent of related children under 18 were below the poverty level, compared with 7 % of people 65 years old and over. Seven point eight percent of all families were below the poverty level and 10.76 % of families with a female householder and no husband present had incomes below the poverty level.

Section V

Identified Priority Areas & Corresponding Strategies

**Southwest Nebraska Comprehensive Community Plan
2015 – 2018**

V. Identified Priority Areas and Corresponding Strategies

Priority Area One:

Increase and strengthen the current diversion program and early intervention program in order to make the community stronger and reduce the number of youth entering the juvenile justice system.

The viewpoint of the Southwest Nebraska Region is that the earlier youth and their families receive help when needed, the more likely youth will grow into healthy, productive, contributing members of the community. Prevention and early intervention efforts also are very important in reducing the number of youth formally entering the juvenile justice system, and ultimately the adult criminal justice system.

The community, through the school system and law enforcement and other providers, has been successful in identifying youth that need help to correct conduct problems. The diversion continues to remain a key deterrent of youth entering the Juvenile Justice System.

Grant Year: 2014-2015

New Clients	Red Willow	Furnas	Hayes	Hitchcock	Dundy	Chase	Adult 19/20 yrs	Juveniles 8-18 yrs	Diversion Fee
47 20(Carryover) 67 Clients Served	21	1	1	8	3	13	17 5(Carryover) 22 Clients Served	30 15(Carryover) 45 Clients Served	\$4,295

2014-2015 Youth Outcomes:

Pre Test 80.09% Post Test 82.21% **2.12 %** increase in decision making skills
 10 of 67 Active Clients Reoffended **85 %** of clients served did not reoffend
 Of the 10 reoffenders 5 paid fines or were placed on probation and 5 completed diversion for the second time.

Of 45 clients completing the post program survey, 96% indicated that they would probably not or definitely not choose to break the law again. 91% of diversion clients also indicated that services received through the program helped them to deal more effectively with their situation.

When questioned on the intensity of the program, 93% indicated the contact with the Diversion Officer was about right. 89% of client also reported the intensity and requirements were about right.

**Southwest Nebraska Comprehensive Community Plan
2015 – 2018**

Also on the program survey, 98% of clients reported the decision making class was helpful or very helpful. 87% of clients found community service was helpful to very helpful. 91% of the clients benefited from the goal setting and 87% of clients felt the apology letter was helpful. 89% of clients felt the drug and alcohol class helped them become more aware of the addiction and health consequences of drugs and alcohol. *See Appendix B for full report.*

Current case load for District 11 of juveniles' age 0-17 is 234 (August 2015). No other data was provided. Keeping our youth safe is essential to their healthy development. Responding to the troubling behaviors of children and youth in developmentally appropriate preventive measures is key to ensuring every child can build a successful, independent adult life.

With the passage of LB561 in 2013, Nebraska juvenile justice system underwent significant changes. Major provisions of the bill sought to reduce the use of incarceration and detention, while enhancing diversion practices. Under the new bill, supervision of juveniles with status or delinquency offenses shifted DHHS to the Office of Probation Administration. Previously, youth with status or delinquency offenses were made state wards through the courts in order to access services. This represents an important step forward in prioritizing rehabilitation and family involvement in Nebraska. We can also expect some child welfare data on state wards to reflect some of this family involvement in Nebraska. We can also expect some child welfare data on state wards to reflect some of these changes as we continue to work towards ensuring that youths can access in-home and community-based services.

With the focus on diverting youth from the juvenile justice system, at the suggestion of the local sheriff officer, an early intervention program will be established. The goal of the program is to offer a referral service to parents contacting local law enforcement for an at-risk youth's behavior. The primary focus of the program is to divert the youth from being issued a citation and entering the juvenile justice system with early intervention and support for those families seeking assistance for at-risk youth. This program is in the early stages of organization.

**Southwest Nebraska Comprehensive Community Plan
2015 – 2018**

STRATEGIES

Priority Area One: **Increase and strengthen the current diversion program, early intervention program and in order to make the community stronger and reduce the number of youth entering the juvenile justice system.**

Strategies	Action Steps	Responsible Party	Timeline	Resources Needed	Expected Results
(1) Maximize the Juvenile Diversion Program	a) Follow Nebraska Crime Commission Guidelines.	a) Lutheran Family Diversion Services	a) July 2015	a) seek funding to sustain program	a) Decrease in juveniles law offenses prosecuted in court.
	b) Continue “best practice” case management.	b)	b) ongoing	b)	b) Expanded prevention and education efforts in the southwest region
	c) Attend trainings, workshops, and conferences to stay informed of current juvenile services.	c)	c) by June 2018	c).	c)
(2) Create Early Intervention Program	a) Research early intervention efforts	a) Lutheran Family Diversion Services	a) July 2015	a) seek funding to sustain program	a) Reduction in citations being issued to juveniles.
	b) Write program manual and seek approval of county attorneys.	b)	b) ongoing	b)	b) Quicker implementation of services to youth and relief to families.
	c). Partner with law enforcement on early intervention referrals	c)	c) by June 2018	c).	c)

**Southwest Nebraska Comprehensive Community Plan
2015 – 2018**

Priority Area Two:

Establish a truancy program for Southwest Nebraska.

All LB1184 Teams have a focus of working with public schools on truancy and other child abuse and neglect referrals for the Southwest Nebraska Region. As an alternative referral source for a truancy specific community-based program is needed. Currently most schools handle truancy with referrals to the county attorney and or LB1184 Teams. With the focus on diverting youth from the juvenile justice system a truancy program for the area is needed.

Attendance Rate				
	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	Graduation Rate 2013-2014
State of Nebraska	95.18%	95.55%	95.30%	88.47%
Chase County	94.36%	94.26%	95.76%	86.25%
Chase Co Schools	95.02%	95.42%	95.28%	87.88%
Wauneta Palisade Schools	93.69%	93.10%	96.24%	84.62%
Dundy County	95.01%	95.01%	95.22%	100%
Dundy Co Schools	95.01%	95.01%	95.22%	100%
Furnas County	94.91%	95.37%	94.69%	100%
Arapahoe Schools	95.84%	95.87%	95.80%	100%
Cambridge Public Schools	96.13%	96.58%	95.22%	100%
Southern Valley Schools	92.76%	93.64%	93.05%	100%
Hayes County	93.07%	94.69%	95.12%	100%
Hayes Center Schools	93.07%	94.69%	95.12%	100%
Hitchcock County	94.55%	95.15%	95.35%	100%
Hitchcock Co Schools	94.55%	95.15%	95.35%	100%
Red Willow	94.46%	94.98%	95.12%	97.9%
McCook Schools	94.02%	94.52%	94.45%	99.8%
Southern Valley Schools	94.89%	95.44%	95.79%	96%
Six-County Area	94.40%	94.91%	95.21%	97.36%
State/Area Comparison	-.78%	-.64%	-.09%	+8.89%

*Nebraska Department of Education/Report Card

*Graduation Rate- School Reporting

The six county attendance comparisons are below the state average. All schools have credit recovery guidelines and internal alternative school programs. These programs are contributing to the high graduation rate.

