Cuming County Juvenile Services

Comprehensive Plan

January 1, 2009 – December 31, 2011

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Community Team: *Cuming County J.A.G. (Juvenile Awareness Group)*

The Juvenile Awareness Group (JAG) was developed in 2001 and has since met regularly to plan and discuss the progress of the Juvenile Diversion program and the concerns of the youth of Cuming County. As of October 1, 2008, JAG is comprised of volunteers from various agencies in the county that work directly with juveniles. Our members represent area law enforcement, the Probation office, the County Attorney, schools, hospitals, churches, Health and Human Services, mental health professionals, the County Clerk, and the Cuming County Board of Supervisors. One parent and at least one student are also participating with the JAG team, along with the Diversion Coordinator. JAG has met several times over the course of the past three years and will continue to meet as needed to address local juvenile issues that arise.

Committees were previously formed to identify and try to reduce the number of youth families entering the juvenile justice system by maximizing the use of the diversion program and implementing primary prevention and early intervention programming.
Our community team members are listed below.

List of Community Team Members:

NAME	AGENCY	ADDRESS
Bradley Boyum	Cuming County Sheriff 402-372-6019	200 S Lincoln St., Rm 203 West Point NE 68788
Thomas Donner	Cuming Co. Attorney (402)372-2719	137 S Main St., Suite 2 West Point NE 68788
John Adams	Officer, West Point Police Dept (402) 372-2415	P.O. Box 327 West Point NE 68788
Randy Davie	Officer, Wisner Police Dept (402) 529-3544	P.O. Box 367 Wisner NE 68791
Mike Surrells	Chief of Police, Bancroft PD (402) 648-3331	P.O. Box 56 Bancroft NE 68004
Lonnie Schultz	Chief of Police, Beemer PD (402)528-3864	P.O. Box 78 Beemer NE 68716
Laurie Hartlett	Dist. 2 Probation Office (402) 375-1250	P.O. Box 301 Wayne NE 68787
Brandy Boschult	Elkhorn Valley Health Depart. 402-529-2233	POB 779 Wisner NE 68791

Bonnie Vogltance	Cuming County Clerk (402) 372-6013	POB 290 West Point NE 68788
June Fox	Juvenile Diversion Coordinator (402)372-6010	200 S Lincoln St, Rm 51 West Point NE 68788
Thomas Black	Retired Teacher (402) 372-2341	610 W Park Street West Point NE 68788
Jeanette Brodahl	Parent (402)372-2217	2035 Hwy 275 West Point NE 68788
Rev. David List	St John's Lutheran Church (402) 528-3674	3300 Lambrecht St Beemer NE 68716
John Ross	Cuming County Supervisor (402) 372-6013	2200 Hwy 16 Bancroft NE 68004
Lori Goldhorn	Special Ed Teacher, WPPS (402) 372-5546	POB 188 West Point NE 68788
Dr. Jon Cerny	Supt. Bancroft/Rosalie School (402) 648-3336	POB 129 Bancroft NE 68004
Lisa Hunke	Central Catholic High School (402) 372-5326	419 E Decatur St West Point NE 68788
Donna Colson	Goldenrod Hills Comm. Action (402) 529-3209	1119 Ave E Wisner NE 68791
Kathy Baker	Baker Counseling Services 402-372-9122	539 E Decatur St, Suite 8 West Point NE 68788
Sandy Luebbe	Guidance Counselor WPPS (402) 372-5546	POB 188 West Point NE 68788
Alan Harms	Supt. Wisner Public School (402) 529-3248	POB 580 Wisner NE 68791
Leslie Schlecht	Health & Human Services Dept (402) 372-6014	200 S Lincoln St West Point NE 68788
Deanna Nielsen	St Francis Memorial Hospital (402) 372-2404	430 N Monitor West Point NE 68788

Mike Recker	Guidance Counselor, WPES (402) 372-5507	119 N Colfax West Point NE 68788
Ted DeTurk	Supt. West Point-Beemer School (402) 372-5860	POB 188 West Point NE 68788
Sara Boyum	Student (402) 372-2755	1277 E Road West Point NE 68788
Daryle Urwiler	Parent (402) 528-3524	2244 11th Rd Pender NE 68047
Tina Welding	Chamber of Commerce (402) 372-2981	POB 125 West Point NE 68788
Karen Linnenbrink	Parent (402) 372-2799	780 E Sheridan Street West Point NE 68799
Taylor Leffler	Student West Point Central Catholic	626 S River St West Point NE 68788

Following is a profile of Cuming County:

Land Area: 572 square miles

Population (2007): 9,365

County Seat: West Point

Towns and Population (2007): Bancroft, 472; Beemer, 696; West Point, 3,374; Wisner, 1,163.

Public School Districts: Bancroft-Rosalie Community Schools, Bancroft; District 55, Beemer; West Point-Beemer Public Schools, West Point and Beemer; Wisner-Pilger Public Schools, Wisner and Pilger.

Private Schools: Guardian Angels Elementary School, West Point; St. Paul Lutheran Elementary School, West Point; West Point Central Catholic High School, West Point; Zion St John Lutheran School, Wisner.

