

Hamilton, Merrick, Nance, & Polk Comprehensive Juvenile Services Community Plan

July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2025

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Introduction

All four counties are similar in make-up and location. All counties are rural in nature and agriculture is the main industry; especially corn, cattle, and hogs. Major employers in Hamilton County include: MARS plant, Aurora Cooperative, Hamilton Communications, and Memorial Hospital. Merrick County major employers include Preferred Popcorn, Platte Valley Fuel Ethanol, and Bryan Health Merrick Medical. Nance County is home to several cattle feedlots, and a sand and gravel company. Polk County has Central Valley Ag, and a number of commercial livestock feeding facilities as well. All four counties have a low percentage of minority populations compared to Caucasian populations. Larger communities and higher minority populations such as Platte, Hall and York counties surround the four counties. The county seats: Aurora, Central City, Fullerton, and Osceola have considerably larger population bases than the other communities throughout the counties.

There are 14 school systems represented in the four counties. High Plains Community Schools have buildings located in both Merrick and Polk County. Hamilton County has other educational assets including the Plainsmen Museum, the Edgerton Explorit Center, L' Eglise Art Center and the Prairie Plains Resource Institute. Each of these organizations provide opportunities through history, science, art, and natural resources and most offer programs for youth participation. While these counties do have a lot to offer residents for education, recreation, and transportation, they do not have much to offer in the terms of treatment and aid to families because of their rural location. It can sometimes be difficult to find the needed treatment for families that cannot afford to commute to a larger community. On the other hand, all four counties are full of people who are willing to get involved to find solutions to these problems.

Data Summary

Hamilton County:

Chronic Absenteeism by Race/Ethnicity and School Year (2014 - 2019)^b

Year	Geographic Area	Total Youth with Chronic Absenteeism	Hispanic	Asian	American Indian or Alaska Native	Black or African American	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	White	Two or More Races
2014 - 2015	Hamilton	72	*	*	*	*	*	100.00%	*
	Nebraska	35,638	24.54%	1.64%	4.42%	12.93%	0.19%	51.61%	4.68%
2015 - 2016	Hamilton	80	*	*	*	*	*	100.00%	*
	Nebraska	38,812	25.73%	1.55%	4.27%	13.68%	0.27%	49.68%	4.83%
2016 - 2017	Hamilton	57	*	*	*	*	*	100.00%	*
	Nebraska	42,290	26.90%	1.66%	4.40%	14.22%	0.24%	47.66%	4.92%
2017 - 2018	Hamilton	70	*	*	*	*	*	100.00%	*
	Nebraska	46,365	26.81%	1.77%	4.18%	14.49%	0.22%	47.37%	2389
2018 - 2019	Hamilton	110	10.91%	*	*	*	*	89.09%	*
	Nebraska	46,356	27.64%	1.76%	4.16%	14.71%	0.23%	46.27%	5.23%

****Data Source:**

University of Nebraska at Omaha Nebraska Juvenile Justice Institute Community Needs Assessment 2020-2021

**Hamilton Merrick Polk & Nance Comprehensive Juvenile Services Community Plan
(2021 – 2025)**

Youth Who Report Mental Health Symptoms and Substance Use by Grade (2018) ^d

		8th	10th	12th
Hamilton	Loss of sleep from worry	10.4%	38.5%	20.0%
Nebraska		18.0%	20.6%	21.6%
Hamilton	Depressed	21.9%	23.1%	26.7%
Nebraska		31.1%	34.8%	35.3%
Hamilton	Considered/Attempted suicide	5.3%	23.1%	6.7%
Nebraska		22.9%	18.2%	16.2%
Hamilton	Current alcohol	0.0%	30.8%	33.3%
Nebraska		9.8%	20.1%	34.2%
Hamilton	Current binge drinking	0.0%	0.0%	18.8%
Nebraska		1.3%	6.2%	15.0%
Hamilton	Current marijuana	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Nebraska		3.0%	7.3%	13.9%
Hamilton	Current tobacco	0.0%	0.0%	12.5%
Nebraska		3.7%	8.0%	15.3%
Hamilton	Current vaping	2.0%	30.8%	37.5%
Nebraska		10.4%	24.7%	37.3%
Hamilton	Hopeful for future (past week)	86.6%	76.9%	87.5%
Nebraska		72.1%	74.7%	78.4%

****Data Source:**

University of Nebraska at Omaha Nebraska Juvenile Justice Institute Community Needs Assessment 2020-2021

**Hamilton Merrick Polk & Nance Comprehensive Juvenile Services Community Plan
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COUNTY NEEDS ASSESSMENT FY 2020-2021

Youth enrolled in diversion	16	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
Successful completion diversion	14	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
Youth with multiple charges	9	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	22.20%	77.80 %
Filed on in adult court	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
RAI Override: More Severe	10	0%	0%	10%	20%	10%	0%	60%
RAI Override: Less Severe	7	28.60%	0%	0%	14.30%	0%	0%	57.10 %
Probation intake	32	12.50%	0%	3.10 %	18.80%	3.10%	0%	62.50 %
Successful probation	13 3	0.80%	0%	2.30 %	14.30%	0.80%	0%	82%
Revocation of probation	38	5.30%	0%	0%	5.30%	2.60%	0%	86.80 %
Youth in OJS custody	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
OJS custody: placed in detention	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth booked into detention	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth booked into detention more than once	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

****Data Source:**

University of Nebraska at Omaha Nebraska Juvenile Justice Institute Community Needs Assessment 2020-2021

**Hamilton Merrick Polk & Nance Comprehensive Juvenile Services Community Plan
(2021 – 2025)**

Merrick County:

Youth Who Report Mental Health Symptoms and Substance Use by Grade (2018) ^d

		8 th	10 th	12 th
Merrick	Loss of sleep from worry	23.4%	18.8%	29.4%
Nebraska		18.0%	20.6%	21.6%
Merrick	Depressed	38.5%	23.5%	35.3%
Nebraska		31.1%	34.8%	35.3%
Merrick	Considered/Attempted suicide	17.2%	14.5%	19.6%
Nebraska		22.9%	18.2%	16.2%
Merrick	Current alcohol	3.1%	15.9%	39.2%
Nebraska		9.8%	20.1%	34.2%
Merrick	Current binge drinking	0.0%	8.7%	15.7%
Nebraska		1.3%	6.2%	15.0%
Merrick	Current marijuana	0.0%	1.4%	5.9%
Nebraska		3.0%	7.3%	13.9%
Merrick	Current tobacco	0.0%	13.0%	27.5%
Nebraska		3.7%	8.0%	15.3%
Merrick	Current vaping	7.8%	23.2%	47.1%
Nebraska		10.4%	24.7%	37.3%
Merrick	Hopeful for future (past week)	81.5%	76.5%	82.4%
Nebraska		72.1%	74.7%	78.4%

****Data Source:**

University of Nebraska at Omaha Nebraska Juvenile Justice Institute Community Needs Assessment 2020-2021

****JJI is currently waiting for the legal team at DHHS to approve providing this data**

**Hamilton Merrick Polk & Nance Comprehensive Juvenile Services Community Plan
(2021 – 2025)**

System Point	N	Amer. Indian/ Alaskan Native	Asian/ Pacific Islander	Black	Hispanic/ Latino	Multiple/ Other	Unspec/ Missing	White
Law enforcement contact	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth taken to temporary custody	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth issued citation/referral	30	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth referred to diversion	60	0%	0%	0%	8.30%	0%	1.70%	90%
Youth enrolled in diversion	54	0%	0%	0%	7.40%	0%	1.90%	90.70%
Successful completion diversion	48	0%	0%	0%	8.30%	0%	2.10%	89.60%
Youth with multiple charges	14	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	21.40%	78.60%
Filed on in adult court	5	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	40%	60%
RAI Override: More Severe	9	0%	0%	0%	33.30%	0%	0%	66.70%
RAI Override: Less Severe	4	0%	0%	25%	25%	25%	0%	25%
Probation intake	37	0%	2.70%	2.70%	24.30%	2.70%	0%	67.60%
Successful probation	74	0%	1.40%	1.40%	10.80%	0%	0%	86.50%
Revocation of probation	40	2.50%	0%	0%	12.50%	7.50%	0%	77.50%
Youth in OJS custody	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
OJS custody: placed in detention	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth booked into detention	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth booked into detention more than once	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

****Data Source:**

University of Nebraska at Omaha Nebraska Juvenile Justice Institute Community Needs Assessment 2020-2021

**Hamilton Merrick Polk & Nance Comprehensive Juvenile Services Community Plan
(2021 – 2025)**

Youth Who Report Supportive Adults by Grade (2018) ^d

		8 th	10 th	12 th
Merrick	Adult at home who listens	92.3%	89.7%	90.2%
Nebraska		87.3%	85.0%	85.6%
Merrick	Adult at school who listens	83.1%	81.2%	78.4%
Nebraska		85.2%	85.0%	87.4%

****Data Source:**

University of Nebraska at Omaha Nebraska Juvenile Justice Institute Community Needs Assessment 2020-2021

Nance County:

Youth Who Report Mental Health Symptoms and Substance Use by Grade (2016) ^d

		8 th	10 th	12 th
Nance	Loss of sleep from worry	8.3%	14.6%	27.5%
Nebraska		18.0%	20.6%	21.6%
Nance	Depressed	26.7%	22.9%	37.5%
Nebraska		31.1%	34.8%	35.3%
Nance	Considered/Attempted suicide	13.3%	16.7%	17.5%
Nebraska		22.9%	18.2%	16.2%
Nance	Current alcohol	11.7%	49.0%	50.0%
Nebraska		9.8%	20.1%	34.2%
Nance	Current binge drinking	0.0%	14.3%	15.4%
Nebraska		1.3%	6.2%	15.0%
Nance	Current marijuana	0.0%	6.1%	20.0%
Nebraska		3.0%	7.3%	13.9%
Nance	Current tobacco	1.7%	12.2%	12.5%
Nebraska		3.7%	8.0%	15.3%
Nance	Current vaping	15.0%	24.5%	22.5%
Nebraska		10.4%	24.7%	37.3%
Nance	Hopeful for future (past week)	76.7%	89.6%	87.5%
Nebraska		72.1%	74.7%	78.4%

****Data Source:**

University of Nebraska at Omaha Nebraska Juvenile Justice Institute Community Needs Assessment 2020-2021

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Table 16.
Youth Who Report Supportive Adults by Grade (2016) ^d

		8 th	10 th	12 th
Nance	Adult at home who listens	86.4%	85.4%	87.2%
Nebraska		87.3%	85.0%	85.6%
Nance	Adult at school who listens	86.7%	87.5%	92.5%
Nebraska		85.2%	85.0%	87.4%

****Data Source:**

University of Nebraska at Omaha Nebraska Juvenile Justice Institute Community Needs Assessment 2020-2021

Youth Perceptions of Community Attitudes on Substance Use by Grade (2016) ^d

		8 th	10 th	12 th
Nance	Wrong/very wrong – Marijuana	94.9%	98.0%	82.5%
Nebraska		94.4%	89.8%	85.2%
Nance	Wrong/very wrong – alcohol	84.7%	71.4%	45.0%
Nebraska		89.1%	80.4%	68.7%
Nance	Wrong/very wrong – cigarettes	89.9%	93.9%	52.5%
Nebraska		92.9%	89.0%	78.7%

****Data Source:**

University of Nebraska at Omaha Nebraska Juvenile Justice Institute Community Needs Assessment 2020-2021

Polk County:

Youth Who Report Mental Health Symptoms and Substance Use by Grade (2018) ^d

		8 th	10 th	12 th
Polk	Loss of sleep from worry	13.2%	27.3%	18.5%
Nebraska		18.0%	20.6%	21.6%
Polk	Depressed	26.3%	20.5%	26.4%
Nebraska		31.1%	34.8%	35.3%
Polk	Considered/Attempted suicide	10.5%	6.8%	11.1%
Nebraska		22.9%	18.2%	16.2%
Polk	Current alcohol	26.3%	61.4%	51.9%
Nebraska		9.8%	20.1%	34.2%
Polk	Current binge drinking	2.6%	13.6%	14.8%
Nebraska		1.3%	6.2%	15.0%
Polk	Current marijuana	0.0%	3.0%	5.6%
Nebraska		3.0%	7.3%	13.9%
Polk	Current tobacco	0.0%	4.5%	18.5%
Nebraska		3.7%	8.0%	15.3%
Polk	Current vaping	7.9%	27.3%	31.5%
Nebraska		10.4%	24.7%	37.3%
Polk	Hopeful for future (past week)	68.4%	88.6%	77.8%
Nebraska		72.1%	74.7%	78.4%

****Data Source:**

University of Nebraska at Omaha Nebraska Juvenile Justice Institute Community Needs Assessment 2020-2021

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Table 14.
Racial and Ethnic Disparities Descriptives (2015-2019) ¹
[Click here to see Census and School Population Data](#)

*Data were not separated by year because there were too few cases

System Point	N	Amer. Indian/ Alaskan Native	Asian/ Pacific Islander	Blac k	Hispanic/ Latino	Multiple/ Other	Unspec/ Missing	White
Law enforcement contact	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth taken to temporary custody	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth issued citation/referral	9	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth referred to diversion	14	0%	0%	0%	7.10%	0%	0%	92.90%
Youth enrolled in diversion	14	0%	0%	0%	7.10%	0%	0%	92.90%
Successful completion diversion	11	0%	0%	0%	9.10%	0%	0%	90.90%
Youth with multiple charges	3	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
Filed on in adult court	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
RAI Override: More Severe	1	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
RAI Override: Less Severe	0	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Probation intake	5	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
Successful probation	22	0%	0%	0%	13.60%	0%	0%	86.40%
Revocation of probation	0	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Youth in OJS custody	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
OJS custody: placed in detention	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth booked into detention	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth booked into detention more than once	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

****Data Source:**

University of Nebraska at Omaha Nebraska Juvenile Justice Institute Community Needs Assessment 2020-2021

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Poverty/SES, Educational Attainment, Technology and Computers in Home, Housing, and Transportation (5-year estimates, 2014-2018) ^a

Measurement		Polk	Nebraska
Poverty/SES	Children <18 in Poverty	12.0%	14.8%
	Number of children 12-17 below 185% poverty	125	43,814
	Percent of children 12-17 below 185% poverty	28.6%	28.9%
Educational attainment	Age 25+ with B.D.	21.1%	31.3%
	County rank	45	-
	Age 25+ with some college, no degree	24.1%	23.0%
	County rank	48	-
	Age 25+ with HS degree	92.0%	91.1%
	County Rank	55	-
Technology and computers in the home	% under 18 with a computer at home	99.6%	96.9%
	County rank	25	-
	% under 18 with an internet subscription at home	96.6%	91.0%
	County rank	10	-
	% under 18 with broadband internet access at home	96.6%	90.8%
	County Rank	9	-
Housing	Owner-occupied households	1,642	498,567
	Total households	2,052	754,063
	Owner %	80.0%	66.1%
	Renters	410	255,496
	Renter %	20.0%	33.9%
Transportation	Households with no vehicle available	94	40,465
	Total households	2,052	754,063
	No vehicle %	4.6%	5.4%

****Data Source:**

University of Nebraska at Omaha Nebraska Juvenile Justice Institute Community Needs Assessment 2020-2021

Youth Who Report Supportive Adults by Grade (2018) ^d

		8 th	10 th	12 th
Polk	Adult at home who listens	97.4%	88.6%	85.2%

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Nebraska		87.3%	85.0%	85.6%
Polk	Adult at school who listens	81.6%	84.1%	90.7%
Nebraska		85.2%	85.0%	87.4%

****Data Source:**

University of Nebraska at Omaha Nebraska Juvenile Justice Institute Community Needs Assessment 2020-2021

Table 20.

Youth Perceptions of Community Attitudes on Substance Use by Grade (2018) ^d

		8 th	10 th	12 th
Polk	Wrong/very wrong – Marijuana	100.0%	95.5%	94.4%
Nebraska		94.4%	89.8%	85.2%
Polk	Wrong/very wrong – alcohol	84.2%	75.0%	68.5%
Nebraska		89.1%	80.4%	68.7%
Polk	Wrong/very wrong – cigarettes	97.4%	93.2%	83.3%
Nebraska		92.9%	89.0%	78.7%

****Data Source:**

University of Nebraska at Omaha Nebraska Juvenile Justice Institute Community Needs Assessment 2020-2021

Comprehensive List of Services

SYSTEM POINT: PREVENTION		
<i>(includes programs that aim to intervene before and after problematic behaviors are identified)</i>		
Program/ Agency Name	Eligible age	Risk or need
<i>Sixpence</i>	0-3	premature birth and low child birth rate, teen parenthood, low levels of parental education, low family income and homes where English is spoken as a second language
<i>Central Nebraska Community Action Partnership</i>	0-99	mental health concerns, lack of parental warmth, socio economic assistance, low levels of parental education
<i>Blue Valley Community Action Partnership</i>	0-99	drug & alcohol use, mental health concerns, lack of parental warmth, socio economic assistance.
<i>Attendance Matters</i>	5-18	youth and families that are at risk of becoming involved in the juvenile justice system due to chronic absenteeism
<i>Teammates</i>	9-18	low parental warmth
<i>Hamilton County Youth Center</i>		inappropriate use of time, drug and alcohol use, lack of supervision
<i>Marathon Kids</i>	0-18	mental health concerns
<i>Merrick County Youth Council</i>		inappropriate use of time, drug and alcohol use, lack of supervision
<i>DARE</i>		drug/alcohol use
<i>Aurora Leadership Center</i>	school aged	low parental warmth, inappropriate use of time, lack of supervision
<i>Edgerton Center After School Education Program</i>	elementary students	low parental warmth, inappropriate use of time, lack of supervision
<i>Central City Public Schools After School Program</i>	elementary students	low parental warmth, lack of supervision, inappropriate use of time
<i>Nebraska Extension-provides a number of educational programs and opportunities</i>	5-18	low parental warmth, lack of supervision, inappropriate use of time, mental health concerns
<i>Polk County Substance Abuse Coalition</i>	0-99	drug/alcohol abuse, mental health concerns
<i>Region 3 & 5 Health Systems</i>	0-99	

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KNOWN GAPS IN SERVICES

(include any programs that allow youth to remain in the community after any contact with law enforcement)

Program/ Agency Name	Eligible age	Risk or need
<i>Shelter</i>	10-18	Drug/alcohol use, lack of supervision, inappropriate use of time, lack of supervision
<i>Local access to drug & alcohol treatment</i>	10-18	Drug/alcohol use, mental health concerns
<i>Local victim advocacy center</i>	10-18	mental health concerns, lack of supervision, drug/alcohol use,
<i>Homeless Shelter</i>	10-18	mental health concerns, drug/alcohol use
<i>local mental health treatment facilities</i>	10-18	mental health concerns

Community Analysis and Response (CAR) Final Worksheet

COMMUNITY ANALYSIS & RESPONSE WORKSHEET			
Identified Need	Existing Program, Agency or Resource	Eligible age	Does this program accomplish the desired change? If no, what is missing?
Reduce the number of and provide alternatives for youth involved in the juvenile justice system.	Central Nebraska Youth Services	11-17 years	Yes, but continually altering the service delivery to target the needs of the juveniles in the community.
Reduce high percentages of absenteeism in school districts throughout the communities.	Attendance Matters	5-18 years	Yes, but continually altering the service delivery to target the needs of the juveniles and families in the community.
Parent engagement and parenting resources for families in our communities	Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services Central Nebraska Youth Services Sixpence Blue Valley Community Action Partnership	0-99	Central Nebraska Youth Services provides local resources to the families of the communities. Juvenile’s parents involved in the diversion program can access a parenting class if this is a need in assessments given or it is requested. The Department of Health & Human Services provides resources and support to families through voluntary non court cases as well as court involved. Sixpence provides support and resources for families with children 0-5. As does Blue Valley Community Action Partnership. BVAP also provides resources for families who have older children as well. The team would like to identify or provide more support to families in the communities in addition to these resources.
Local Mental Health Resources	Region 3	0-99	Region 3 provides emergent mental health resources for

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	Blue Valley Community Action Partnership		parents and families. There are not a lot of local community mental health providers or resources.
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Gaps to be Filled Worksheet

GAPS IN THE CONTINUUM			
Brief Data Snapshot	Existing Program, Agency or Resource	Eligible age	Does this program accomplish the desired change? If no, what is missing?
EXAMPLE:			
In all four counties juveniles report higher rates of drinking, vaping, tobacco and/or drug use than that of the state average.	Juvenile Diversion Probation	11-18	Although all four counties have Juvenile Diversion and probation active in them, there is no local access to drug and or alcohol treatment facilities.
EXAMPLE:			
10th graders report a loss of sleep due to worry and considering/attempting suicide at higher rates in Hamilton County. 8th graders report being depressed at higher rates and 12th graders report they had considered/attempted suicide at higher rates than that of the state average in Merrick County 12th graders in Nance County report loss of sleep, worry, being depressed, and considering/attempt suicide at higher rates than that of the state average. 10th graders report loss of sleep due to worry at higher rates than that of the state average in Polk County.	State Region Behavioral Health Services Blue Valley Community Action Partnership	0-99 years	While the state Region Services provide emergent mental health crisis hotline services there is a lack of any local mental health facilities, services, etc. for kids who are reporting these mental health concerns.