According to the 2014 Kids County in Nebraska Report (2012/13), the Nebraska public and nonpublic school absences were (341,458 enrolled):

19.4% absent 10-19 days

3.6% absent 20-29 days

2.3% were absent 30 plus days

**Southwest Nebraska Comprehensive Community Plan
2015 – 2018**

In Nebraska students attending public and non public schools suspension rate was 4.1% (14,043 students). The rate of expulsions for public and nonpublic students was .25% (881 students). The public and nonpublic students drop out were 1,443 students.

STRATEGIES

Priority Area 3: Establish a truancy program for Southwest Nebraska					
Strategies	Action Steps	Responsible Party	Timeline	Resources Needed	Expected Results
(1) Truancy Program for Southwest Nebraska	a) Write Program Manual	a) Lutheran Family Services	a) July 2015	a) seek funding to sustain program	a) Decrease in juveniles law offenses prosecuted in court
	b) Contact Schools/ County Attorneys to implement truancy program.		b) ongoing	b)	b) Improving school attendance and credit recovery.
	c) Implement program for Southwest Nebraska		c) by June 2018	c)	c) Implement Prevention Strategies
(2) Implement Truancy Program for Southwest Nebraska	a) Accept referrals	a) Lutheran Family Services	a) July 2015	a) seek funding to sustain program	a) Decrease in juveniles law offenses prosecuted in court
	b) Assessment and case management		b) ongoing	b)	b) Improving school attendance and credit recovery.
	c) Educational Classes		c) by June 2018	c)	c) Encourage positive character traits

**Southwest Nebraska Comprehensive Community Plan
2015 – 2018**

Priority Area Three:

Increase and strengthen the alcohol and substance abuse prevention efforts through parental awareness, alcohol and substance abuse education as well as adolescent substance abuse treatment and support. Focus awareness and treatment within the rural geography.

The earlier youth and their families receive prevention and early intervention, the more likely the youth will grow into healthy, productive contributing members of the community. Another important factor is reduction of the number of youth formally entering the juvenile justice system and ultimately the adult criminal justice system.

The 2013 Youth Risk Behavior Survey indicates the following:

Health Behaviors among Nebraska High School Students

Risk Behavior	2013
Rode with drinking driver in past 30 days	20.3%
Drove when drinking in past 30 days	6.8%
Ever drank alcohol	52.1%
Drank alcohol in past 30days	22.1%
Bing drank in past 30days	13.6%
Ever used marijuana	23.6%
Used marijuana in past 30days	11.7%
Ever used prescription drugs	10.4%

See Appendix C for full report

Due to an increase in availability of street drugs, especially marijuana, methamphetamine and alcohol, youth are being exposed to these drugs at an alarming rate. This puts drug and alcohol prevention as a priority due to wanting to protect our youth from such exposure to these chemicals. Our youth are a- risk for developing a drug or alcohol dependency due to the availability of such substances. Treatment for drug and alcohol usage at a short-term residential level is costly and availability to services is limited due to the distance one has to travel for such programs along with serving both youth and their families. Most programs are three to four hours up to six hours away at the high level of care. Programs that can serve youth and families at an outpatient or intensive outpatient basis are most cost productive and can help youth stay more in tact with their support systems.

**Southwest Nebraska Comprehensive Community Plan
2015 – 2018**

STRATEGIES

Priority Area Three: **Increase and strengthen the alcohol and substance abuse prevention efforts through parental awareness, alcohol and substance abuse education as well as adolescent substance abuse treatment and support. Focus awareness and treatment within the rural geography.**

Strategies	Action Steps	Responsible Party	Timeline	Resources Needed	Expected Results
(1) Support Prevention Efforts in Southwest Nebraska	a) Organize and hold at least two alcohol and drug prevention events per year b) Seek federal/state funding to strengthen for substance abuse prevention. c) Expand prevention effort to every county in the Southwest Nebraska Region	a) Youth Task Force for Southwest Nebraska b) Drug & Alcohol Coalition c)	a) July 2015 b) ongoing c) by June 2018	a) funding needed for speakers b) grant writing resources c) identification of leaders for buy-in and action steps	a) Teens and parents better educated about pitfalls of drug and alcohol use b) Expanded prevention efforts in the region c) All having access to the same prevention efforts
(2) Program Research and Prevention Efforts	a) Seek federal/state funding to strengthen for substance abuse prevention. b) Expand prevention effort to every county in the Southwest Nebraska Region c) Expand prevention efforts with best practice resources/curriculum	a) Youth Task Force for Southwest Nebraska b) Drug & Alcohol Coalition c)	a) July 2015 b) ongoing c) by June 2018	a) funding needed for speakers b) grant writing resources c) identification of leaders in for buy-in and action steps	a) Teens and parents better educated about pitfalls of drug and alcohol use b) Expanded prevention efforts in the region c) All having access to the same prevention efforts

**Southwest Nebraska Comprehensive Community Plan
2015 – 2018**

Priority Area Four:

With the focus on youth programming and community planning, improve communication and collaboration between and among agencies (diversion, probation, law enforcement, schools, DHHS, attorneys and service providers) and interested community leaders.

According to the Search Institute, preparing all young people to become thriving and contributing adults requires strengthening commitments and capacities of communities as a whole. Goals and actions must be aligned and mutually reinforcing across all aspects of community life so that communities themselves become developmentally rich contexts for growing up on a path to a hopeful, productive future.

A team approach effort within Southwest Nebraska with primary focus for communities to work together on linking the grassstops and the grassroots for a collective impact. With collective impact, communities have the opportunity to connect the critical strategies of shared goals, indicators, and strategies. Communities with a shared vision, tap into the passion and capacity of people, networks, and institutions throughout the community to contribute to young people being and becoming productive and hopeful contributors to their communities and society.