Community Description: Cuming County is located in northeast Nebraska covering 572 square miles. The County has a resident population estimated at 9365 persons living within over 3,945 households. The population density for the county is 16.3 persons per square mile (compared with 21 for Nebraska). Elders ages 65 and over comprise 20.2% of the population compared to 13.6 for Nebraska.

Economics, Education, Recreation: Cuming County's major economic activities include:

Agriculture: 48%

Manufacturing: 27%

Trade: 5%

Services 5%

Finance, Insurance & Real Estate: 4%

Construction 3%

Economics: The average income level is estimated at $33,186 per median household; $38,369 per median family; and $16,442 per capita. There are 1,325 or 32.6% households with individuals under 18 years of age. Single parent households with a female householder and no husband number 29. 5,216 civilian workers over 16 years of age are engaged in economic activities. This high level of workforce participation is due to multiple job holdings, low unemployment and high workforce participation rates.

Education: Bancroft, Wisner and West Point have public schools serving grades kindergarten through 12th grade. Beemer currently has a K-6 school but merged with West point for grades 7-12. West Point also has a Catholic school serving K-12 with a preschool program. There are also Lutheran schools in West Point and rural Wisner serving preschool-8th grade. Preschool programs are available in Bancroft, West Point and Wisner. Head Start is available in West Point and Wisner. The public schools in all communities offer varying types of special education programs. Distance learning centers are available in the public high schools, linking schools to others across the state and allowing for greater access to a variety of classes. Northeast Community College, located 45 miles from West Point in Norfolk, serves this area and offers a number of credit and non-credit classes each semester. They also allow eligible high school students to take classes for dual credit. In 2008 Northeast Community College established a satellite facility in West Point to offer some classes locally. Wayne State College is located just 40 miles from West Point and offers a wide range of post-secondary and graduate degree programs. Cuming County Extension, in cooperation with the University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension and the East Central Extension Programming Unit offers Package Family Health and Community Resource Development.

Recreation: Available activities include the following: school sports programs, summer youth and adult softball, youth baseball, T-ball, sand volleyball, swimming, competitive swim team, Issac Walton gun club, Tai-kwon-do, scouting, 4-H, tennis, bowling, horse club, fishing, boating, water skiing, canoeing, camping, sledding, walking and hiking.

Other agencies: *Law enforcement-* Cuming County employs six officers, West Point employs six officers, Wisner employs two officers, Beemer employs one full-time and one part-time officer and Bancroft employs one full-time officer with additional assistance provided by the

Nebraska State Patrol. *Medical-* St. Francis Memorial Hospital is located in West Point. It is a modern, well-equipped facility with a medical staff of four family practice physicians, two general surgeons, three physicians' assistants and one nurse practitioner. It has a 24-hours staffed emergency room. The Dinklage medical clinic provides outpatient care in West Point with a satellite clinic in Wisner. Pender Community Hospital provides satellite clinic services to Beemer and Bancroft. Providence Medical Center in Wayne provides satellite clinic services to Wisner. A variety of physician specialists are available through the hospitals in West Point and Pender. *Mental Health-* Services are available in West Point three days per week. Drug and alcohol treatment is available in Norfolk. *Goldenrod Hills Community Action ,* with a home office based in Wisner, provides nutrition education through the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program, the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) and Operation Great Start. An Immunization Program provides vaccines to adults and children ages 18 and under for low income families.

IDENTIFIED PRIORITY AREAS:

The Diversion Program, which was developed into a full-time operation in 2004-2005, will take on the majority of the responsibility to address upcoming strategies in expanding its program. Community leaders, law enforcement and school personnel have committed to supporting this endeavor.

To identify the priority areas, the committee first considered the following risk factors which exist in Cuming County:

_ Kids left unsupervised

_ Parents feel it is okay to leave school kids home alone after school

_ Parents traveling out of the community for jobs

_ Both parents working

_ Families don't make enough money to pay for childcare

_ Lack of job availability for students under the age of 18

_ Jobs that are available have hours that are usually too late for those in school

_ Large number of single parent households

_ Large number of children in foster care

_ Peer pressure

_ Availability and access to alcohol and drugs

_Unsupervised Internet usage

_ Mobility of juveniles (have vehicles to drive around)

_ Unskilled parents (needing parenting skills or support)

_ High cost of getting mental health treatment

_ Kids with learning challenges

_ Lack of non-school related, age appropriate community evening activities

_ Lack of participation in available community activities (whether the choice is due to financial, cultural, or general disinterest).

These factors serve to prove that the following priorities must be addressed:

PRIORITY AREA #1) Drug, Tobacco and Alcohol Abuse by Youth

Problem: Since statistics regarding individual citations are not broken down to reflect the specific involvement of drugs, alcohol or tobacco, the JAG committee continues to rely on Cuming County Attorney Thomas B. Donner's experience in which he has said: "My office does not maintain separate statistics of cases involving alcohol and drug abuse. Based upon my experience, it is my opinion that in excess of eighty percent of all cases are directly related to alcohol or drug abuse. Such offenses include not only the obvious, such as driving while under the influence, alcohol related motor vehicle homicides, minor in possession of alcoholic liquor, etc., but also include offenses that are related to alcohol and drug abuse, such as assault, disturbing the peace, violation of protection order, criminal mischief, theft, burglary and other property crimes. In recent years, the number of offenses involving possession of controlled substances and possession of controlled substances with intent to deliver has dramatically increased." Based on this statement, the issues of underage drinking and alcohol abuse are high priority problem areas.

