SALINE COUNTY

Three-Year Comprehensive Juvenile Services Plan
January 1, 2009 – December 31, 2011

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NEBRASKA COMMISSION ON
LAW ENFORCEMENT AND
CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Community Team

The community team name is Saline County Juvenile Service Committee. It was started in November 2001 with the help of Region V Systems and local HHS staff. In February of 2002 the first meeting was held.

The group met regularly as the initial plan was created. Thereafter, the group met quarterly for the first year, twice a year in 2003 and 2004 and only once in 2005.

County Board member Willis Luedke maintained primary contact with the contracting agency, Heartland Big Brothers Big Sisters with the County Treasurer maintaining fiscal oversight.

In late 2007 Heartland Big Brothers Big Sisters, at its own expense, hired Donna Small a part-time match support specialist based in Crete. Ms. Small maintains contact with team members along with Ms. Dana Stiers Berger (HBBBS Program Director) and Roger Furrer (HBBBS Grants Manager).

Currently the team meets at the same time as the County Board, on an as-needed basis. The team has no officers or subcommittees.

2009 Saline County Juvenile Service Committee

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Juvenile Justice System Tool

The initial Juvenile Justice System tool was completed in 2006. Upon review, the initial plan was retained, with in amendment that new immigration laws and the legal immigration status of the offender (if know) would be additional factors in determining in how an individual case may be handled.

In June 2008, Through Chairperson Willis Luedke, the Saline County Board requested Heartland Big Brothers conduct essential research for completing a revised Juvenile Justice Services Plan.

In June of 2008 a process of drafting and feedback a set of open ended discussion points were developed for use in revising the three year plan.

A draft version of the questionnaire was presented to the Juvenile Justice Grant Administrator. In late June 2008 a revision was completed based on the comments and recommendations of the Grants Administrator.

During August, responses to letters and e-mails indicated that participation in planning discussion would be higher if conducted in the format of one-to-one interviews. In order to maximize participation and information gathering the discussion points were formatted into a questionnaire and distributed to participants. In October and November of 2008 one-to-one interviews were conducted.

Following the compilation of data (including individual priorities) members of the team consolidated those priorities appropriate under the rubric of juvenile justice services.

Note on mentoring: A central part of the Saline County Plan for the past three years has been the practice of providing at-risk youth with adult mentors. Mentoring agencies have been operating in Saline County for at least seven years. For the past three years, Saline County has contracted with Heartland Big Brothers Big Sister to provide site-based and community-based services county wide. Crete Public Schools has an established relationship with TeamMates to provide site-based mentoring within the school district.

The agencies are compatible both in the goals and strategies. While the agencies vary slightly on emphasis, this allows the agencies to broaden the area of coverage as well as build on the strengths of particular youths.

Note on input reporting: While the questionnaire focused on the challenges faced by youth, answers inevitably overlapped with problems within the communities. All comments were recorded. Some issues specifically identified as community concerns were separated out for reporting purposes.

Socio-Economic Description

Saline County, population estimated at 14,258 (US Census est. 2006), is located in Southeast Nebraska. The population is 57% rural and 43% urban, with three of its eight communities having a population over 1,000 people. The population is primarily White (80.3%) with Hispanics/Latinos (16.2%) making up a bulk of the other ethnic groups in the county (US Census estimates, 2006). The county's population has increased 2.3% since 2000, a full percentage rate below that of Nebraska as a whole.

Between 2000 and 2006 the percent of the population over 65 has declined from 17.2% to 15.5% while the population under five years of age has declined from 6.2% to 6.7%. The median age in the county is 36.4 years, slightly higher than the national figure (35.3) (US Census data).

In 2007 the estimated population of youth between 10 and 17 in Saline County was 1,522. Of this these youth, 755 were male and 767 female; 713 white males and 733 were white females. A total of 142 were Hispanic males 115 were Hispanic females (Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention [OJJDP]).

Geographically, the county spans 575 square miles with 728 farms covering 344,736 acres (Agricultural Census, 2002). There are no public transportation services available to the general population in the county.

Saline's economy is comprised of a mixture of farming, industry, social services and local businesses. The median household income in the county was $43,083 in 2007, up from $35,914 in 1999 (Census data 2007). The percentage of persons living below the national poverty level had steadily declined moving from 10.9% in 1988 to 6.4% in 2006. However in 2007 figures place the figure at 9.4% (US Census data).

There are five public school systems located in the county serving 2,674 public students and there are157 students in two private schools. School activities are the main source of recreation for the majority of students. Attendance rates for all schools have consistently run at 95%. Graduation rates range for 06-07 and 07-08 ran in the 90% range for all school districts (Nebraska Department of Education, State of the Schools data).

In addition to school activities, young people can also attend movies; participate in church activities, hunt and fish, and take part in extramural sports. Saline County has numerous NRD dams and structures built in the Swan Creek Watershed. Two structures are designated as public use. During the summer months, Saline County hosts a national Czech festival which involves much community participation.

81.2% of the population has graduated from high school and 14% has attained a bachelor's degree or higher. Doane College is located near Crete. The college is a private liberal arts institution but maintains links with the Crete community. Other opportunities in the vicinity of Saline County include Southeast Community College offering associate degrees at campuses in Beatrice, Milford and Lincoln. The University of Nebraska-Lincoln is located Lancaster County adjacent to Saline County. The University offers bachelors and advanced degrees in both sciences and the liberal arts. Also located in Lincoln are Nebraska Wesleyan (liberal arts), Union College (health related programs) and BryanLGH College of Health Services (health related programs).

Saline's police force consists of 13 deputy sheriffs and a sheriff. There are also 10 police officers and a police chief in the city of Crete, 4 police officers in Wilber, and 2 police officers in Friend. The youth arrest rates for Saline County have shown a gradual decline over the past 10 years from 225 arrest in 1995, 160 in 2000 and 155 in 2005 and 86 in 2007 (Nebraska Crime Commission data).

