

# Youth Treatment System Briefing

to the Juvenile Services and Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice

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## Goals of the Youth Treatment System

- Help youth develop skills to be successful and productive in their communities
- Provide quality education and clinical services
- Implement a system of programming and services to meet youths' individual needs
- Operate gender- and culturally-appropriate programming
  - Identify separate space for female youth in YRTC system

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## Goals of the Youth Treatment System

	Current Treatment Location	Constraints	Future Treatment Location
<b>Youth Rehabilitation &amp; Treatment System</b>			
Males, core & re-entry	Kearney		Kearney
Females, core group	Kearney	Must move from Kearney by July 2021	Hastings (proposed)
Females, re-entry	Geneva	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Difficulty maintaining staff</li> <li>• Difficulty recruiting clinical support</li> </ul>	Hastings (proposed)
Males & Females, high acuity	Lincoln leased space		Lincoln leased space
<b>Chemical Dependency, Males</b>	Whitehall/Lincoln		Whitehall/Lincoln
<b>Youth who Sexually Harm, Males</b>	Whitehall/Lincoln		Whitehall/Lincoln

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## Goals of the Youth Treatment System

### Geneva Re-entry Program opened February 2020

- Using refurbished Geneva LaFlesche building, this was an opportunity to explore sustainability of programming
- Re-entry program has experienced significant difficulty recruiting and maintaining sufficient direct care and clinical staff

Geneva Re-entry Program	
Females in re-entry program in 2020	15
Average days in program	45
Re-commitments (as of 10/19/2020)	1

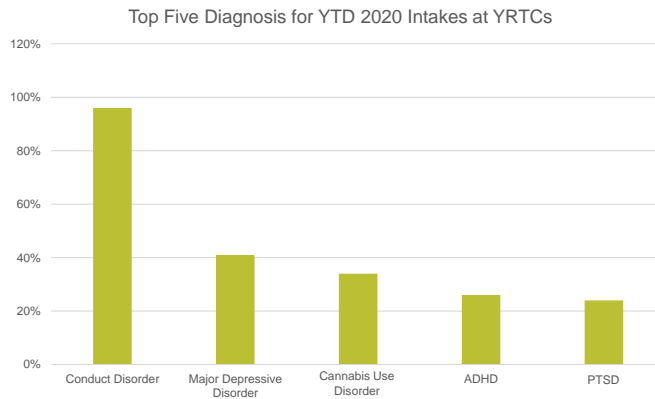
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## YRTC Top Admission Diagnoses

Of all 2020 youth intakes....

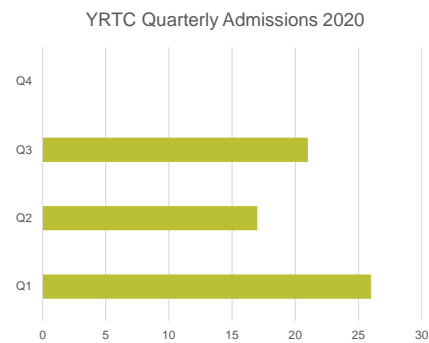
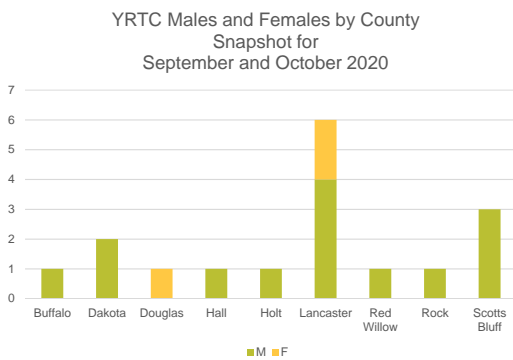


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## YRTC Data

### Census



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## YRTC Data

Census Males	6/30/2018	6/30/2019	6/30/2020	10/19/20
YRTC Kearney (M)	84	70	53	40
YRTC Lincoln (M)	n/a	n/a	6	5