Additionally, the JAG committee continues to feel that the problem is not only use and potential addiction but the social acceptance among parents and adults in Cuming County regarding the use of alcohol among minors. Law enforcement feels that alcohol abuse remains in existence, however parties are held on private property and are difficult to approach. These kinds of parties are found only when confidential information is reported to law enforcement or when officers initiate further investigation after traffic stops and other contacts with the juveniles.

At the inception of the Juvenile Awareness Group, the committee was successful in distributing a survey focusing on students in grades 6-12 in the four Cuming County communities. Results from the survey identified that many students are using both drugs and alcohol throughout all six grade levels. The Youth Behavior Risk Factor survey, prepared by Joseph Nitzke, Ph.D, Wayne State College, surveyed 640 students from the 9th to 12th grades in the four high schools in

Cuming County. Results revealed that in a 30-day period, 11.4% admitted to riding in a car with a driver who had been drinking alcohol while 8.8% admitted to driving while under the influence. 12.9% of the students admit having at least one drink of alcohol in their lives, most coming from the 13-14 year old category. Alarmingly, 57 students disclosed that on one day in a 30 day period, they did consume 5 or more drinks within a couple of hours. Tobacco is also a concern as 53% admit to trying tobacco with at least 34 children admitting they smoke at least 1 cigarette per day. The survey included queries concerning marijuana where 16.7% of the student population claim they have tried marijuana at least one time, with 8 claiming they have tried a form of cocaine or freebased at least once. As always, the value of these statistics vary when the students tend to exaggerate but even those who purport to have some involvement demonstrate the trend of the problem nationwide and how it could or is impacting our own children in this region. From July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008, 44% of the youth in the Diversion program had first time offenses of alcohol and drug related issues. Alcohol and tobacco remain the drugs of choice; although alcohol is known as one of the "gateway drugs" that can lead to the use of Meth, cocaine, and other "harder" drugs.

In 2008, the "Keep a Clear Mind" program (explained in the strategy section) was distributed to grades fourth through sixth in West Point-Beemer and Wisner Elementary schools. Approximately 280 students participated in the program. The pre-survey shows that 13% of the youth have tried alcohol, 2% have tried cigarettes, and 1% have tried marijuana. These statistics show JAG that our youth are definitely experimenting with drugs and alcohol at an early age and the more prevention type programs that we can offer, the greater our chances for success.

PRIORITY AREA # 2) Internet Safety

Problem: The Internet has become a tool that changes the way we do business and communicate with one another. Unfortunately, it has become a tool for predators and pedophiles. Allowing kids to go online without supervision or ground rules is like allowing them to explore a major metropolitan area by themselves. The Internet offers an enormous array of entertainment and educational resources but also presents some risks. Kids need help navigating this world. While the Internet can be a unique educational and recreational resource for children, it's important that kids learn how to use this powerful tool safely and responsibly. The goal is to empower children, parents, and teachers to prevent cyber crime through knowledge of the law, their rights and how to avoid misuse of the internet.

As remarkable as the Internet is, the "information superhighway" holds hidden dangers for children. Most children do not understand online risks and few parents are sufficiently familiar with them and/or Internet technology to effectively guard against them. Kids go online almost anywhere. They surf the Internet and send messages to friends from computers at home, library, or school. They exchange electronic mail, instant messages, and participate in chat groups. Internet-enabled video game systems allow them to compete against and chat with players around the world. According to the US Department of Education, 80 percent of our children in high school use the Internet. Cell phones enable kids to surf the web and exchange messages, photos, and short videos from just about anywhere.

However, the anonymous environment of the Internet can be dangerous. The reality of the Internet is that we never really know if the people we are talking to are really who they say they are. Teenagers are particularly at risk because they often go online unsupervised and are more likely than younger children to participate in online discussions regarding companionship, relationships, or sexual activity.

PRIORITY AREA #3) Mental Health Issues

Problem: Due to the amount of turnovers in the diversion coordinator position we were unable to update our statistics as we had hoped. Therefore, we continue to rely on the survey previously conducted by the Cuming County Juvenile Awareness Group and the Youth Behavior Risk Factor Survey reflecting the interrelated problem of depression and low self esteem among our youth. The results of the survey utilized at the onset of the formation of the JAG committee showed that juveniles preferred to turn to their peers instead of an adult figure for help. The question: *Who would you go to for help if you could not stop feeling sad or depressed?* 59 % of those who responded would go to a friend for help over school personnel, a parent or counselor. The threat of violence is also a factor that lends itself to bullying or being bullied.

The Youth Behavior Risk Factor Survey found that in Cuming County, approximately 14% of the students felt that their personal property had been deliberately damaged or stolen, with 14 children purporting to missing school because they felt unsafe there or on the way to school. 20 children claimed to have been threatened by another student on school property. Although the percentages may be low, the fact that *any* child feels this way is unacceptable. These results continue to concern the JAG committee.

