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Juvenile Services Committee and Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice 2021-2022 Joint Annual Report

Recommendations to the Nebraska
Children's Commission and the
Judiciary Committee of the Legislature

Juvenile Services Committee and Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice Joint Annual Report

The Juvenile Services Committee (JSC) of the Nebraska Children’s Commission and the Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice (NCJJ) present this joint report as a thoughtful contribution to the reform of juvenile justice in Nebraska and in compliance with [Neb. Rev. Stat. 43-4203](#) and [43-2412\(1\)\(b\)](#). The recommendations contained in this joint report support the ongoing juvenile justice reform efforts, and reflect a collaborative, open, and inclusive process of discussion and information sharing.

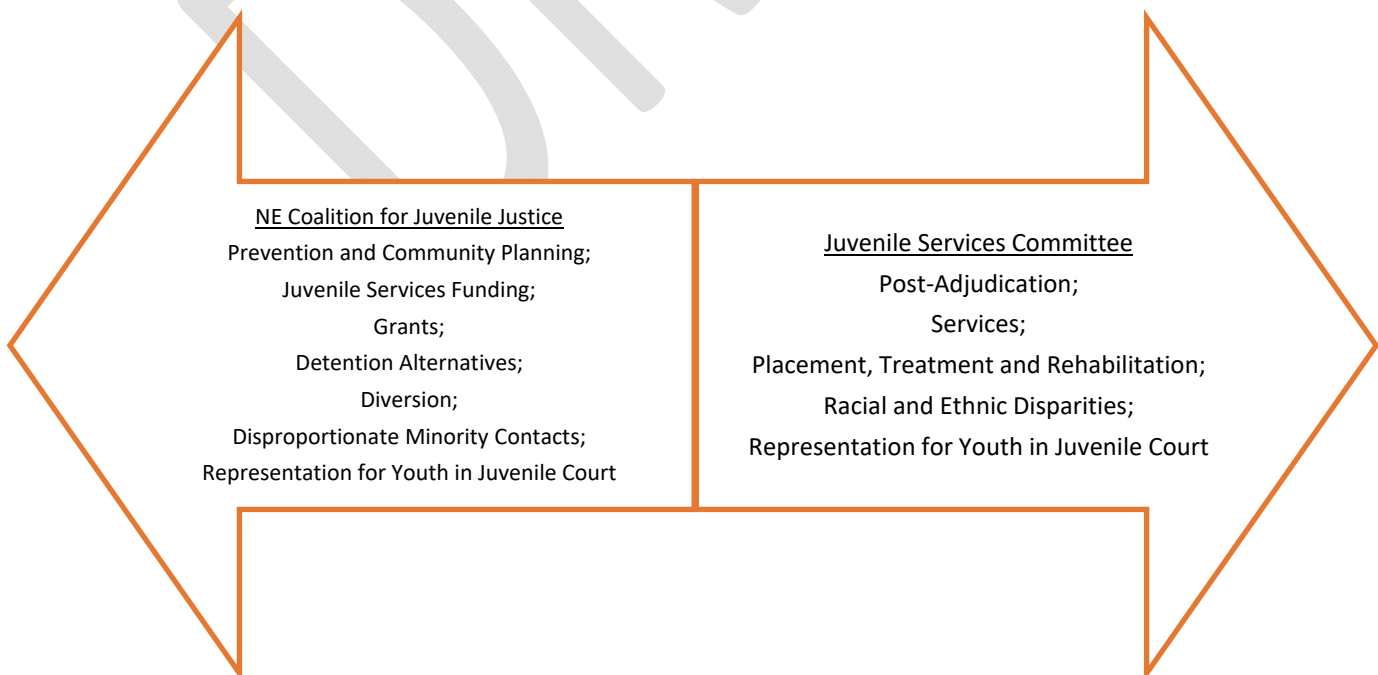
In order to enhance collaboration, coordinate initiatives, and increase the impact and efficacy of juvenile justice reform in Nebraska, the JSC and NCJJ have begun collaborating in the form of joint meetings, joint reporting, and inclusive workgroups. This collaboration will allow the most coordinated response possible for juvenile justice reform, while allowing each body to meet its statutory obligations in the most efficient way possible.