With the developing economic climate, families in Saline County parallel profiles of other rural counties and communities in the US as a whole. Service providers and juvenile justice officers both identified parenting as a primary concern for juvenile safety. Multi-income families, parents working shifts and the increase in the number of single-parent households have resulted in a steady rise in the number of latch-key children and a growing amount of unsupervised time for youth. Parents were described as overwhelmed and challenged to deal with the rate of change in their community and society as a whole. Ironically, juvenile justice officers also identified home as the safest place for a youth to be.

One of the on-going changes in Saline County is the ethnic make-up of the county. Processing plants such as Purina-Nestle and Farmland are a significant draw for those seeking sustained employment. While the companies employ people from numerous ethnic and racial groups, many individuals commute from communities outside the county while Latinos and Hispanics have established themselves in Crete and other communities. Generally new community members are seen positively with commitment to families, to the community and integrating into civil society. However the level of acceptance for Latinos and Hispanics can vary from one community to the next.

Several impediments to full integration of Latinos and Hispanics in the community exist. While a majority of people have legal status in the US, there are some persons who do not. Fear of inquiry or arrest has been identified as a cause of truancy. Other challenges included the lack of translation services, persons unfamiliar with local regulations, cultural differences, and families spilt across international boarders.

Due to the limited number of organized recreational activities, substance abuse is of a concern in Saline County. Alcohol is the most commonly abused substance, although some in the Juvenile Justice system felt that use marijuana was almost

as commonly used. The higher levels of marijuana use may be due to relatively lenient punishments for possession and a greater difficulty to determine impairment. As the severity in punishment increases under state law, a spike in marijuana-related prosecutions is possible over the next several years. The use of other controlled substances, including the misuse of prescription drugs, is present in the community but is considered to be less relative to other communities in the state.

The limited number of social events within the county also results in youth traveling to near-by communities. Lincoln is a common destination and both probation officers and school counselors indicated that among youth involved in the juvenile justice system, it is likely that the individual has also participated in delinquent behavior outside of the county. While based on anecdotal evidence, this observation may indicate that the rate of delinquency among Saline County youth is under-reported. Likewise, if youth are traveling distances while consuming controlled substances, they are at even greater risk of injury or death.

Further complicating the use of alcohol by juveniles is an apparent permissive attitude on part of some adults. Juvenile justice officers indicated that events such as street dances, wedding receptions, and musical events were common venues for youth publically consuming alcohol.

Related to substance abuse, youth violence was also a concern in the community. Violence is generally broken down into two categories: gang activity and delinquency.

Delinquency is generally defined as fights at parties; fights between rival schools or communities; or other social disagreements such as those over boyfriends or girlfriends.

Gang activity was further broke down into organized and unorganized gangs. Unorganized gangs (usually referred in more general terms) are groups of friends or schoolmates who usually socialize together but who lack formal organization or ties outside of the immediate community. Violence among these cliques is generally limited to physical conflict between rival schools and communities and occurs outside of school hours. Sometimes tolerated in the community as youthful exuberance, this appears to be the most prevalent form of youth violence.

Organized gangs have defined leadership and relationships with groups outside the community. In Saline County these relationships seem to be to groups in Lincoln and Omaha with the speculation of relationships to gangs outside the state. Violence has primary been graffiti, theft and other property crimes. Both school and juvenile justice officers indicated that a significant portion of the perceived gang activity was the result of "wannabes", or youth taking on a gang persona.

This latter group is seen to be as significant a threat to the community as organized groups. These individuals are not integrated into the organized gangs and lack the gang's internal discipline and have been known to provoke other groups in their attempt to mimic the organized gangs.

As with many communities, Saline County expresses a sense of urgency in addressing the problems facing youth in their community. Strong support, educational and juvenile justice programs have been established. However there are areas for improvements. Several underlying themes expressed during the interview process provide indicators for continued work in enhancing juvenile services as well as planning for other social service and community programs.

While not always articulated per se, youth participation in youth programming can be improved. In the case of some youth centers and programming, activities described as unsustainable because they lacked buy-in from the youth in the community. This sense was also expressed in describing the youth as uninterested in organized activities.

It was also frequently observed that there was a lack of manpower and resources to adequately carry out programming.

While valid, these observations are counter-balanced in several ways. Both personal interviews and questionnaires created opportunities to describe the resources that the youth bring to the community. However, only two comments were made and one of those saw the youth as passive participants. The absence of direct input by youth is also a limitation of this process. There are various legal, ethical, safety and practical reasons limiting and complicating youth participation. In ensure success, greater youth input needs to be incorporated in the execution of this plan.

Finally, frequent references were made regarding social stresses or the potential of social conflict. Stress between the Caucasian and Hispanic/Latino community was the one most frequently alluded to. However frequent references were also made to rivalries between towns or schools. One professional linked community competition to the perception that problems were being introduced by elements from outside the immediate community. Regardless of perspective, a common theme running through this process was the inherent strengths present in the communities in Saline County.

Priorities

Priorities will be implemented over continuously over the course of the three year plan.

1) *Promote pro-social behavior and academic advancement in youth ages 10-17*

Non-felony assault and property crime-related arrests
Persons under age 18 in Saline County, Nebraska (OJJDP)

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Other assaults		10	14	11	13	
Stolen property		3	3	1	2	
Vandalism		5	4	12	5	
Disorderly conduct		4	14	10	6	
All other offenses		28	18	32	14	
Curfew and loitering		0	0	0	0	
Runaways		7	9	2	1	

An expressed concern in Saline County (see Appendix B) is maintaining respect for diversity, community and cultural practices and meaningful participation in civil society. Specifically mentioned were cultural competencies, respect of law and social authorities, and educational achievement. Of equal concern was the existence of alternative, youth-based communities such as structured and unstructured "gangs".

At the root of these concerns is the desire for community cohesion at the civil, social and family levels. A fundamental bridge linking all these layers of the community is the educational system.