List of Team Members

Description of Team

The Hamilton, Merrick, Nance, & Polk County Juvenile Services team was established in 2014. This team meeting was being held in person until the COVID-19 pandemic began, moving the team to have to meet via zoom to establish final construction of the 2021-2025 Juvenile Plan. We plan to continue to meet to find solutions to the current identified needs quarterly. We also plan to continue to encourage participation from diverse community stakeholders throughout the four county area to offer the best solutions for the juveniles in our communities.

Team Members:

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Closing Comments

Hamilton Merrick Polk & Nance Comprehensive Juvenile Services Community Plan (2021 – 2025)

In closing, all four counties have numerous prevention programs that work endlessly to fill gaps for juvenile services. A number of school districts in the counties also offer a number of educational prevention programs for students including, a mock drunk driving accident bi annually by High Plains Community Schools, Central City held a vaping presentation to educate students on the dangers of vaping. The Merrick County Youth Council offers speaking presentations at the Merrick County Performing Arts Center for all Merrick County middle and high school students making youth aware of the risks and dangers of using illegal substances. Nebraska Extension offers a number of prevention education opportunities for juveniles and families. Nebraska Extension/4-H is also in the process of developing a new wellness program that will encompass mental health for kids. Marathon Kids is a program offered by Extension that youth and their families across can be active and gain confidence through completing the distance of a marathon, one mile at a time. This not only works to improve physical health of children but it can also help improve mental health which is one of the identified needs for juveniles in our communities. Central Nebraska Youth Services serves juveniles in all four counties by providing a truancy prevention/intervention program. This office also provides juvenile diversion providing a deterrent from the juvenile justice system. Central Nebraska Youth Services also offers a parenting education course through Court Solutions for juvenile's families who are participating in juvenile diversion.

While the counties offer these programs, and education, they do not have much to offer residents access to treatment and aid due to their rural location. According to the data provided in the Community Needs Assessment conducted by JJI, access to drug and alcohol treatment as well as mental health treatment would be beneficial to juveniles in all four counties. Through this Community Comprehensive Planning team we hope to bring solutions to these barriers.

Appendix A



Hamilton County

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COUNTY NEEDS ASSESSMENT FY 2020-2021

Appendix: Sealed Court Records by Year 22



Youth Level

- The number of total youth with chronic absenteeism has increased in past year.
- While we could not get race/ethnicity data for chronic absenteeism in this community because the frequency was too low to report, Hispanic, Native American, and Black youth are over-represented statewide in chronic absenteeism.
- In 2018-2019, Hamilton County had overrepresentation in chronic absenteeism regarding Hispanic youth as compared to the school membership data.
- There are more youth on IDEA plans in Hamilton County compared to state averages.
- Hamilton County has a 97.1% graduation rate over the last 5 years.
- 10th graders report loss of sleep from worry and considering/attempting suicide at higher rates in Hamilton County compared to the state.
- 10th graders report current alcohol use at higher rates in Hamilton County compared to the state.
- 12th graders report binge drinking at higher rates in Hamilton County compared to the state.
- 10th and 12th graders report higher rates of vaping in Hamilton County compared to the state.
 - There are a lot of 0% reporting in the substance abuse, which is lower than the state in these areas
- Arrests for all age groups decreased in Hamilton County between 2018 and 2019, especially with drug possession.
 - Increases in larceny-theft, other assaults, and weapons possession increased (however, with such small frequencies, this increase should be taken with caution).
- “Arrests” for juveniles have gone up slightly, especially all other offenses, but again, with such small frequencies this should be taken with caution.
- NYS domains with the highest scores are Peer Relationships, Substance Use, Leisure/Recreation, and Personality/Behavior. There should be programs in the community to address these.
- Law enforcement data by race and ethnicity would be very beneficial to have a clearer picture of RED. Compared to the Census and school data, Native American youth are overrepresented in probation RAI overrides, probation intake, and probation revocation; Black youth are over-represented in probation RAI overrides, probation intakes, and successful probation; Hispanic youth are overrepresented at probation RAI overrides, RAI overrides, probation intakes, and successful probation.
 - Race/ethnicity is missing at 22.2% for youth with multiple charges.
- Youth are being referred to diversion and enrolling and successfully completing diversion at the same rate.



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Table 1.

Distribution of the Population Age 10-17 by Race/Ethnicity and Gender (5-year estimates, 2014-2018) ^a**Males**

Geographic Area	Total Count	Non-Hispanic White	Hispanic or Latino	Black	American Indian	Asian or Pacific Islander	2+ Races
Nebraska	108,494	70.4%	16.2%	5.7%	1.4%	2.0%	4.4%
Hamilton	575	92.0%	6.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.5%	0.9%

Females

Geographic Area	Total Count	Non-Hispanic White	Hispanic or Latino	Black	American Indian	Asian or Pacific Islander	2+ Races
Nebraska	102,658	70.4%	16.2%	5.7%	1.4%	2.0%	4.4%
Hamilton	569	86.3%	12.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.4%

[Click here to go back to RED analysis](#)

Table 2.

School Membership by Race/ Ethnicity and School Year (2014-2019) ^b

Year	Geographic Area	Total Count	Hispanic	Asian	American Indian or Alaska Native	Black or African American	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific islander	White	Two or More Races
2014-2015	Hamilton	1,577	4.50%	0.19%	0.25%	0.89%	0.06%	92.64%	1.46%
	Nebraska	312,281	17.74%	2.43%	1.42%	6.70%	0.13%	68.20%	3.38%
2015-2016	Hamilton	1,629	5.28%	0.18%	0.18%	0.98%	0.18%	91.96%	1.23%
	Nebraska	315,542	18.08%	2.53%	1.38%	6.67%	0.14%	67.72%	3.47%
2016-2017	Hamilton	1,610	5.65%	0.25%	0.31%	0.87%	0.19%	90.81%	1.93%
	Nebraska	318,853	18.61%	2.66%	1.38%	6.69%	0.15%	66.92%	3.59%
2017-2018	Hamilton	1,593	5.34%	0.31%	0.19%	0.88%	0.13%	91.71%	1.44%
	Nebraska	323,391	18.80%	2.76%	1.35%	6.67%	0.14%	66.50%	3.78%
2018-2019	Hamilton	1,655	5.98%	0.30%	0.30%	0.79%	0.06%	90.88%	1.69%
	Nebraska	325,984	19.13%	2.83%	1.33%	6.63%	0.15%	66.02%	3.91%



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Table 3.

Chronic Absenteeism by Race/Ethnicity and School Year (2014 - 2019)^b

Year	Geographic Area	Total Youth with Chronic Absenteeism	Hispanic	Asian	American Indian or Alaska Native	Black or African American	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	White	Two or More Races
2014-2015	Hamilton	72	*	*	*	*	*	100.00%	*
	Nebraska	35,638	24.54%	1.64%	4.42%	12.93%	0.19%	51.61%	4.68%
2015-2016	Hamilton	80	*	*	*	*	*	100.00%	*
	Nebraska	38,812	25.73%	1.55%	4.27%	13.68%	0.27%	49.68%	4.83%
2016-2017	Hamilton	57	*	*	*	*	*	100.00%	*
	Nebraska	42,290	26.90%	1.66%	4.40%	14.22%	0.24%	47.66%	4.92%
2017-2018	Hamilton	70	*	*	*	*	*	100.00%	*
	Nebraska	46,365	26.81%	1.77%	4.18%	14.49%	0.22%	47.37%	2389
2018-2019	Hamilton	110	10.91%	*	*	*	*	89.09%	*
	Nebraska	46,356	27.64%	1.76%	4.16%	14.71%	0.23%	46.27%	5.23%

Per the Nebraska Department of Education, the * represents masked data, which they define as 10 or fewer students, for the confidentiality of the students

Table 4.

Disabilities, English Proficiency, Eligibility for Free/Reduced Lunch and School Year (2014 – 2019)^b

Year	Geographic Area	Total Count	IDEA	504 Plan	Limited English Proficiency	Free/Reduced Lunch
2014-2015	Hamilton	1,577	15.09%	*	*	33.10%
	Nebraska	312,281	13.66%	0.76%	5.97%	44.53%
2015-2016	Hamilton	1,629	13.38%	*	*	34.68%
	Nebraska	315,542	14.29%	0.75%	*	30.62%
2016-2017	Hamilton	1,610	14.29%	0.75%	*	30.62%
	Nebraska	318,853	13.80%	0.93%	6.99%	44.76%
2017-2018	Hamilton	1,593	16.20%	*	*	31.89%
	Nebraska	323,391	15.87%	0.88%	6.59%	46.24%
2018-2019	Hamilton	1,655	17.89%	*	0.60%	33.11%
	Nebraska	325,984	16.13%	0.85%	6.78%	45.42%

Per the Nebraska Department of Education, the * represents masked data, which they define as 10 or fewer students, for the confidentiality of the students

Table 5.

Nebraska Public High School 4-Year Graduation Rates by County (5-year estimates, 2015-2019)^c



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County	Total in Last 5 Years		Yearly Averages		Graduation Rate	Rank
	Graduates	Students	Graduates	Students		
Nebraska	100,111	112,857	20,022.2	22,571.4	88.7%	-
Hamilton	641	660	42.7	44.0	97.1%	15

Data are only for public school districts and their associated high schools. The figures are aggregated based on the location of the school, not the residential location of the student. The figures for Dawes County are impacted by a vocational school where graduation rates are less than 25%; in the rest of the county graduation rates equal 93%.

Table 6.
Youth Who Report Mental Health Symptoms and Substance Use by Grade (2018) ^d

		8 th	10 th	12 th
Hamilton	Loss of sleep from worry	10.4%	38.5%	20.0%
Nebraska		18.0%	20.6%	21.6%
Hamilton	Depressed	21.9%	23.1%	26.7%
Nebraska		31.1%	34.8%	35.3%
Hamilton	Considered/Attempted suicide	5.3%	23.1%	6.7%
Nebraska		22.9%	18.2%	16.2%
Hamilton	Current alcohol	0.0%	30.8%	33.3%
Nebraska		9.8%	20.1%	34.2%
Hamilton	Current binge drinking	0.0%	0.0%	18.8%
Nebraska		1.3%	6.2%	15.0%
Hamilton	Current marijuana	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Nebraska		3.0%	7.3%	13.9%
Hamilton	Current tobacco	0.0%	0.0%	12.5%
Nebraska		3.7%	8.0%	15.3%
Hamilton	Current vaping	2.0%	30.8%	37.5%
Nebraska		10.4%	24.7%	37.3%
Hamilton	Hopeful for future (past week)	86.6%	76.9%	87.5%
Nebraska		72.1%	74.7%	78.4%

**** JJI is currently waiting for the legal team at DHHS to approve providing this data**

Table 7.

Juveniles Referred to Services ^e

Table 8.

Juveniles Referred to Services by Race/Ethnicity, Gender, and Mental Health Diagnosis ^e



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Table 9.

Juveniles Who Utilized Services ^e

Table 10.

Types of Services Utilized ^e

Table 11.

Youth Who Report Gang Involvement by Grade (2018) ^d

		8 th	10 th	12 th
Hamilton	Youth Reported Gang Involvement	1.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Nebraska		3.8%	4.4%	3.8%

Table 12.

Arrest Rates for Adults and Juveniles for 2018 and 2019 with Percent Change ^f

Arrestee Age	All Arrestee Ages			Under 18		
	2018	2019	2018 - 2019 Growth %	2018	2019	2018 - 2019 Growth %
Summary Arrest Date	HAMILTON COUNTY					
Jurisdiction by Geography	HAMILTON COUNTY					
Arrest Offense	HAMILTON COUNTY					
Total	377	298	-20.95	5	12	140.00
Rape Total	1	1	0.00	-	-	-
Aggravated Assault Total	-	3	-	-	-	-
Burglary Total	3	3	0.00	1	1	0.00
Larceny-Theft Total	1	7	600.00	-	0	-
Motor Vehicle Theft Total	-	1	-	-	-	-
Other Assaults	3	7	133.33	-	1	-
Forgery and Counterfeiting	1	1	0.00	0	-	-
Fraud	3	1	-66.67	0	0	-
Stolen Property; Buying, Receiving, Possessing	5	3	-40.00	0	1	-
Weapons; Carrying, Possessing, etc.	3	6	100.00	0	0	-
Sex Offenses (Except Rape and Prostitution)	-	2	-	-	-	-
Drug Violations - Sale/Manufacturing	18	15	-16.67	0	0	-



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Drug Violations - Possession	250	154	-38.40	3	3	0.00
Offenses Against Family and Children	-	1	-	-	1	-
Driving Under the Influence	30	34	13.33	1	0	-100.00
Liquor Laws	18	17	-5.56	0	0	-
Disorderly Conduct		3	-	-	-	-
All Other Offenses (Except Traffic)	41	39	-4.88	0	5	-

Table 13a.
Risk Assessment Domains for Youth Assessed on Diversion (2015 - 2017) ^g

Score	Hamilton			All NYS Counties		
	0	1	2	0	1	2
Family Circumstance/Parenting	55.6%	44.4%	0.0%	60.1%	26.7%	13.1%
Education/Employment	77.8%	22.2%	0.0%	43.0%	44.0%	13.1%
Peer Relationships	11.1%	66.7%	22.2%	44.7%	46.6%	8.6%
Substance Use	44.4%	44.4%	11.1%	61.4%	30.3%	8.3%
Leisure/Recreation	44.4%	55.6%	0.0%	50.6%	33.0%	16.5%
Personality/Behavior	55.6%	44.4%	0.0%	50.1%	39.4%	10.4%
Attitudes/Orientation	66.7%	33.3%	0.0%	61.3%	33.7%	5.0%
Mean Score	<i>M</i> = 5.22, <i>SD</i> = 3.23, 1-10			<i>M</i> = 5.64, <i>SD</i> = 3.65, 0-17		

Hamilton County *n* = 9; Statewide *n* = 1512

Table 14.
Racial and Ethnic Disparities Descriptives (2015-2019) ^l

[Click here to see Census and School Population Data](#)

System Point	N	Amer. Indian/Alaskan Native	Asian/Pacific Islander	Black	Hispanic/Latino	Multiple/Other	Unspec/Missing	White
Law enforcement contact	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth taken to temporary custody	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth issued citation/referral	28	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth referred to diversion	16	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%



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Youth enrolled in diversion	16	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
Successful completion diversion	14	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
Youth with multiple charges	9	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	22.20%	77.80%
Filed on in adult court	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
RAI Override: More Severe	10	0%	0%	10%	20%	10%	0%	60%
RAI Override: Less Severe	7	28.60%	0%	0%	14.30%	0%	0%	57.10%
Probation intake	32	12.50%	0%	3.10%	18.80%	3.10%	0%	62.50%
Successful probation	133	0.80%	0%	2.30%	14.30%	0.80%	0%	82%
Revocation of probation	38	5.30%	0%	0%	5.30%	2.60%	0%	86.80%
Youth in OJS custody	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
OJS custody: placed in detention	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth booked into detention	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth booked into detention more than once	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--



Family Level

- Hamilton County has lower rates of youth in poverty compared to the state.
- Number of adults with bachelor's degrees is lower than the state average; it may be possible that residents who go to college outside of Hamilton County find employment where they go to school and do not return to Hamilton County.
- Youth in Hamilton County have access to computers and internet at home at higher rates than the state.
- 12th graders report not feeling as supported by adults at home compared to the state, but 100% of the 12th graders report feeling supported by adults in the school.
- 10th graders report feeling less supported by adults in school compared to the state.

Table 15.

Poverty/SES, Educational Attainment, Technology and Computers in Home, Housing, and Transportation (5-year estimates, 2014-2018) ^a

Measurement		Hamilton	Nebraska
Poverty/SES	Children <18 in Poverty	6.8%	14.8%
	Number of children 12-17 below 185% poverty	110	43,814
	Percent of children 12-17 below 185% poverty	13.1%	28.9%
Educational attainment	Age 25+ with B.D.	26.0%	31.3%
	County rank	16	-
	Age 25+ with some college, no degree	26.6%	23.0%
	County rank	24	-
	Age 25+ with HS degree	94.7%	91.1%
	County Rank	18	-
Technology and computers in the home	% under 18 with a computer at home	97.5%	96.9%
	County rank	60	-
	% under 18 with an internet subscription at home	92.1%	91.0%
	County rank	40	-



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	% under 18 with broadband internet access at home	91.6%	90.8%
	County Rank	41	-
Housing	Owner-occupied households	2,990	498,567
	Total households	3,699	754,063
	Owner %	80.8%	66.1%
	Renters	709	255,496
	Renter %	19.2%	33.9%
Transportation	Households with no vehicle available	87	40,465
	Total households	3,699	754,063
	No vehicle %	2.4%	5.4%

Table 16.
Youth Who Report Supportive Adults by Grade (2018) ^d

		8 th	10 th	12 th
Hamilton	Adult at home who listens	87.8%	92.3%	75.0%
Nebraska		87.3%	85.0%	85.6%
Hamilton	Adult at school who listens	89.8%	84.6%	100.0%
Nebraska		85.2%	85.0%	87.4%

Table 17.
Domestic Violence Reports and Cleared by Arrest or Exceptional Means ^h

	Aggravated Domestic Assaults Reported	Aggravated Domestic Assaults Cleared by Arrest or Exceptional Means	Simple Domestic Assaults Reported	Simple Domestic Assaults Cleared by Arrest or Exceptional Means
Hamilton	2	2	5	5
Nebraska	562	402	2512	2019

Table 18.
Child Abuse and Neglect Reports ⁱ

	Abuse/Neglect Calls	Reports Assessed	Substantiated	Unfounded
Hamilton	64	28%	11%	56%
Nebraska	36,480	33.4%	16.0%	68.3%



Community Level

- With regard to how youth perceive how their community feels about substance use, 10th graders are reporting lower than state averages for alcohol and 12th graders report lower than the state average for cigarettes.
- Juvenile record sealing is not “automatic” even if statute requires it to seal. Sealing a record requires administrative staff to initiate the process. Dismissed or dropped cases should be sealed at a rate of 100%. All others should be sealed at the rate to which youth successfully complete their court requirements (completion of diversion, probation, restorative practice, or other treatment). Yearly data is available in the Appendix to see if the rate has improved because of legislation, but newer cases should naturally have lower rates of sealing than older cases.
- Data for race and ethnicity at each juvenile justice system point is imperative for an accurate Racial and Ethnic Disparities (RED) analysis. The court trial database (JUSTICE) has a high rate of missing data by race/ethnicity in this county.