The two have divided initiatives and work based on the juvenile justice continuum of care.

These groups will work together towards juvenile justice reform and improved outcomes for Nebraska’s youth and families. Both groups remain willing to serve as a resource to the Legislature, Governor, Judicial Branch, and state agencies for any juvenile justice related issue or initiative.

MISSION AND GOAL

- 1. Mission:** Design a comprehensive, accountable, culturally competent, continuum of care in the juvenile justice system that meets the needs of families and youth while maintaining public safety.
- 2. Goal:** To work collaboratively with the executive, legislative, judicial, and county branches of government, the Nebraska Children’s Commission (Commission), and other key stakeholders to establish and support the development of the ideal Juvenile justice System that will prevent children and youth from entering or becoming more deeply involved in the juvenile justice system.



Workgroups

The Committee had three active workgroups during this report year: 1) Racial and Ethnic Disparities, 2) Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Centers and 3) Access to Treatment Services.

Racial and Ethnic Disparities (RED) Workgroup

A'Jamal Byndon and Stanford Bradley, Co-chairs

The RED Workgroup was established by the Committee to examine racial and ethnic disparities in the juvenile justice system and create a plan to address disparities within the scope of the Committee's purpose. Initial discussion centered around data, both what is currently available and what is missing. It was determined that mapping statewide system points and matching them with race and ethnicity data would be the inaugural priority of the workgroup. A statewide systems map was created in collaboration with JJI. The map can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/JJ-System-Map> and narrative here: <https://tinyurl.com/System-Map-Narrative>.

During this report year, the RED Workgroup focused on the impact of our education system on youth. Youth in the juvenile justice system experience higher rates of student discipline and are often placed in alternative settings.

Recommendations for Legislators:

1. Introduce an interim study to assess the role of the education system in disproportionate minority involvement with juvenile justice and provide recommendations for strategies to reduce disparities.
2. Introduce legislation to create an office within NDE dedicated to system involved youth.

Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Centers (YRTC) Workgroup

Bobbi Taylor and Rico Zavala, Co-chairs

The YRTC Workgroup was established by the Committee to reexamine our statutory charge related to the YRTC's and to assess the 5-year plan the Department of Health and Human Services submitted to the Legislature on March 15, 2021 in accordance with [§43-427](#). The Workgroup reviewed and discussed the 5-year plan and identified 4 priority areas: Youth Voice, Accreditation, Family Engagement and Racial and Ethnic Disparities.

Recommendations for DHHS

1. Youth voice must be centered in the development of policies and practices within the YRTC system.

In 2020, Legislators passed [LB1140](#), requiring DHHS to create a 5-year plan by March 15, 2021. At the time of its original submission, there were no youth or young adult members involved in the creation of the plan. To their credit, DHHS has since engaged one young adult to assist in the ongoing development of the YRTC plan. Although this is progress, best practice is to have multiple young adult perspectives represented. We encourage DHHS to explore ways to expand youth voice in the continued development of their plan. One way to increase young adult engagement would be to provide compensation for time spend in meetings and preparing for meetings.

Youth placed at a YRTC should also have an avenue to provide input and engage in leadership opportunities. Previously, Project Everlast facilitated groups at the Geneva campus. This program was an effective way for youth to develop connections and leadership skills. The YRTC Workgroup recommends that Project Everlast or other leadership program models be reinstated and developed for youth at each of the YRTC facilities.

Currently, the Kearney and Hastings campuses have a Youth Council where youth are giving input on practices within their facility. According to Performance Based Standards (PBS), the YRTC's conduct an exit interview with youth about their

experiences during their time at the facility. YRTC compliance staff review surveys and send feedback to leadership. The Committee and Workgroup encourage DHHS to invest in strategies to expand youth engagement.