2008 data collected from the diversion program shows that 39% of the youth involved in diversion committed offenses such as vandalism, destruction of property, theft, unauthorized use of a vehicle, and criminal trespassing. Four youth, at the time of their offense, were minorities and ages 11 to 13. JAG believes that because of economic times and the struggles that minorities have adapting to a new culture, these youth are lacking parental supervisors and are free to roam the city as are many other families who are struggling to make ends meet.. Family counseling is a definite need for these families.

There is a lack of available and dependable bilingual interpreters in the area. Interpreters would be useful for those who need aid from mental health care providers or school counselors. Some Spanish-speaking parents tend to shy away due to distrust or embarrassment. Further treatment for their children is not sought out.

Mental Health providers are now available within the community, but there is a need for in-home services which are not currently available in Cuming County. Pathfinders Support is available but services come from Fremont. There is a great need to cover expenses for all mental health services.

STRATEGIES:

As stated before, much of the objectives will be addressed by the Diversion program focusing on the enrolled offenders as well as with at-risk youth in Cuming County. Professionals from education, law enforcement and health care will continue to contribute and support the goals initiated as a result of input from our discussions.

Personnel from the following agencies would contribute:

Law Enforcement

County Attorney

Juvenile holding facility

Cuming County Court

District Probation Officer

Cuming County Juvenile Diversion program

Cuming County Board of Supervisors

NE Health and Human Services (HHS)

Elkhorn Logan Valley Public Health Department

Hospital / clinics

Schools – teachers/counselors

Clergy

Area professional mental health support services

Region IV Behavioral Health Services

Goldenrod Hills Community Action

CADAC on staff (Certified Alcohol & Drug Abuse Counselor) for Evaluations of juveniles

Building Blocks – (Foster Parenting Program)

Chamber of Commerce

Solutions and strategies for each priority area are listed on the following pages:

STRATEGY ADDRESSING: Drug, Tobacco and Alcohol Abuse by Youth

_ Continue to actively seek out juvenile offenders and refer them to the County Attorney for his decision to prosecute.

_ Enter the offender in the court system for prosecution or refer him/her to Diversion

_ Continue to monitor community service hours imposed as a consequence for youth in the program and youth involved in the court system.

_ Continue searching for funds to establish prevention classes for juveniles who have been arrested/cited for drug, alcohol and tobacco offenses to include movies/videos of real life stories and possible speakers to significantly impact the offender.

_ Research grant funding to pay for expenses in developing programs and awareness resources for parents and juveniles especially the "Keep a Clear Mind" program.

_ Collaborate with local groups and organizations to offer non-sponsored school activities for youth as a preventive measure.

_ Develop an informational packet with current literature concerning today's adolescents such as internet safety, school safety, and new drug and alcohol information. Packets will be given to all parents of diversion youth during their initial intake meeting with the diversion coordinator and other means of distribution will be explored.

The Juvenile Diversion Program will implement programs and classes and will enforce a contract signed by the offender promising to complete consequences such as community service, curfew restrictions, apologies, restitutions, prevention education, meetings and writing assignments. Any youth in the Diversion Program charged with a crime involving alcohol, drugs or tobacco will be ordered to attend AA meetings or seminars, Mothers Against Drug Driving Impact Panel meetings and an Alcohol/Drug Education course and/or a tobacco prevention class. If the offender exhibits further need for treatment, he/she will then be referred to a counseling entity for such.

Programs will be sought for at-risk children before they become offenders. During the past three years, JAG is fortunate to have a strong working relationship with the Elkhorn Logan Valley Health Department (ELVHD). Through our association with ELVDH, JAG was able to bring in programs such as "Keep a Clear Mind" for school children in grades fourth thru sixth grades. The prevention program addresses drugs, alcohol, marijuana, and making the right choices. The program provides material on the four subjects which is taken home with the goal being to start conversation between parents and children on the four topics. Local school teachers were so

impressed with the program that some are also using it as class discussion along with sending the information home. Upon completion of the program involving 280 students, 4% think they will drink alcohol within the next year; 80 % think they can say NO to friends who want to drink; 96% don't think they should drink alcohol; 0% said they will smoke cigarettes within the next year; 74% said they could say NO to friends who were smoking; 100% of the students don't think they should smoke at all. Only one student answered that he would try marijuana within the next year; 99% don't think they should use marijuana and 80% thought they could say NO to friends who wanted to try marijuana.

JAG received a Nebraska Crime Commission Enhancement Grant which is being used for public awareness. Each month for eight months public service announcements will be released on the dangers of underage drinking. These public service announcements are planned to be released timely in conjunction to key events in the lives of youth including holidays, proms, and graduations. JAG believes that parents also should be a targeted group. They have written ads on what could go wrong hosting an under-aged party when alcohol is involved. The Enhancement Grant also allowed the purchased of posters on the same subject to distribute within the school systems.

Through our connection with the health department we have also received a grant through Region IV for a program using a drunken driving simulator called "Save A Life Tour". The program will feature a speaker for all junior high and high school aged youth, with the juniors and seniors of each county school having the opportunity to experience what it is like to actually drive under the influence of alcohol. JAG will continue efforts to bring in evidence-based programs that support our goals. It is believed that the "Keep a Clear Mind" program is a beneficial program that JAG would like to continue on a yearly basis with 4th grade students within the county if funds become available.

STRATEGY ADDRESSING: Internet Safety

_ Seek parental involvement and supervision in the youth daily lives through education.