Examples of possible positive contributors are school social services, after school reading programs, afterschool programs with homework assistance, character building activities, mentoring, workforce preparation, college preparation, life skill classes, life coaching, faith based support groups, emergency shelter or housing, appropriate housing for teenagers and young adults. Best practice, researched based or evidence based curriculum or programming should be considered.

**Southwest Nebraska Comprehensive Community Plan
2015 – 2018**

STRATEGIES

Priority Area Four: With the focus on youth programming and community planning, improve communication and collaboration between and among agencies (Diversion, Probation, Law Enforcement, Schools, DHHS and area Service Providers) and interested community leaders.

Strategies	Action Steps	Responsible Party	Timeline	Resources Needed	Expected Results
(1) Focus on Community Planning and Collaboration	a) Expand community planning.	a) Youth Task Force for Southwest Nebraska	a) July 2015	a) Establish funding for team	a) Expanded collective impact and collaboration
	b) Create action steps for Youth Task Force.	b)	b) ongoing	b) grant writing resources	b) Expanded programming efforts in the region
	c)	c)	c) by June 2018	c) identification of leaders for buy-in and action steps	c)
(2) Expand Community Programs with a focus on Evidence Based/ Best Practice	a) Assess need of programs	a) Youth Task Force for Southwest Nebraska	a) July 2015	a) Establish funding	a) Expanded services and programming for youth and families
	b) Community partners for implementation	b)	b) ongoing	b) grant writing resources	b)
	c)	c)	c) by June 2018	c) identification of leaders for buy-in and action steps	c)

**Southwest Nebraska Comprehensive Community Plan
2015 – 2018**

Priority Area Five:

Develop and enhance family involvement and parental awareness in areas that help families and parents knowledgeably assist their youth when risky behaviors are recognized. Focus on Building 40 Developmental Assets in all youth across all segments of the community in Southwest Nebraska at the same time YLS Risk-Need Factors are alleviated in at- risk youth.

How do young people experience life in their families, schools, and communities? Where do they experience the support and challenge they need as they grow up? Are they developing the non-cognitive skills, attitudes, values, and identity that they need for success in life? What high-risk behaviors do they engage in—and what strengths and supports do they have or need to avoid these risks?

In 1990, Search Institute released **a framework of 40 Developmental Assets** (www.search-institute.org), which identifies a set of skills, experiences, relationships, and behaviors that enable young people to develop into successful and contributing adults. Over the following two decades, the Developmental Assets framework and approach to youth development became the most frequently cited and widely utilized in the world, creating what Stanford University’s William Damon described as a “sea change” in adolescent development.

Data collected from Search Institute surveys of more than 4 million children and youth from all backgrounds and situations has consistently demonstrated that the more Developmental Assets young people acquire, the better their chances of succeeding in school and becoming happy, healthy, and contributing members of their communities and society.

Thousands of schools, coalitions, and organizations turn to Search Institute’s easy-to-use Developmental Assets to focus on external assets and internal assets. Through external assets the youth acquire support, empowerment, boundaries and expectations as well as constructive use of time. Through internal assets, youth acquire commitment to learning, positive values, social competencies and positive identity. *See Appendix D*

What are risk factors and protective factors? Research over the past two decades has tried to determine how drug abuse begins and how it progresses. Many factors can add to a person’s risk for drug abuse. Risk factors can increase a person’s chances for drug abuse, while protective factors can reduce

**Southwest Nebraska Comprehensive Community Plan
2015 – 2018**

the risk. Please note, however, that most individuals at risk for drug abuse do not start using drugs or become addicted. Also, a risk factor for one person may not be for another.

Risk and protective factors can affect children at different stages of their lives. At each stage, risks occur that can be changed through prevention intervention. Early childhood risk, such as aggressive behavior, can be changed or prevented with family, school, and community interventions that focus on helping children develop appropriate, positive behaviors. If not addressed, negative behaviors can lead to more risks, such as academic failure and social difficulties, which put children at further risk for later drug abuse.

Research-based prevention programs focus on intervening early in a child's development to strengthen protective factors before problem behaviors develop. The table below describes how risk and protective factors affect people in five domains, or setting, where interventions can take place.

Risks Factors	Domain	Protective Factors
Early Aggressive Behavior	Individual	Self-Control
Lack of Parental Supervision	Family	Parental Monitoring
Substance Abuse	Peer	Academic Competence
Drug Availability	School	Anti-drug Use Policies
Poverty	Community	Strong Neighborhood Attachment

Risk factors can influence drug abuse in several ways. The more risks a child is exposed to, the more likely the child will abuse drugs. Some risk factors may be more powerful than others at certain stages in development, such as peer pressure during the teenage years; just as some protective factors, such as a strong parent-child bond, can have a greater impact on reducing risks during the early years. An important goal of prevention is to change the balance between risk and protective factors so that protective factors outweigh risk factors.

Prevention principles are intended to help parents, educators, and community leaders think about, plan for, and deliver researched-based drug abuse prevention programs at the community level. Current research has concluded sixteen principles of support. *See Appendix E*

**Southwest Nebraska Comprehensive Community Plan
2015 – 2018**

STRATEGIES

Priority Area Five: Develop and enhance family involvement and parental awareness in areas that help families and parents knowledgably assist their youth when risky behaviors are recognized. Focus on Building 40 Developmental Assets in all youth across all segments of the community in Southwest Nebraska at the same time YLS Risk Need Factors are alleviated in at-risk youth.

