



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

Via Email and Interagency Mail

October 13, 2016

Courtney Phillips
CEO, NDHHS
Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services
301 Centennial Mall South
Lincoln, NE 68509

Re: Data and Information Request

Dear Courtney,

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 Department of Health and Human Services 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 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: Nicole Brundo, Kim Hawekotte, Douglas Weinberg

QUESTIONS FOR DHHS/OJS

1. Demographics for 2015-16
 - a. Age of youth
 - b. Court of commitment
 - c. Length of stay
 - d. Offense of youth
 - e. YLS Score at time of entry to facility

2. Information/documentation received at time of commitment

3. Assessments completed at time of commitment
 - a. Type of assessment and reason for assessment
 - b. Is it evidence-based assessment
 - c. Who completes the assessment
 - d. When is the assessment completed
 - e. How is assessment utilized by the facility
 - i. Is an individual treatment plan created for each youth at intake?
 - f. Any data collected regarding the results of these assessment

4. Evidence based programs currently being used by the facility both treatment and behavioral

5. How is progress measured for each youth at the facility
 - a. Are there individual plans
 - i. If so, how is treatment individualized for youth?
 - b. Are any further assessments completed to monitor reduction in treatment need and/or risk level?

6. Policies on contact with their families (including which family members and/or non-family supports may be included on youth contact lists)
 - a. Policies on transportation for families to visit youth at YRTC
 - i. Data on uptake rates for transportation & in-person family visits
 - b. Policies on phone contact with families
 - c. Policies on parent-child contact for parenting youth

7. Policies on use of isolation and seclusion
 - a. Data on use of isolation and seclusion for 2015-2016, including:
 - i. Average length of stay in isolation
 - ii. Minimum length of stay in isolation

iii. Maximum length of stay in isolation

8. Staff/youth ratio

- a. Number and type of licensed treatment staff**
- b. Policies regarding individual youth treatment or therapeutic intervention versus group programming**

9. Number of youth on psychotropic medication

10. Number of recommitments since January 2015 by month

- a. Average length of time between recommitments**
- b. Reasons for recommitments**
- c. Results of assessments completed at time of recommitment compared with results of assessments completed at time of prior release**

11. Any physical structure concerns/issues

12. Major barriers that you currently see to promoting positive outcomes for youth in care at YRTC?

13. Major requests or recommendations that would best serve youth in care at YRTC?