2. DHHS should ensure all YRTC staff and leadership are trained in a nationally recognized or evidenced based family engagement model.

While efforts are being made to engage families, there is no consistent model DHHS uses in working with families. YRTC staff at every level should be trained in methods of engagement for both youth and families. Models such as Families Thrive™ should be considered for implementation.

A small group of YRTC staff was able to attend a training in December of 2021. DHHS leadership reports they are currently working on a plan to train additional staff in the future.

[Families Thrive™ Training \(nspnetwork.org\)](https://nspnetwork.org)

3. DHHS should create a plan to consistently measure and address racial and ethnic disparities.

Although the YRTC's don't have discretion when it comes to which youth who are ordered to its facilities, there remains an ability to examine and address racial and ethnic disparities for youth during their time at the YRTC's. Data must be consistently collected and aggregated by race and ethnicity. The workgroup has identified four opportunities for action:

1. Add a section focused on racial and ethnic disparity (RED) data/outcomes to the 5-year plan.
2. In collecting data on race and ethnicity, best practice is for youth and/or families to self-report their own demographics. If this is not currently being practiced, the workgroup recommends updating data collection methods be in line with current standards for classifying race/ethnicity.
3. Outcomes for youth at the YRTC's should be measured, aggregated by race/ethnicity, and be shared regularly with stakeholders.
4. Addressing disparities within our juvenile justice system requires authentic engagement within teams of professionals who work with youth. It is recommended that the YRTC teams consider a SWOT (Strengths/Weaknesses/Opportunities/Threats) Analysis centered on racial and ethnic disparities to create a culture where staff can build trust and identify any areas of need within their teams. To address disparities with youth and families, we must first create an environment among professionals where we are able to talk openly about race issues.

4. DHHS should explore alternative accreditation options for the YRTC's.

The YRTC 5-Year Plan identified accreditation and licensing as an area to address. Currently, the YRTC's are accredited through the American Correctional Association (ACA). There is question about whether the ACA best aligns with the rehabilitation and treatment focus of the YRTC model. The YRTC Workgroup explored the Council on Accreditation (COA) Juvenile Justice Residential (JJR) Services standards as an option for alternative accreditation. Workgroup leaders along with YRTC leadership met with representatives from COA to explore work being done in other states and the potential options for implementation in Nebraska. The JJR standard appears to be the most fitting accreditation currently available but it is unclear what practical benefits would result from implementation within our YRTC system. A change in accreditation is a significant undertaking and would require additional funding, training, staffing and an overall shift in approach.

Alternative licensing options have also been explored by this Workgroup. DHHS could create a license specifically for the YRTC's. This option may be beneficial, though any license created would ultimately form a system where one division of DHHS has oversight over the other. This potential mechanism for oversight may not deliver the desired outcomes due to the dilemma of internal oversight. DHHS should continue exploring options for alternative licensure and/or accreditation with this workgroup and other stakeholders.

The YRTC Workgroup would like to acknowledge DHHS, specifically Mark LaBouchardiere for his continued partnership and commitment to improvement.

Access to Treatment Services Workgroup

Julie Smith and Patrick Connell, Co-chairs

The Access to Treatment Services Workgroup was previously established as the “Needs Assessment” Workgroup to assess in-state residential treatment options for youth and identify gaps to be addressed. The Workgroup is reviewing data to aid in the assessment process. During the next report year, The Workgroup previously examined the [Probation District Needs Analysis](#) from May of 2021, which identified challenges in service access and highlighted service needs by district. The Workgroup scope is being broadened to examine the wider array of treatment services for youth. During the next report year, the group will redefine its scope and identify underlying issues contributing to treatment service access limitations and delays in our state.

Legislative Activity

During the 107th Legislature, 1st session, a number of bills and interim studies were introduced related to the juvenile justice system.