_ Set reasonable rules and guidelines for computer use by our children in the Parent-Teen contract used in the diversion program.

_ Seek funding for public speakers to come to our schools to talk to the students as well as their parents.

_ Extend safety awareness to children to empower them with the knowledge to make safer choices on the Internet and in the real world.

_Help children understand people they first "meet" on the Internet should never be considered their friend.

The Juvenile Diversion Program will edit the Parent-Teen contract to set reasonable guidelines for internet use for youth in the Diversion Program. JAG will also seek programs and resources to get information out to the parents on the potential dangers with the Internet, to help adults

build kids' safety awareness, and prevent their victimization. Literature gathered on internet safety will be distributed in the parent packets.

STRATEGY ADDRESSING: Services available for youth with mental health issues (depression/low self esteem)

_ Search for funding to pay for expenses for professionals who provide prevention classes and/or for expenses to "train the trainer"

_ Update a referral system with all those involved with this problem.

_ Review and update programs for juveniles who have entered the court system and need further guidance with self-esteem, anger management and bully prevention.

_ Provide awareness and/or advertising of services available.

_ Establish and make publicly available a list of crisis center phone numbers, counselors and related resources for parents and children

_ Seek funding and work with professionals to establish a sliding scale for fees for professional Services.

_ Update an accessible list of available and dependable bilingual interpreters.

_ Refer Diversion offenders to participating counseling and mental health Services..

_ Search for funding to provide professional motivational speakers and classes to youth and Parents and teachers

_ Continue fundraising and recruitment efforts to support the "Team Mates" Chapter of the West Point-Beemer-Bancroft mentoring program.

_ Search for ways to increase parent involvement.

Currently, mental health services are available in West Point at the Behavioral Health area of the St. Francis Memorial Hospital and at Baker Counseling Services. Pathfinder Support Services in Fremont has become active with Cuming County's Juvenile Awareness Group providing in-home services if necessary. However, the problem juveniles in need are encountering appears to be a financial issue. While much-needed professional services are now available in the area, parents continue to balk at the possible cost necessary to get their children help. Whether it be a matter of pride or failure to understand the mechanics of applying for a claim, some do not make the effort to apply for Medicaid or their own insurance providers, if available, to cover the fees for treatment.

JAG's goal for mental health issues in the next three years is to review and update the programs already offered to the diversion youth and determine if there are any program gaps that need to be filled. JAG will search for funding opportunities to provide mental health services for youth directly involved in the diversion program. JAG will also continue to work on building a network with agencies in Northeast Nebraska with the similar goals and implementing their services and programs into the diversion and prevention efforts. Through the help of our TeamMates Board, JAG will continue efforts for fundraising and recruiting mentors for the mentoring program.

CONCLUSION:

Primary goals for JAG for the next three years will be to work through the diversion program to continue to bring educational programs to youth who enter the program as a result of the minor violation. Continuing education and counseling services for violators and their families is JAG's solution to decrease the number of youth requiring incarceration. JAG plans to put forth more effort to provide after school programs and non school activities for Cuming County's youth. Although we will work with owners of bowling alleys to bring in after school leagues and the Issac Walton League to expand their youth clubs, funds and manpower will be an obstacle. JAG also plans to work with not only the youth with violations, but all youth in Cuming County, through continuation of the mentoring program, educational seminars and increased public awareness concerning drugs, alcohol, tobacco, internet safety and mental health issues.

In September 2008 with the money that was received by the Governors Office in 2006, funds have been dispersed to our local health department from the SPF-SIG Healthy Communities Initiative (HCI) project. JAG members are active members as part of the Community Assessment Phase and are encouraged to work locally in their communities to help with the implementation of evidence-based prevention policies, programs and practices. Members of JAG view this as a wonderful opportunity and plan to be active participants.

Members of JAG feel that they have built a strong foundation for our diversion program using education as an alternative to the court system. JAG realizes that it will take continual efforts to enhance and keep the program fresh and successful and are committed to achieving this. Although JAG will continue to search out funding opportunities, we perceive that financing our projects will be the biggest obstacle.

JAG believes that parents are busier than ever providing the essentials for life and possible overemphasis the importance of material items. JAG feels that this results in the families inabilities to bond as a family which causes all problems that youth are experiencing today. Parents need to pass on good parenting skills to their children before significant changes will be seen. Although more brainstorming is needed, JAG is contemplating meeting with state legislators to see if there is a state-wide solution to this problem such as giving tax credits to parents attending a series of parenting classes.

In conclusion, JAG is proud of their efforts over the past years in developing the diversion program. Through the program and full-time employment of the diversion coordinator, we not

only built a successful diversion program, but made strides in ways of prevention through a mentoring program, building youth curriculum, and public awareness. The Diversion Program is needed to continue efforts regarding youth . JAG is dedicated to seek out solutions to improve the lives for Cuming County's Youth and reduce the need for incarceration.

