



Nebraska Children's Commission
521 South 14th Street, Suite 401
Lincoln, NE 68508

Via Email and Interagency Mail

October 13, 2016

Ellen Brokofsky
Probation Administrator
1445 K Street, State Capitol Room #1209
Lincoln, NE 68508

Re: Data and Information Request

Dear Ellen,

The Executive Committee of the Nebraska Children's Commission respectfully submits the attached data and information request on behalf of the Juvenile Services Committee. As you know, this Committee has been charged by statute to examine the out-of-home placements and system of care in the juvenile justice system. The information and data requested is necessary to make informed recommendations to improve outcomes for children and families in Nebraska.

We request that the Administrative Office of Probation respond before or at the November Juvenile Services Committee meeting, on November 8, 2016. Your response will be used to inform the creation of recommendations related to the juvenile justice continuum of care, including out-of-home placements and the role of the Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Centers (YRTCs). These issues are of high importance to the Committee and Legislature, and current and accurate information from Probation will support recommendations to improve and enhance juvenile justice in Nebraska.

Thank you for your consideration of this request, and please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,

Beth Baxter
Nebraska Children's Commission Chair

Karen Authier
Nebraska Children's Commission Past Chair

Encl: Juvenile Services Data Request
Cc: Jeanne Brandner, Nicole Brundo, Kim Hawekotte

QUESTIONS FOR PROBATION

1. **Process across the State used to determine placement recommendation at YRTC**
 - a. **Information or insight about whether we have statewide uniformity of Probation recommendation process and court finding/court process to commit youth to YRTC**
 - b. **What are the court processes across the State related to commitments?**

2. **What information/documentation is given to YRTC at time of commitment**
 - a. **What, if any, assessments are completed by Probation immediately prior to commitment**

3. **Involvement of Probation with youth while placed at YRTC**
 - a. **Data on contacts, visits, and team meetings by probation officers while youth placed at YRTC**
 - b. **Data/information on probation involvement with family while youth placed at YRTC**
 - c. **Information regarding involvement of probation officers with YRTC treatment planning team & process for youth placed at YRTC**

4. **Re-entry Process**
 - a. **Where types of placements (including home) are youth going to when leave YRTC**
 - i. **Any Data available**
 - b. **What are the court processes across the State related to discharges from YRTC**
 - c. **What services are currently available when leave YRTC**
 - i. **What services are frequently recommended but not available when youth leave YRTC?**
 - d. **Are 60-day hearings and re-entry hearings functioning as intended to promote smooth transitions from YRTC to the community? If not, what would help bridge the gap?**
 - e. **When is a new YLS completed (before re-entry, after re-entry, or both?)**
 - f. **Are any further assessments completed**

5. **Number of recommitments**
 - a. **Reasons for recommitment**
 - b. **Is a YLS completed prior to recommitment**

6. **Other outcomes for youth leaving YRTC**
 - a. **Data on:**

- i. Youth successfully released from probation within one year of YRTC commitment**
 - ii. Youth obtaining high school diploma or G.E.D. within one year of YRTC commitment**
 - iii. Youth unsuccessfully released from probation within one year of YRTC commitment**
 - iv. Youth receiving new juvenile charges within one year of YRTC commitment**
 - v. Youth receiving new adult charges within one year of YRTC commitment**

- 7. Major barriers that you currently see to promoting positive youth outcomes in the YRTC commitment and/or reentry process?**

- 8. Major requests or recommendations to best serve youth facing commitment or re-entering the community from YRTC care?**