[LB568](#) was introduced by Senator Pansing Brooks in 2021 and progressed to Select File during the 2022 session. This piece of legislation sought to address the concerning amount of youth who enter the juvenile justice system through truancy filings. Senator Pansing Brooks’ office worked with several groups including county attorneys to work on a compromise amendment in 2022 but the bill did not advance. LB568 was an important piece of juvenile justice reform that reflects the work and recommendations of the Committee since its inception.

[LB792](#) was introduced by Senator Lowe and amended into [LB1011](#) through AM1999. LB1011 passed in 2022, allocating \$15 million to the YRTC Kearney campus for construction of new living quarters for youth in addition to other building projects.

Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice

The Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice (NCJJ) was created in 2000 by LB1167 and codified at [Neb. Rev. Stat. §43-2411](#) as an advisory committee to the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice (Nebraska Crime Commission). The NCJJ was formed to recommend grant recipients to the Nebraska Crime Commission; identify juvenile justice issues, share information, and monitor and evaluate programs in the juvenile justice system; recommend guidelines and supervision procedures to be used to develop or expand local diversion programs for juveniles; and prepare an annual report including recommendations on administrative and legislative actions which would improve the juvenile justice system.

While the NCJJ is no longer federally mandated, due to the withdrawal from Title II funding, the NCJJ remains active with five standing subcommittees who meet in addition to quarterly NCJJ meetings: Executive, Grant Review, Disproportionate Minority Contact, Diversion, and Community Planning.

The goal of the NCJJ remains to improve all aspects of the juvenile justice system in the state of Nebraska by assisting communities and the state with the planning and implementation of systemic improvements, advocacy, education, and award recommendations of state funds for such purposes. It is hoped the lives and futures of children, youth, and families involved with the juvenile justice system will be improved.

Due to the desire to not duplicate efforts with other statewide commissions and coalitions, and to develop strong recommendations for juvenile justice in Nebraska, the NCJJ has joined forces with the Juvenile Services Committee of the Nebraska Children's Commission to hold joint meetings and provide annual recommendations.

During this fiscal year the NCJJ was able to secure a federal Title II grant to support the State Advisory Group (NCJJ) in meetings and training for members. The NCJJ was able to have four additional young adults appointed to represent lived experience in the juvenile justice system. There is also a small group exploring Title II compliance in order to open up the opportunity for our state to be eligible for federal funding again.

Grant Review Subcommittee

The Grant Review Subcommittee is responsible for making funding recommendations to the Crime Commission for the Community-based Juvenile Services Aid grant (CBA) and the Juvenile Services grant (JS). Annually, funds are announced and distributed on a formula basis for CBA funds and on a competitive basis for JS funds. If any county or tribe does not request their CBA formula amount, those funds are put into a competitive pot of funding called Enhancement-based grant (EB) funds. Counties and tribes are also able to apply for these EB funds in addition to their CBA formula allocation. If Nebraska were to receive federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention funds (Title II) in the future, the grant review subcommittee would also make the funding recommendations for this competitive funding.

Community-based Juvenile Services Aid

Community-based Juvenile Services Aid are state funds appropriated by the Nebraska Legislature and administered by the Nebraska Crime Commission. The Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program promotes the development and implementation of community-based programs designed to prevent unlawful behavior and to effectively minimize the depth and duration of the juvenile's involvement in the juvenile justice system. Funds are awarded to aid recipients prioritizing programs and services that will divert juveniles from the juvenile justice system, reduce the population of juveniles in juvenile detention and secure confinement, and assist in transitioning juveniles from out-of-home placements. Eligible applicants are limited to individual counties, multiple counties, federal or state recognized Indian tribes, or any combination of the entities listed.

This year the grant review subcommittee assisted in the review of Community-based Juvenile Services grant requests in the amount of \$5,798,000.00. Thirty-three Community-based Juvenile Services grants and ten (10) Enhancement Based grants were awarded for project period July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022. (See distribution of funds table below).