APPENDEX A
(Community Planning Tool)

NEBRASKA JUVENILE COURT REPORT - CUMING COUNTY
(Nebraska Crime Commission)

	2005	2006	2007
ARRESTS	15	30	10
OFFENSES			
3rd Degree Assault	3	0	1
Sexual Assault - 1st	0	1	0
Burglary	0	1	3
Theft < $500	2	0	0
Theft < $200	2	0	1
Major Trespass	1	0	0
Crim Mischief - Misd	1	1	2
Weapon - Misd	1	0	0
Disturbing Peace	1	0	0
Other Felony	0	0	1
Other Misdemeanor	4	3	5
Truancy	0	1	0
Ungovernable Behavior	1	2	3
Possession of Alcohol	6	1	0
Neglect	1	0	3
Dependent	0	5	4
Other/Unknown	5	1	1
TOTAL	28	16	24

Cuming County Data

Juvenile court offense data for each county and for Cuming County is provided for years 2005, 2006, and 2007 (Juvenile Court Reporting—Nebraska Crime Commission)[1]. Arrest numbers for each year represent arrests made of 0 – 17 year-olds. An assessment of the Cuming County data has been completed as part of applying the Tool.

Cuming County has a juvenile population (ages 0 – 17 years old) of about 2,263, according to OJJDP at http://www.ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/ojstatbb/exapop/ 2007 statistics. The racial makeup of this population is 2,265 white, 19 black, 16 American Indian, 3 Asian. 1,905 of this group are non-hispanic and 358 are Hispanic.

1

Juvenile Court Reporting (JCR)

The Nebraska Crime Commission's Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) collects information from the courts on juveniles processed through the juvenile justice system. Approximately 8,000 juvenile cases a year receive final disposition or judgment which are reported to the Crime Commission by paper forms and by the computerized court system JUSTICE. Various statistics are compiled from these data by the SAC for use in juvenile justice planning. Data are provided back to local and state agencies, policy makers, the courts, National Center for Juvenile Justice and federal Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Nebraska Juvenile Court Data Set

Juvenile court information has been submitted to the Crime Commission on an ongoing basis for over 20 years. When a case reaches a disposition, meaning finality with concern to the court proceedings, a data collection form is completed and forwarded to the Crime Commission. The reported information is collected within the county court or by the probation office. There data typically include cases which have been handled with a formal petition having been filed. The statistics reported here by the Crime Commission only contain information on cases handled through a formal petition. The terms, cases, petitions and referrals may all be used describe the same group of juveniles processed. This does not necessarily represent all cases filed in juvenile court during those times; rather only those that received final a disposition or judgment. Information on pending cases is not included.

System Decision Point: Arrest/Citation: Law Enforcement

DECISION: ***Whether an information report should be filed, or what offemse, if any, with which juvenile should be cited or arrested***

Formal Determining
- Sufficient factual basis to believe offense committed
- Underlying support for a particular Offense

Informal Determining Factors
- None

DECISION: ***Whether to cite or arrest juvenile for juvenile or adult***

Formal Determining
- Seriousness of offense
- Existence of Warrant

Informal Determining Factors
-None

DECISION: ***Whether to take juvenile into custody or to cite and release (NRS § 43-248(1), (2); § 43-250(1), (2), (3))***

Formal Determining
- As stated in statute and per Probation recommendations, also per Statute

Informal Determining Factors

Comments:
No comments for this section.

System Decision Point: Initial Detention: State of Nebraska Probation

DECISION: ***Whether juvenile should be detained or released***

Formal Determining
- Risk assessment outcome
- Accessibility of placement options: parent's/guardians, emergency shelter, staff secure facility, secure detention facility

Informal Determining Factors
- The Probation Officer states that situations that are brought to her are only if intentions are to detain. This is due to good communications and relations with law enforcement.

-If a secure detention is needed, Cuming County transports the Juvenile to the Madison detention Center.

- The probation district covers 17 counties, which makes it difficult to have options for all counties

Problem: No other detention options at this time

Solution:

Comments:

The distance involved to get to secure detention facility may be at least an hour drive for law enforcement. Probation feels, however, that they are not getting called unless it is a legitimate request. The Probation Officer feels that law enforcement in her district, including Cuming County, is doing a very good job of filtering out the cases before probation is notified.

System Decision Point: Charge Juvenile: County Attorney

DECISION: ***Whether to prosecute juvenile***

Formal Determining	**Informal Determining Factors**
a) Sufficient evidence to successfully prosecute the case b) All factors enumerated under Section 43-276 of the Nebraska Revised Statutes, as amended which are as follows: Type of treatment to which juvenile would be most amenable; evidence that offense was violent, aggressive, or premeditated; motivation for commission of offense; age of juvenile and co-offenders; previous offense history, especially patterns of prior violence or antisocial behavior; juvenile's sophistication and maturity; juvenile's prior contacts with law enforcement and the courts; whether there are facilities particularly available to the juvenile court for the treatment and rehabilitation of the juvenile; whether bests interests of juvenile and public safety dictate supervision extending beyond his or her minority; victim's inclination to participate in mediation; such other matters as the County Attorney deems relevant to his or her decision.	- None

DECISION: ***Whether youth should be prosecuted as juvenile or adult***

Formal Determining	**Informal Determining Factors**
a) Sufficient evidence to successfully prosecute the case b) Evaluation of evidence to determine whether there are facts sufficient to support the charge(s) c) Factors enumerated under Nebraska Revised Statute, Section 43-276 as stated above.	- None