Table 19. Community Violence Measured by Arrests for Violent Crime (2019) ^j

Type of Violence	Hamilton	Nebraska
Murder and Nonnegligent manslaughter	0	34
Rape	1	264
Robbery	0	367
Aggravated Assault	3	1,639
Other Assaults	7	8,782

Table 20. Youth Perceptions of Community Attitudes on Substance Use by Grade (2018) ^d

		8 th	10 th	12 th
Hamilton	Wrong/very wrong – Marijuana	99.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Nebraska		94.4%	89.8%	85.2%
Hamilton	Wrong/very wrong – alcohol	98.0%	76.9%	68.8%
Nebraska		89.1%	80.4%	68.7%
Hamilton	Wrong/very wrong – cigarettes	94.9%	100.0%	75.0%
Nebraska		92.9%	89.0%	78.7%



Table 21. Juvenile Court Record Sealing Analysis (2015 – 2019) ^m

see [Appendix for yearly data](#)

	Number of charges Sealed	Total Number of charges	Sealed (%)
Dismissed or Dropped	40	57	70.2%
Offered Diversion, mediation, or RJ	--	--	--
Filed in Juv. Court	376	620	60.6%
Filed in Adult Court (M or I)	10	11	90.9%
Filed in Adult Court and Transferred to Juv. Court	--	--	--
Total	426	688	61.9%

*Cases offered diversion, mediation or RJ are not available data points in in JUSTICE. All cases filed in adult court and transferred to juvenile court overlapped with cases that were filed in adult court as a misdemeanor or infraction; as such, they were omitted from analysis



Policy, Legal and System Level

- Hamilton County is not a county required to provide counsel under statute; notably, access to counsel is very low in this community.
- Curfew filings were relatively high in the previous years but have decreased in recent years. Curfew violations, if not diverted, can net-widen juveniles into the juvenile justice system.
- There are few curfew and 3A, 3B, and 3C filings in court so the community is diverting appropriately. There have been some absenteeism filings in recent years, but the number is still low.
- With respect to diversion practices, the community may want to consider a few things:
 - Not filing all unsuccessful cases, if the youth completed most of the diversion plan
 - Allowing warning letters for the lowest risk youth
 - Comparing diversion fees to court costs so they are comparable.
 - If drug testing is needed, it should only be used on cases where the youth demonstrates a substance use issue.
 - It is not clear why all first-time offenders are not referred to diversion but perhaps this is due to the ineligible offenses.

Table 22. Percent of Youth in Juvenile Court Who Had Access to Counsel (2018) ⁿ

	Hamilton	Nebraska
Access to Counsel	20.0% -- 39.9%	73.5%

Neb. Rev. 43-272. Right to counsel; appointment; payment; guardian ad litem; appointment; when; duties; standards for guardians ad litem; standards for attorneys who practice in juvenile court.

(1)(a) In counties having a population of less than one hundred fifty thousand inhabitants, when any juvenile shall be brought without counsel before a juvenile court, the court shall advise such juvenile and his or her parent or guardian of their right to retain counsel and shall inquire of such juvenile and his or her parent or guardian as to whether they desire to retain counsel.

(b) In counties having a population of one hundred fifty thousand or more inhabitants, when any juvenile court petition is filed alleging jurisdiction of a juvenile pursuant to subdivision (1), (2), (3)(b), or (4) of section 43-247, counsel shall be appointed for such juvenile.

Table 23. Frequency of Youth with a Curfew Violation (2015 – 2019) ^m



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	Hamilton	Nebraska
Curfew Court Filing	13	352

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Total
0	0	9	3	1	13

Table 24.
Court Filing for 3A, 3B, and 3C cases (2015 – 2019) ^m

Filed Subtype	Hamilton					Total
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
3A - Homeless/Neglect	0	0	0	0	0	0
3B – Absenteeism/Truancy	0	0	5	4	6	15
3B - Uncontrollable	1	0	1	0	1	3
3C – Mentally Ill and Dangerous	0	1	0	0	0	1

Filed Subtype	Nebraska					Total
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
3A- Homeless/Neglect	0	2	0	2	3	7
3B – Absenteeism/Truancy	96	510	493	423	475	1997
3B - Uncontrollable	47	118	125	119	82	491
3C – Mentally Ill and Dangerous	22	48	37	22	23	306

Table 25.
County Diversion Procedures and Protocols Compared to Statewide Responses (2020) ^o

	Hamilton	Nebraska *
Refer ALL juveniles who are first time offenders to diversion	No	Yes: 27.3% No: 63.6% Not sure: 9.1%
File a juvenile's charges at the time of the referral to diversion	No	Yes: 18.2% No: 70.5% Not sure: 11.4%
File a juvenile's charges if they are unsuccessful on diversion	Sometimes	Always: 47.7% Sometimes: 47.7% Not sure: 4.5%
Allow a juvenile to complete diversion more than once	Yes	Yes: 61.4% No: 34.1% Not sure: 4.5%



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Charges/offenses that make a juvenile ineligible for diversion	Yes; felonies, DUI, sexual assault, assault, other violent or dangerous offenses.	Yes: 86.4% No: 9.1% Not sure: 4.5%
Warning letters instead of intervention	No	Yes: 27.3% No: 61.4% Not sure: 11.4%
Currently drug test	Yes	Yes: 31.8% No: 65.9% Not sure: 2.3%
Fees beyond restitution	Yes; depends on the offense and if online courses are required	Yes: 86.4% No: 13.6% Not sure: 0.0%
Use of graduated responses prior to discharge	Yes; we assign additional consequences if they are not compliant. If they fail to complete those or are further non-compliant, we then terminate the contract.	Yes: 47.7% No: 25.0% Not sure: 27.3%
Sealing diversion records	Yes; All juveniles under the age of 18 at the time of offense get their record sealed. We deal if on our end and then send a letter to the citing agency.	Yes: 59.1% No: 22.7% Not sure: 18.2%

*responses included 44 juvenile diversion programs; representing 68 counties/tribe (91.9% response rate)



Community Team Level

- A community lead should be able to get roughly a 75% response, to ensure active participation on planning issues, your response rate was 20.0% (2 responses).
- The rates of collective impact went up for all elements from the 2019 survey, however this may not be representative of the team with such a small number of responses.
- The community team should be representative of the population of that community but should also include diversity. It might be beneficial to add diverse member to your team (especially because of the patterns of over and under representation.)
- Although the low response rate may affect the results of community team diversity, there could be more representation from other system points not currently represented.

Table 26. Collective Impact Survey Response Rates ^P

Year of survey	Central Nebraska		Nebraska	
	2019	2020	2019	2020
Number of surveys sent	9	10	1407	780
Number of completed surveys	5	2	221	345
Response rate	55.6%	20.0%	28.3%	24.5%

Table 27. Collective Impact Survey Scores ^P

Year of survey	Central Nebraska		Nebraska	
	2019	2020	2019	2020
	Mean Score		Mean Score	
Common agenda	4.55	6.00	5.29	5.69
Mutually reinforcing	5.09	5.50	5.37	5.50
Shared measurement	4.80	5.00	5.21	5.45
Continuous communication	4.89	5.00	5.49	5.55
Backbone agency	5.38	6.00	5.52	5.78

The five elements of Collective Impact are:



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- **Common agenda:** Participants have a shared vision and common understanding of both the problem and potential solutions to that problem.
- **Mutually reinforcing activities:** Participant activities must be differentiated while still being coordinated through a mutually reinforcing plan of action.
- **Shared measurement:** Collecting data and measuring results consistently across all participants ensures efforts remain aligned and participants hold each other accountable.
- **Continuous communication:** Consistent and open communication is needed across stakeholders to build trust, assure mutual objectives, and create common motivation.
- **Backbone support:** Creating and managing Collective Impact often requires a separate organization(s) with staff and a specific set of skills to serve as the backbone for the entire initiative and to coordinate participating organizations ^q

Table 28.
Community Planning Team Diversity ^p

	Central Nebraska		Nebraska	
	N = 2	(%)	N = 345	(%)
Gender				
Male	1	50.0%	101	29.3%
Female	1	50.0%	229	66.4%
Missing	--	--	15	4.3%
Age				
Under 30	--	--	19	5.6%
30-39	--	--	68	19.6%
40-49	1	50.0%	88	25.4%
50-59	1	50.0%	90	25.8%
60 and over	--	--	44	13%
Missing	--	--	36	10.4%
Race/Ethnicity				
White	2	100%	230	66.7%
Black	--	--	10	2.9%
Hispanic	--	--	13	3.8%
Native American	--	--	6	1.7%
Asian	--	--	1	0.3%
Other	--	--	2	0.6%
Provided town name	--	--	63	18.3%
Missing	--	--	19	5.5%
Previous System Involvement				
Yes	--	--	98	28.4%



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No	2	100%	242	70.1%
Missing	--	--	5	1.4%
System Point *				
Law enforcement	--	--	34	7.8%
County attorney/ juvenile court	1	50.0%	32	7.3%
K-12 or secondary education	1	50.0%	65	14.9%
Ministry/faith based	--	--	10	2.3%
Diversion	--	--	55	12.6%
Probation	--	--	31	7.1%
Public defender/ defense counsel/ guardian ad litem	--	--	8	1.8%
DHHS or Child Welfare	--	--	13	3.0%
Treatment provider	--	--	40	9.2%
Post adjudication or detention	--	--	8	1.8%
Community based program	--	--	109	25.0%
Elected official or government	--	--	6	1.4%
Restorative practices	--	--	6	1.4%
Backbone or system improvement	--	--	3	0.7%
Other			16	3.7%
Voice on Team				
Feel heard	2	100%	270	78.3%
Do not feel heard	--	--	75	21.7%

Merrick $n = 1$, Nance $n = 1$

*note. Team members could have selected more than one system point; as such, they do not add up to 100%



References and Resources

- ^a **Population data:** Table B01001 race series, 2014-2018 American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau
Compiled and Prepared by: David Drozd, UNO Center for Public Affairs Research on July 10, 2020
- ^a **Youth employment:** Table B23001, 2014-2018 American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau
Compiled and Prepared by: David Drozd, UNO Center for Public Affairs Research on July 10, 2020
- ^a **Poverty/SES:** Table B10724, 2014-2018 American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau
Prepared by: David Drozd, UNO Center for Public Affairs Research on 3-18-2020
- ^a **Technology in household:** Table B28005, 2014-2018 American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau
Compiled by: David Drozd, UNO Center for Public Affairs Research on 8-11-20
- ^a **Home owner/transportation:** Table B25045, 2014-2018 American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau
Compiled and Prepared by: David Drozd, UNO Center for Public Affairs Research on 8-11-20
- ^a **Education attainment:** Table B15002, 2014-2018 American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau
Prepared by: David Drozd, UNO Center for Public Affairs Research on 3-18-2020
- ^b **School membership, chronic absenteeism, student disability, and free/reduced lunch:** Prepared by
Sara Simonsen, Nebraska Department of Education
- ^c **Graduation rates:** Special Tabulation by Sara Simonsen, Nebraska Department of Education
Prepared by: David Drozd, UNO Center for Public Affairs Research on 7-24-2020
- ^d **Mental health, Substance use, gang, and community perceptions of substance use:** Bureau of
Sociological Research, Nebraska Risk and Protective Factors Survey:
<https://bosr.unl.edu/current-nrpfss-county-level-data>
- ^e **Referral to and utilization of services:** Department of Health and Human Services
- ^f **Adult and juvenile arrests:** Nebraska Crime Commission, Crime Statistics:
<https://crimestats.ne.gov/public/Browse/browsetables.aspx>
- ^g Diversion programs
- ^h **Domestic violence:** Nebraska Crime Commission, Domestic Assault:
https://ncc.nebraska.gov/sites/ncc.nebraska.gov/files/doc/2019%20Domestic%20Assault%20and%20Arrest%20by%20County_0.pdf
- ⁱ Child abuse and neglect
- ^j **Community violence:** Nebraska Crime Commission, Crime Statistics:
<https://crimestats.ne.gov/public/Browse/browsetables.aspx>
- ^k **Distance to detention facility:** Google Maps
- ^l **Racial and ethnic disparities:** Prepared by Mitch Herian, University of Nebraska-Lincoln with data provided
by:



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Nebraska Crime Commission, Crime Statistics:

<https://crimestats.ne.gov/public/Browse/browsetables.aspx>

Nebraska Crime Commission, Juvenile Case Management System

Nebraska Judicial Branch Trial Court Case Management System, JUSTICE

Nebraska Judicial Branch, Juvenile Services Division

^m **Court Filings and Juvenile Record Sealing:** Data provided by the Nebraska Judicial Branch Trial Court Case Management System, JUSTICE. Prepared by: Lindsey Wylie, UNO Juvenile Justice Institute on 9-1-20

ⁿ **Access to Counsel:** Kids County in Nebraska Report, Voices for Children, retrieved from: www.voicesforchildren.com/kidscount. Data originally from Nebraska Judicial Branch Trial Court Case Management System, JUSTICE

^o **Diversion procedures and protocols:** Diversion survey distributed to Juvenile Diversion programs, 2020. Prepared by: Lindsey Wylie, UNO Juvenile Justice Institute

^p **Collective impact:** Collective impact surveys distributed to Community Planning Teams, 2019 and 2020. Prepared by: Anne Hobbs and Erin Wasserburger, UNO Juvenile Justice Institute

^q **Collective Impact Elements:** Kania, J., & Kramer, M. (2011). Collective Impact. *Stanford Social Innovation Review*.

**Appendix: Sealed Court Records by Year**

*Cases offered diversion, mediation or RJ are not available data points in in JUSTICE. All cases filed in adult court and transferred to juvenile court overlapped with cases that were filed in adult court as a misdemeanor or infraction; as such, they were omitted from analysis

2015	Number of charges Sealed	Total Number of charges	Sealed (%)
Dismissed or Dropped	7	8	87.5%
Offered Diversion, mediation, or RJ	--	--	--
Filed in Juv. Court	91	119	76.5%
Filed in Adult Court (M or I)	4	4	100%
Filed in Adult Court and Transferred to Juv. Court	--	--	--
Total	102	131	77.9%

2016	Number of charges Sealed	Total Number of charges	Sealed (%)
Dismissed or Dropped	10	15	66.7%
Offered Diversion, mediation, or RJ	--	--	--
Filed in Juv. Court	67	92	72.8%
Filed in Adult Court (M or I)	--	--	--
Filed in Adult Court and Transferred to Juv. Court	--	--	--
Total	77	107	72.0%

2017	Number of charges Sealed	Total Number of charges	Sealed (%)
Dismissed or Dropped	12	13	92.3%
Offered Diversion, mediation, or RJ	--	--	--
Filed in Juv. Court	90	162	55.6%
Filed in Adult Court (M or I)	1	1	100%
Filed in Adult Court and Transferred to Juv. Court	--	--	--
Total	103	176	58.5%



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2018	Number of charges Sealed	Total Number of charges	Sealed (%)
Dismissed or Dropped	5	14	35.7%
Offered Diversion, mediation, or RJ	--	--	--
Filed in Juv. Court	62	149	41.6%
Filed in Adult Court (M or I)	1	1	100%
Filed in Adult Court and Transferred to Juv. Court	--	--	--
Total	68	164	41.5%

2019	Number of charges Sealed	Total Number of charges	Sealed (%)
Dismissed or Dropped	6	7	85.7%
Offered Diversion, mediation, or RJ	--	--	--
Filed in Juv. Court	66	98	67.3%
Filed in Adult Court (M or I)	4	5	80.0%
Filed in Adult Court and Transferred to Juv. Court	--	--	--
Total	76	110	69.1%



Merrick County

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Youth Level

- The number of total youth with chronic absenteeism has decreased in 2018-2019 from previous years.
- While we could not get race/ethnicity data for chronic absenteeism in this community because the frequency was too low to report, Hispanic, Native American, and Black youth are over-represented statewide in chronic absenteeism.
- In 2016-2017, Merrick County had overrepresentation in chronic absenteeism regarding Hispanic youth as compared to the school membership data.
- In 2016-2017, Merrick County had more youth on free/reduced lunch than the state average; more recent numbers are lower than the state average but still over 40%.
- Merrick County has a 94.9% graduation rate over the last 5 years.
- 8th and 12th graders report loss of sleep from worry at higher rates in Merrick County compared to the state; 8th graders also report being depressed at higher rates and 12th graders report they had considered/attempted suicide at higher rates.
- 12th graders report alcohol use, binge drinking, tobacco use, and vaping at higher rates in Merrick County compared to state rates.
- 10th graders also report higher rates of binge drinking and tobacco use in Merrick County compared to the state
- 12th graders report gang involvement in Merrick County at the same rate as the state.
- Arrests for all age groups increased in Merrick County between 2018 and 2019, especially with the “all other offenses” category.
 - Increases in DUIs and drug possessions are also noted.
 - An increase in juvenile “arrests” for the “all other offenses” is also seen between 2018 and 2019 (however, with such small frequencies, this increase should be taken with caution).
- NYS domains with the highest scores are Leisure/Recreation, Peer Relationships, Family Circumstances, and Personality/Behavior. There should be programs in the community to address these.
- Law enforcement data by race and ethnicity would be very beneficial to have a clearer picture of RED. Compared to the Census and school data, Native American youth are overrepresented at probation revocation; Asian youth are overrepresented at probation intake and successful probation completion; Black youth are over-represented in probation RAI overrides; Hispanic youth are overrepresented in all diversion points, probation RAI overrides, RAI overrides, probation intakes, successful probation, and probation revocation.
 - Race/ethnicity is missing at low rates in diversion, but at higher rates with being filed on in adult court and having multiple charges filed.
 - Youth listed as multiple/other is higher for RAI probation overrides and probation revocation.
- Youth are being referred to diversion and enrolling and successfully completing diversion at the same rate.

Table 1.



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Distribution of the Population Age 10-17 by Race/Ethnicity and Gender (5-year estimates, 2014-2018) ^a

Males

Geographic Area	Total Count	Non-Hispanic White	Hispanic or Latino	Black	American Indian	Asian or Pacific Islander	2+ Races
Nebraska	108,494	70.4%	16.2%	5.7%	1.4%	2.0%	4.4%
Merrick	406	94.6%	5.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

Females

Geographic Area	Total Count	Non-Hispanic White	Hispanic or Latino	Black	American Indian	Asian or Pacific Islander	2+ Races
Nebraska	102,658	70.4%	16.2%	5.7%	1.4%	2.0%	4.4%
Merrick	351	89.7%	6.0%	4.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

[Click here to go back to RED analysis](#)

Table 2.

School Membership by Race/ Ethnicity and School Year (2014-2019) ^b

Year	Geographic Area	Total Count	Hispanic	Asian	American Indian or Alaska Native	Black or African American	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific islander	White	Two or More Races
2014-2015	Merrick	975	5.33%	0.41%	0.82%	0.41%	0.10%	92.00%	0.92%
	Nebraska	312,281	17.74%	2.43%	1.42%	6.70%	0.13%	68.20%	3.38%
2015-2016	Merrick	984	4.57%	0.30%	0.81%	0.41%	0.10%	92.89%	0.91%
	Nebraska	315,542	18.08%	2.53%	1.38%	6.67%	0.14%	67.72%	3.47%
2016-2017	Merrick	998	5.61%	0.10%	0.60%	0.40%	0.20%	92.38%	0.70%
	Nebraska	318,853	18.61%	2.66%	1.38%	6.69%	0.15%	66.92%	3.59%
2017-2018	Merrick	1,043	5.75%	0.00%	0.67%	0.58%	0.10%	91.85%	1.05%
	Nebraska	323,391	18.80%	2.76%	1.35%	6.67%	0.14%	66.50%	3.78%
2018-2019	Merrick	1,065	5.54%	0.28%	0.47%	0.56%	0.09%	91.83%	1.22%
	Nebraska	325,984	19.13%	2.83%	1.33%	6.63%	0.15%	66.02%	3.91%

Table 3.