Objective	Strategies	Responsible parties	Resources needed	Outcomes
Increase ability of recently arrived youth to understand and navigate civic and educational systems in the county	Provide assistance in navigating civic structures Mentoring Peer groups Structured group activities Unstructured group activities Camps and guidance	Schools HHS Mentoring agencies Law enforcement agencies Churches Civic groups	Funding Coordination Improved referral systems Volunteers Curricula Mentors	Youth use community and school resources Young persons' academic performance improves Youth understand laws and respect cultural norms. Youth have positive relationships with

	activities Multi-cultural exchanges Expand access to alternative education programs county-wide Apprentice programs Career training programs	Cultural groups		peers and adults in the community
Increase the capacity of youth from established communities to participate and excel in the civic and educational systems in the counties	Mentoring Peer groups Structured group activities Unstructured group activities Camps and guidance activities Multi-cultural exchanges Expand access to alternative education programs county-wide Apprentice programs Career training programs	Schools HHS Mentoring agencies Law enforcement agencies Churches Civic groups Cultural groups 4-H/FFA Skilled workers and business men	Business partnerships Coordination Improved referral systems Volunteers Curricula Reporting systems Active participation of private sector	Youth use community and school resources Young persons' academic performance improves Youth understand laws and respect cultural norms. Youth have positive relationships with peers and adults in the community
Provide opportunities for youth to develop a sense of belonging and acceptance within the wider community	Cultural activities Peer groups Work days Mentoring Participation in civic activities such as elections, community boards, and parent-teacher-student groups. Jr. Fire fighter/Sheriff	4-H/FFA Civic groups Cultural groups Neighbors Mentoring agencies Schools HHS Law	Youth leaders Youth mobilization Youth participation in planning, implementation and assessment of activities. Mentors Adult organizers	Young persons perceive that adults in the community value youth Young people are given useful roles in the community Neighbors take responsibility for monitoring young people's behavior Young persons

	groups Multi-cultural activities Active participation in operation of county fair and community events	enforcement agencies Churches Elected officials Government bodies Community elders FCA	Sponsors/funding Community buy-in Youth buy-in Private sector support	have knowledge of and comfort with people of different cultural/racial/ethnic backgrounds Greater academic motivation Young person reports an improve sense of self esteem.
Provide opportunities for youth to constructively integrate peer groups with in the wider community	Relevant/youth initiated social activities Non-structured group time Well supervised Community dances Movies/concerts/youth-relevant theatre Non-sport and academic after school activities Extra-mural activities which integrate communities instead of competing against them Active participation in operation of county fair and community events	Mentoring agencies Churches 4-H/FFA Cultural groups Government bodies Neighbors Community elders FCA Schools	Youth leaders Youth participation in planning, implementation and assessment of activities. Funds/sponsors Community buy-in Active participation of private sector Youth buy-in Adults monitors Willingness to allow youth to learn by doing	Youth feel a sense of belonging within a safe peer environment Youth interact with peers in an environment which models social and civic norms Youth develop sense of leadership and contribution in an environment which models social and civic norms

2) Contribute to the reduction in the number youth ages 10-17 illegally using or alcohol and other controlled substances

Substance abuse related arrests
Persons under age 18 in Saline County, Nebraska (OJJDP)

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Other assaults		10	14	11	13	
Drug abuse violations		11	8	9	4	
Driving under influence		4	1	4	4	
Liquor laws		55	54	44	24	
Drunkenness		0	0	0	0	
Disorderly conduct		4	14	10	6	

The most frequently articulated concern regarding youth in Saline County was the use of alcohol. While the general perception was that alcohol and marijuana were the primary abused substances, there was a concern regarding a growing presence of cocaine and the abuse of prescription drugs in the county.

Compounding these concerns is the seeming tolerance for, among some members of the community, youth consuming alcohol.

Beyond the immediate risks of driving whiled impaired; physical assault; and teenage and/or non-consentual sex, the use of alcohol and drugs can also be a gateway to disorderly conduct, felony assault, domestic violence, coercive sexual activities as well as further substance abuse and other long term public health issues.

Objective	Strategies	Responsible parties	Resources needed	Outcomes
Reduce incidents of youth traveling outside out county to engage in unsupervised or illicit activities	Relevant/youth initiated social activities Non-structured group time Well supervised Community dances Movies/concerts/youth-relevant theatre Non-sport and academic after school activities Extra-mural activities	Parks and Rec. Schools Mentoring agencies Law enforcement agencies Churches Civic groups Cultural groups	Volunteers Locations Youth buy-in Adult monitors Youth participation in planning, implementation and assessment of activities	Reduced exposure to illicit activities and un-supervised situations Improved sense of belonging for youth in community Improves self confidence Stronger youth identification

	which integrate communities instead of competing against them Active participation in operation of county fair and community events Cultural activities Peer groups Work days Sports events/peer sports camps Peer mentoring Jr. Fire fighter/Sheriff groups Multi-cultural activities	4-H/FFA FCA		with community Improved public safety Reduction in road-related deaths
Provide opportunities for youth to interact with peers in a positive environment	Relevant/youth initiated social activities Non-structured group time Well supervised Community dances Movies/concerts/youth-relevant theatre Non-sport and academic after school activities Extra-mural activities which integrate communities instead of competing against them Active participation in operation of county fair and community events	Mentoring agencies Churches 4-H/FFA Cultural groups Government bodies Community elders FCA Schools Neighbors	Youth leaders Youth participation in planning, implementation and assessment of activities. Community buy-in Youth buy-in Adults monitors Willingness to allow youth to learn by doing	Youth participate in social activities in close proximity to home Youth interact with peers in an environment which models social and civic norms Strengthen youth identification with community.
Provide individual support for	Provide non-judging , supportive	Mentors	Blue Valley	Reduced use of controlled substances by

youth to develop coping strategies to resist pressures to use drugs, alcohol and to be sexually active	relationships Provide positive, alternative activities Reduce enabling environments Positive peer relationships Relationships with adults who listen to youths' problems Programs with realistic understanding of pressures experienced by young people	Schools Families Community elders Churches Law enforcement Private sector Neighbors	AA/NA Improved referral systems Funding Curricula which address issue without stigmatizing individual or background Active participation of private sector Active participation of civic groups Support and guidance to families allowing use/abuse of controlled substances	youth Young person believes it is import not to be sexually active or to use alcohol or other drugs Young person accepts and takes personal responsibility Young person can resist negative peer pressure and dangerous situations Young persons act on convictions and stands up for their beliefs

3) *Support parents, educators, law enforcement agencies and social service providers in providing at-risk youth with the structure and specialized attention.*

Whether it is a case of parents being overwhelmed by the economic stresses and cultural changes occurring in the nation, or if it is articulated as a need to strengthen parenting skills, there is a over arching recognition that the capacity of many families to raise the children as an insular unit is no longer adequate to meet the social and individual needs of children and youth in today's society.