**Avg Length of Stay 18/19-19/20\***  
**299 days (18/19), 332 days (19/20)**  
**Length of Stay Goal**  
**180-270 days**

### YRTC Male Youth Stats SFY19/20

97 Admissions

Admissions by Race

1. White/Non-Hispanic, 41%
2. Black/Non-Hispanic, 32%
3. Other/Hispanic, 21%
4. American Indian, 4%

Top Home Counties

1. Lancaster County, 40%
2. Douglas, 25%
3. Hall, 7%
4. Scotts Bluff 2%

Top Offenses

1. Theft, 19 charges
2. 3<sup>rd</sup> degree assault, 11 charges
3. Burglary, 8 charges
4. Operation of motor vehicle to avoid arrest, 5 charges

\*Across all YRTC programs/campuses



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## YRTC Data

Census Females	6/30/2018	6/30/2019	6/30/2020	10/19/20
YRTC Kearney (F)	n/a	n/a	13	14
YRTC Geneva (F)	26	42	5	0
YRTC Lincoln (F)	n/a	n/a	3	3

**Avg Length of Stay 18/19-19/20\***  
**234 days (18/19), 333 days (19/20)**

**Length of Stay Goal**  
**180-270 days**

### YRTC Female Youth Stats SFY19/20

18 Admissions

Admissions by Race

1. White/Non-Hispanic, 67%
2. Black/Non-Hispanic, 22%
3. American Indian, 11%

Top Home Counties

1. Lancaster, 50%
2. Douglas 22%

Top Offenses

1. Theft, 4 charges
2. 3<sup>rd</sup> degree assault, 2 charges
3. Resisting arrest, 2 charges

\*Across all YRTC programs/campuses



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# Hastings as a YRTC

## Initial observations and impressions of Hastings resources

- Stable staff with clinical expertise
- New cottages with individual rooms and homelike setting
  - Ability to group youth with similar treatment needs
  - Campus also includes church/gym, school/cafeteria, administrative building
- Capacity to recruit and hire qualified staff

Hastings Campus Team	
ACTIVITY SPECIALIST	1
ACTIVITY SUPERVISOR	1
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT I	1
ADMINISTRATIVE NURSE (NEW)	1
CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY TREATMENT SPECIALIST	1
CUSTODIAN/HOUSEKEEPER	2
DHHS PROGRAM MANAGER II	1
FACILITY OPERATING OFFICER II	1
FOOD SERVICE COOK	5
FOOD SERVICE MANAGER	1
HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNICIAN	2
HUMAN SERVICES TREATMENT SPECIALIST II	1
MENTAL HEALTH PRACTITIONER I	2
MENTAL HEALTH PRACTITIONER II	1
PERSONNEL OFFICER	1
PSYCHOLOGIST/LICENSED	1
RECREATION SPECIALIST	1
REGISTERED NURSE (NEW)	1
SAFETY COORDINATOR	1
SOCIAL WORKER II	1
STAFF ASSISTANT I	2
SUPPLY SUPERVISOR	1
SUPPLY WORKER II	1
TEACHER (SCATA CONTRACT)	5
YOUTH COUNSELOR I	1
YOUTH SECURITY SPECIALIST II	27
YOUTH SECURITY SUPERVISOR	10
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- Youth security specialists: 13.5 years avg. tenure
- Youth security supervisors: 11.4 years avg. tenure

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# Male Chemical Dependency Program Transition

## Whitehall campus: YSH / CD census & capacity

	SFY17-18	SFY18-19	SFY19-20		10/19/20		
YSH Avg Census	13	13	9	YSH Current Census	7	YSH Potential Capacity	16
CD Avg Census	20	13	13	CD Current Census	8	CD Potential Capacity	16

YSH = Youth who Sexually Harm  
 CD = Chemical Dependency



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## Male Chemical Dependency Program Transition