DECISION: ***Offense for which juvenile should be charged***

Formal Determining	**Informal Determining Factors**
a) Sufficient evidence to successfully prosecute the case b) Evaluation of evidence to determine whether there are facts sufficient to support the charge(s) c) Factors enumerated under Nebraska Revised Statute, Section 43-276 as stated above.	- None

Problem: No problems were identified at this time

Solution:

Comments:

No comments for this section

System Decision Point: Pre-adjudication detention: Juvenile Court Judge

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

Formal Determining

- Whether there is an "immediate and urgent necessity for the protection of such juvenile"
- Whether there is an "immediate and urgent necessity for the protection of the person or property of another"
- Whether the juvenile is likely to flee the jurisdiction of the court

Informal Determining Factors

- Juvenile's history of runaway behaviors
- Parent or guardians' level of control
- Previous history of assaultive or threatening behavior.

Problem: No problems identified at this time.

Solution:

Comments:

No comments for this section.

System Decision Point: Probable Cause Hearing: Juvenile Court Judge

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

Formal Determining

- Sufficient evidence to show adjudication is probable.

Informal Determining Factors

- None

Problem: No problems were identified at this time.

Solution:

Comments:

No comments for this section

System Decision Point: Competency Evaluation: Juvenile Court Judge

DECISION: ***Whether juvenile is competent to participate in the Proceedings***

Formal Determining	Informal Determining Factors
- Evaluations - Demeanor - Ability to comprehend	- None

DECISION: ***Whether juvenile is "responsible" for his/her acts***

Formal Determining	Informal Determining Factors
- Physician, surgeon, psychiatrist, community health program, psychologist - "Complete evaluation of the juvenile including any authorized area of inquiry requested by Court." (NRS 43-258(2))	- None

Problem: No problems were identified at this time

Solution:

Comments:

No comments for this section

System Decision Point: Adjudication: Juvenile Court Judge

DECISION: ***Whether the juvenile is, beyond a reasonable doubt, "a person described by § 43-247"***

Formal Determining
- Legal sufficiency of evidence presented during adjudication hearing
- Whether juvenile admits the allegations of the petition (or, "pleads to the charges")
- Whether elements of allegations are proved.

Informal Determining Factors
- None

DECISION: ***Whether to order probation to conduct a pre-disposition investigation (statutory authority unclear--see also: § 29-2261 (2)***

Formal Determining
- Need for additional information
- Severity of the charges
- Previous history of the juvenile

Informal Determining Factors
- None

DECISION: ***Whether to order OJS evaluation***

Formal Determining
- Previous history of the juvenile
- Possible need for out-of-home placement
- Need for comprehensive evaluation
- Apparent need for structured placement

Informal Determining Factors
- None

DECISION: ***Whether to order a PDI and an OJS Evaluation***

Formal Determining
- Severity of the charges
- Need for possible out-of-home placement
- Need for information or comprehensive evaluation
-Previous history of juvenile
-

Informal Determining Factors
- None

Problem: No problems were identified at this time

Solution:
Comments: None for this section.

System Decision Point: Disposition: Juvenile Court Judge

DECISION: ***Whether to place juvenile on probation***

Formal Determining
- Need for supervision
- Whether juvenile can be successful in current environment
- Juvenile's need for structure

Informal Determining Factors
- None

DECISION: ***Whether to commit juvenile to the Office of Juvenile***

Formal Determining
- Possible inability to succeed in current environment
- Need for stricter supervision
- Need for out-of-home placement
- Need for use of Special Programs

Informal Determining Factors
- None

DECISION: ***Whether to place juvenile on probation and commit juvenile to HHS or OJS***

Formal Determining
- Whether juvenile in 3(b) related case needs out-of-home placement and also probation supervision (May use HHS)
- Family in (3)(b) related case needs outside intervention (May use HHS)
- Probation and OJS commitment are not compatible and not done.

Informal Determining Factors

Problem: No problems were identified at this time

Solution:

Comments:

None for this section.

System Decision Point: Administrative Sanctions: Probation

DECISION: ***Whether to impose administrative sanctions on a probationer***

Formal Determining

- 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
- 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

Informal Determining Factors

- If new offense if committed there is an automatic Motion to Revoke
- Use same administrative sanctions as in adult cases

Problem: No problems were identified at this time

Solution:

Comments:

The probation department covers 17 counties, including Cuming County, and is using administrative sanctions for mainly non-criminal violations and admissions on drug tests.

System Decision Point: Motion To Revoke Probation: County Attorney

DECISION: ***Whether to file a motion to revoke probation***

Formal Determining

a) Sufficient evidence to successfully prosecute the case

b) Evaluation of evidence to determine whether there are facts sufficient to support the charge(s)

c) Factors enumerated under Nebraska Revised Statute, Section 43-276 as stated above.