Likewise it is recognized that the capacity and role of public institutions such as education, law enforcement and social services are limited in both role and capacity.

As in the previous three year plan, the need to support families and institutions in youth development is a pervasive need in the community. Over the years, parenting classes, diversity/multi-cultural programs, cultural events and sports programs have been essential services introduced into the community.

In an economic era where county and state financing for social services is increasingly difficult and access to private support significantly more competitive, it is necessary that support and coordination of local resources will have to be increased. In order to enhance the ability of existing services, greater efficiencies and collaboration will have to be attained.

Objective	Strategies	Responsible parties	Resources needed	Outcomes
Provide youth at risk and youth desiring support with individualize support and care.	Mentoring Structured group activities Unstructured group activities	Schools HHS Heartland Big Brothers Big Sisters TeamMates Probation services	Improved referral systems Mentors Support of the private sector Additional funding	Individual youth attain higher levels of academic achievement and social competencies Young person doing 1-4 hours of homework daily Youth is actively engaged in learning Increased sense of

				community responsibility for youth
Increase the capacity of youth to access and utilize academic, developmental and civic services	Mentoring Cultural brokers/navigators Expand access to alternative education programs county-wide Active youth participation in delivery and evaluation of programming	Schools HHS Heartland Big Brothers Big Sisters TeamMates Blue Valley Law enforcement agencies Churches Probation services Elders and elderly services	Partnerships with businesses and civic groups Coordination Improved referral systems Volunteers Monitoring systems Youth involvement Community/cultural representatives Funding	Youth are able to access available services Youth are engaged and progressing in educational system Improved self image Youth and families are able to follow and apply laws and cultural norms in context. Young person doing 1-4 hours of homework daily Youth is actively engaged in learning Increased sense of community responsibility for youth
Improve coordination and efficiencies of service and referral systems	Centralized coordination mechanism Minimize administrative time to maximize service time Decentralize communications to	County Board/government Town and city counsels School Districts Law enforcement County Juvenile	Participate Civic support Managerial support for collaboration MOUs between agencies	Youth are provided age and skill appropriate services in a timely manner Agencies are able provide clients with services or

	allow freer flow of communication Increase community participation Improved referral structures	Services Team County Treatment Team Health and social service agencies		appropriate referrals in a timely manner Increased ability in the community to access services

Appendix A: Juvenile Justice System Tool

SYSTEM POINT: ARREST / CITATION PARTY RESPONSIBLE: Police/Law Enforcement STATUTE REFERENCE: NRS §§ 43-247 (1), (2), (4)	
Decision: Whether an information report should be filed, or what offense, if any, with which juvenile should be cited or arrested.	
Formal Determining Factors a. Sufficient factual basis to believe offense was committed. b. Underlying support for a particular offense.	Informal Determining Factors 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: No comments or additions	

Decision: Whether to cite or arrest juvenile for juvenile or adult offense.	
Formal Determining Factors a. Seriousness of Offense b. Is there a warrant?	Informal Determining Factors a. Degree to which juvenile cooperates with officer. b. Victim's desire. c. Is the youth already in the HHS or juvenile system?
Notes: No comments or additions	

Decision: Whether to take juvenile into custody or to cite and release (NRS § 43-248 (1), (2); § 43-250 (1), (2), (3))	
Formal Determining Factors	Informal Determining Factors a. Immediate risk to juvenile b. Immediate/short term risk to public c. Seriousness of perceived offense] d. Legal status of family (if known) e. Extent to which parent or other responsible adult available to take responsibility for juvenile. f. Is there a warrant? g. Availability of pre-adjudication detention options?
Notes: No comments or additions	

SYSTEM POINT: INITIAL DETENTION PARTY RESPONSIBLE: State of Nebraska Probation STATUTE REFERENCE: NRS § 43-250(3), § 43-260, § 43-260.01	
Decision: Whether juvenile should be detained or released.	
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: No comments or additions.	

SYSTEM POINT: CHARGE JUVENILE PARTY RESPONSIBLE: County Attorney STATUTE REFERENCE: NRS § 43-274(1), § 43-275, § 43-276	
Decision: Whether to prosecute juvenile.	
Formal Determining Factors a. Likelihood of successful prosecution b. Factors under NRS § 43-276: i. Type of treatment to which juvenile would be most amenable ii. Evidence that offense was violent, aggressive, or premeditated iii. Motivation for commission of offense iv. Age of juvenile and co-offenders v. Previous offense history, especially patterns of prior violence or antisocial behavior vi. Juvenile's sophistication and maturity vii. Juvenile's prior contacts with law enforcement and the courts viii. Whether there are facilities particularly available to the juvenile court for the treatment and rehabilitation of the juvenile ix. Whether best interests of	Informal Determining Factors

juvenile and public safety dictate supervision extending beyond his or her minority x. Victim's inclination to participate in mediation xi. "Such other matters as the county attorney deems relevant to his or her decision"	
Notes: No comments or additions	

Decision: Whether youth should be prosecuted as juvenile or adult.	
Formal Determining Factors a. Seriousness of offense	Informal Determining Factors
Notes: No comments or additions	

Decision: Offense for which juvenile should be charged.	
Formal Determining Factors	Informal Determining Factors
Notes: No comments or additions	

SYSTEM POINT: PRE-ADJUDICATION DETENTION PARTY RESPONSIBLE: Juvenile Court Judge STATUTE REFERENCE: NRS § 43-253(2)	
Decision: Whether juvenile detained at the time of citation/arrest should continue in detention or out-of-home placement pending adjudication.	
Options: 1. Parents/Guardians 2. Emergency Shelter 3. Staff Secure Facility 4. Secure Detention Facility 5. Electronic Monitoring 6. Work with Probation Officer with screening document	
Formal Determining Factors 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	Informal Determining Factors a. Provide factual basis to Probation Officer to insure screening device is appropriately used.