### Whitehall campus transition

- Improvements to cottages #1 and #2
  - Paint touch-up
  - Asbestos tile abatement
  - New lighting
  - New carpeting, vinyl floors
- State Building Division is covering costs (~\$35,000)
  - Two additional cottages, #5 and #6 available, similar improvements required (~\$35,000)

### Shared staffing but separate programs

- Chemical Dependency program and youth who sexually harm program will be completely separate
  - Separate cottages
  - Separate dining
  - Separate education and classrooms
  - Separate recreation schedules
  - Staff actively training
  - Consultant on site to assist with transition

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## Nebraska Youth Rehabilitation & Treatment System

### Guiding Principles

Multi-disciplinary team planning and execution of among state agencies

Strengthening Chemical Dependency programming across all facilities.

Adoption of small-group care model core elements – cohort consistency, relationships, homelike living spaces, self-care and shared responsibilities of shared spaces

Appropriate aftercare and re-entry are essential to case planning and successful transitioning back to the community

Academic achievement and engagement are critical elements for case planning and successful re-entry – core curriculum, life skills, emotional intelligence and career skills  
Nebraska Department of Education began onsite consultation February 24, 2020.

Integrated education: academic and credit recovery for diploma achievement, career pathways, project-based learning

Engaging families as partners early and throughout the continuum of care

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# Nebraska Youth Rehabilitation & Treatment System

## Treatment model

1. Enhanced clinical services: individualized therapy, family therapy, nursing support, psychiatric support with medication management
  - Supplement with chemical dependency services to address co-occurring disorders exhibited by majority of YRTC youth
  - Re-evaluate the Phase program
2. Educational Services: Academic achievement and engagement are critical elements for successful re-entry. They include core curriculum, life skills, emotional intelligence and career skills.
3. Programming for engagement: appropriate activities, on- and off-campus, to develop each youth's life skills, trade skills, interpersonal skills and self-worth
4. Re-entry planning: preparing youth to return home, through partnership with families, community supports and juvenile probation

# Nebraska Youth Rehabilitation & Treatment System

## Missouri Youth Services Institute

MYSI employs a therapeutic group treatment approach, utilizing components of positive youth development and cognitive behavioral therapy to help youth make positive and long-lasting changes

- Year-long engagement started in August 2020
- Initial focus on Kearney
- Will work closely with Hastings team to prepare for potential female program transfer

### Fundamentals of the MYSI approach

Small, non-institutional facilities close to home	Integrated treatment & education
Integrated treatment	Families & communities as partners in treatment
Individual care within a group treatment model	Support from transition through aftercare
Safety through supervision, structure & relationships	

## YRTC Focus: Missouri Youth Services Institute

All YRTCs are stable, yet undergoing a dynamic transformation and preparing to meet the needs of youth in our state for years to come. There are three key areas of focus at this time for the YRTCs: clinical, education, and programming/facilities addressed by the following initiatives:

- Utilization of contracted services through the Missouri Youth Services Institute (MYSI)
- Nebraska Department of Education providing enhanced educational services to allow youth to progress toward graduation
- Create a therapeutic milieu / environment utilizing both group and individual treatment
- Continuum of services allows for meeting the needs of youth as they progress through a system of care

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## Recommendations from 2013 Children's Commission Report

- Create an intensive, highly structured **treatment facility in most appropriate community** with programming designed specifically for high-risk juvenile law violators
- Require the YRTCs to provide **evidence-based, trauma-informed treatment** for behavioral health disorders, mental health disorders, and chemical dependencies to include appropriate medication assisted treatment
- Develop a **decision matrix to establish YRTC entrance criteria** that takes into account appropriate screening and assessment scores, seriousness of the crime, and the need for more intense interventions because of previous intervention failure

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## Next Steps

1. Continue dialogue on the best interest of children and families.
2. Begin meeting with statewide stakeholders to develop 5-year operations plan; exploring options for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Business Administration to facilitate meetings.
3. Continue to engage Hastings stakeholders in community transition planning. COO is in frequent contact with our Hastings liaison.
4. Continue DHHS executive team visits to youth campuses.

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## Questions?

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