Strategies	Action Steps	Responsible Party	Timeline	Resources Needed	Expected Results
(1) Build the 40 Developmental Assets in the Community	a) 40 Developmental Asset awareness for communities b) Asset training for parents. c)	a) Youth Task Force for Southwest Nebraska b) c)	a) July 2015 b) ongoing c) by July 2018	a) Funding Resources b) Grant Writing Resources c)	a) Building Character in Youth with 40 Developmental Assets. b) Young people having school success and becoming happy, healthy, and contributing members of their communities and society. c)
(2) Utilize the YLS Risk-Need Factors in helping at risk youth	a) Consistent assessment of youth in the area focusing on YLS Risk-Need Factors. b) Utilizing assessments and prevention measures focused on youth needs. c)	a) Youth Task Force for Southwest Nebraska b) c)	a) July 2015 b) ongoing c) by June 2018	a) Training Opportunities b) c)	a) Reduce or stop high-risk behaviors by promoting healthy choices. b) Alleviate risk-factors for substance abuse with protective-factors in youth c)

Appendix

A. Juvenile Systems Analysis Tool

**Southwest Nebraska Comprehensive Community Plan
2015 – 2018**

Decision Points:

SYSTEM POINT: ARREST/ CITATION PARTY RESPONSIBLE: Police/Law Enforcement STATUTE REFERENCE: NRS §§ 43-247 (1), (2), (4)	
<i>Decision: Whether an information report should be filed, or what offense, if any, with which juvenile should be cited or arrested.</i>	
Formal Determining Factors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Sufficient factual basis to believe offense was committed. b. Underlying support for a particular offense. 	Informal Determining Factors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Officer's Inclination/ patience b. Degree to which parent or service provider pushes the issue c. Youth's prior incidences with law enforcement. d. Youth and/or youth's families perceived status in the community.
Notes: More data surrounding juvenile arrests and specific offenses needs to be collected in the region to know exactly the kinds of juveniles that are coming into contact with the system and what their needs are. There is a concern that some youth (athletes, prominent parents) may receive "special treatment" by the system.	

<i>Decision: Whether to cite or arrest juvenile for juvenile or adult offense.</i>	
Formal Determining Factors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Seriousness of Offense b. Is there a warrant? 	Informal Determining Factors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Degree to which juvenile cooperates with officer. b. Victim's desire. c. Youth is already in the HHS or juvenile system.
Notes: The major considerations are how much trouble the youth is getting into, how serious the crime is, and how involved the parents are.	

<i>Decision: Whether to take juvenile into custody or to cite and release (NRS § 43-248 (1), (2); § 43-250 (1), (2), (3))</i>	
Formal Determining Factors	Informal Determining Factors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Immediate risk to juvenile b. Immediate/short term risk to public c. Seriousness of perceived offense d. Extent to which parent or other responsible adult available to take responsibility for juvenile. e. Availability of pre-adjudication detention options.
Notes: Generally, the juvenile is not taken into custody. The question is asked: Is the youth or public at risk for injury or harm?	

**Southwest Nebraska Comprehensive Community Plan
2015 – 2018**

SYSTEM POINT: INITIAL DETENTION	
PARTY RESPONSIBLE: State of Nebraska Probation	
STATUTE REFERENCE: NRS § 43-250(3), § 43-260, § 43-260.01	
Decision: <i>Whether juvenile should be detained or released.</i>	
Formal Determining Factors a. Risk assessment outcome b. Accessibility of placement options: i. Parents/Guardians ii. Emergency Shelter iii. Staff Secure Facility iv. Secure Detention Facility	Informal Determining Factors
Notes: Probation uses the screening tool. The juvenile is cited and released or transported to North Platte. Law enforcement contacts Probation if the juvenile is currently on Probation or detention is being requested, which is rare.	

SYSTEM POINT: CHARGE JUVENILE	
PARTY RESPONSIBLE: County Attorney	
STATUTE REFERENCE: NRS § 43-274(1), § 43-275, § 43-276	
Decision: <i>Whether to prosecute juvenile.</i>	
Formal Determining Factors a. Likelihood of successful prosecution b. Factors under NRS § 43-276	Informal Determining Factors
Notes: Southwest Nebraska has a Diversion program through Lutheran Family Services, which is well utilized. The county attorney's office will take a look at the youth's motivation to complete the diversion program before the referral is done. Inquiry is made with a counselor or college recruiter as to how the citation will affect school or interest in military. Inquiry is made about whom they received the alcohol from, for example, and if they disclose the person who procured alcohol, that person will be prosecuted. Some determining factors are prior contact with law, danger to the Juvenile, and program guidelines. Politics of the small town do not play into the decision to pursue charges.	
Decision: <i>Offense for which juvenile should be charged.</i>	
Formal Determining Factors As outlined in statute	Informal Determining Factors
Notes: These are the existing resources: STOP, Diversion, Juvenile Court Options (counseling, in home placement with assistance, OJS, foster care, residential treatment), plus the options available to the adult court. The county attorney's office can approach a need from many angles, and if one does not work there are others.	

Decision: <i>Whether youth should be prosecuted as juvenile or adult.</i>	
Formal Determining Factors a. Seriousness of offense	Informal Determining Factors
Notes: Factors include the current offense and the juvenile's record, or lack thereof.	

**Southwest Nebraska Comprehensive Community Plan
2015 – 2018**

SYSTEM POINT: PRE-ADJUDICATION DETENTION	
PARTY RESPONSIBLE: Juvenile Court Judge	
STATUTE REFERENCE: NRS § 43-253(2)	
<i>Decision: Whether juvenile detained at the time of citation/arrest should continue in detention or out-of-home placement pending adjudication.</i>	
Options:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Parents/Guardians 2. Emergency Shelter 3. Staff Secure Facility 4. Secure Detention Facility 5. Electronic Monitoring 	
Formal Determining Factors	Informal Determining Factors
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Whether there is an “immediate and urgent necessity for the protection of such juvenile” b. Whether there is an “immediate and urgent necessity for the protection of...the person or property of another” c. Whether juvenile is likely to flee the jurisdiction of the court 	
Notes:	
There is no secure detention facility within the region. This decision depends on whether anyone involved is at risk or if the juvenile may try to run.	

SYSTEM POINT: PROBABLE CAUSE HEARING	
PARTY RESPONSIBLE: Juvenile Court Judge	
STATUTE REFERENCE: NRS § 43-256	
<i>Decision: Whether state can show that probable cause exist that juvenile is within the jurisdiction of the court.</i>	
Formal Determining Factors Outlined in statute	Informal Determining Factors
Notes:	
The Judge takes the county attorney’s advice into consideration. The county attorney knows the facts about the juvenile and it helps when the Judge knows as much about the juvenile as possible.	

SYSTEM POINT: COMPETENCY EVALUATION	
PARTY RESPONSIBLE: Juvenile Court Judge	
STATUTE REFERENCE: NRS § 43-258(1(b))	
<i>Decision: Whether juvenile is competent to participate in the proceedings.</i>	
Formal Determining Factors Outlined in statute	Informal Determining Factors
Notes:	
If a competency hearing is ordered, which is rare, factors considered would be whether the juvenile is suicidal, whether the juvenile is addicted to any substances, and whether the county could provide services. What type of legal representation the juvenile had would also be a concern.	