Notes:

- To the above option – Unless specifically ordered so by the Judge- Probation responsibility for temporary placement of Law Violations – Followed immediately by a hearing in court.
- The Probation Officer's decision to release the juvenile from custody or place the juvenile in secure or no secure detention shall be based upon the results of the standardized juvenile detention-screening instrument described in section 43-260-01.

SYSTEM POINT: PROBABLE CAUSE HEARING
PARTY RESPONSIBLE: Juvenile Court Judge
STATUTE REFERENCE: NRS § 43-256

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

Formal Determining Factors	Informal Determining Factors
a. Police investigation/reports b. Sworn Affidavit	a. Parents or other agencies b. Petitions and motions filed

Notes:

- Temporary custody orders must be signed within 24 hours
- Care must be used to determine probable cause exists prior to commitment.

SYSTEM POINT: COMPETENCY EVALUATION
PARTY RESPONSIBLE: Juvenile Court Judge
STATUTE REFERENCE: NRS § 43-258(1(b))

Decision: Whether juvenile is competent to participate in the proceedings.

Formal Determining Factors	Informal Determining Factors
a. Evaluation b. Police investigation/reports	a. Investigations prior court cases b. Notes from parents or other agencies

Notes:

- Thorough evaluation needs to be made as soon as practically possible to ensure competency determination is made for the care and control of the juvenile.
- OJS evaluations – services provided by HHS – Drug/Alcohol / Psychiatric Evaluations.

Decision: Whether juvenile is "responsible" for his/her acts NRS § 43-258(1(c) and (2))

Formal Determining Factors	Informal Determining Factors
a. Physician, Surgeon, Psychiatrist, Community Health Program, Psychologist b. "Complete evaluation of the juvenile including any authorized area of inquiry	a. CASA b. HHS c. Adequate investigation of pre-placement behavior to ensure evaluation is correct.

requested by court." (NRS § 43-258(2))	

Notes:

- Information concerning evaluation pre-placement and previous placements need to be thoroughly investigated so evaluations made are as thorough as they can be.
- No Juvenile is adjudicated and no dispositions are held unless determinations are completed. Usually through HHS along with evaluations and Guardian Ad Litem reports and CASA reports.

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	Informal 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")	a. Thorough investigation of pre-placement conduct. b. Any information on reports from outside agencies and HHS.

Notes:

- Strict proof needs to be given, as required by law, to insure rights of juveniles are protected.

Decision: Whether to order probation to conduct a pre-disposition investigation (statutory authority unclear)

Formal Determining Factors	Informal Determining Factors
a. Police investigation/reports	a. Notes from parents or other agencies

Notes:

- Care must be taken to insure probation is not overburdened with investigation when other outside sources can be utilized.
- Probation may be both formal and informal – PDI's are ordered prior to disposition- plus any evaluations or reports – such as CASA and Guardian Ad Litems. Juvenile cases a "civil" in nature and not "criminal convictions".

*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
a. Police investigation/reports	a. Notes from parents or other agencies

b. Prior to out of home placement or commitments sometimes with in home placements	

Notes:

- OJS Evaluation used only when all o f the factors presented to the court indicate further evaluation prior to disposition is necessary.

*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 b. Uncertainty about whether probation or commitment to OJS is in the juvenile's best interest	Informal Determining Factors a. Outside resources used to supply information of prior conduct.

Notes:

- Careful evaluation of all factors needs to be considered to determine if conduct may be caused by deviant factors or psychological factors before choice is made.
- We often rely not only on OJS evaluations or HHS Evaluations but also Guardian Ad Litem reports – CASA reports and other agency reports.

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 a. Police investigation/reports	Informal Determining Factors a. Notes from parents or other agencies

Notes:

- Prior history
- Recommendation of agencies or probation
- Probation should only be used in those cases where ongoing supervision is absolutely necessary to insure proper treatment or placement of juvenile is continued and responsible parties comply with treatment recommendation.

Decision: Whether to commit such juvenile to the Office of Juvenile Services NRS § 43-286(1)(b)	
Formal Determining Factors a. Police investigation/reports	Informal Determining Factors a. Notes from parents or other agencies

Notes:

- Commitment to OJS should be reserved for those cases where intervention by

OJS is absolutely required. ▪ Risk factors such as danger to self or others, out of control and history.

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 Gives probation responsibility of supervision, but opens access to HHS/OJS funds for treatment or rehabilitation

Notes:

- Occasionally cases may be pled specifically one way – so that the juvenile / family will get needed services because they lack sufficient resources to pay for services.
- Offices of HHS and Department of OJS-HHS need to communicate clear recommendations prior to placement to insure that limited state resources are adequately used.
- The court is in constant need of reports and evaluations on juveniles under its jurisdiction. The rule of thumb being "what's in the best interest of the juvenile." Reports show associated agencies are most necessary and are invaluable to juvenile courts and judges. In order to best determine the proper plan for the juvenile. Agencies that provide that information can offer a valuable resource for in put to the judges. With the large caseload and work of HHS caseworkers they cannot always spend the amount of time they would like to prepare case support. They are carrying large caseloads!