Chronic Absenteeism by Race/Ethnicity and School Year (2014 - 2019) ^b



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Year	Geographic Area	Total Youth with Chronic Absenteeism	Hispanic	Asian	American Indian or Alaska Native	Black or African American	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	White	Two or More Races
2014-2015	Merrick	76	*	*	*	*	*	100.00%	*
	Nebraska	35,638	24.54%	1.64%	4.42%	12.93%	0.19%	51.61%	4.68%
2015-2016	Merrick	57	*	*	*	*	*	100.00%	*
	Nebraska	38,812	25.73%	1.55%	4.27%	13.68%	0.27%	49.68%	4.83%
2016-2017	Merrick	75	14.67%	*	*	*	*	85.33%	*
	Nebraska	42,290	26.90%	1.66%	4.40%	14.22%	0.24%	47.66%	4.92%
2017-2018	Merrick	73	*	*	*	*	*	100.00%	*
	Nebraska	46,365	26.81%	1.77%	4.18%	14.49%	0.22%	47.37%	2389
2018-2019	Merrick	53	*	*	*	*	*	100.00%	*
	Nebraska	46,356	27.64%	1.76%	4.16%	14.71%	0.23%	46.27%	5.23%

Per the Nebraska Department of Education, the * represents masked data, which they define as 10 or fewer students, for the confidentiality of the students

Table 4.
 Disabilities, English Proficiency, Eligibility for Free/Reduced Lunch and School Year (2014 – 2019) ^b

Year	Geographic Area	Total Count	IDEA	504 Plan	Limited English Proficiency	Free/Reduced Lunch
2014-2015	Merrick	975	14.26%	1.64%	*	40.51%
	Nebraska	312,281	13.66%	0.76%	5.97%	44.53%
2015-2016	Merrick	984	14.33%	1.32%	*	41.97%
	Nebraska	315,542	13.64%	0.90%	5.90%	44.23%
2016-2017	Merrick	998	13.43%	*	*	45.09%
	Nebraska	318,853	13.80%	0.93%	6.99%	44.76%
2017-2018	Merrick	1,043	15.34%	*	*	41.32%
	Nebraska	323,391	15.87%	0.88%	6.59%	46.24%
2018-2019	Merrick	1,065	15.77%	*	*	44.23%
	Nebraska	325,984	16.13%	0.85%	6.78%	45.42%

Per the Nebraska Department of Education, the * represents masked data, which they define as 10 or fewer students, for the confidentiality of the students

Table 5.
 Nebraska Public High School 4-Year Graduation Rates by County (5-year estimates, 2015-2019) ^c

County	Total in Last 5 Years		Yearly Averages		Graduation Rate	Rank
	Graduates	Students	Graduates	Students		



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Nebraska	100,111	112,857	20,022.2	22,571.4	88.7%	-
Merrick	334	352	33.4	35.2	94.9%	37

Data are only for public school districts and their associated high schools. The figures are aggregated based on the location of the school, not the residential location of the student. The figures for Dawes County are impacted by a vocational school where graduation rates are less than 25%; in the rest of the county graduation rates equal 93%.

Table 6.

Youth Who Report Mental Health Symptoms and Substance Use by Grade (2018) ^d

		8 th	10 th	12 th
Merrick	Loss of sleep from worry	23.4%	18.8%	29.4%
Nebraska		18.0%	20.6%	21.6%
Merrick	Depressed	38.5%	23.5%	35.3%
Nebraska		31.1%	34.8%	35.3%
Merrick	Considered/Attempted suicide	17.2%	14.5%	19.6%
Nebraska		22.9%	18.2%	16.2%
Merrick	Current alcohol	3.1%	15.9%	39.2%
Nebraska		9.8%	20.1%	34.2%
Merrick	Current binge drinking	0.0%	8.7%	15.7%
Nebraska		1.3%	6.2%	15.0%
Merrick	Current marijuana	0.0%	1.4%	5.9%
Nebraska		3.0%	7.3%	13.9%
Merrick	Current tobacco	0.0%	13.0%	27.5%
Nebraska		3.7%	8.0%	15.3%
Merrick	Current vaping	7.8%	23.2%	47.1%
Nebraska		10.4%	24.7%	37.3%
Merrick	Hopeful for future (past week)	81.5%	76.5%	82.4%
Nebraska		72.1%	74.7%	78.4%

**** JJI is currently waiting for the legal team at DHHS to approve providing this data**

Table 7.

Juveniles Referred to Services ^e

Table 8.

Juveniles Referred to Services by Race/Ethnicity, Gender, and Mental Health Diagnosis ^e

Table 9.



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Juveniles Who Utilized Services ^e

Table 10.

Types of Services Utilized ^e

Table 11.

Youth Who Report Gang Involvement by Grade (2018) ^d

		8 th	10 th	12 th
Merrick	Youth Reported Gang Involvement	1.6%	1.4%	3.9%
Nebraska		3.8%	4.4%	3.8%

Table 12.

Arrest Rates for Adults and Juveniles for 2018 and 2019 with Percent Change ^f

Arrestee Age	All Arrestee Ages			Under 18		
	2018	2019	2018 - 2019 Growth %	2018	2019	2018 - 2019 Growth %
Summary Arrest Date						
Jurisdiction by Geography	MERRICK COUNTY					
Arrest Offense						
Total	102	191	87.25	5	10	100.00
Rape Total	-	2	-	-	-	-
Aggravated Assault Total	2	2	0.00	-	-	-
Burglary Total	-	1	-	-	0	-
Larceny-Theft Total	5	-	-100.00	-	-	-
Motor Vehicle Theft Total	1	-	-100.00	-	-	-
Other Assaults	7	10	42.86	1	1	0.00
Fraud	-	2	-	-	-	-
Stolen Property; Buying, Receiving, Possessing	-	3	-	-	-	-
Vandalism	-	2	-	-	-	-
Weapons; Carrying, Possessing, etc.	2	4	100.00	-	-	-
Drug Violations - Sale/Manufacturing	-	1	-	-	-	-
Drug Violations - Possession	10	27	170.00	-	3	-
Driving Under the Influence	14	23	64.29	1	0	-100.00
Liquor Laws	15	11	-26.67	1	2	100.00



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All Other Offenses (Except Traffic)	45	103	128.89	1	4	300.00
Runaways	1	-	-100.00	1	-	-100.00

Table 13.
Risk Assessment Domains for Youth Assessed on Diversion (2015 - 2017) ^g

Score	Merrick			All NYS Counties		
	0	1	2	0	1	2
Family Circumstance/Parenting	68.6%	20.0%	11.4%	60.1%	26.7%	13.1%
Education/Employment	85.7%	11.4%	2.9%	43.0%	44.0%	13.1%
Peer Relationships	14.3%	65.7%	20.0%	44.7%	46.6%	8.6%
Substance Use	51.4%	45.7%	2.9%	61.4%	30.3%	8.3%
Leisure/Recreation	51.4%	22.9%	25.7%	50.6%	33.0%	16.5%
Personality/Behavior	62.9%	31.4%	5.7%	50.1%	39.4%	10.4%
Attitudes/Orientation	80.0%	17.1%	2.9%	61.3%	33.7%	5.0%
Mean Score	<i>M</i> = 4.28, <i>SD</i> = 3.79, 0-15			<i>M</i> = 5.64, <i>SD</i> = 3.65, 0-17		

Merrick County *n* = 39; Statewide *n* = 1512

Table 14.
Racial and Ethnic Disparities Descriptives (2015-2019) ^l

[Click here to see Census and School Population Data](#)

See [Appendix for yearly data](#)

System Point	N	Amer. Indian/Alaskan Native	Asian/Pacific Islander	Black	Hispanic/Latino	Multiple/Other	Unspec/Missing	White
Law enforcement contact	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth taken to temporary custody	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth issued citation/referral	30	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth referred to diversion	60	0%	0%	0%	8.30%	0%	1.70%	90%
Youth enrolled in diversion	54	0%	0%	0%	7.40%	0%	1.90%	90.70%
Successful completion diversion	48	0%	0%	0%	8.30%	0%	2.10%	89.60%
Youth with multiple charges	14	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	21.40%	78.60%



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Filed on in adult court	5	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	40%	60%
RAI Override: More Severe	9	0%	0%	0%	33.30%	0%	0%	66.70%
RAI Override: Less Severe	4	0%	0%	25%	25%	25%	0%	25%
Probation intake	37	0%	2.70%	2.70%	24.30%	2.70%	0%	67.60%
Successful probation	74	0%	1.40%	1.40%	10.80%	0%	0%	86.50%
Revocation of probation	40	2.50%	0%	0%	12.50%	7.50%	0%	77.50%
Youth in OJS custody	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
OJS custody: placed in detention	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth booked into detention	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth booked into detention more than once	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--



Family Level

- Merrick County has lower rates of youth in poverty compared to the state.
- Number of adults with bachelor's degrees is lower than the state average; it may be possible that residents who go to college outside of Merrick County find employment where they go to school and do not return to Merrick County.
- Youth in Merrick County have access to computers and internet at home at higher rates than the state.
- There are more house in Merrick County without vehicles compared to the state.
- All grades report feeling less supported by adults at school compared to the state.
- 73% of child abuse and neglect cases are unfounded.

Table 15.

Poverty/SES, Educational Attainment, Technology and Computers in Home, Housing, and Transportation (5-year estimates, 2014-2018) ^a

Measurement		Merrick	Nebraska
Poverty/SES	Children <18 in Poverty	11.0%	14.8%
	Number of children 12-17 below 185% poverty	160	43,814
	Percent of children 12-17 below 185% poverty	27.4	28.9
Educational attainment	Age 25+ with B.D.	17.4%	31.3%
	County rank	82	-
	Age 25+ with some college, no degree	32.0%	23.0%
	County rank	2	-
	Age 25+ with HS degree	94.0%	91.1%
	County Rank	23	-
Technology and computers in the home	% under 18 with a computer at home	97.3%	96.9%
	County rank	64	-
	% under 18 with an internet subscription at home	91.1%	91.0%
	County rank	49	-
	% under 18 with broadband internet access at home	90.9%	90.8%



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	County Rank	48	-
Housing	Owner-occupied households	2,434	498,567
	Total households	3,324	754,063
	Owner %	73.2%	66.1%
	Renters	890	255,496
	Renter %	26.8%	33.9%
Transportation	Households with no vehicle available	221	40,465
	Total households	3,324	754,063
	No vehicle %	6.6%	5.4%

Table 16.
Youth Who Report Supportive Adults by Grade (2018) ^d

		8 th	10 th	12 th
Merrick	Adult at home who listens	92.3%	89.7%	90.2%
Nebraska		87.3%	85.0%	85.6%
Merrick	Adult at school who listens	83.1%	81.2%	78.4%
Nebraska		85.2%	85.0%	87.4%

Table 17.
Domestic Violence Reports and Cleared by Arrest or Exceptional Means ^h

	Aggravated Domestic Assaults Reported	Aggravated Domestic Assaults Cleared by Arrest or Exceptional Means	Simple Domestic Assaults Reported	Simple Domestic Assaults Cleared by Arrest or Exceptional Means
Merrick	4	4	2	2
Nebraska	562	402	2512	2019

Table 18.
Child Abuse and Neglect Reports ⁱ

	Abuse/Neglect Calls	Reports Assessed	Substantiated	Unfounded
Merrick	104	36%	14%	73%
Nebraska	36,480	33.4%	16.0%	68.3%



Community Level

- With regard to how youth perceive how their community feels about substance use, 8th and 10th graders are reporting lower than state averages for alcohol and cigarettes, and 8th graders report lower than the state average for cigarettes.
- Juvenile record sealing is not “automatic” even if statute requires it to seal. Sealing a record requires administrative staff to initiate the process. Dismissed or dropped cases should be sealed at a rate of 100%. All others should be sealed at the rate to which youth successfully complete their court requirements (completion of diversion, probation, restorative practice, or other treatment). Yearly data is available in the Appendix to see if the rate has improved because of legislation, but newer cases should naturally have lower rates of sealing than older cases.
- Data for race and ethnicity at each juvenile justice system point is imperative for an accurate Racial and Ethnic Disparities (RED) analysis. The court trial database (JUSTICE) has a high rate of missing data by race/ethnicity in this county.

Table 19.

Community Violence Measured by Arrests for Violent Crime (2019) ^j

Type of Violence	Merrick	Nebraska
Murder and Nonnegligent manslaughter	0	34
Rape	2	264
Robbery	0	367
Aggravated Assault	2	1,639
Other Assaults	10	8,782

Table 20.

Youth Perceptions of Community Attitudes on Substance Use by Grade (2018) ^d

		8 th	10 th	12 th
Merrick	Wrong/very wrong – Marijuana	96.8%	97.1%	92.2%
Nebraska		94.4%	89.8%	85.2%
Merrick	Wrong/very wrong – alcohol	87.1%	75.4%	68.6%
Nebraska		89.1%	80.4%	68.7%
Merrick	Wrong/very wrong – cigarettes	87.1%	89.9%	80.0%
Nebraska		92.9%	89.0%	78.7%



Table 21.
Juvenile Court Record Sealing Analysis (2015 – 2019) ^m

see [Appendix for yearly data](#)

	Number of charges Sealed	Total Number of charges	Sealed (%)
Dismissed or Dropped	39	61	63.9%
Offered Diversion, mediation, or RJ	--	--	--
Filed in Juv. Court	172	388	44.3%
Filed in Adult Court (M or I)	6	7	85.7%
Filed in Adult Court and Transferred to Juv. Court	0	1	0.0%
Total	217	459	47.3%

*Cases offered diversion, mediation or RJ are not available data points in in JUSTICE. Some cases filed in adult court and transferred to juvenile court overlapped with cases that were filed in adult court as a misdemeanor or infraction; as such, they were omitted from analysis



Policy, Legal and System Level

- Despite not being in a county required to provide counsel under statute, access to counsel is similar to the state average, but still lower than ideal.
- Curfew filings were relatively high in the previous years but have decreased in recent years. Curfew violations, if not diverted, can net-widen juveniles into the juvenile justice system.
- There are few curfew and 3A, 3B, and 3C filings in court so the community is diverting appropriately. There have been some absenteeism filings in recent years, but the number is still low.
- With respect to diversion practices, the community may want to consider a few things:
 - Not filing all unsuccessful cases, if the youth completed most of the diversion plan
 - Allowing warning letters for the lowest risk youth
 - Comparing diversion fees to court costs so they are comparable.
 - If drug testing is needed, it should only be used on cases where the youth demonstrates a substance use issue.
 - It is not clear why all first-time offenders are not referred to diversion but perhaps this is due to the ineligible offenses.

Table 22.
Percent of Youth in Juvenile Court Who Had Access to Counsel (2018) ⁿ

	Merrick	Nebraska
Access to Counsel	60.0% -- 79.9%	73.5%

Neb. Rev. 43-272. Right to counsel; appointment; payment; guardian ad litem; appointment; when; duties; standards for guardians ad litem; standards for attorneys who practice in juvenile court.

(1)(a) In counties having a population of less than one hundred fifty thousand inhabitants, when any juvenile shall be brought without counsel before a juvenile court, the court shall advise such juvenile and his or her parent or guardian of their right to retain counsel and shall inquire of such juvenile and his or her parent or guardian as to whether they desire to retain counsel.

(b) In counties having a population of one hundred fifty thousand or more inhabitants, when any juvenile court petition is filed alleging jurisdiction of a juvenile pursuant to subdivision (1), (2), (3)(b), or (4) of section 43-247, counsel shall be appointed for such juvenile.

Table 23.
Frequency of Youth with a Curfew Violation (2015 – 2019) ^m



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	Merrick	Nebraska
Curfew Court Filing	14	352

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Total
0	7	6	1	0	14

Table 24.
Court Filing for 3A, 3B, and 3C cases (2015 – 2019) ^m

Filed Subtype	Merrick					Total
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
3A- Homeless/Neglect	0	0	0	0	0	0
3B – Absenteeism/Truancy	0	1	3	3	0	7
3B - Uncontrollable	1	0	0	0	0	1
3C – Mentally Ill and Dangerous	1	0	0	0	0	1

Filed Subtype	Nebraska					Total
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
3A- Homeless/Neglect	0	2	0	2	3	7
3B – Absenteeism/Truancy	96	510	493	423	475	1997
3B - Uncontrollable	47	118	125	119	82	491
3C – Mentally Ill and Dangerous	22	48	37	22	23	306

Table 25.
County Diversion Procedures and Protocols Compared to Statewide Responses (2020) ^o

	Merrick	Nebraska *
Refer ALL juveniles who are first time offenders to diversion	No	Yes: 27.3% No: 63.6% Not sure: 9.1%
File a juvenile's charges at the time of the referral to diversion	No	Yes: 18.2% No: 70.5% Not sure: 11.4%
File a juvenile's charges if they are unsuccessful on diversion	Sometimes	Always: 47.7% Sometimes: 47.7% Not sure: 4.5%
Allow a juvenile to complete diversion more than once	Yes	Yes: 61.4% No: 34.1% Not sure: 4.5%



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Charges/offenses that make a juvenile ineligible for diversion	Yes; felonies, DUI, sexual assault, assault, other violent or dangerous offenses.	Yes: 86.4% No: 9.1% Not sure: 4.5%
Warning letters instead of intervention	No	Yes: 27.3% No: 61.4% Not sure: 11.4%
Currently drug test	Yes	Yes: 31.8% No: 65.9% Not sure: 2.3%
Fees beyond restitution	Yes; depends on the offense and if online courses are required	Yes: 86.4% No: 13.6% Not sure: 0.0%
Use of graduated responses prior to discharge	Yes; we assign additional consequences if they are not compliant. If they fail to complete those or are further non-compliant, we then terminate the contract.	Yes: 47.7% No: 25.0% Not sure: 27.3%
Sealing diversion records	Yes; All juveniles under the age of 18 at the time of offense get their record sealed. We deal if on our end and then send a letter to the citing agency.	Yes: 59.1% No: 22.7% Not sure: 18.2%

*responses included 44 juvenile diversion programs; representing 68 counties/tribe (91.9% response rate)



Community Team Level

- A community lead should be able to get roughly a 75% response, to ensure active participation on planning issues, your response rate was 20.0% (2 responses).
- The rates of collective impact went up for all elements from the 2019 survey, however this may not be representative of the team with such a small number of responses.
- The community team should be representative of the population of that community but should also include diversity. It might be beneficial to add diverse member to your team (especially because of the patterns of over and under representation.)
- Although the low response rate may affect the results of community team diversity, there could be more representation from other system points not currently represented.

Table 26. Collective Impact Survey Response Rates ^P

Year of survey	Central Nebraska		Nebraska	
	2019	2020	2019	2020
Number of surveys sent	9	10	1407	780
Number of completed surveys	5	2	221	345
Response rate	55.6%	20.0%	28.3%	24.5%

Table 27. Collective Impact Survey Scores ^P

Year of survey	Central Nebraska		Nebraska	
	2019	2020	2019	2020
	Mean Score		Mean Score	
Common agenda	4.55	6.00	5.29	5.69
Mutually reinforcing	5.09	5.50	5.37	5.50
Shared measurement	4.80	5.00	5.21	5.45
Continuous communication	4.89	5.00	5.49	5.55
Backbone agency	5.38	6.00	5.52	5.78

The five elements of Collective Impact are:



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- **Common agenda:** Participants have a shared vision and common understanding of both the problem and potential solutions to that problem.
- **Mutually reinforcing activities:** Participant activities must be differentiated while still being coordinated through a mutually reinforcing plan of action.
- **Shared measurement:** Collecting data and measuring results consistently across all participants ensures efforts remain aligned and participants hold each other accountable.
- **Continuous communication:** Consistent and open communication is needed across stakeholders to build trust, assure mutual objectives, and create common motivation.
- **Backbone support:** Creating and managing Collective Impact often requires a separate organization(s) with staff and a specific set of skills to serve as the backbone for the entire initiative and to coordinate participating organizations ^a

Table 28.
Community Planning Team Diversity ^p

	Central Nebraska		Nebraska	
	N = 2	(%)	N = 345	(%)
Gender				
Male	1	50.0%	101	29.3%
Female	1	50.0%	229	66.4%
Missing	--	--	15	4.3%
Age				
Under 30	--	--	19	5.6%
30-39	--	--	68	19.6%
40-49	1	50.0%	88	25.4%
50-59	1	50.0%	90	25.8%
60 and over	--	--	44	13%
Missing	--	--	36	10.4%
Race/Ethnicity				
White	2	100%	230	66.7%
Black	--	--	10	2.9%
Hispanic	--	--	13	3.8%
Native American	--	--	6	1.7%
Asian	--	--	1	0.3%
Other	--	--	2	0.6%
Provided town name	--	--	63	18.3%
Missing	--	--	19	5.5%
Previous System Involvement				
Yes	--	--	98	28.4%



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No	2	100%	242	70.1%
Missing	--	--	5	1.4%
System Point *				
Law enforcement	--	--	34	7.8%
County attorney/ juvenile court	1	50.0%	32	7.3%
K-12 or secondary education	1	50.0%	65	14.9%
Ministry/faith based	--	--	10	2.3%
Diversion	--	--	55	12.6%
Probation	--	--	31	7.1%
Public defender/ defense counsel/ guardian ad litem	--	--	8	1.8%
DHHS or Child Welfare	--	--	13	3.0%
Treatment provider	--	--	40	9.2%
Post adjudication or detention	--	--	8	1.8%
Community based program	--	--	109	25.0%
Elected official or government	--	--	6	1.4%
Restorative practices	--	--	6	1.4%
Backbone or system improvement	--	--	3	0.7%
Other			16	3.7%
Voice on Team				
Feel heard	2	100%	270	78.3%
Do not feel heard	--	--	75	21.7%

Merrick $n = 1$, Nance $n = 1$

*note. Team members could have selected more than one system point; as such, they do not add up to 100%