**Southwest Nebraska Comprehensive Community Plan
2015 – 2018**

Decision: Whether juvenile is “responsible” for his/her acts NRS § 43-258(1)(c) and (2))	
Formal Determining Factors a. Physician, Surgeon, Psychiatrist, Community Health Program, Psychologist b. “Complete evaluation of the juvenile including any authorized area of inquiry requested by court.” (NRS § 43-258(2))	Informal Determining Factors
Notes:	

SYSTEM POINT: ADJUDICATION	
PARTY RESPONSIBLE: Juvenile Court Judge	
STATUTE REFERENCE: NRS § 43-279 (2) and (3)	
Decision: Whether the juvenile is, beyond a reasonable doubt, “a person described by section 43-247.”	
Formal Determining Factors a. Legal sufficiency of evidence presented during adjudication hearing b. Whether juvenile admits the allegations of the petition (or, “pleads to the charges”) c. Residency d. Age	Informal Determining Factors
Notes: The statute sufficiently describes the factors that must go into this decision.	

Decision: Whether to order probation to conduct a pre-disposition investigation	
Formal Determining Factors Outlined in statute	Informal Determining Factors
Notes: Questions asked might include: Is the juvenile currently in the legal system, i.e. probation or OJS? Are there other, pending allegations? Does the court desire to handle the one issue on its own immediately or take all factors into consideration at a later time? *See NRS § 29-2261(2): A court may order a pre-sentence investigation in any case, except in cases in which an offender has been convicted of a Class IIIA misdemeanor, a Class IV misdemeanor, a Class V misdemeanor, a traffic infraction, or any corresponding city or village ordinance.	

Decision: Whether to order OJS evaluation NRS § 43-281	
Formal Determining Factors	Informal Determining Factors
Notes: Questions asked might include: Is the juvenile currently in the legal system, i.e. probation or OJS? Are there other, pending allegations? Does the court desire to handle the one issue on its own immediately or take all factors into consideration at a later time? *See also: NRS § 29-2204(3): Except when a term of life is required by law, whenever the defendant was under eighteen years of age at the time he or she committed the crime for which he or she was convicted, the court may, in its discretion, instead of imposing the penalty provided for the crime, make such disposition of the defendant as the court deems proper under the Nebraska Juvenile Code. Prior to making a disposition which commits the juvenile to the Office of Juvenile Services, the court shall order the juvenile to be evaluated by the office if the juvenile has not had an evaluation within the past twelve months.	

Decision: Whether to order a PDI or OJS Evaluation	
Formal Determining Factors a. Presumably supplement each other	Informal Determining Factors

**Southwest Nebraska Comprehensive Community Plan
2015 – 2018**

b. Uncertainty about whether probation or commitment to OJS is in the juvenile's best interest	
Notes: The question is: What is the desired result? If the court feels that there is a specific goal to be met, it will consider which agency is the best agent to reach that goal—Probation or OJS—and which of those has the appropriate resources to meet that goal.	
SYSTEM POINT: DISPOSITION PARTY RESPONSIBLE: Juvenile Court Judge STATUTE REFERENCE: NRS § 43-286 (1)	
Decision: Whether to place juvenile on probation NRS § 43-286(1)(a)(i)	
Formal Determining Factors	Informal Determining Factors
Notes: Determining factors are parental influences, family structure, the juvenile's socialization skills, and friends. Other significant factors include answering these questions: what agency is best suited to help the juvenile – Probation or OJS? What impact can the probation officer/OJS personnel have regarding the juveniles family situation, peer influence, the juvenile's social abilities, the best ability to oversee the juvenile during the evening/nighttime hours, and the ability to track and assist the juvenile with their school attendance/classroom performance? Can the probation officer provide the services needed to meet expected goals? Probation, diversion, and counseling are current resources that are utilized in our juvenile justice system. Probation is used. We have good foster homes in the area. Treatment and detention centers are a long distance and this interferes with family visitation. Sex offenders have to go out of state for treatment. Due to budget cuts, a possibility of no additional probation officers will be hired. Counseling and Diversion are the only other programs offered. Again, the location and travel time to treatment facilities is a problem.	

Decision: Whether to commit such juvenile to the Office of Juvenile Services NRS § 43-286(1)(b)	
Formal Determining Factors -Whether juvenile is at least twelve years old	Informal Determining Factors
Notes: Conditions depend on what is learned in the OJS evaluation.	

Decision: Whether to place juvenile on probation and commit juvenile to HHS or OJS	
Formal Determining Factors a. No apparent authority for delinquent in the legal custody of parents/guardian.	Informal Determining Factors a. Gives probation responsibility of supervision, but opens access to HHS/OJS funds for treatment or rehabilitation
Notes: See Also, State v. David C., 6 Neb. App. 198, 572 N.W.2d 392 (1997): [9] It is clear that the court intended to commit David to the YRTC without actually revoking his probation. We can find no statutory basis for this procedure. Section 43-286 provides for the possible dispositions that a court may make, including continuing [*214] the disposition portion of the hearing and (1) placing the juvenile on probation subject to the supervision of a probation officer; (2) permitting the juvenile to remain in his or her [***31] own home, subject to the supervision of the probation officer; (3) placing the juvenile in a suitable home or institution or with the Department; or (4) committing him or her to OJS. Section 43-286 provides no authority for a court to place a juvenile on probation under the care of OJS. Section 43-286(4)(e) provides that if the court finds that the juvenile violated the terms of his or her probation, the court may modify the terms and conditions of the probation order, extend the period of probation, or enter "any order of disposition that could have been made at the time the original order of probation was entered . . ." The court could not have originally entered an order providing for probation with commitment to YRTC, and it necessarily follows that the court could not enter such an order upon finding that the juvenile had violated the terms of his or her probation. The attempt to continue probation while committing David to a YRTC would also require a reversal of the order of April 30.	