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-	Informal Determining Factors

2266 (2)) 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: 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.	Factors considered for cases eligible for an Administrative Sanction, prior to initiating an Administrative Sanction include, but are not limited to, the following: 1. Nature and seriousness of the violation. 2. Past history of Administrative Sanctions files and reasons for sanctions. 3. Offender's amenability to continued supervision and intervention. 4. Offender's perceived danger or threat to himself, or the community. All violations of probation are staffed with the Chief Probation Officer or designee, prior to a decision being made. In the event a division is made to refer the matter for revocation proceedings, and Alleged Probation Violation report is submitted to the court, with a copy to the County Attorney. The County Attorney then makes the division as to whether to proceed or not with formal revocation proceedings. All cases involving a new criminal charge being filed are referred to the Court and County Attorney for possible revocation proceedings.
Notes: No comments or additions	

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: No comments or additions	

SYSTEM POINT: MODIFICATION/REVOCATION OF PROBATION PARTY RESPONSIBLE: Juvenile Court Judge STATUTE REFERENCE: NRS § 43-286(4)(b)(v)	
Formal Determining Factors	Informal Determining Factors
Notes: No comments or additions	

SYSTEM POINT: SETTING ASIDE ADJUDICATION PARTY RESPONSIBLE: Juvenile Court Judge STATUTE REFERENCE: NRS § 43-2,104	
Decision: Whether juvenile has satisfactorily completed his or her probation and supervision or the treatment program of his or her commitment NRS § 43-2,102	
Formal Determining Factors (43-2,103) 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 disabilities disproportionate to the conduct upon which the adjudication was based.	Informal Determining Factors
Notes: No comments or additions	

Decision: Whether juvenile should be discharged from the custody and supervision of OJS	
Formal Determining Factors a. Presumably same as those for probation under NRS § 43-2,103	Informal Determining Factors
Notes: No comments or additions See Also, *In re Interest Tamantha S.*, 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. *Id.* 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.

Appendix B

Outcomes of Juvenile Justice Survey Tool, Saline County, 2008*

Changes seen in the county over the past three years:

1. Family structure
    a. single parents
    b. divorced
    c. blended families
    d. non-traditional families
2. Students
    a. increase in minority students
    b. increase in special needs students
    c. Consistently 50-50 white and Hispanic over last 3 years
3. Employment
    a. plant closings
    b. underemployment
    c. lack of opportunities
4. Community
    a. Growing Hispanic population
    b. Non-English speaking families moving in

Impact of changes:

5. Schools
    a. higher demand for services
6. Families
    a. less stability in homes
    b. increase family mobility
7. Employment
    a. job hopping
8. Social Services
    a. Need for adult ESL classes

Cause of changes:

1. Economic
    a. national recession
    b. plant closings in De Witt and Plymouth
    c. families migrate to rural areas seeking lower cost of living
    d. immigrant families seeking a better life
2. Family
    a. moving to rural areas isolates families from service agencies
    b. families isolated from employment opportunities (increased unsupervised time)
    c. escaping troubles

How community responded to changes:

1. Schools
    a. Increase in available programs (but requires more funds and staff time)
    b. ESL
2. Communities
    a. Youth responded well across cultures
    b. Generosity of the Hispanic Congregations
    c. Cultural outreach programs
    d. Parenting classes
    e. Parks and Rec./law enforcement activities
    f. Not sure/Not much
    g. Outreach by city and county
    h. Ostracism/fear/ignorance/bigotry
    i. Tolerance and acceptance

What Saline County offer youth (strengths):

3. Mentoring (Big Brothers Big Sisters, TeamMates)
4. Blue Valley
5. Police and Fire Department day camps and activities
6. Youth Programs/hunting clubs
7. NCLB (Natalie Kingston)
8. Strong Hispanic community
9. Strong religious community
10. Loyalty to jobs
11. Supportive employers (Farmland)
12. extracurricular activities
13. engaged schools
14. employment opportunities
15. Diversity and tolerance
16. Smaller communities offer more social support

What youth contribute to the community:

1. Participation in local activities
2. Tolerance of others

Challenges youth face in the community:

1. Drugs and Alcohol
    a. Alcohol
    b. Marijuana
    c. Hispanics tend toward individual use, Caucasian tend toward group use
    d. Parental tolerance of use (esp. in Caucasian community)
2. Economics
    a. Poverty
    b. Gas prices reduce participation in extracurricular activities

    c. Parents overwhelmed
3. Changing family systems
    a. female headed households (for boys)
    b. Multiple spouses (in separate countries)
    c. Lack of parental supervision
    d. Lack of parenting skills
    e. Parents overwhelmed
4. Education not a priority at home
5. Groups/Gangs/Wannabes
    a. School/community rivalries
    b. South Side Winos, 18th Street, Latin Kings (Crete)
    c. Graffiti and gang signs on playground
    d. Youth travel to Lincoln when they are looking for trouble
    e. Idealization of gang culture in media
    f. Involvement in gangs corresponds with decreased academic performance
    g. Intimidation/bullying
    h. Sexual harassment
6. Language
    a. Most youth proficient in English
    b. Limits performance, especially in reading
    c. Youth become translators for parents
7. Lack of recreational options
8. Adolescent sexuality
    a. Differing levels of cultural acceptability
    b. Girls dating older men (15 year olds dating 22 year olds)
    c. Teen pregnancy (young as 12)
    d. Cultures of silence common masking abuse
    e. Associated with alcohol

Community Challenges

1. Language
    a. ESL classes for adults
    b. Communication between schools or local authorities
2. Immigration
    a. Customs and cultures sometimes conflict with US law or cultural norms
        i. Acceptability of men having relations with younger females
        ii. Child rearing
        iii. Abuse
    b. Fear of immigration services
        i. parents protective
        ii. reluctant to be out in the community
        iii. reduced school attendance
        iv. limits participation in extracurricular activities

    c. distrust/fear of local authorities because of experiences in county of origin
3. Fear of change, but no response to challenges
4. Aspects of the established community uncooperative with the justice system
5. adult tolerance/enabling of juvenile alcohol consumption
6. Steering youth away from gang activity
7. Effective education regarding alcohol and substance abuse
    a. DARE/deterrence style prevention is not working
8. Population aging, generational gap