Juvenile Services Funds

Juvenile Services funds are state funds appropriated by the Nebraska Legislature and administered by the Nebraska Crime Commission. Availability of funds are announced on an annual basis and applications are accepted through a competitive grant process. Funds received through the Juvenile Services Grant Program shall be used exclusively to assist the recipient in the implementation and operation of programs or the provision of services identified in the recipient's community plan, including; programs for local planning and service coordination; screening, assessment and evaluation; diversion; alternatives to detention; family support services; treatment services; reentry services; truancy prevention and intervention programs; and other services documented by data that will positively impact juveniles and families in the juvenile justice system. Applicants are limited to community-based agencies or organizations, political subdivisions, school districts, federally recognized or state-recognized Indian tribes, or any combination of the entities listed. Projects funded through juvenile services funds include but are not limited to programs for assessment and evaluation, family support services, alternatives to detention, mentoring, school programs, diversion and to address Racial and Ethnic Disparities. For fiscal year 2022, Juvenile Services grant requests totaling \$1,307,335.64 were reviewed and awarded to 12 counties or organizations for a total of \$564,000.00 for project period July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022. (See distribution of funds table).

Diversion Subcommittee

The Juvenile Diversion Subcommittee of the NCJJ is a working group established in 2013. The duties of the subcommittee, as outlined in [Neb. Rev. Stat. §81-1427](#), include assisting in regular strategic planning related to supporting, funding, monitoring, and evaluating the effectiveness of plans and programs receiving funds from the Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program.

In January of 2018, the subcommittee developed a strategic plan identifying priorities of the subcommittee in which goals and direction could be established moving forward. Those goals were then assigned to working groups to start the process of achieving statewide goals. The Diversion Subcommittee Strategic Plan can be found [here](#). The new Nebraska Screen and Assessment Tool (N-SAT) was completed by Dr. Zachary Hamilton in June, 2021. Beginning July 1, 2021, Dr. Michael Campagna has been assisting with the piloting of the NSAT, as well as creating the manual, training materials and training curriculums. These efforts are designed to bring more evidence based practices in diversion with the goal of developing more consistency among counties and programs.

For more information about Juvenile Diversion in Nebraska, please see the Annual Report [here](#).

Community Planning Advisory Subcommittee

Pursuant to [Neb. Rev. Stat. §43-2404.01](#), the Director of the Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program shall develop and coordinate a statewide working group as a subcommittee of the NCJJ to assist in regular strategic planning related to supporting, funding, monitoring, and evaluating the effectiveness of plans and programs receiving funds from the Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program. The working group was developed in 2013 and is comprised of individuals from across Nebraska. This statewide working group is referred to as the Community Planning Advisory Subcommittee of the NCJJ. For more information about the Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program, please see the Annual Report [here](#).

Other NCJJ Subcommittees

The Racial and Ethnic Disparities (RED) subcommittee is collaborating with the Juvenile Services Committee to provide input on RED issues. The RED subcommittee of the NCJJ has not been active over the last year. The hope is to have individuals come forward to chair the subcommittee and resume work on assessing and recommendations on addressing RED in Nebraska.

The NCJJ chair and vice-chair have developed a Young Adult subcommittee to work on bringing more youth and family voice to the forefront of juvenile justice issues and discussion. Members have joined and agenda and activity formation is underway.

Juvenile Services Funds

Juvenile Services funds are state funds appropriated by the Nebraska Legislature and administered by the Nebraska Crime Commission. Availability of funds are announced on an annual basis and applications are accepted through a competitive grant process. The purpose of these funds, as outlined in state statute, is to provide the implementation of programs that are considered to be evidence-based or working towards becoming evidence-based. These funds provide program development and evaluation consultation for projects funded through Juvenile Services. A variety of projects are funded through juvenile services such as programs for assessment and evaluation, family support services, alternatives to detention, delinquency prevention, community centers, mentoring, substance abuse, school programs, prevention of delinquent behavior, diversion and to address Racial and Ethnic Disparities. In May 2021, Juvenile Services grant requests totaling \$1,307,335.64 were reviewed and awarded to 12 counties or organizations for a total of \$564,300.00 for project period July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022. (See distribution of funds table for May 2020 awards with effective project period of July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022 in the amount of \$588,608.00).