SYSTEM POINT: ADMINISTRATIVE SANCTIONS PARTY RESPONSIBLE: Probation STATUTE REFERENCE: NRS § 29-2266	
Decision: Whether to impose administrative sanctions on a probationer	
Formal Determining Factors (NRS § 29-2266 (2))	Informal Determining Factors

**Southwest Nebraska Comprehensive Community Plan
2015 – 2018**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Probation officers has reasonable cause to believe that probationer has committed or is about to commit a substance abuse violation or a non-criminal violation b. Substance abuse violation refers to a positive test for drug or alcohol use, failure to report for such a test, or failure to comply with substance abuse evaluations or treatment c. Non-criminal violation means: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Moving traffic violations; ii. Failure to report to his or her probation officer; iii. Leaving the jurisdiction of the court or leaving the state without the permission of the court or his or her probation officer; iv. Failure to work regularly or attend training school; v. Failure to notify his or her probation officers of change of address or employment; vi. Frequenting places where controlled substances are illegally sold, used, distributed, or administered; vii. Failure to perform community service as directed; viii. Failure to pay fines, courts costs, restitution, or any fees imposed pursuant to section 29-2262.06. 	
--	--

Notes:
Probation is using administrative sanctions on juvenile cases except on new traffic cases. There are no resources or limited resources for juvenile probationers. Counseling does not seem effective with kids. More behavior modification is being required for the probation officers to use with the juvenile probationers, but with the county area and distance the officer's work, along with the case loads they carry, this is proving to be difficult to accomplish. Probation uses "Courage to Change". Some group sessions with families are made available.
Probation officers are well trained.

SYSTEM POINT: MOTION TO REVOKE PROBATION	
PARTY RESPONSIBLE: County Attorney	
STATUTE REFERENCE: NRS § 43-286(4)(b)(i)	
Formal Determining Factors	Informal Determining Factors

Notes:
Non compliance of probationer – each case is based on individual failures and circumstances. Due to prior counseling attendance, by the time the juvenile is on probation, they are resistant to counseling.
In the end, there is not enough varying resources to choose from for juveniles on Probation so many times their Probation needs to be revoked.

SYSTEM POINT: MODIFICATION/REVOICATION OF PROBATION	
PARTY RESPONSIBLE: Juvenile Court Judge	
STATUTE REFERENCE: NRS § 43-286(4)(b)(v)	
Formal Determining Factors	Informal Determining Factors

Notes:
Dependent on the individual circumstances based on what is in the best interest of the juvenile. See Above.

SYSTEM POINT: SETTING ASIDE ADJUDICATION	
PARTY RESPONSIBLE: Juvenile Court Judge	
STATUTE REFERENCE: NRS § 43-2,104	
<i>Decision: Whether juvenile has satisfactorily completed his or her probation and supervision or the treatment program of his or her commitment</i> NRS § 43-2,102	
Formal Determining Factors (43-2,103) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Juvenile's post-adjudication behavior and response to treatment and rehabilitation programs b. Whether setting aside adjudication will depreciate seriousness of juvenile's conduct or promote disrespect for law c. Whether failure to set aside adjudication may result in 	Informal Determining Factors

**Southwest Nebraska Comprehensive Community Plan
2015 – 2018**

disabilities disproportionate to the conduct upon which the adjudication was based.	
<p>Notes: This decision is based on how the juvenile has progressed. The Judge will set a specific time period for probation. The probation officer can request early termination if the juvenile has improved in the areas indicated above. If the juvenile's environment was positive during probation there is a better chance they will stay out of trouble. The juvenile's character will be a big indicator as to whether they have progressed or not. The goal is for them to successfully complete probation and make better decisions after probation.</p>	

<i>Decision: Whether juvenile should be discharged from the custody and supervision of OJS</i>	
<p>Formal Determining Factors a. Presumably same as those for probation under NRS § 43-2,103</p>	<p>Informal Determining Factors</p>
<p>Notes: See Also, <i>In re Interest Tamantha S.</i>, 267 Neb. 78; 672 N.W.2d 24 (2003): it is clear under the language of § 43-408 that the committing court maintains jurisdiction over a juvenile committed to OJS, conducts review hearings every 6 months, and is to receive written notification of the placement and treatment status of juveniles committed to OJS at least every 6 months. See § 43-408(2) and (3). Thus, although the statute speaks of committed [***28] juveniles' being "discharged from [OJS]," § 43-408(2), the statute does not explicitly say that OJS discharges the juveniles, and, on the contrary, the Legislature has explicitly mandated that the committing court "continues to maintain jurisdiction" over a juvenile [***9] committed to OJS. <i>Id.</i> Therefore, while OJS may make an initial determination with regard to the advisability of the discharge of a juvenile committed to OJS, the committing court, as a result of its statutorily imposed continuing jurisdiction, must approve the discharge of the juvenile.</p>	

Appendix

B. Southwest Nebraska Diversion Program Report

**Southwest Nebraska Comprehensive Community Plan
2015 – 2018**

Southwest Nebraska Diversion Program

Grant Year: 2012-2013

New Clients	Red Willow	Furnas	Hayes	Hitchcock	Dundy	Chase	Adult 19/20 yrs	Juveniles 8-18 yrs	Diversion Fee
103 24(Carryover) <u>127 Clients</u> Served	51	19	6	18	5	4	29 2(Carryover) <u>31 Clients</u> Served	74 22(Carryover) <u>96 Clients</u> Served	\$11,685

Grant Year: 2013-2014

New Clients	Red Willow	Furnas	Hayes	Hitchcock	Dundy	Chase	Adult 19/20 yrs	Juveniles 8-18 yrs	Diversion Fee
80 37(Carryover) <u>117 Clients</u> Served	33	22	3	9	8	5	54 8(Carryover) <u>62 Clients</u> Served	26 29(Carryover) <u>55 Clients</u> Served	\$10,775

Grant Year: 2014-2015

New Clients	Red Willow	Furnas	Hayes	Hitchcock	Dundy	Chase	Adult 19/20 yrs	Juveniles 8-18 yrs	Diversion Fee
47 20(Carryover) <u>67 Clients</u> Served	21	1	1	8	3	13	17 5(Carryover) <u>22 Clients</u> Served	30 15(Carryover) <u>45 Clients</u> Served	\$4,295

2014-2015 Youth Outcomes:

Pre Test 80.09% Post Test 82.21%
10 of 67 Active Clients Reoffended

2.12 % increase in decision making skills
85 % of clients served did not reoffend

Of the 10 reoffenders 5 paid fines or were placed on probation and 5 completed diversion for the second time. (reoffenders – cost of additional court appearances, possible court appointed attorney fees, probation monitoring costs, mental health assessments or out of home placement in which the State of Nebraska or counties assumed the costs. In special circumstances some diversion clients repeat the program due to re-offending in different counties.)

Other facts:

Total number of clients served decreased, but the number of juveniles served increased.

\$1,560 in client fees waived due to income or hardship.

1 failed to attend intake appointment to sign into diversion.