References and Resources

- ^a **Population data:** Table B01001 race series, 2014-2018 American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau
Compiled and Prepared by: David Drozd, UNO Center for Public Affairs Research on July 10, 2020
- ^a **Youth employment:** Table B23001, 2014-2018 American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau
Compiled and Prepared by: David Drozd, UNO Center for Public Affairs Research on July 10, 2020
- ^a **Poverty/SES:** Table B10724, 2014-2018 American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau
Prepared by: David Drozd, UNO Center for Public Affairs Research on 3-18-2020
- ^a **Technology in household:** Table B28005, 2014-2018 American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau
Compiled by: David Drozd, UNO Center for Public Affairs Research on 8-11-20
- ^a **Home owner/transportation:** Table B25045, 2014-2018 American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau
Compiled and Prepared by: David Drozd, UNO Center for Public Affairs Research on 8-11-20
- ^a **Education attainment:** Table B15002, 2014-2018 American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau
Prepared by: David Drozd, UNO Center for Public Affairs Research on 3-18-2020
- ^b **School membership, chronic absenteeism, student disability, and free/reduced lunch:** Prepared by
Sara Simonsen, Nebraska Department of Education
- ^c **Graduation rates:** Special Tabulation by Sara Simonsen, Nebraska Department of Education
Prepared by: David Drozd, UNO Center for Public Affairs Research on 7-24-2020
- ^d **Mental health, Substance use, gang, and community perceptions of substance use:** Bureau of
Sociological Research, Nebraska Risk and Protective Factors Survey:
<https://bosr.unl.edu/current-nrpfss-county-level-data>
- ^e **Referral to and utilization of services:** Department of Health and Human Services
- ^f **Adult and juvenile arrests:** Nebraska Crime Commission, Crime Statistics:
<https://crimestats.ne.gov/public/Browse/browsetables.aspx>
- ^g Diversion programs
- ^h **Domestic violence:** Nebraska Crime Commission, Domestic Assault:
https://ncc.nebraska.gov/sites/ncc.nebraska.gov/files/doc/2019%20Domestic%20Assault%20and%20Arrest%20by%20County_0.pdf
- ⁱ Child abuse and neglect
- ^j **Community violence:** Nebraska Crime Commission, Crime Statistics:
<https://crimestats.ne.gov/public/Browse/browsetables.aspx>
- ^k **Distance to detention facility:** Google Maps
- ^l **Racial and ethnic disparities:** Prepared by Mitch Herian, University of Nebraska-Lincoln with data provided
by:



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Nebraska Crime Commission, Crime Statistics:

<https://crimestats.ne.gov/public/Browse/browsetables.aspx>

Nebraska Crime Commission, Juvenile Case Management System

Nebraska Judicial Branch Trial Court Case Management System, JUSTICE

Nebraska Judicial Branch, Juvenile Services Division

^m **Court Filings and Juvenile Record Sealing:** Data provided by the Nebraska Judicial Branch Trial Court Case Management System, JUSTICE. Prepared by: Lindsey Wylie, UNO Juvenile Justice Institute on 9-1-20

ⁿ **Access to Counsel:** Kids County in Nebraska Report, Voices for Children, retrieved from: www.voicesforchildren.com/kidscount. Data originally from Nebraska Judicial Branch Trial Court Case Management System, JUSTICE

^o **Diversion procedures and protocols:** Diversion survey distributed to Juvenile Diversion programs, 2020. Prepared by: Lindsey Wylie, UNO Juvenile Justice Institute

^p **Collective impact:** Collective impact surveys distributed to Community Planning Teams, 2019 and 2020. Prepared by: Anne Hobbs and Erin Wasserburger, UNO Juvenile Justice Institute

^q **Collective Impact Elements:** Kania, J., & Kramer, M. (2011). Collective Impact. *Stanford Social Innovation Review*.



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Appendix: RED Descriptives

2015

System Point	N	Amer. Indian/ Alaskan Native	Asian/ Pacific Islander	Black	Hispanic/ Latino	Multiple/ Other	Unspec/ Missing	White
Law enforcement contact	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth taken to temporary custody	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth issued citation/referral	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth referred to diversion	14	0%	0%	0%	14.30%	0%	0%	85.70%
Youth enrolled in diversion	14	0%	0%	0%	14.30%	0%	0%	85.70%
Successful completion diversion	12	0%	0%	0%	16.70%	0%	0%	83.30%
Youth with multiple charges	0	NA%	NA%	NA%	NA%	0%	NA%	NA%
Filed on in adult court	1	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
RAI Override: More Severe	2	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
RAI Override: Less Severe	1	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Probation intake	11	0%	0%	9.10%	27.30%	0%	0%	63.60%
Successful probation	16	0%	0%	0%	12.50%	0%	0%	87.50%
Revocation of probation	6	0%	0%	0%	16.70%	0%	0%	83.30%
Youth in OJS custody	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
OJS custody: placed in detention	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth booked into detention	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth booked into detention more than once	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--



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2016

System Point	N	Amer. Indian/ Alaskan Native	Asian/ Pacific Islander	Black	Hispanic/ Latino	Multiple/ Other	Unspec/ Missing	White
Law enforcement contact	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth taken to temporary custody	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth issued citation/referral	4	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth referred to diversion	13	0%	0%	0%	7.70%	0%	0%	92.30%
Youth enrolled in diversion	8	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
Successful completion diversion	8	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
Youth with multiple charges	5	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
Filed on in adult court	1	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
RAI Override: More Severe	2	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%
RAI Override: Less Severe	0	NA%	NA%	NA%	NA%	NA%	0%	NA%
Probation intake	7	0%	0%	0%	42.90%	0%	0%	57.10%
Successful probation	15	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
Revocation of probation	7	0%	0%	0%	14.30%	0%	0%	85.70%
Youth in OJS custody	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
OJS custody: placed in detention	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth booked into detention	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth booked into detention more than once	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--



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2017

System Point	N	Amer. Indian/ Alaskan Native	Asian/ Pacific Islander	Black	Hispanic/ Latino	Multiple/ Other	Unspec/ Missing	White
Law enforcement contact	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth taken to temporary custody	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth issued citation/referral	11	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth referred to diversion	18	0%	0%	0%	5.60%	0%	5.60%	88.90%
Youth enrolled in diversion	17	0%	0%	0%	5.90%	0%	5.90%	88.20%
Successful completion diversion	14	0%	0%	0%	7.10%	0%	7.10%	85.70%
Youth with multiple charges	4	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
Filed on in adult court	0	NA%	NA%	NA%	NA%	0%	NA%	NA%
RAI Override: More Severe	1	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%
RAI Override: Less Severe	1	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
Probation intake	9	0%	0%	0%	22.20%	0%	0%	77.80%
Successful probation	16	0%	0%	6.20%	6.20%	0%	0%	87.50%
Revocation of probation	10	0%	0%	0%	20%	0%	0%	80%
Youth in OJS custody	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
OJS custody: placed in detention	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth booked into detention	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth booked into detention more than once	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--



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2018

System Point	N	Amer. Indian/ Alaskan Native	Asian/ Pacific Islander	Black	Hispanic/ Latino	Multiple/ Other	Unspec/ Missing	White
Law enforcement contact	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth taken to temporary custody	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth issued citation/referral	5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth referred to diversion	8	0%	0%	0%	12.50%	0%	0%	87.50%
Youth enrolled in diversion	8	0%	0%	0%	12.50%	0%	0%	87.50%
Successful completion diversion	7	0%	0%	0%	14.30%	0%	0%	85.70%
Youth with multiple charges	1	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
Filed on in adult court	1	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
RAI Override: More Severe	1	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
RAI Override: Less Severe	1	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%
Probation intake	4	0%	25%	0%	0%	25%	0%	50%
Successful probation	22	0%	0%	0%	18.20%	0%	0%	81.80%
Revocation of probation	11	9.10%	0%	0%	9.10%	0%	0%	81.80%
Youth in OJS custody	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
OJS custody: placed in detention	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth booked into detention	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth booked into detention more than once	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--



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2019

System Point	N	Amer. Indian/ Alaskan Native	Asian/ Pacific Islander	Black	Hispanic/ Latino	Multiple/ Other	Unspec/ Missing	White
Law enforcement contact	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth taken to temporary custody	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth issued citation/referral	10	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth referred to diversion	7	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
Youth enrolled in diversion	7	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
Successful completion diversion	7	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
Youth with multiple charges	4	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	75%	25%
Filed on in adult court	2	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%
RAI Override: More Severe	3	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
RAI Override: Less Severe	1	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%
Probation intake	6	0%	0%	0%	16.70%	0%	0%	83.30%
Successful probation	5	0%	20%	0%	20%	0%	0%	60%
Revocation of probation	6	0%	0%	0%	0%	50%	0%	50%
Youth in OJS custody	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
OJS custody: placed in detention	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth booked into detention	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth booked into detention more than once	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

**Appendix: Sealed Court Records by Year**

*Cases offered diversion, mediation or RJ are not available data points in in JUSTICE. Some cases filed in adult court and transferred to juvenile court overlapped with cases that were filed in adult court as a misdemeanor or infraction; as such, they were omitted from analysis

2015	Number of charges Sealed	Total Number of charges	Sealed (%)
Dismissed or Dropped	3	8	37.5%
Offered Diversion, mediation, or RJ	--	--	--
Filed in Juv. Court	37	65	56.9%
Filed in Adult Court (M or I)	1	1	100%
Filed in Adult Court and Transferred to Juv. Court	--	--	--
Total	41	74	55.4%

2016	Number of charges Sealed	Total Number of charges	Sealed (%)
Dismissed or Dropped	8	17	47.1%
Offered Diversion, mediation, or RJ	--	--	--
Filed in Juv. Court	53	113	46.9%
Filed in Adult Court (M or I)	4	4	100%
Filed in Adult Court and Transferred to Juv. Court	--	--	--
Total	65	134	48.5%

2017	Number of charges Sealed	Total Number of charges	Sealed (%)
Dismissed or Dropped	9	9	100%
Offered Diversion, mediation, or RJ	--	--	--
Filed in Juv. Court	66	117	56.4%
Filed in Adult Court (M or I)	1	1	100%
Filed in Adult Court and Transferred to Juv. Court	--	--	--
Total	76	127	59.8%



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2018	Number of charges Sealed	Total Number of charges	Sealed (%)
Dismissed or Dropped	12	15	80.0%
Offered Diversion, mediation, or RJ	--	--	--
Filed in Juv. Court	11	49	22.4%
Filed in Adult Court (M or I)	0	1	0.0%
Filed in Adult Court and Transferred to Juv. Court	--	--	--
Total	23	65	35.4%

2019	Number of charges Sealed	Total Number of charges	Sealed (%)
Dismissed or Dropped	7	11	63.6%
Offered Diversion, mediation, or RJ	--	--	--
Filed in Juv. Court	5	43	11.6%
Filed in Adult Court (M or I)	--	--	--
Filed in Adult Court and Transferred to Juv. Court	0	1	0.0%
Total	12	57	21.1%



Nance County

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Appendix: Sealed Court Records by Year22



Youth Level

- The number of total youth with chronic absenteeism has decreased in past year.
- While we could not get race/ethnicity data for chronic absenteeism in this community because the frequency was too low to report, Hispanic, Native American, and Black youth are over-represented statewide in chronic absenteeism.
- There were more youth on IDEA and 504 plans in Nance County compared to state averages in previous years, but it has decreased in the recent years.
- Nance County has a 93.1% graduation rate over the last 5 years.
- 12th graders report loss of sleep from worry, being depressed, and considering/attempting suicide at higher rates in Nance County compared to the state.
- 12th graders report current alcohol, binge drinking, and marijuana use at higher rates in Nance County compared to the state.
 - 50% of youth in 12th grade report alcohol use
- 10th graders report alcohol, binge drinking, and tobacco use at higher rates in Nance County compared to the state.
- 10th graders report higher rates of vaping in Nance County compared to the state.
 - There are a lot of 0% reporting in the substance abuse, which is lower than the state in these areas
- The Nance County sheriff did not submit arrest data to the Crime Commission during 2018, so we are not able to determine if arrests for both age groups has increased or decreased from 2018 to 2019.
- NYS domains with the highest scores are Peer Relationships, Leisure/Recreation, Substance Use, and Family Circumstances/Parenting. There should be programs in the community to address these.
- Law enforcement data by race and ethnicity would be very beneficial to have a clearer picture of RED. Compared to the Census and school data, Hispanic youth are overrepresented with multiple charges being filed, at probation RAI overrides, probation intakes, and probation revocation. Note that some of these system points have very low numbers overall which could make the percentages look much higher.
 - There is race/ethnicity data missing at all the diversion points.
- Youth are being referred to diversion and enrolling in diversion at the same rate; successfully completing is slightly lower.

Table 1.

Distribution of the Population Age 10-17 by Race/Ethnicity and Gender (5-year estimates, 2014-2018) ^a



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Males

Geographic Area	Total Count	Non-Hispanic White	Hispanic or Latino	Black	American Indian	Asian or Pacific Islander	2+ Races
Nebraska	108,494	70.4%	16.2%	5.7%	1.4%	2.0%	4.4%
Nance	158	93.7%	6.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

Females

Geographic Area	Total Count	Non-Hispanic White	Hispanic or Latino	Black	American Indian	Asian or Pacific Islander	2+ Races
Nebraska	102,658	69.9%	15.8%	5.2%	1.2%	2.5%	5.4%
Nance	182	90.7%	5.5%	0.0%	3.8%	0.0%	0.0%

[Click here to go back to RED analysis](#)

Table 2.

School Membership by Race/ Ethnicity and School Year (2014-2019) ^b

Year	Geographic Area	Total Count	Hispanic	Asian	American Indian or Alaska Native	Black or African American	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific islander	White	Two or More Races
2014-2015	Nance	800	4.25%	0.25%	0.50%	0.38%	0.25%	93.50%	0.88%
	Nebraska	312,281	17.74%	2.43%	1.42%	6.70%	0.13%	68.20%	3.38%
2015-2016	Nance	803	3.74%	0.50%	0.62%	0.50%	0.00%	93.77%	0.87%
	Nebraska	315,542	18.08%	2.53%	1.38%	6.67%	0.14%	67.72%	3.47%
2016-2017	Nance	776	3.22%	0.39%	0.64%	0.52%	0.00%	94.33%	0.90%
	Nebraska	318,853	18.61%	2.66%	1.38%	6.69%	0.15%	66.92%	3.59%
2017-2018	Nance	753	3.45%	0.40%	0.53%	0.53%	0.00%	93.63%	1.46%
	Nebraska	323,391	18.80%	2.76%	1.35%	6.67%	0.14%	66.50%	3.78%
2018-2019	Nance	756	3.44%	0.00%	0.53%	0.53%	0.00%	94.18%	1.32%
	Nebraska	325,984	19.13%	2.83%	1.33%	6.63%	0.15%	66.02%	3.91%



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Table 3.

Chronic Absenteeism by Race/Ethnicity and School Year (2014 - 2019)^b

Year	Geographic Area	Total Youth with Chronic Absenteeism	Hispanic	Asian	American Indian or Alaska Native	Black or African American	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	White	Two or More Races
2014-2015	Nance	37	*	*	*	*	*	100.00%	*
	Nebraska	35,638	24.54%	1.64%	4.42%	12.93%	0.19%	51.61%	4.68%
2015-2016	Nance	49	*	*	*	*	*	100.00%	*
	Nebraska	38,812	25.73%	1.55%	4.27%	13.68%	0.27%	49.68%	4.83%
2016-2017	Nance	61	*	*	*	*	*	100.00%	*
	Nebraska	42,290	26.90%	1.66%	4.40%	14.22%	0.24%	47.66%	4.92%
2017-2018	Nance	72	*	*	*	*	*	100.00%	*
	Nebraska	46,365	26.81%	1.77%	4.18%	14.49%	0.22%	47.37%	2389
2018-2019	Nance	53	*	*	*	*	*	100.00%	*
	Nebraska	46,356	27.64%	1.76%	4.16%	14.71%	0.23%	46.27%	5.23%

Per the Nebraska Department of Education, the * represents masked data, which they define as 10 or fewer students, for the confidentiality of the students

Table 4.

Disabilities, English Proficiency, Eligibility for Free/Reduced Lunch and School Year (2014 – 2019)^b

Year	Geographic Area	Total Count	IDEA	504 Plan	Limited English Proficiency	Free/Reduced Lunch
2014-2015	Nance	800	16.38%	1.63%	*	32.00%
	Nebraska	312,281	13.66%	0.76%	5.97%	44.53%
2015-2016	Nance	803	15.19%	2.12%	*	34.99%
	Nebraska	315,542	13.64%	0.90%	5.90%	44.23%
2016-2017	Nance	776	14.30%	1.42%	*	40.98%
	Nebraska	318,853	13.80%	0.93%	6.99%	44.76%
2017-2018	Nance	753	18.06%	1.33%	*	39.84%
	Nebraska	323,391	15.87%	0.88%	6.59%	46.24%
2018-2019	Nance	756	16.01%	*	*	39.42%
	Nebraska	325,984	16.13%	0.85%	6.78%	45.42%

Per the Nebraska Department of Education, the * represents masked data, which they define as 10 or fewer students, for the confidentiality of the students



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Table 5.
 Nebraska Public High School 4-Year Graduation Rates by County (5-year estimates, 2015-2019) °

County	Total in Last 5 Years		Yearly Averages		Graduation Rate	Rank
	Graduates	Students	Graduates	Students		
Nebraska	100,111	112,857	20,022.2	22,571.4	88.7%	-
Nance	256	275	25.6	27.5	93.1%	60

Data are only for public school districts and their associated high schools. The figures are aggregated based on the location of the school, not the residential location of the student. The figures for Dawes County are impacted by a vocational school where graduation rates are less than 25%; in the rest of the county graduation rates equal 93%.

Table 6.
 Youth Who Report Mental Health Symptoms and Substance Use by Grade (2016) °

		8 th	10 th	12 th
Nance	Loss of sleep from worry	8.3%	14.6%	27.5%
Nebraska		18.0%	20.6%	21.6%
Nance	Depressed	26.7%	22.9%	37.5%
Nebraska		31.1%	34.8%	35.3%
Nance	Considered/Attempted suicide	13.3%	16.7%	17.5%
Nebraska		22.9%	18.2%	16.2%
Nance	Current alcohol	11.7%	49.0%	50.0%
Nebraska		9.8%	20.1%	34.2%
Nance	Current binge drinking	0.0%	14.3%	15.4%
Nebraska		1.3%	6.2%	15.0%
Nance	Current marijuana	0.0%	6.1%	20.0%
Nebraska		3.0%	7.3%	13.9%
Nance	Current tobacco	1.7%	12.2%	12.5%
Nebraska		3.7%	8.0%	15.3%
Nance	Current vaping	15.0%	24.5%	22.5%
Nebraska		10.4%	24.7%	37.3%
Nance	Hopeful for future (past week)	76.7%	89.6%	87.5%
Nebraska		72.1%	74.7%	78.4%

**** JJI is currently waiting for the legal team at DHHS to approve providing this data**

Table 7.
 Juveniles Referred to Services °

Table 8.



Juveniles Referred to Services by Race/Ethnicity, Gender, and Mental Health Diagnosis ^e

Table 9.

Juveniles Who Utilized Services ^e

Table 10.

Types of Services Utilized ^e

Table 11.

Youth Who Report Gang Involvement by Grade (2016) ^d

		8 th	10 th	12 th
Nance	Youth Reported Gang Involvement	1.7%	2.1%	0.0%
Nebraska		3.8%	4.4%	3.8%

Table 12.

Arrest Rates for Adults and Juveniles for 2018 and 2019 with Percent Change ^f

Arrestee Age	All Arrestee Ages			Under 18		
	2018	2019	2018 - 2019 Growth %	2018	2019	2018 - 2019 Growth %
Summary Arrest Date						
Jurisdiction by Geography	NANCE COUNTY					
Arrest Offense						
Total	-	5	-	-	0	-
Vandalism	-	1	-	-	-	-
Drug Violations - Possession	-	1	-	-	0	-
Driving Under the Influence	-	2	-	-	0	-
All Other Offenses (Except Traffic)	-	1	-	-	-	-

Table 13.