Informal Determining Factors

a) Performance while on probation

b) And recommendation of Probation Office

Problem: No problems were identified at this time

Solution:

Comments:

No comments for this section

System Decision Point: Modification/Revocation of Probation: Juvenile Court Judge

DECISION: ***Whether to modify or revoke probation***

Formal Determining

- Severity of violation of probation
- Performance on probation to date
- Recommendations of Probation Officer

Informal Determining Factors

Comments:

No comments for this section

System Decision Point: Setting Aside Adjudication: Juvenile Court Judge

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

Formal Determining	**Informal Determining Factors**
- Juvenile's post-adjudication behavior and response to treatment and rehabilitation programs - Whether setting aside adjudication will depreciate seriousness of juvenile's conduct or promote disrespect for the law - Whether failure to set aside adjudication may result in disabilities disproportionate to the conduct upon which the adjudication was based.	- None

DECISION: ***Whether juvenile should be discharged from custody and supervision of OJS***

Formal Determining	**Informal Determining Factors**
- Performance of juvenile while with OJS - Recommendations of OJS	- None

Problem: No problems were identified at this time

Solution:

Comments: No comments for this section

APPENDIX B

Course of Action for Drug/Alcohol/Tobacco	Timeline	Responsible Party
Actively seek out juvenile offenders and process Them either through the court system or Diversion program	(Ongoing Activity)	Law Enforcement, County Attorney
Continue the development of current diversion Classes and activation of new classes related to Drug/alcohol/tobacco for presentation to youth.	(Ongoing Activity)	Diversion Coordination & JAG
Continue to search for additional funds to Sponsor Evidenced-Based Programs and Speakers to various age groups in Cuming County	(Ongoing Activity)	Diversion Coordinator & JAG
Search outside resources for available data collection to support a need for prevention activities relating to drugs/alcohol/Tobacco and organize the data in a user friendly manner.	(Ongoing Activity)	Diversion Coordinator & JAG
Complete public awareness campaign funded by the County Aid Enhancement Grant	1st & 2nd quarters 2009	Diversion Coordinator & School officials
Complete the "Keep a Clear Mind" Program	1st & 2nd quarters 2009	Diversion Coordinator & JAG
Complete the renewal grant applications for the County Aid and County Aid Enhancement Grants	1st quarter 2009, 2010 & 2011	Diversion Coordinator & JAG
Complete the drunk driving simulator project (Save a Life Tour) funded by a Behavior Health mini-prevention grant. Project includes a speaker and allows youth from 16-18 actual time using the simulator which will give youth a true picture of what it is like to drive drunk.	2nd quarter 2009	Diversion Coordinator & JAG
Gather information to distribute in the Parent Information Packers.	3rd quarter 2009	Diversion Coordinator & JAG
Gather information to complete the Juvenile Justice Grant	4th quarter 2009, 2010, & 2011	Diversion Coordinator & JAG

Expected Results: Reduce or see no growth in the amount of MIP and tobacco violations.

Resources Needed: Funding, resources for data collection and up-to-date literature.

Course of Action for Internet Safety	Timeline	Responsible Party
Continue to search for additional funds to sponsor speakers to various age groups in Cuming County and to print literature to distribute through the Parent Information Packets.	(Ongoing Activity)	Diversion Coordinator & JAG
Keep informed through stuidents and teachers on the newest features offered through the internet and cell phones. It is important to keep informed on what kids are "in to".	(Ongoing Activity)	Diversion Coordinator & JAG
Gather information to distribute in the Parent Information Packets	3rd quarter 2009	Diversion Coordinator & JAG
Complete the Enhancement Grant, County Aid Grant and Juvenile Justice Grant application to include funds needed to address internet safety.	1st quarter 2009, 2010 & 2011	Diversion Coordinator & JAG
Gather information to complete the Juvenile Justice, County Aid, and Enhancement Grants.	4th quarter 2009, 2010, & 2011	Diversion Coordinator & JAG
Discuss with the publishers of the "Keep a Clear Mind" program to include a series on Internet Safety.	3rd quarter 2009	Diversion Coordinator & JAG

Expected Results: Education of parents and youth.

Resources Needed: We are finding that educational information on internet safety is minimal. Funding is also a need.

Course of Action for Mental Health Issues	Timeline	Responsible Party
Continue to search for additional funds to sponsor speakers to various age groups in Cuming County and to print literature to distribute through the Parent Information Packets.	(Ongoing Activity)	Diversion Coordinator & JAG
Continue working with the local health department on the Healthy Communities Initiative.	(Ongoing Activity)	Diversion Coordinator & JAG
Continue fund raising efforts and mentor recruitment for the TeamMates mentoring program.	(Ongoing Activity)	TeamMates Board Members
Gather information to distribute in the Parent Information Packets.	3rd quarter 2009	Diversion Coordinator & JAG
Work with business and organizations to offer more after school activities.	1st quarter 2009	JAG
Complete the Enhancement Grant, County Aid Grant and Juvenile Justice Grant application to include funds needed to address mental health issues	1st quarter 2009, 2010 & 2011	Diversion Coordinator & JAG
Gather information to complete the Enhancement, County Aid and Juvenile Justice Grants.	4th qtr 2009, 2010, 2011	Diversion Coordinator & JAG

Survey or utilize available surveys to identify current at-risk groups of youth. Keep data for comparison purposes.	3rd quarter 2011	Diversion Coordinator & JAG
Begin specific meetings to prepare data and goals to remodel the new 3-year Comprehensive Plan	4th quarter 2011	Diversion Coordinator & JAG

Expected Results: A decrease in all criminal activity and less youth dropping out of school.

Resources Needed: Funding and access to valuable literature on Mental Health.