2 failed to complete program by not completing requirements.

45 clients had successful completions.

1800 community service hours completed (1800 times \$8.00 min wage equals **\$14,400.00** labor savings).

Data facts: (47 new referrals)

40 Caucasian, 5 Hispanic, 1 Black/African American, 1 American Indian

20 Males & 27 Females

**Southwest Nebraska Comprehensive Community Plan
2015 – 2018**

Offenses:

Ages:

9 or below	0
10	0
11	1
12	1
13	1
14	3
15	8
16	4
17	7
18 and over	22
Total	47

Curfew Violations	1
MIP (Minor in Possession alcohol)	25
Open Container	1
Possession of Marijuana	6
Possession Drug Paraphernalia	8
Criminal Mischief & Trespass	2
Third Degree Assault	1
Provisional License Violation	6
Traffic (Speeding)	1
Shoplifting	3
Theft by Unlawful Taking	1
Total (**Multiple Citations per ticket)	55 **

Post Program Surveys:

Of 45 clients completing the post program survey, 96% indicated that they would probably not or definitely not choose to break the law again. 91% of diversion clients also indicated that services received through the program helped them to deal more effectively with their situation.

When questioned on the intensity of the program, 93% indicated the contact with the Diversion Officer was about right. 89% of client also reported the intensity and requirements were about right.

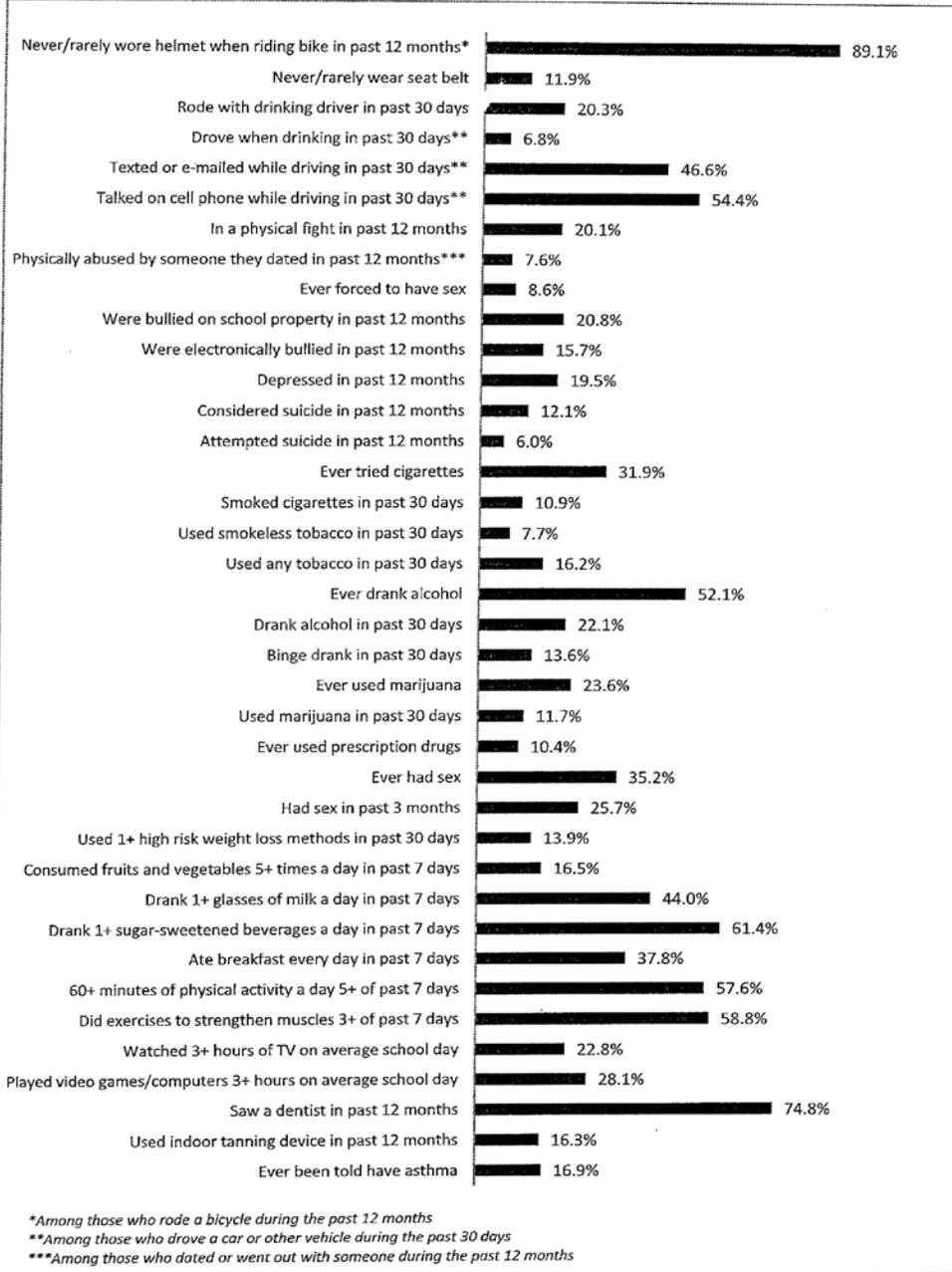
Also on the program survey, 98% of clients reported the decision making class was helpful or very helpful. 87% of clients found community service was helpful to very helpful. 91% of the clients benefited from the goal setting and 87% of clients felt the apology letter was helpful. 89% of clients felt the drug and alcohol class helped them become more aware of the addiction and health consequences of drugs and alcohol.

Appendix

B. State of Nebraska 2013 Risk Behavior Survey Results

Southwest Nebraska Comprehensive Community Plan 2015 – 2018

Figure 1. Magnitude of Select Health Behaviors among Nebraska High School Students, 2013



Appendix

D. Search Institute - 40 Developmental Assets

**Southwest Nebraska Comprehensive Community Plan
2015 – 2018**

40 Developmental Assets

H7

Search Institute has identified the following building blocks of healthy development that help young people grow up healthy, caring, and responsible.