Risk Assessment Domains for Youth Assessed on Diversion (2015 - 2017) ^g



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Score	Nance			All NYS Counties		
	0	1	2	0	1	2
Family Circumstance/Parenting	83.3%	16.7%	0.0%	60.1%	26.7%	13.1%
Education/Employment	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	43.0%	44.0%	13.1%
Peer Relationships	5.6%	66.7%	27.8%	44.7%	46.6%	8.6%
Substance Use	11.1%	88.9%	0.0%	61.4%	30.3%	8.3%
Leisure/Recreation	66.7%	27.8%	5.6%	50.6%	33.0%	16.5%
Personality/Behavior	94.4%	5.6%	0.0%	50.1%	39.4%	10.4%
Attitudes/Orientation	88.9%	11.1%	0.0%	61.3%	33.7%	5.0%
Mean Score	<i>M</i> = 2.75, <i>SD</i> = 1.77, 0-6			<i>M</i> = 5.64, <i>SD</i> = 3.65, 0-17		

Nance County *n* = 20; Statewide *n* = 1512

Table 14.
 Racial and Ethnic Disparities Descriptives (2015-2019) ¹

[Click here to see Census and School Population Data](#)

*Data were not separated by year because there were too few cases

System Point	N	Amer. Indian/ Alaskan Native	Asian/ Pacific Islander	Black	Hispanic/ Latino	Multiple/ Other	Unspec/ Missing	White
Law enforcement contact	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth taken to temporary custody	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth issued citation/referral	0*	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth referred to diversion	27	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3.70%	96.30%
Youth enrolled in diversion	27	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3.70%	96.30%
Successful completion diversion	23	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	4.30%	95.70%
Youth with multiple charges	1	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%
Filed on in adult court								
RAI Override: More Severe	2	0%	0%	0%	50%	0%	0%	50%
RAI Override: Less Severe	1	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
Probation intake	8	0%	0%	0%	25%	0%	0%	75%



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Successful probation	19	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
Revocation of probation	5	0%	0%	0%	20%	0%	0%	80%
Youth in OJS custody	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
OJS custody: placed in detention	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth booked into detention	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth booked into detention more than once	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

*Nance County sheriff on partially reported in 2017, and did not report in 2015, 2016, or 2018



Family Level

- Nance County has lower rates of youth in poverty compared to the state.
- Number of adults with bachelor's degrees is lower than the state average; it may be possible that residents who go to college outside of Nance County find employment where they go to school and do not return to Nance County.
- Youth in Nance County have access to computers and internet at home at higher rates than the state (4th in the state for internet in the home).
- 8th graders report not feeling as supported by adults at home compared to the state

Table 15.

Poverty/SES, Educational Attainment, Technology and Computers in Home, Housing, and Transportation (5-year estimates, 2014-2018) ^a

Measurement		Nance	Nebraska
Poverty/SES	Children <18 in Poverty	9.6%	14.8%
	Number of children 12-17 below 185% poverty	54	43,814
	Percent of children 12-17 below 185% poverty	21.2%	28.9%
Educational attainment	Age 25+ with B.D.	19.8%	31.3%
	County rank	60	-
	Age 25+ with some college, no degree	23.6%	23.0%
	County rank	55	-
	Age 25+ with HS degree	91.5%	91.1%
	County Rank	59	-
Technology and computers in the home	% under 18 with a computer at home	99.4%	96.9%
	County rank	32	-
	% under 18 with an internet subscription at home	99.0%	91.0%
	County rank	4	-
	% under 18 with broadband internet access at home	99.0%	90.8%
	County Rank	4	-
Housing	Owner-occupied households	1,194	498,567



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	Total households	1,546	754,063
	Owner %	77.2%	66.1%
	Renters	352	255,496
	Renter %	22.8%	33.9%
Transportation	Households with no vehicle available	49	40,465
	Total households	1,546	754,063
	No vehicle %	3.2%	5.4%

Table 16.
Youth Who Report Supportive Adults by Grade (2016) ^d

		8 th	10 th	12 th
Nance	Adult at home who listens	86.4%	85.4%	87.2%
Nebraska		87.3%	85.0%	85.6%
Nance	Adult at school who listens	86.7%	87.5%	92.5%
Nebraska		85.2%	85.0%	87.4%

Table 17.
Domestic Violence Reports and Cleared by Arrest or Exceptional Means ^h

	Aggravated Domestic Assaults Reported	Aggravated Domestic Assaults Cleared by Arrest or Exceptional Means	Simple Domestic Assaults Reported	Simple Domestic Assaults Cleared by Arrest or Exceptional Means
Nance	0	0	0	0
Nebraska	562	402	2512	2019

Table 18.
Child Abuse and Neglect Reports ⁱ

	Abuse/Neglect Calls	Reports Assessed	Substantiated	Unfounded
Nance	48	44%	0%	67%
Nebraska	36,480	33.4%	16.0%	68.3%



Community Level

- With regard to how youth perceive how their community feels about substance use, 8th graders are reporting lower than state averages for alcohol and cigarettes, 10th graders are reporting lower than state averages for alcohol, and 12th graders report lower than the state average for marijuana, alcohol, and cigarettes.
- Juvenile record sealing is not “automatic” even if statute requires it to seal. Sealing a record requires administrative staff to initiate the process. Dismissed or dropped cases should be sealed at a rate of 100%. All others should be sealed at the rate to which youth successfully complete their court requirements (completion of diversion, probation, restorative practice, or other treatment). Yearly data is available in the Appendix to see if the rate has improved because of legislation, but newer cases should naturally have lower rates of sealing than older cases.
Nance County is very close to 100%, and was at 100% sealed for dismissed and dropped cases in 2017 and 2018
- Data for race and ethnicity at each juvenile justice system point is imperative for an accurate Racial and Ethnic Disparities (RED) analysis. The court trial database (JUSTICE) has a high rate of missing data by race/ethnicity in this county.

Table 19. Community Violence Measured by Arrests for Violent Crime (2019) ^j

Type of Violence	Nance	Nebraska
Murder and Nonnegligent manslaughter	--	34
Rape	--	264
Robbery	--	367
Aggravated Assault	--	1,639
Other Assaults	--	8,782

Table 20. Youth Perceptions of Community Attitudes on Substance Use by Grade (2016) ^d

		8 th	10 th	12 th
Nance	Wrong/very wrong – Marijuana	94.9%	98.0%	82.5%
Nebraska		94.4%	89.8%	85.2%
Nance	Wrong/very wrong – alcohol	84.7%	71.4%	45.0%
Nebraska		89.1%	80.4%	68.7%
Nance	Wrong/very wrong – cigarettes	89.9%	93.9%	52.5%
Nebraska		92.9%	89.0%	78.7%



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Table 21. Juvenile Court Record Sealing Analysis (2015 – 2019) ^m

see [Appendix for yearly data](#)

	Number of charges Sealed	Total Number of charges	Sealed (%)
Dismissed or Dropped	21	23	91.3%
Offered Diversion, mediation, or RJ	--	--	--
Filed in Juv. Court	41	76	53.9%
Filed in Adult Court (M or I)	2	2	100%
Filed in Adult Court and Transferred to Juv. Court	--	--	--
Total	64	101	63.4%

*Cases offered diversion, mediation or RJ are not available data points in in JUSTICE. All cases filed in adult court and transferred to juvenile court overlapped with cases that were filed in adult court as a misdemeanor or infraction; as such, they were omitted from analysis



Policy, Legal and System Level

- Nance County is not a county required to provide counsel under statute; notably, access to counsel is low in this community.
- There are few if any curfew and 3A, 3B, and 3C filings in court so the community is diverting appropriately.
- With respect to diversion practices, the community may want to consider a few things:
 - Not filing all unsuccessful cases, if the youth completed most of the diversion plan
 - Allowing warning letters for the lowest risk youth
 - Comparing diversion fees to court costs so they are comparable.
 - If drug testing is needed, it should only be used on cases where the youth demonstrates a substance use issue.
 - It is not clear why all first-time offenders are not referred to diversion but perhaps this is due to the ineligible offenses.

Table 22.
Percent of Youth in Juvenile Court Who Had Access to Counsel (2018) ⁿ

	Nance	Nebraska
Access to Counsel	40.0% -- 59.9%	73.5%

Neb. Rev. 43-272. Right to counsel; appointment; payment; guardian ad litem; appointment; when; duties; standards for guardians ad litem; standards for attorneys who practice in juvenile court.

(1)(a) In counties having a population of less than one hundred fifty thousand inhabitants, when any juvenile shall be brought without counsel before a juvenile court, the court shall advise such juvenile and his or her parent or guardian of their right to retain counsel and shall inquire of such juvenile and his or her parent or guardian as to whether they desire to retain counsel.

(b) In counties having a population of one hundred fifty thousand or more inhabitants, when any juvenile court petition is filed alleging jurisdiction of a juvenile pursuant to subdivision (1), (2), (3)(b), or (4) of section 43-247, counsel shall be appointed for such juvenile.



COUNTY NEEDS ASSESSMENT FY 2020-2021

Table 23.
Frequency of Youth with a Curfew Violation (2015 – 2019) ^m

	Nance	Nebraska
Curfew Court Filing	0	352

Table 24.
Court Filing for 3A, 3B, and 3C cases (2015 – 2019) ^m

Filed Subtype	Nance					Total
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
3A- Homeless/Neglect	0	0	0	0	0	0
3B – Absenteeism/Truancy	0	0	0	0	1	1
3B - Uncontrollable	0	0	0	0	0	0
3C – Mentally Ill and Dangerous	0	0	0	1	0	1

Filed Subtype	Nebraska					Total
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
3A- Homeless/Neglect	0	2	0	2	3	7
3B – Absenteeism/Truancy	96	510	493	423	475	1997
3B - Uncontrollable	47	118	125	119	82	491
3C – Mentally Ill and Dangerous	22	48	37	22	23	306

Table 25.
County Diversion Procedures and Protocols Compared to Statewide Responses (2020) ^o

	Nance	Nebraska *
Refer ALL juveniles who are first time offenders to diversion	No	Yes: 27.3% No: 63.6% Not sure: 9.1%
File a juvenile's charges at the time of the referral to diversion	No	Yes: 18.2% No: 70.5% Not sure: 11.4%
File a juvenile's charges if they are unsuccessful on diversion	Sometimes	Always: 47.7% Sometimes: 47.7% Not sure: 4.5%
Allow a juvenile to complete diversion more than once	Yes	Yes: 61.4% No: 34.1% Not sure: 4.5%
Charges/offenses that make a juvenile ineligible for diversion	Yes; felonies, DUI, sexual assault, assault, other violent or dangerous offenses.	Yes: 86.4% No: 9.1% Not sure: 4.5%



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Warning letters instead of intervention	No	Yes: 27.3% No: 61.4% Not sure: 11.4%
Currently drug test	Yes	Yes: 31.8% No: 65.9% Not sure: 2.3%
Fees beyond restitution	Yes; depends on the offense and if online courses are required	Yes: 86.4% No: 13.6% Not sure: 0.0%
Use of graduated responses prior to discharge	Yes; we assign additional consequences if they are not compliant. If they fail to complete those or are further non-compliant, we then terminate the contract.	Yes: 47.7% No: 25.0% Not sure: 27.3%
Sealing diversion records	Yes; All juveniles under the age of 18 at the time of offense get their record sealed. We deal if on our end and then send a letter to the citing agency.	Yes: 59.1% No: 22.7% Not sure: 18.2%

*responses included 44 juvenile diversion programs; representing 68 counties/tribe (91.9% response rate)



Community Team Level

- A community lead should be able to get roughly a 75% response, to ensure active participation on planning issues, your response rate was 20.0% (2 responses).
- The rates of collective impact went up for all elements from the 2019 survey, however this may not be representative of the team with such a small number of responses.
- The community team should be representative of the population of that community but should also include diversity. It might be beneficial to add diverse member to your team (especially because of the patterns of over and under representation.)
- Although the low response rate may affect the results of community team diversity, there could be more representation from other system points not currently represented.

Table 26. Collective Impact Survey Response Rates ^P

Year of survey	Central Nebraska		Nebraska	
	2019	2020	2019	2020
Number of surveys sent	9	10	1407	780
Number of completed surveys	5	2	221	345
Response rate	55.6%	20.0%	28.3%	24.5%

Table 27. Collective Impact Survey Scores ^P

Year of survey	Central Nebraska		Nebraska	
	2019	2020	2019	2020
	Mean Score		Mean Score	
Common agenda	4.55	6.00	5.29	5.69
Mutually reinforcing	5.09	5.50	5.37	5.50
Shared measurement	4.80	5.00	5.21	5.45
Continuous communication	4.89	5.00	5.49	5.55
Backbone agency	5.38	6.00	5.52	5.78



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The five elements of Collective Impact are:

- **Common agenda:** Participants have a shared vision and common understanding of both the problem and potential solutions to that problem.
- **Mutually reinforcing activities:** Participant activities must be differentiated while still being coordinated through a mutually reinforcing plan of action.
- **Shared measurement:** Collecting data and measuring results consistently across all participants ensures efforts remain aligned and participants hold each other accountable.
- **Continuous communication:** Consistent and open communication is needed across stakeholders to build trust, assure mutual objectives, and create common motivation.
- **Backbone support:** Creating and managing Collective Impact often requires a separate organization(s) with staff and a specific set of skills to serve as the backbone for the entire initiative and to coordinate participating organizations ⁹

Table 28.
Community Planning Team Diversity ^P

	Central Nebraska		Nebraska	
	N = 2	(%)	N = 345	(%)
Gender				
Male	1	50.0%	101	29.3%
Female	1	50.0%	229	66.4%
Missing	--	--	15	4.3%
Age				
Under 30	--	--	19	5.6%
30-39	--	--	68	19.6%
40-49	1	50.0%	88	25.4%
50-59	1	50.0%	90	25.8%
60 and over	--	--	44	13%
Missing	--	--	36	10.4%
Race/Ethnicity				
White	2	100%	230	66.7%
Black	--	--	10	2.9%
Hispanic	--	--	13	3.8%
Native American	--	--	6	1.7%
Asian	--	--	1	0.3%
Other	--	--	2	0.6%
Provided town name	--	--	63	18.3%
Missing	--	--	19	5.5%



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Previous System Involvement				
Yes	--	--	98	28.4%
No	2	100%	242	70.1%
Missing	--	--	5	1.4%
System Point				
Law enforcement	--	--	34	7.8%
County attorney/ juvenile court	1	50.0%	32	7.3%
K-12 or secondary education	1	50.0%	65	14.9%
Ministry/faith based	--	--	10	2.3%
Diversion	--	--	55	12.6%
Probation	--	--	31	7.1%
Public defender/ defense counsel/ guardian ad litem	--	--	8	1.8%
DHHS or Child Welfare	--	--	13	3.0%
Treatment provider	--	--	40	9.2%
Post adjudication or detention	--	--	8	1.8%
Community based program	--	--	109	25.0%
Elected official or government	--	--	6	1.4%
Restorative practices	--	--	6	1.4%
Backbone or system improvement	--	--	3	0.7%
Other			16	3.7%
Voice on Team				
Feel heard	2	100%	270	78.3%
Do not feel heard	--	--	75	21.7%

Merrick $n = 1$, Nance $n = 1$

*note. Team members could have selected more than one system point; as such, they do not add up to 100%



References and Resources

- ^a **Population data:** Table B01001 race series, 2014-2018 American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau
Compiled and Prepared by: David Drozd, UNO Center for Public Affairs Research on July 10, 2020
- ^a **Youth employment:** Table B23001, 2014-2018 American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau
Compiled and Prepared by: David Drozd, UNO Center for Public Affairs Research on July 10, 2020
- ^a **Poverty/SES:** Table B10724, 2014-2018 American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau
Prepared by: David Drozd, UNO Center for Public Affairs Research on 3-18-2020
- ^a **Technology in household:** Table B28005, 2014-2018 American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau
Compiled by: David Drozd, UNO Center for Public Affairs Research on 8-11-20
- ^a **Home owner/transportation:** Table B25045, 2014-2018 American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau
Compiled and Prepared by: David Drozd, UNO Center for Public Affairs Research on 8-11-20
- ^a **Education attainment:** Table B15002, 2014-2018 American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau
Prepared by: David Drozd, UNO Center for Public Affairs Research on 3-18-2020
- ^b **School membership, chronic absenteeism, student disability, and free/reduced lunch:** Prepared by
Sara Simonsen, Nebraska Department of Education
- ^c **Graduation rates:** Special Tabulation by Sara Simonsen, Nebraska Department of Education
Prepared by: David Drozd, UNO Center for Public Affairs Research on 7-24-2020
- ^d **Mental health, Substance use, gang, and community perceptions of substance use:** Bureau of
Sociological Research, Nebraska Risk and Protective Factors Survey:
<https://bosr.unl.edu/current-nrpfss-county-level-data>
- ^e **Referral to and utilization of services:** Department of Health and Human Services
- ^f **Adult and juvenile arrests:** Nebraska Crime Commission, Crime Statistics:
<https://crimestats.ne.gov/public/Browse/browsetables.aspx>
- ^g Diversion programs
- ^h **Domestic violence:** Nebraska Crime Commission, Domestic Assault:
https://ncc.nebraska.gov/sites/ncc.nebraska.gov/files/doc/2019%20Domestic%20Assault%20and%20Arrest%20by%20County_0.pdf
- ⁱ Child abuse and neglect
- ^j **Community violence:** Nebraska Crime Commission, Crime Statistics:
<https://crimestats.ne.gov/public/Browse/browsetables.aspx>
- ^k **Distance to detention facility:** Google Maps
- ^l **Racial and ethnic disparities:** Prepared by Mitch Herian, University of Nebraska-Lincoln with data provided
by:



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Nebraska Crime Commission, Crime Statistics:

<https://crimestats.ne.gov/public/Browse/browsetables.aspx>

Nebraska Crime Commission, Juvenile Case Management System

Nebraska Judicial Branch Trial Court Case Management System, JUSTICE

Nebraska Judicial Branch, Juvenile Services Division

^m **Court Filings and Juvenile Record Sealing:** Data provided by the Nebraska Judicial Branch Trial Court Case Management System, JUSTICE. Prepared by: Lindsey Wylie, UNO Juvenile Justice Institute on 9-1-20

ⁿ **Access to Counsel:** Kids County in Nebraska Report, Voices for Children, retrieved from: www.voicesforchildren.com/kidscount. Data originally from Nebraska Judicial Branch Trial Court Case Management System, JUSTICE

^o **Diversion procedures and protocols:** Diversion survey distributed to Juvenile Diversion programs, 2020. Prepared by: Lindsey Wylie, UNO Juvenile Justice Institute

^p **Collective impact:** Collective impact surveys distributed to Community Planning Teams, 2019 and 2020. Prepared by: Anne Hobbs and Erin Wasserburger, UNO Juvenile Justice Institute

^q **Collective Impact Elements:** Kania, J., & Kramer, M. (2011). Collective Impact. *Stanford Social Innovation Review*.