Distribution of Grant Funds Table	
Project Period July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022	
FY2022 Juvenile Services Awards	
CASA of South Central Nebraska	\$ 10,058.00
Banister's Leadership Academy	\$ 79,327.00
Completely KIDS	\$ 35,220.00
Dodge County	\$ 49,847.00
Girls Inc of Omaha	\$ 51,725.00
Holt County	\$ 23,878.00
International Council for Refugees and Immigrants	\$ 44,000.00
Jefferson County	\$ 30,282.00
Lancaster County	\$ 90,428.00
Latino Center of the Midlands	\$ 45,015.00
Saunders County	\$ 53,616.00
The GOALS Center	\$ 50,604.00
Total	\$ 564,000.00
FY2022 Community-Based Juvenile Services Aid (CB) Awards	
Adams County - Lead (Clay, Nuckolls, Webster, Fillmore, Phelps, Harlan, Kearney, & Franklin)	\$ 203,517.00
Box Butte County	\$ 26,174.00
Buffalo County	\$ 162,898.00
Cass County	\$ 59,453.00
Chase County - Lead (Dundy, Hayes, Hitchcock, Red Willow, Furnas)	\$ 118,268.00
Cheyenne County - Lead (Deuel, Kimball)	\$ 43,153.00
Colfax County	\$ 57,210.00
Custer County - Lead (Blaine, Dawson, Gosper, Greeley, Loup, Valley)	\$ 179,346.00

Dakota County	\$ 87,115.00
Dawes County	\$ 31,629.00
Dodge County	\$ 114,464.00
Douglas County	\$ 1,336,740.00
Gage County	\$ 46,834.00
Hall County	\$ 180,069.00
Holt County - Lead (Boyd)	\$ 30,735.00
Howard County	\$ 30,675.00
Jefferson County – Lead (Thayer)	\$ 22,496.00
Lancaster County	\$ 1,071,025.00
Lincoln County	\$ 119,798.00
Madison County	\$ 259,421.00
Merrick County - Lead (Hamilton, Nance, & Polk)	\$ 108,394.00
Otoe County	\$ 51,004.00
Platte County	\$ 108,352.00
Richardson County - Lead (Nemaha, Johnson, & Pawnee)	\$ 75,745.00
Saline County	\$ 52,906.00
Sarpy County	\$ 548,392.00
Saunders County	\$ 104,510.00
Scotts Bluff County - Lead (Banner, Morrill)	\$ 122,437.00
Seward County - Lead (Butler)	\$ 94,530.00
Sheridan County	\$ 14,552.00
Sherman County	\$ 10,401.00
Washington County	\$ 71,535.00
York County	\$ 34,493.00
Total	\$ 5,578,271.00
FY2022 Enhancement (EB) Aid Awards	
Adams County - Lead (Clay, Nuckolls, Webster, Fillmore, Phelps, Harlan, Kearney, & Franklin)	\$ 13,479.00
Colfax County	\$ 38,536.00
Custer County - Lead (Blaine, Dawson, Gosper, Greeley, Loup, Valley)	\$ 48,185.00
Gage County	\$ 25,166.00
Hall County	\$ 22,000.00
Jefferson County – Lead (Thayer)	\$ 10,150.00
Lancaster County	\$ 5,007.00
Merrick County - Lead (Hamilton, Nance, & Polk)	\$ 20,137.00

Scotts Bluff County - Lead (Banner, Morrill)	\$ 17,794.00
York County	\$ 19,275.00
Total	\$ 216,729.00

Juvenile Services Committee Statutory Authority

Neb. Rev. Stat. §43-4203(b)

The commission shall create a committee to examine the Office of Juvenile Services and the Juvenile Services Division of the Office of Probation Administration.