CATEGORY	ASSET NAME AND DEFINITION	
External Assets	<p>Support</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Family support—Family life provides high levels of love and support. 2. Positive family communication—Young person and her or his parent(s) communicate positively, and young person is willing to seek advice and counsel from parent(s). 3. Other adult relationships—Young person receives support from three or more nonparent adults. 4. Caring neighborhood—Young person experiences caring neighbors. 5. Caring school climate—School provides a caring, encouraging environment. 6. Parent involvement in schooling—Parent(s) are actively involved in helping young person succeed in school. 	
	<p>Empowerment</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Community values youth—Young person perceives that adults in the community value youth. 8. Youth as resources—Young people are given useful roles in the community. 9. Service to others—Young person serves in the community one hour or more per week. 10. Safety—Young person feels safe at home, at school, and in the neighborhood. 	
	<p>Boundaries & Expectations</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. Family boundaries—Family has clear rules and consequences and monitors the young person's whereabouts. 12. School boundaries—School provides clear rules and consequences. 13. Neighborhood boundaries—Neighbors take responsibility for monitoring young people's behavior. 14. Adult role models—Parent(s) and other adults model positive, responsible behavior. 15. Positive peer influence—Young person's best friends model responsible behavior. 16. High expectations—Both parent(s) and teachers encourage the young person to do well. 	
	<p>Constructive Use of Time</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 17. Creative activities—Young person spends three or more hours per week in lessons or practice in music, theater, or other arts. 18. Youth programs—Young person spends three or more hours per week in sports, clubs, or organizations at school and/or in the community. 19. Religious community—Young person spends one or more hours per week in activities in a religious institution. 20. Time at home—Young person is out with friends "with nothing special to do" two or fewer nights per week. 	
	Internal Assets	<p>Commitment to Learning</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 21. Achievement motivation—Young person is motivated to do well in school. 22. School engagement—Young person is actively engaged in learning. 23. Homework—Young person reports doing at least one hour of homework every school day. 24. Bonding to school—Young person cares about her or his school. 25. Reading for pleasure—Young person reads for pleasure three or more hours per week.
		<p>Positive Values</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 26. Caring—Young person places high value on helping other people. 27. Equality and social justice—Young person places high value on promoting equality and reducing hunger and poverty. 28. Integrity—Young person acts on convictions and stands up for her or his beliefs. 29. Honesty—Young person "tells the truth even when it is not easy." 30. Responsibility—Young person accepts and takes personal responsibility. 31. Restraint—Young person believes it is important not to be sexually active or to use alcohol or other drugs.
		<p>Social Competencies</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 32. Planning and decision making—Young person knows how to plan ahead and make choices. 33. Interpersonal competence—Young person has empathy, sensitivity, and friendship skills. 34. Cultural competence—Young person has knowledge of and comfort with people of different cultural/racial/ethnic backgrounds. 35. Resistance skills—Young person can resist negative peer pressure and dangerous situations. 36. Peaceful conflict resolution—Young person seeks to resolve conflict nonviolently.
		<p>Positive Identity</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 37. Personal power—Young person feels he or she has control over "things that happen to me." 38. Self-esteem—Young person reports having a high self-esteem. 39. Sense of purpose—Young person reports that "my life has a purpose." 40. Positive view of personal future—Young person is optimistic about her or his personal future.

This page may be reproduced for educational, noncommercial uses only. Copyright © 1997 by Search Institute, 615 First Avenue NE, Suite 125, Minneapolis, MN 55413; 800-888-7828; www.search-institute.org.

Appendix

E. National Institute on Drug Abuse – Prevention Principles

**Southwest Nebraska Comprehensive Community Plan
2015 – 2018**

Full Report: Risk and Protective Factors, National Institute on Drug Abuse
<http://www.drugabuse.gov/publication/preventing-drug-abuse-among-children-adolescents/chanter-risk-factors-protective-factors/what-are-risk-factors>.

Risk Factors and Protective Factors

Principle 1 – Prevention programs should enhance protective factors and reverse or reduce risk factors.

Principle 2 – Prevention programs should address all forms of drug abuse, alone or in combination, including the underage use of legal drugs, use of illegal drugs; and the inappropriate use of legally obtained substances, prescription medications or over-the-counter drugs.

Principle 3 – Prevention programs should address the type of drug abuse problem in the local community, target modifiable risk factors, and strengthen identified protective factors.

Prevention Planning

Family Programs

Principle 5 – Family-based prevention programs should enhance family bonding and relationships and include parenting skills; practice in developing, discussing, and enforcing family policies on substance abuse; and training in drug education and information.

School Programs

Principle 6 – Prevention programs can be designed to intervene as early as preschool to address risk factors for drug abuse, such as aggressive behavior, poor social skills, and academic difficulties.

Principle 7 – Prevention programs for elementary school children should target improving academic and social-emotional learning to address risk factors for drug abuse, such as early aggression, academic failure, and school dropout. Education should focus on the following skills: self-control; emotional awareness; communication; social problem-solving and academic support, especially in reading.

Principle 8 – Prevention programs for middle or junior high and high school students should increase academic and social competence with the following skills: study habits and academic support; communication; peer relationships; self-efficacy and assertiveness; drug resistance skills; reinforcement of antidrug attitudes; and strengthening of personal commitments against drug abuse.

Community Programs

Principle 9 – Prevention programs aimed at general populations at key transition points, such as the transition to middle school, can produce beneficial effects even among high-risk families and children. Such interventions do not single out risk populations and, therefore, reduce labeling and promote bonding to school and community.

Principle 10 – Community prevention programs that combine two or more effective programs, such as family-based and school-based programs, can be more effective than a single program alone.

Principle 11 – Community prevention programs reaching populations in multiple settings – for example, schools, clubs, faith-based organizations, and the media – are most effective when they present consistent, community-wide messages in each setting.

Prevention Program Delivery

Principle 12 – When communities adapt programs to match their needs, community norms, or differing cultural requirements, they should retain core elements of the original research-based interventions which include: structure, content and delivery.

Principle 13 – Prevention programs should be long-term with repeated interventions to reinforce the original prevention goals. Research shows that the benefits from middle school prevention programs diminish without follow-up programs in high school.

Principle 14 – Prevention programs should include teacher training on good classroom management practices, such as rewarding appropriate student behavior. Such techniques help to foster students' positive behavior, achievement, academic motivation, and school bonding.

Principle 15 – Prevention programs are most effective when they employ interactive techniques, such as peer discussion groups and parent role-playing, that allow for active involvement in learning about drug abuse and reinforcing skills.

Principle 16 – Research-based prevention programs can be cost-effective. Similar to earlier research, recent research shows that for each dollar invested in prevention, a saving of up to \$10 in treatment for alcohol and other substance abuse can be seen.