Where are youth the safest:

1. School
2. Church
3. Supervised places
4. Movie theatre
5. Burger King
6. Extracurricular activities
7. Home with supervision
8. Tuxedo Park
9. Dorchester Park

Riskiest places for youth

1. Homes without supervision
2. Unsupervised peer groups
3. Dorchester Park
4. Milligan
5. Wilber
6. Crete
7. Lincoln

Strengths of the Juvenile Justice System

1. Willingness to assist young individuals
2. Committed and caring staff and volunteers

How can juvenile justice services be improved

3. More support
4. Increased avenues of service
5. Increased manpower
6. change in social services
7. increase recreational activities in addition to sports

County Priorities

1. Taking Care of our children
2. ESL for adults
3. Translation Services

4. Cultural brokers/navigators
5. Alternatives to Gangs
6. Drug and Alcohol abuse
7. Mentoring
8. Anger/coping with disappointment
9. Adult guidance/structured programming
10. Hygiene
11. Improving social skills, respect for authority and adults

Key stakeholders (people, agencies or organizations who should be at the table)

1. Schools
2. HHS
3. Law Enforcement
4. Fr. Tvrdy
5. Parents
6. Fire Department
7. Police/Sheriff
8. Judge McCartle
9. Dorchester Coop
10. Crete Kiwanis Club
11. TeamMates
12. Legion Clubs
13. Jr./Sr. high Booster Clubs
14. John Bruha, Dorchester Grocery
15. Community Foundations (i.e. Dorchester)
16. Tim Shipley, Crete

* Represents a collation of responses in individual and group discussions. Information is not ranked or prioritized. Mention of specific locations, individuals or organizations are for reporting purposes only and do not reflect the opinions or positions of the Saline County Board, the agency compiling the data or of the wider population in the county.

Appendix C

Estimated arrests of persons under age 18 in Saline County, Nebraska

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Coverage Indicator	**71%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**87%**
Total Arrests	**see notes**	**167**	**144**	**151**	**97**	**see notes**
Violent Crime Index		**2**	**2**	**1**	**1**	
Murder/nonneg. mans.		0	0	0	0	
Forcible rape		1	0	0	0	
Robbery		0	2	0	0	
Aggravated assault		1	0	1	1	
Property Crime Index		**35**	**17**	**23**	**18**	
Burglary		0	1	4	0	
Larceny-theft		35	15	17	18	
Motor vehicle theft		0	0	1	0	
Arson		0	1	1	0	
Nonindex						
Other assaults		10	14	11	13	
Forgery and counterfeiting		0	0	0	0	
Fraud		0	0	1	0	
Embezzlement		0	0	0	0	
Stolen property		3	3	1	2	
Vandalism		5	4	12	5	
Weapons		2	0	1	3	
Prostitution/commercialized vice		0	0	0	0	
Sex offenses (other)		1	0	0	2	
Drug abuse violations		11	8	9	4	
Gambling		0	0	0	0	
Offenses against family		0	0	0	0	
Driving under influence		4	1	4	4	
Liquor laws		55	54	44	24	
Drunkenness		0	0	0	0	
Disorderly conduct		4	14	10	6	
Vagrancy		0	0	0	0	
All other offenses		28	18	32	14	
Suspicion		0	0	0	0	
Curfew and loitering		0	0	0	0	
Runaways		7	9	2	1	
Population Ages 10 to 17	**1,648**	**1,631**	**1,654**	**1,643**	**1,596**	**1,578**

These statistics are estimates that account for missing data and may differ from other published sources. The county-level files which are the source of this information are not official FBI releases and are being provided for research purposes.

Source: Puzzanchera, C., Adams, B., Snyder, H., and Kang, W. (2007). "*Easy Access to FBI Arrest Statistics 1994-2005*" Online. Available: http://ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/ojstatbb/ezaucr/

Appendix D

Estimated arrests of persons under age 18 in Nebraska

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Coverage Indicator	**95%**	**93%**	**94%**	**95%**	**95%**	**93%**
Total Arrests	**18,630**	**16,680**	**15,996**	**15,040**	**14,892**	**15,290**
Violent Crime Index	**226**	**214**	**202**	**177**	**222**	**185**
Murder/nonneg. mans.	3	1	4	4	4	1
Forcible rape	22	12	12	13	16	8
Robbery	81	72	85	51	69	59
Aggravated assault	120	129	101	109	133	117
Property Crime Index	**4,816**	**4,300**	**4,249**	**3,523**	**3,602**	**3,424**
Burglary	436	317	336	398	345	303
Larceny-theft	4,052	3,663	3,593	2,880	3,045	2,908
Motor vehicle theft	209	219	238	163	139	131
Arson	119	101	82	82	73	82
Nonindex						
Other assaults	1,852	1,877	1,668	1,776	1,766	2,033
Forgery and counterfeiting	75	52	57	37	34	24
Fraud	109	97	103	68	67	57
Embezzlement	16	18	7	7	4	3
Stolen property	261	258	252	187	170	171
Vandalism	1,377	1,132	1,047	1,190	1,117	1,092
Weapons	206	182	127	156	182	168
Prostitution/commercialized vice	9	5	1	6	3	4
Sex offenses (other)	142	112	115	118	111	128
Drug abuse violations	1,377	1,465	1,257	1,111	1,154	1,169
Gambling	2	3	1	0	2	2
Offenses against family	30	17	25	28	28	23
Driving under influence	412	406	373	374	353	300
Liquor laws	2,671	2,587	2,731	2,467	1,530	1,579
Drunkenness	0	0	0	0	0	0
Disorderly conduct	820	756	819	814	882	862
Vagrancy	1	0	1	0	0	2
All other offenses	3,129	2,352	2,310	2,351	2,951	3,209
Suspicion	0	0	0	0	0	0
Curfew and loitering	689	553	405	398	390	507
Runaways	410	294	246	252	324	348
Population Ages 10 to 17	**209,100**	**205,700**	**205,700**	**201,700**	**198,300**	**195,100**

These statistics are estimates that account for missing data and may differ from other published sources. The county-level files which are the source of this information are not official FBI releases and are being provided for research purposes.