**Appendix: Sealed Court Records by Year**

*Cases offered diversion, mediation or RJ are not available data points in in JUSTICE. All cases filed in adult court and transferred to juvenile court overlapped with cases that were filed in adult court as a misdemeanor or infraction; as such, they were omitted from analysis

2015	Number of charges Sealed	Total Number of charges	Sealed (%)
Dismissed or Dropped	4	5	80.0%
Offered Diversion, mediation, or RJ	--	--	--
Filed in Juv. Court	10	23	43.5%
Filed in Adult Court (M or I)	2	2	100%
Filed in Adult Court and Transferred to Juv. Court	--	--	--
Total	16	30	53.3%

2016	Number of charges Sealed	Total Number of charges	Sealed (%)
Dismissed or Dropped	9	10	90.0%
Offered Diversion, mediation, or RJ	--	--	--
Filed in Juv. Court	13	31	41.9%
Filed in Adult Court (M or I)	--	--	--
Filed in Adult Court and Transferred to Juv. Court	--	--	--
Total	22	41	53.7%

2017	Number of charges Sealed	Total Number of charges	Sealed (%)
Dismissed or Dropped	6	6	100%
Offered Diversion, mediation, or RJ	--	--	--
Filed in Juv. Court	8	8	100%
Filed in Adult Court (M or I)	--	--	--
Filed in Adult Court and Transferred to Juv. Court	--	--	--
Total	14	14	100%



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2018	Number of charges Sealed	Total Number of charges	Sealed (%)
Dismissed or Dropped	2	2	100%
Offered Diversion, mediation, or RJ	--	--	--
Filed in Juv. Court	10	11	90.9%
Filed in Adult Court (M or I)	--	--	--
Filed in Adult Court and Transferred to Juv. Court	--	--	--
Total	12	13	92.3%

2019	Number of charges Sealed	Total Number of charges	Sealed (%)
Dismissed or Dropped	--	--	--
Offered Diversion, mediation, or RJ	--	--	--
Filed in Juv. Court	--	--	--
Filed in Adult Court (M or I)	--	--	--
Filed in Adult Court and Transferred to Juv. Court	--	--	--
Total	--	--	--



Polk County

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Appendix: Sealed Court Records by Year22



Youth Level

- The number of total youth with chronic absenteeism has increased in past year.
- While we could not get race/ethnicity data for chronic absenteeism in this community because the frequency was too low to report, Hispanic, Native American, and Black youth are over-represented statewide in chronic absenteeism.
 - There has been overrepresentation of Hispanic youth in chronic absenteeism in 2018-2019 and in previous years in Polk County.
- In 2018-2019, Hamilton County had overrepresentation in chronic absenteeism regarding Hispanic youth as compared to the school membership data.
- There are more youth on IDEA and 504 plans in Polk County compared to state averages.
- Polk County has a 96.2% graduation rate over the last 5 years.
- 10th graders report loss of sleep from worry at higher rates in Polk County compared to the state.
- 8th, 10th, and 12th graders report current alcohol use at higher rates in Polk County compared to the state; 8th and 10th graders also report binge drinking at higher rates compared to the state.
 - 61.4% of 10th graders report current alcohol use, more than half of the youth who took the survey.
- 12th graders report tobacco use at higher rates in Polk County compared to the state; 10th graders report higher rates of vaping compared to the state.
- 8th and 12th graders report feeling hopeful for the future at lower rates in Polk County compared to the states.
- 8th graders report gang involvement at higher rates in Polk County compared to the states.
- Arrests for all age groups increased in Polk County between 2018 and 2019, especially with DUIs.
 - There are no juvenile “arrests” recorded in 2018 or 2019 in Polk County.
- NYS domains with the highest scores are Peer Relationships, Leisure/Recreation, Family Circumstance/Parenting, and Substance Use. There should be programs in the community to address these.
- Law enforcement data by race and ethnicity would be very beneficial to have a clearer picture of RED. Compared to the Census and school data, Hispanic youth are overrepresented at successful completion of diversion and successful probation completion; and White youth are overrepresented at multiple charges, probation RAI overrides, and probation intakes.
- Youth are being referred to diversion and enrolling diversion at the same rate, but the successful completion rate of diversion is slightly lower than those being enrolled.

Table 1.

Distribution of the Population Age 10-17 by Race/Ethnicity and Gender (5-year estimates, 2014-2018) ^a



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Males

Geographic Area	Total Count	Non-Hispanic White	Hispanic or Latino	Black	American Indian	Asian or Pacific Islander	2+ Races
Nebraska	108,494	70.4%	16.2%	5.7%	1.4%	2.0%	4.4%
Polk		96.1%	3.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

Females

Geographic Area	Total Count	Non-Hispanic White	Hispanic or Latino	Black	American Indian	Asian or Pacific Islander	2+ Races
Nebraska	102,658	70.4%	16.2%	5.7%	1.4%	2.0%	4.4%
Polk		91.6%	8.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

[Click here to go back to RED analysis](#)

Table 2.

School Membership by Race/ Ethnicity and School Year (2014-2019) ^b

Year	Geographic Area	Total Count	Hispanic	Asian	American Indian or Alaska Native	Black or African American	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific islander	White	Two or More Races
2014-2015	Polk	1,284	4.91%	0.08%	0.70%	0.78%	0.00%	92.83%	0.70%
	Nebraska	312,281	17.74%	2.43%	1.42%	6.70%	0.13%	68.20%	3.38%
2015-2016	Polk	1,241	6.37%	0.08%	0.24%	0.81%	0.00%	91.94%	0.56%
	Nebraska	315,542	18.08%	2.53%	1.38%	6.67%	0.14%	67.72%	3.47%
2016-2017	Polk	1,295	7.10%	0.00%	0.39%	0.77%	0.00%	91.27%	0.46%
	Nebraska	318,853	18.61%	2.66%	1.38%	6.69%	0.15%	66.92%	3.59%
2017-2018	Polk	1,240	7.66%	0.00%	0.40%	0.56%	0.08%	90.81%	0.48%
	Nebraska	323,391	18.80%	2.76%	1.35%	6.67%	0.14%	66.50%	3.78%
2018-2019	Polk	1,243	8.37%	0.08%	0.40%	0.64%	0.40%	89.54%	0.56%
	Nebraska	325,984	19.13%	2.83%	1.33%	6.63%	0.15%	66.02%	3.91%

Table 3.

Chronic Absenteeism by Race/Ethnicity and School Year (2014 - 2019) ^b



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Year	Geographic Area	Total Youth with Chronic Absenteeism	Hispanic	Asian	American Indian or Alaska Native	Black or African American	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	White	Two or More Races
2014-2015	Polk	65	*	*	*	*	*	100.00%	*
	Nebraska	35,638	24.54%	1.64%	4.42%	12.93%	0.19%	51.61%	4.68%
2015-2016	Polk	84	15.48%	*	*	*	*	84.52%	*
	Nebraska	38,812	25.73%	1.55%	4.27%	13.68%	0.27%	49.68%	4.83%
2016-2017	Polk	75	20.00%	*	*	*	*	80.00%	*
	Nebraska	42,290	26.90%	1.66%	4.40%	14.22%	0.24%	47.66%	4.92%
2017-2018	Polk	88	*	*	*	*	*	100.00%	*
	Nebraska	46,365	26.81%	1.77%	4.18%	14.49%	0.22%	47.37%	2389
2018-2019	Polk	138	10.14%	*	*	*	*	89.86%	*
	Nebraska	46,356	27.64%	1.76%	4.16%	14.71%	0.23%	46.27%	5.23%

Per the Nebraska Department of Education, the * represents masked data, which they define as 10 or fewer students, for the confidentiality of the students

Table 4. Disabilities, English Proficiency, Eligibility for Free/Reduced Lunch and School Year (2014 – 2019) ^b

Year	Geographic Area	Total Count	IDEA	504 Plan	Limited English Proficiency	Free/Reduced Lunch
2014-2015	Polk	1,284	15.42%	1.40%	1.40%	37.77%
	Nebraska	312,281	13.66%	0.76%	5.97%	44.53%
2015-2016	Polk	1,241	14.67%	2.50%	2.01%	36.83%
	Nebraska	315,542	13.64%	0.90%	5.90%	44.23%
2016-2017	Polk	1,295	15.91%	1.93%	2.32%	38.92%
	Nebraska	318,853	13.80%	0.93%	6.99%	44.76%
2017-2018	Polk	1,240	17.90%	2.34%	1.61%	37.02%
	Nebraska	323,391	15.87%	0.88%	6.59%	46.24%
2018-2019	Polk	1,243	16.33%	1.93%	2.41%	38.05%
	Nebraska	325,984	16.13%	0.85%	6.78%	45.42%

Per the Nebraska Department of Education, the * represents masked data, which they define as 10 or fewer students, for the confidentiality of the students

Table 5. Nebraska Public High School 4-Year Graduation Rates by County (5-year estimates, 2015-2019) ^c

County	Total in Last 5 Years		Yearly Averages		Graduation Rate	Rank
	Graduates	Students	Graduates	Students		
Nebraska	100,111	112,857	20,022.2	22,571.4	88.7%	-
Polk	478	497	23.9	24.9	96.2%	28



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Data are only for public school districts and their associated high schools. The figures are aggregated based on the location of the school, not the residential location of the student. The figures for Dawes County are impacted by a vocational school where graduation rates are less than 25%; in the rest of the county graduation rates equal 93%.

Table 6.
 Youth Who Report Mental Health Symptoms and Substance Use by Grade (2018) ^d

		8 th	10 th	12 th
Polk	Loss of sleep from worry	13.2%	27.3%	18.5%
Nebraska		18.0%	20.6%	21.6%
Polk	Depressed	26.3%	20.5%	26.4%
Nebraska		31.1%	34.8%	35.3%
Polk	Considered/Attempted suicide	10.5%	6.8%	11.1%
Nebraska		22.9%	18.2%	16.2%
Polk	Current alcohol	26.3%	61.4%	51.9%
Nebraska		9.8%	20.1%	34.2%
Polk	Current binge drinking	2.6%	13.6%	14.8%
Nebraska		1.3%	6.2%	15.0%
Polk	Current marijuana	0.0%	3.0%	5.6%
Nebraska		3.0%	7.3%	13.9%
Polk	Current tobacco	0.0%	4.5%	18.5%
Nebraska		3.7%	8.0%	15.3%
Polk	Current vaping	7.9%	27.3%	31.5%
Nebraska		10.4%	24.7%	37.3%
Polk	Hopeful for future (past week)	68.4%	88.6%	77.8%
Nebraska		72.1%	74.7%	78.4%

****JJI is currently waiting for the legal team at DHHS to approve providing this data**

Table 7.

Juveniles Referred to Services ^e

Table 8.

Juveniles Referred to Services by Race/Ethnicity, Gender, and Mental Health Diagnosis ^e

Table 9.

Juveniles Who Utilized Services ^e



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Table 10.

Types of Services Utilized ^e

Table 11.

Youth Who Report Gang Involvement by Grade (2018) ^d

Gang Involvement

		8 th	10 th	12 th
Polk	Youth Reported Gang Involvement	5.3%	0.0	1.9%
Nebraska		3.8%	4.4%	3.8%

Table 12.

Arrest Rates for Adults and Juveniles for 2018 and 2019 with Percent Change ^f

Arrestee Age	All Arrestee Ages			Under 18		
	2018	2019	2018 - 2019 Growth %	2018	2019	2018 - 2019 Growth %
Summary Arrest Date						
Jurisdiction by Geography	POLK COUNTY					
Arrest Offense						
Total	12	16	33.33	0	0	
Aggravated Assault Total	1	-	-100.00	-	-	-
Other Assaults	2	1	-50.00	-	-	-
Fraud	1	-	-100.00	-	-	-
Drug Violations - Possession	1	1	0.00	0	0	-
Driving Under the Influence	4	9	125.00	0	0	-
Liquor Laws	2	3	50.00	0	0	-
All Other Offenses (Except Traffic)	1	2	100.00	-	-	-

Table 13.

Risk Assessment Domains for Youth Assessed on Diversion (2015 - 2017) ^g

Score	Polk			All NYS Counties		
	0	1	2	0	1	2
Family Circumstance/Parenting	42.9%	42.9%	14.3%	60.1%	26.7%	13.1%
Education/Employment	85.7%	14.3%	0.0%	43.0%	44.0%	13.1%
Peer Relationships	14.3%	71.4%	14.3%	44.7%	46.6%	8.6%
Substance Use	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	61.4%	30.3%	8.3%
Leisure/Recreation	71.4%	14.3%	14.3%	50.6%	33.0%	16.5%



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Personality/Behavior	71.4%	28.6%	0.0%	50.1%	39.4%	10.4%
Attitudes/Orientation	71.4%	28.6%	0.0%	61.3%	33.7%	5.0%
Mean Score	M = 3.75, SD = 2.96, 0-10			M = 5.64, SD = 3.65, 0-17		

Polk County n = 7; Statewide n = 1512

Table 14.
Racial and Ethnic Disparities Descriptives (2015-2019) ¹

[Click here to see Census and School Population Data](#)

*Data were not separated by year because there were too few cases

System Point	N	Amer. Indian/ Alaskan Native	Asian/ Pacific Islander	Black	Hispanic/ Latino	Multiple/ Other	Unspec/ Missing	White
Law enforcement contact	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth taken to temporary custody	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth issued citation/referral	9	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth referred to diversion	14	0%	0%	0%	7.10%	0%	0%	92.90%
Youth enrolled in diversion	14	0%	0%	0%	7.10%	0%	0%	92.90%
Successful completion diversion	11	0%	0%	0%	9.10%	0%	0%	90.90%
Youth with multiple charges	3	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
Filed on in adult court	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
RAI Override: More Severe	1	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
RAI Override: Less Severe	0	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Probation intake	5	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
Successful probation	22	0%	0%	0%	13.60%	0%	0%	86.40%
Revocation of probation	0	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Youth in OJS custody	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--



COUNTY NEEDS ASSESSMENT FY 2020-2021

OJS custody: placed in detention	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth booked into detention	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Youth booked into detention more than once	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--



Family Level

- Polk County has lower rates of youth in poverty compared to the state.
- Number of adults with bachelor's degrees is lower than the state average; it may be possible that residents who go to college outside of Polk County find employment where they go to school and do not return to Polk County.
- Youth in Polk County have access to computers and internet at home at higher rates than the state.
- 12th graders report not feeling as supported by adults at home compared to the state; 10th graders report feeling less supported by adults in school.

Table 15.

Poverty/SES, Educational Attainment, Technology and Computers in Home, Housing, and Transportation (5-year estimates, 2014-2018) ^a

Measurement		Polk	Nebraska
Poverty/SES	Children <18 in Poverty	12.0%	14.8%
	Number of children 12-17 below 185% poverty	125	43,814
	Percent of children 12-17 below 185% poverty	28.6%	28.9%
Educational attainment	Age 25+ with B.D.	21.1%	31.3%
	County rank	45	-
	Age 25+ with some college, no degree	24.1%	23.0%
	County rank	48	-
	Age 25+ with HS degree	92.0%	91.1%
	County Rank	55	-
Technology and computers in the home	% under 18 with a computer at home	99.6%	96.9%
	County rank	25	-
	% under 18 with an internet subscription at home	96.6%	91.0%
	County rank	10	-
	% under 18 with broadband internet access at home	96.6%	90.8%
	County Rank	9	-



COUNTY NEEDS ASSESSMENT FY 2020-2021

Housing	Owner-occupied households	1,642	498,567
	Total households	2,052	754,063
	Owner %	80.0%	66.1%
	Renters	410	255,496
	Renter %	20.0%	33.9%
Transportation	Households with no vehicle available	94	40,465
	Total households	2,052	754,063
	No vehicle %	4.6%	5.4%

Table 15.
Youth Who Report Supportive Adults by Grade (2018) ^d

		8 th	10 th	12 th
Polk	Adult at home who listens	97.4%	88.6%	85.2%
Nebraska		87.3%	85.0%	85.6%
Polk	Adult at school who listens	81.6%	84.1%	90.7%
Nebraska		85.2%	85.0%	87.4%

Table 16.
Domestic Violence Reports and Cleared by Arrest or Exceptional Means ^h

	Aggravated Domestic Assaults Reported	Aggravated Domestic Assaults Cleared by Arrest or Exceptional Means	Simple Domestic Assaults Reported	Simple Domestic Assaults Cleared by Arrest or Exceptional Means
Polk	0	0	1	1
Nebraska	562	402	2512	2019

Table 17.
Child Abuse and Neglect Reports ⁱ

	Abuse/Neglect Calls	Reports Assessed	Substantiated	Unfounded
Polk	82	27%	18%	68%
Nebraska	36,480	33.4%	16.0%	68.3%



Community Level

- With regard to how youth perceive how their community feels about substance use, 8th, 10th, and 12th graders are reporting lower than state averages for alcohol use.
- Juvenile record sealing is not “automatic” even if statute requires it to seal. Sealing a record requires administrative staff to initiate the process. Dismissed or dropped cases should be sealed at a rate of 100%. All others should be sealed at the rate to which youth successfully complete their court requirements (completion of diversion, probation, restorative practice, or other treatment). Yearly data is available in the Appendix to see if the rate has improved because of legislation, but newer cases should naturally have lower rates of sealing than older cases.
- Data for race and ethnicity at each juvenile justice system point is imperative for an accurate Racial and Ethnic Disparities (RED) analysis. The court trial database (JUSTICE) has a high rate of missing data by race/ethnicity in this county.

Table 19. Community Violence Measured by Arrests for Violent Crime (2019) ^j

Type of Violence	Polk	Nebraska
Murder and Nonnegligent manslaughter	0	34
Rape	0	264
Robbery	0	367
Aggravated Assault	0	1,639
Other Assaults	1	8,782

Table 20. Youth Perceptions of Community Attitudes on Substance Use by Grade (2018) ^d

		8 th	10 th	12 th
Polk	Wrong/very wrong – Marijuana	100.0%	95.5%	94.4%
Nebraska		94.4%	89.8%	85.2%
Polk	Wrong/very wrong – alcohol	84.2%	75.0%	68.5%
Nebraska		89.1%	80.4%	68.7%
Polk	Wrong/very wrong – cigarettes	97.4%	93.2%	83.3%
Nebraska		92.9%	89.0%	78.7%



Table 21.
Juvenile Court Record Sealing Analysis (2015 – 2019) ^m

see [Appendix for yearly data](#)

	Number of charges Sealed	Total Number of charges	Sealed (%)
Dismissed or Dropped	1	3	33.3%
Offered Diversion, mediation, or RJ	--	--	--
Filed in Juv. Court	55	115	47.8%
Filed in Adult Court (M or I)	3	3	100%
Filed in Adult Court and Transferred to Juv. Court	--	--	--
Total	59	121	48.8%

*Cases offered diversion, mediation or RJ are not available data points in in JUSTICE. All cases filed in adult court and transferred to juvenile court overlapped with cases that were filed in adult court as a misdemeanor or infraction; as such, they were omitted from analysis



Policy, Legal and System Level

- Polk County is not a county required to provide counsel under statute; notably, access to counsel is higher than the state average.
- There are few curfew and 3A, 3B, and 3C filings in court so the community is diverting appropriately.
- With respect to diversion practices, the community may want to consider a few things:
 - Not filing all unsuccessful cases, if the youth completed most of the diversion plan
 - Allowing warning letters for the lowest risk youth
 - Comparing diversion fees to court costs so they are comparable.
 - If drug testing is needed, it should only be used on cases where the youth demonstrates a substance use issue.
 - It is not clear why all first-time offenders are not referred to diversion but perhaps this is due to the ineligible offenses.

Table 22.
Percent of Youth in Juvenile Court Who Had Access to Counsel (2018) ⁿ

	Polk	Nebraska
Access to Counsel	80.0% -- 100.0%	73.5%

Neb. Rev. 43-272. Right to counsel; appointment; payment; guardian ad litem; appointment; when; duties; standards for guardians ad litem; standards for attorneys who practice in juvenile court.

(1)(a) In counties having a population of less than one hundred fifty thousand inhabitants, when any juvenile shall be brought without counsel before a juvenile court, the court shall advise such juvenile and his or her parent or guardian of their right to retain counsel and shall inquire of such juvenile and his or her parent or guardian as to whether they desire to retain counsel.

(b) In counties having a population of one hundred fifty thousand or more inhabitants, when any juvenile court petition is filed alleging jurisdiction of a juvenile pursuant to subdivision (1), (2), (3)(b), or (4) of section 43-247, counsel shall be appointed for such juvenile.