Source: Puzzanchera, C., Adams, B., Snyder, H., and Kang, W. (2007). "*Easy Access to FBI Arrest Statistics 1994-2005*" Online. Available: http://ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/ojstatbb/ezaucr/

Appendix E

Priorities from 2006-2008 plan

Priority # 1

Problem: Drug and Alcohol Abuse

1999 –04 Juvenile Arrests for Saline County
(Nebraska Crime Commission Reports)

Offense	**Number of Arrests**					
	99	**00**	**01**	**02**	**03**	**04**
Liquor Laws	30	40	55	54	44	25
Drug Offenses	7	3	11	8	9	4
DUI	2	3	4	1	9	4
Totals	39	46	70	63	62	33

Although the numbers above may indicate a reduction in alcohol usage, community members don't necessarily think that is the case. With the common use of cell phones, many parents are calling their children if they hear officers are heading toward a party to insure they can get away from the scene before officers arrive. Alcohol usage/abuse is all too common and accepted in this county by youth and parents alike. Some parents do not see a problem with their youth drinking. They drank as a youth and do not see any problems that may occur. Members shared about recent large parties and serious car accidents associated with alcohol use by minors. They incidents still do not seem to get parents to take better control of their children.

Local issues that contribute to this Priority:

- Youth have grown up with increased exposure to drugs and alcohol
- Youth lack positive role models
- Youth don't have adequate consequences for use/lack of accountability
- Adults are accepting of underage drinking
- Parents drank as youth and find it hard to tell kids it's bad
- Youth don't have high expectations set for them – the bar has been lowered over the years
- Possibly half of adults are apathetic to youth using alcohol
- Teachable moments get lost

Strategies to address Priority #1 and Local Protective Factor Programs:

- BVMH (Youth In Crisis, Drug and Alcohol Counseling)

- HHS (CPS)
- Region V Systems (Rural Region V, Family & Youth Investment,
- Prevention Coalition)
- Youth Diversion Program
- School Activities (sports, drama, music)
- 4-H
- Alternative School
- Heartland Big Brothers Big Sisters
- TEAMMATES mentoring program in Crete
- Community activities (summer sports, church youth groups)
- The Affiliates- mental health services

Gaps and Needs:

- Resources are not coordinated
- Agencies need to communicate better
- Not enough funding
- More strict consequences for problem use but not just use
- Cooperation from businesses/police/ /community to prevent youth from accessing alcohol especially parents
- Re-implementation of Sheriff's programs
- No youth AA groups
- More intensive mentoring / role models
- Penalties for parents that allow usage for their children
- Panel of local youth to speak about drugs and alcohol to other local youth

Solutions:

A. Mentoring- Heartland Big Brothers Big Sisters was contracted with to provide countywide mentoring for Saline County beginning in 2002. Currently they are providing mentors to 60+ youth in Crete, Friend, Wilber and Dorchester. The county will continue to contract with Heartland Big Brothers Big Sisters for mentoring services.
B. Parenting support/better parenting

Priority 2 + 3

Problem: Lack of parenting by parents, which leads to lack of good character in children (parents not taking responsibility for their children or making children responsible for their actions)

During this planning process community members discussed the issues around parenting skills for their community's children. As an update to their last plan they felt that parents were increasingly feeling less responsible for their children and the choices they were making. These children think they are the center of the universe. They felt that these parents were not holding their children accountable for their own actions. Many of these parents were using television or a computer

to raise their children. The community needs these parents to be parents and not friends to their children. Schools need to reinforce responsibility to parents and children. Even with all the protective factors listed below it sometimes is not enough to help youth

Local issues that contribute to these two Priorities:

- Parents don't care
- Lack in parenting skills
- Divorce
- Single parents
- Dads/male guardians sometimes not as involved as they should be
- Deteriorating family structure
- Low-income families
- Lack of resources
- Teen pregnancy
- Lack of early intervention
- Lack of long-term planning
- People get used to a lifestyle and can't see how a more positive lifestyle can be achieved
- Lack of self-worth/esteem
- Standards are low – no hope

Strategies to address Priorities #2 + #3 and Local Protective Factor Programs:

- BVMH (Counseling)
- HHS (CPS, family support workers) by referral only
- Region V Systems (Rural Region V, FYI, Prevention Coalition)
- Vocational Rehabilitation (Beatrice)
- SCIP
- Heartland Big Brothers Big Sisters
- Teammates
- School Counselors and Personnel
- Character Counts
- School activities
- Community activities
- Church resources (assist families with basic needs, counseling, youth programs)
- Hold parents and youth accountable together if youth is involved in legal system
- ACS- job skills
- The Affiliates- parenting classes

Gaps and Needs:

- Life skills training
- Lacking early intervention programs (for males as well)
- Strong bonding/connection with another person

- Future thinking
- Have a single resource place for family assistance programs
- Make available resources more visible
- Get information to parents (through newspapers and school and church newsletters)
- Coordinate services

Suggested Solutions:
While parenting classes were recommended last time, HHS experts said research has shown that they do not work that effectively. Good modeling works better.

Wraparound:
- Family Support worker has a limited number of families (8-12) to work with
- A family centered practice philosophy of strength-based planning
- Family-driven team meets monthly to create a plan to meet the needs of youth and their family in their home/community/school
- Family team works with family to bring various services (school, counseling, friends, church) together to coordinate efforts more effectively
- Limit access to flex funds for creative solutions
- Intensive – for a small number of high – needs youth.
- Level of service is determined on a case by case basis.

Other Problems Identified:
- Abuse/Neglect
- Lack of Resources
- Teen Pregnancy (early sexual involvement)
- Mental Health Issues
- Cultural Issues including racial discrimination and communication
- Truancy/Dropout Rates
- Violence including domestic abuse and assault
- Vandalism
- Gang Issues
- Population Changes (growing or shrinking quickly)