Table 23.
Frequency of Youth with a Curfew Violation (2015 – 2019) ^m



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	Polk	Nebraska
Curfew Court Filing	0	352

Table 24.
Court Filing for 3A, 3B, and 3C cases (2015 – 2019) ^m

Filed Subtype	Polk					Total
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
3A- Homeless/Neglect	0	0	0	0	0	0
3B – Absenteeism/Truancy	0	0	0	0	0	0
3B - Uncontrollable	0	0	0	0	0	0
3C – Mentally Ill and Dangerous	0	1	0	0	0	1

Filed Subtype	Nebraska					Total
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
3A- Homeless/Neglect	0	2	0	2	3	7
3B – Absenteeism/Truancy	96	510	493	423	475	1997
3B - Uncontrollable	47	118	125	119	82	491
3C – Mentally Ill and Dangerous	22	48	37	22	23	306

Table 25.
County Diversion Procedures and Protocols Compared to Statewide Responses (2020) ^o

	Polk	Nebraska *
Refer ALL juveniles who are first time offenders to diversion	No	Yes: 27.3% No: 63.6% Not sure: 9.1%
File a juvenile's charges at the time of the referral to diversion	No	Yes: 18.2% No: 70.5% Not sure: 11.4%
File a juvenile's charges if they are unsuccessful on diversion	Sometimes	Always: 47.7% Sometimes: 47.7% Not sure: 4.5%
Allow a juvenile to complete diversion more than once	Yes	Yes: 61.4% No: 34.1% Not sure: 4.5%
Charges/offenses that make a juvenile ineligible for diversion	Yes; felonies, DUI, sexual assault, assault, other violent or dangerous offenses.	Yes: 86.4% No: 9.1% Not sure: 4.5%
Warning letters instead of intervention	No	Yes: 27.3% No: 61.4% Not sure: 11.4%



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Currently drug test	Yes	Yes: 31.8% No: 65.9% Not sure: 2.3%
Fees beyond restitution	Yes; depends on the offense and if online courses are required	Yes: 86.4% No: 13.6% Not sure: 0.0%
Use of graduated responses prior to discharge	Yes; we assign additional consequences if they are not compliant. If they fail to complete those or are further non-compliant, we then terminate the contract.	Yes: 47.7% No: 25.0% Not sure: 27.3%
Sealing diversion records	Yes; All juveniles under the age of 18 at the time of offense get their record sealed. We deal if on our end and then send a letter to the citing agency.	Yes: 59.1% No: 22.7% Not sure: 18.2%

*responses included 44 juvenile diversion programs; representing 68 counties/tribe (91.9% response rate)



Community Team Level

- A community lead should be able to get roughly a 75% response, to ensure active participation on planning issues, your response rate was 20.0% (2 responses).
- The rates of collective impact went up for all elements from the 2019 survey, however this may not be representative of the team with such a small number of responses.
- The community team should be representative of the population of that community but should also include diversity. It might be beneficial to add diverse member to your team (especially because of the patterns of over and under representation.)
- Although the low response rate may affect the results of community team diversity, there could be more representation from other system points not currently represented.

Table 26. Collective Impact Survey Response Rates ^P

Year of survey	Central Nebraska		Nebraska	
	2019	2020	2019	2020
Number of surveys sent	9	10	1407	780
Number of completed surveys	5	2	221	345
Response rate	55.6%	20.0%	28.3%	24.5%

Table 27. Collective Impact Survey Scores ^P

Year of survey	Central Nebraska		Nebraska	
	2019	2020	2019	2020
	Mean Score		Mean Score	
Common agenda	4.55	6.00	5.29	5.69
Mutually reinforcing	5.09	5.50	5.37	5.50
Shared measurement	4.80	5.00	5.21	5.45
Continuous communication	4.89	5.00	5.49	5.55
Backbone agency	5.38	6.00	5.52	5.78

The five elements of Collective Impact are:



COUNTY NEEDS ASSESSMENT FY 2020-2021

- **Common agenda:** Participants have a shared vision and common understanding of both the problem and potential solutions to that problem.
- **Mutually reinforcing activities:** Participant activities must be differentiated while still being coordinated through a mutually reinforcing plan of action.
- **Shared measurement:** Collecting data and measuring results consistently across all participants ensures efforts remain aligned and participants hold each other accountable.
- **Continuous communication:** Consistent and open communication is needed across stakeholders to build trust, assure mutual objectives, and create common motivation.
- **Backbone support:** Creating and managing Collective Impact often requires a separate organization(s) with staff and a specific set of skills to serve as the backbone for the entire initiative and to coordinate participating organizations ^q

Table 28.
Community Planning Team Diversity ^p

	Central Nebraska		Nebraska	
	N = 2	(%)	N = 345	(%)
Gender				
Male	1	50.0%	101	29.3%
Female	1	50.0%	229	66.4%
Missing	--	--	15	4.3%
Age				
Under 30	--	--	19	5.6%
30-39	--	--	68	19.6%
40-49	1	50.0%	88	25.4%
50-59	1	50.0%	90	25.8%
60 and over	--	--	44	13%
Missing	--	--	36	10.4%
Race/Ethnicity				
White	2	100%	230	66.7%
Black	--	--	10	2.9%
Hispanic	--	--	13	3.8%
Native American	--	--	6	1.7%
Asian	--	--	1	0.3%
Other	--	--	2	0.6%
Provided town name	--	--	63	18.3%
Missing	--	--	19	5.5%
Previous System Involvement				
Yes	--	--	98	28.4%



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No	2	100%	242	70.1%
Missing	--	--	5	1.4%
System Point *				
Law enforcement	--	--	34	7.8%
County attorney/ juvenile court	1	50.0%	32	7.3%
K-12 or secondary education	1	50.0%	65	14.9%
Ministry/faith based	--	--	10	2.3%
Diversion	--	--	55	12.6%
Probation	--	--	31	7.1%
Public defender/ defense counsel/ guardian ad litem	--	--	8	1.8%
DHHS or Child Welfare	--	--	13	3.0%
Treatment provider	--	--	40	9.2%
Post adjudication or detention	--	--	8	1.8%
Community based program	--	--	109	25.0%
Elected official or government	--	--	6	1.4%
Restorative practices	--	--	6	1.4%
Backbone or system improvement	--	--	3	0.7%
Other			16	3.7%
Voice on Team				
Feel heard	2	100%	270	78.3%
Do not feel heard	--	--	75	21.7%

Merrick $n = 1$, Nance $n = 1$

*note. Team members could have selected more than one system point; as such, they do not add up to 100%



References and Resources

- ^a **Population data:** Table B01001 race series, 2014-2018 American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau
Compiled and Prepared by: David Drozd, UNO Center for Public Affairs Research on July 10, 2020
- ^a **Youth employment:** Table B23001, 2014-2018 American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau
Compiled and Prepared by: David Drozd, UNO Center for Public Affairs Research on July 10, 2020
- ^a **Poverty/SES:** Table B10724, 2014-2018 American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau
Prepared by: David Drozd, UNO Center for Public Affairs Research on 3-18-2020
- ^a **Technology in household:** Table B28005, 2014-2018 American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau
Compiled by: David Drozd, UNO Center for Public Affairs Research on 8-11-20
- ^a **Home owner/transportation:** Table B25045, 2014-2018 American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau
Compiled and Prepared by: David Drozd, UNO Center for Public Affairs Research on 8-11-20
- ^a **Education attainment:** Table B15002, 2014-2018 American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau
Prepared by: David Drozd, UNO Center for Public Affairs Research on 3-18-2020
- ^b **School membership, chronic absenteeism, student disability, and free/reduced lunch:** Prepared by
Sara Simonsen, Nebraska Department of Education
- ^c **Graduation rates:** Special Tabulation by Sara Simonsen, Nebraska Department of Education
Prepared by: David Drozd, UNO Center for Public Affairs Research on 7-24-2020
- ^d **Mental health, Substance use, gang, and community perceptions of substance use:** Bureau of
Sociological Research, Nebraska Risk and Protective Factors Survey:
<https://bosr.unl.edu/current-nrpfss-county-level-data>
- ^e **Referral to and utilization of services:** Department of Health and Human Services
- ^f **Adult and juvenile arrests:** Nebraska Crime Commission, Crime Statistics:
<https://crimestats.ne.gov/public/Browse/browsetables.aspx>
- ^g Diversion programs
- ^h **Domestic violence:** Nebraska Crime Commission, Domestic Assault:
https://ncc.nebraska.gov/sites/ncc.nebraska.gov/files/doc/2019%20Domestic%20Assault%20and%20Arrest%20by%20County_0.pdf
- ⁱ Child abuse and neglect
- ^j **Community violence:** Nebraska Crime Commission, Crime Statistics:
<https://crimestats.ne.gov/public/Browse/browsetables.aspx>
- ^k **Distance to detention facility:** Google Maps
- ^l **Racial and ethnic disparities:** Prepared by Mitch Herian, University of Nebraska-Lincoln with data provided
by:



COUNTY NEEDS ASSESSMENT FY 2020-2021

Nebraska Crime Commission, Crime Statistics:

<https://crimestats.ne.gov/public/Browse/browsetables.aspx>

Nebraska Crime Commission, Juvenile Case Management System

Nebraska Judicial Branch Trial Court Case Management System, JUSTICE

Nebraska Judicial Branch, Juvenile Services Division

^m **Court Filings and Juvenile Record Sealing:** Data provided by the Nebraska Judicial Branch Trial Court Case Management System, JUSTICE. Prepared by: Lindsey Wylie, UNO Juvenile Justice Institute on 9-1-20

ⁿ **Access to Counsel:** Kids County in Nebraska Report, Voices for Children, retrieved from: www.voicesforchildren.com/kidscount. Data originally from Nebraska Judicial Branch Trial Court Case Management System, JUSTICE

^o **Diversion procedures and protocols:** Diversion survey distributed to Juvenile Diversion programs, 2020. Prepared by: Lindsey Wylie, UNO Juvenile Justice Institute

^p **Collective impact:** Collective impact surveys distributed to Community Planning Teams, 2019 and 2020. Prepared by: Anne Hobbs and Erin Wasserburger, UNO Juvenile Justice Institute

^q **Collective Impact Elements:** Kania, J., & Kramer, M. (2011). Collective Impact. *Stanford Social Innovation Review*.

**Appendix: Sealed Court Records by Year**

*Cases offered diversion, mediation or RJ are not available data points in in JUSTICE. All cases filed in adult court and transferred to juvenile court overlapped with cases that were filed in adult court as a misdemeanor or infraction; as such, they were omitted from analysis

2015	Number of charges Sealed	Total Number of charges	Sealed (%)
Dismissed or Dropped	--	--	--
Offered Diversion, mediation, or RJ	--	--	--
Filed in Juv. Court	21	38	55.3%
Filed in Adult Court (M or I)	1	1	100%
Filed in Adult Court and Transferred to Juv. Court	--	--	--
Total	22	39	56.4%

2016	Number of charges Sealed	Total Number of charges	Sealed (%)
Dismissed or Dropped	0	1	0.0%
Offered Diversion, mediation, or RJ	--	--	--
Filed in Juv. Court	12	12	100%
Filed in Adult Court (M or I)	2	2	100%
Filed in Adult Court and Transferred to Juv. Court	--	--	--
Total	14	15	93.3%

2017	Number of charges Sealed	Total Number of charges	Sealed (%)
Dismissed or Dropped	--	--	--
Offered Diversion, mediation, or RJ	--	--	--
Filed in Juv. Court	22	30	73.3%
Filed in Adult Court (M or I)	--	--	--
Filed in Adult Court and Transferred to Juv. Court	--	--	--
Total	22	30	73.3%



COUNTY NEEDS ASSESSMENT FY 2020-2021

2018	Number of charges Sealed	Total Number of charges	Sealed (%)
Dismissed or Dropped	--	--	--
Offered Diversion, mediation, or RJ	--	--	--
Filed in Juv. Court	--	--	--
Filed in Adult Court (M or I)	--	--	--
Filed in Adult Court and Transferred to Juv. Court	--	--	--
Total	--	--	--

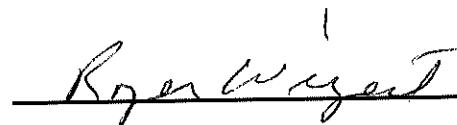
2019	Number of charges Sealed	Total Number of charges	Sealed (%)
Dismissed or Dropped	1	2	50.0%
Offered Diversion, mediation, or RJ	--	--	--
Filed in Juv. Court	0	17	0.0%
Filed in Adult Court (M or I)	--	--	--
Filed in Adult Court and Transferred to Juv. Court	--	--	--
Total	1	19	5.3%

Appendix B

HAMILTON, MERRICK, NANCE, & POLK COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE
JUVENILE SERVICES COMMUNITY PLAN

2021-2025

APPROVED BY THE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY
IN MERRICK, THIS 23RD DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2021.



Roger Wiegert, Chairman

Merrick County Board of Supervisors

Lead County

2021-2025 Juvenile Services Comprehensive Community Plan Approval



SUMMARY → DESIGN SURVEY → PREVIEW & SCORE → COLLECT RESPONSES → **ANALYZE RESULTS** → PRESENT RESULTS



RESPONDENTS: 7 of 7

ADD TO DASHBOARD

SAVE AS



QUESTION SUMMARIES

INSIGHTS AND DATA TRENDS

INDIVIDUAL RESPONSES



Page 1



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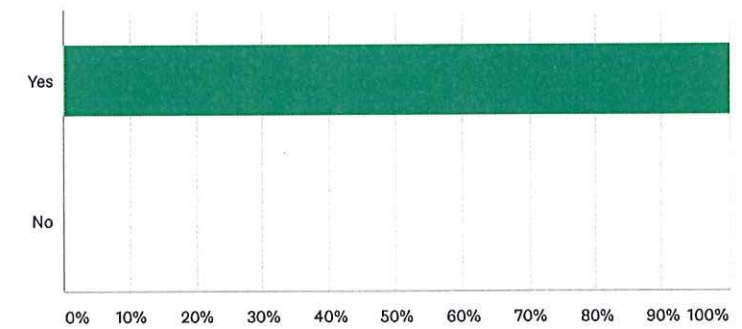


Customize

Save as

Do you approve of the draft of the Juvenile Services Comprehensive Community Plan? With the understanding that this is a living and breathing document and throughout the four years changes can be made to the plan at any time.

Answered: 7 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES

RESPONSES

Yes

100.00%

7

No

0.00%

0

TOTAL

7

ENGLISH



Appendix C

REVISED INTERLOCAL COOPERATION
AGREEMENT FOR JUVENILE SERVICES
BY AND BETWEEN
THE COUNTIES OF MERRICK, NANCE, POLK, AND HAMILTON

This agreement is made by and between the County of Merrick, a body politic and corporate and a political subdivision of the State of Nebraska, the County of Nance, a body politic and corporate and a political subdivision of the State of Nebraska, the County of Polk, a body politic and corporate and a political subdivision of the State of Nebraska, and the County of Hamilton, a body politic and corporate and a political subdivision of the State of Nebraska,

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, Neb. Rev. Stat. 13-804 provides that any power or powers, privileges, or authority exercised or capable of exercise by a public agency of the state may be exercised and enjoyed jointly with any other public agency of this state and jointly with any public agency of any other state or of the United States to the extent that laws of such other state or of the United States permit such joint exercise or enjoyment. Any agency of state government, when acting jointly with any public agency, may exercise and enjoy all the powers, privileges, and authority conferred by the Interlocal Cooperation Act upon a public agency; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this agreement is to make the most efficient use of each county's taxing authority and other powers by enabling them to cooperate with each other on a basis of mutual advantage and thereby to provide services and facilities in a manner and pursuant to forms of governmental organization that will accord best with geographic, economic, population, and other factors influencing the needs and development of all four counties.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants and promises contained herein, the parties hereto agree as follows:

1. Purpose. The purpose of this agreement is to establish an agreement between Merrick, Nance, Polk, and Hamilton counties in regards to a contract for Youth Services (diversion and truancy programs).
2. Duration. This contract will begin July 1, 2021 and remain in effect through June 30, 2022, unless the parties hereto agree in writing to modify, extend, or terminate this agreement prior to that time.
3. Organization. There shall be no separate legal or administrative agency created pursuant to this Interlocal Cooperation Agreement.
4. Agency. Merrick County, through its Central Nebraska Youth Services program, will provide diversion services as well as truancy prevention and intervention services for juveniles who reside in, attend school in, or have committed any type of criminal action in

Merrick, Nance, Polk, and Hamilton Counties and who are referred for services as per the discretion of the respective County Attorney.

5. Consideration. Nance, Polk, and Hamilton shall let Merrick County act as the "lead county" in the application and administration of the 2021-2023 Community-Based Juvenile Services Aid Grant money as well as the Enhancement Grant money for each county. Hamilton, Nance, and Polk shall refer juveniles to participate in the diversion and truancy programs. Program participants shall be required to pay recommended programming fees to Merrick County.

- The Nance County grant funds in an amount of no more than \$10,007 plus the programming fees collected by Merrick County will be used for the personnel costs, administration costs, travel expenses and other overhead expenses.
- The Polk County grant funds in an amount of no more than \$28,190 plus the programming fees collected by Merrick County will be used for the personnel costs, administration costs, travel expenses and other overhead expenses.
- The Hamilton County grant funds in an amount of no more than \$38,380 plus the programming fees collected by Merrick County will be used for the personnel costs, administration costs, travel expenses and other overhead expenses.
- The Merrick County grant funds in an amount of no more than \$31,817 plus the programming fees collected by Merrick County will be used for the personnel costs, administration costs, travel expenses and other overhead expenses.
- The Enhancement Grant funds in an amount of no more than \$29,484 plus the programming fees collected by Merrick County will be used for the personnel costs, administration costs, travel expenses and other overhead expenses.

6. Consideration. Each county will contribute tax-asking money to the administration costs, travel expenses, and overhead expenses incurred by the programming that are not covered by grant funds. Therefore, Hamilton, Merrick, Nance, and Polk counties will agree to pay a minimum fee of \$3,075.00 to support the programming. This fee shall be paid in full by January 31, 2022. This fee may change due to grant funds being awarded or not awarded and possible school contributions. Should this amount need to change, this interlocal agreement will be revised and will require new signatures from the respective parties.

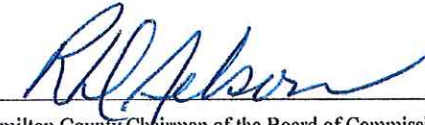
7. Services Provided. Through its Central Nebraska Youth Services program, Merrick County agrees to screen, enroll, monitor, and supervise each counties' program participants in a similar manner that Merrick County participants are screened, enrolled, monitored, and supervised. At minimum,

Merrick County will provide the following services to youth from participating counties:

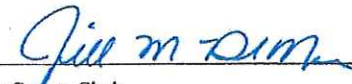
- Screen youth referred for diversion from Nance, Polk, and Hamilton Counties to determine the best course of action (e.g. warning letter, diversion, filing, etc.) and to establish the individual needs and risks for each youth.
- Screen youth referred for truancy from Nance, Polk, and Hamilton Counties to help determine the best services available to alleviate the reason(s) the referred Juvenile is missing school excessively.
- Administer and/or refer appropriate offense-specific educational courses;
- Monitor school attendance and behavior, if required under diversion contract;
- Monitor community service work, if required under diversion contract;
- Monitor restitution payment, if required under Diversion contract;
- Monitor counseling or other rehabilitative treatments, if required under diversion contract;
- Verify that apology letters have been sent to victims, if required under diversion contract;
- Report violations of Diversion contracts to and successful completions to the Nance, Polk, and Hamilton County Attorneys about their respective referrals.

8. Financing. Each party shall be responsible for financing their respective obligations herein, including the levying, collecting and accounting for any tax required and establishing and maintaining required budgets.
9. Property. Any property utilized by this program shall be acquired, held and/or disposed of at the discretion of Merrick County
10. Administration. The Central Nebraska Youth Services Office shall provide information reporting on this program.
11. Entire Agreement. It is agreed that the above represents the entire agreement for juvenile services between the parties for the period of July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022.

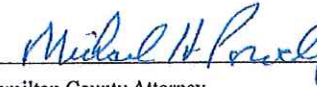
THIS INTERLOCAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT FOR JUVENILE DIVERSION
APPROVED BY THE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OF THE COUNTY OF HAMILTON, THIS 5th DAY OF March, 2021.



Hamilton County Chairman of the Board of Commissioners




Hamilton County Clerk

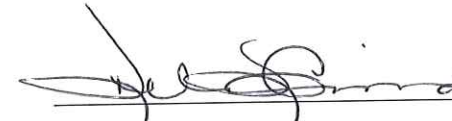


Hamilton County Attorney

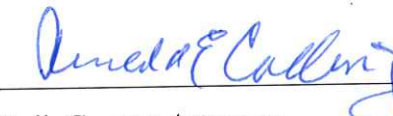
THIS INTERLOCAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT FOR JUVENILE SERVICES
APPROVED BY THE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OF THE COUNTY OF POLK, THIS 2nd DAY OF March, 2021.



Polk County Chairman of the Board of Supervisors





Polk County Clerk



Polk County Attorney

THIS INTERLOCAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT FOR JUVENILE SERVICES
APPROVED BY THE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF THE COUNTY OF MERRICK, THIS 23 DAY OF Feb., 2021.


Merrick County Chairman of the Board of Supervisors


Merrick County Clerk


Merrick County Attorney

THIS INTERLOCAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT FOR JUVENILE SERVICES APPROVED BY THE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

OF THE COUNTY OF NANCE, THIS 23rd DAY OF February, 2021.



Nance County Chairman of the Board of Supervisors



Nance County Clerk



Nance County Attorney