Such committee shall review the role and effectiveness of out-of-home placements utilized in the juvenile justice system, including the youth rehabilitation and treatment centers, and make recommendations to the commission on the juvenile justice continuum of care, including what populations should be served in out-of-home placements and what treatment services should be provided at the centers in order to appropriately serve those populations.

Such committee shall also review how mental and behavioral health services are provided to juveniles in residential placements and the need for such services throughout Nebraska and make recommendations to the commission relating to those systems of care in the juvenile justice system.

The committee shall collaborate with the University of Nebraska at Omaha, Juvenile Justice Institute, the University of Nebraska Medical Center, Center for Health Policy, the behavioral health regions as established in section 71-807, and state and national juvenile justice experts to develop recommendations.

The recommendations shall include a plan to implement a continuum of care in the juvenile justice system to meet the needs of Nebraska families, including specific recommendations for the rehabilitation and treatment model.

The recommendations shall be delivered to the commission and electronically to the Judiciary Committee of the Legislature annually by September 1.

Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice Statutory Authority

Neb. Rev. Stat. §43-2412

(1) Consistent with the purposes and objectives of the Juvenile Services Act and the federal act, the coalition shall:

- (a) Make recommendations to the commission on the awarding of grants under the Commission Grant Program to eligible applicants;
- (b) Prepare at least one report annually to the Governor, the Legislature, the Office of Probation Administration, and the Office of Juvenile Services. The report submitted to the Legislature shall be submitted electronically;
- (c) Ensure widespread citizen involvement in all phases of its work; and
- (d) Meet at least two times each year.

(2) Consistent with the purposes and objectives of the acts and within the limits of available time and appropriations, the coalition may:

- (a) Assist and advise state and local agencies in the establishment of volunteer training programs and the utilization of volunteers;
- (b) Apply for and receive funds from federal and private sources for carrying out its powers and duties;
- (c) Provide technical assistance to eligible applicants;

- (d) Identify juvenile justice issues, share information, and monitor and evaluate programs in the juvenile justice system; and
 - (e) Recommend guidelines and supervision procedures to be used to develop or expand local diversion programs for juveniles from the juvenile justice system.
- (3) In formulating, adopting, and promulgating the recommendations and guidelines provided for in this section, the coalition shall consider the differences among counties in population, in geography, and in the availability of local resources.

DRAFT

Juvenile Services Committee Membership

Member Name	Member Type	Title and Organization	Representation
Nick Juliano (Co-Chair)	Voting	President & CEO , Nebraska Youth Justice Initiative	Treatment placement representative
Deb VanDyke-Ries (Co-Chair)	Voting	Director , Nebraska Court Improvement Project	Representative of the Court Improvement Project
Nicole Brundo	Voting	Deputy County Attorney, Division Lead , Douglas County Attorney's Office, Juvenile Division	County attorney representative
Jennifer Carter	Voting	Inspector General of Nebraska Child Welfare , Office of Inspector General of Nebraska Child Welfare	Representative of the Nebraska Children's Commission Member
Marisa Hattab	Voting	Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer , Douglas County	Representative of the Entity Administering Title II Funds
Amy Hoffman	Voting	Director of Juvenile Diversion and Community-Based Aid , Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice	Nebraska Crime Commission representative
LaDonna Jones-Dunlap	Voting	Systems Involved Youth Specialist , Nebraska Children and Families Foundation	Representative of the Department of Education
Mark LaBouchardiere	Voting	Facilities Director , DHHS, Division of Children and Family Services, Office of Juvenile Services	Representative of the office of juvenile services
Dennis Marks	Voting	Attorney , Sarpy County Public Defenders' Office	Defense Attorney Representative
Lisa Neeman	Voting	Clinical Services Administrator , DHHS, Division of Behavioral Health	Representative of DHHS, Division of Behavioral Health
Patrick Sailors	Voting	Director of Crisis and Residential Services , Child Guidance Center	In-Home Service Representative
Tammy Sassaman	Voting	Executive Director , Nebraska Juvenile Justice Association	Advocate group representative
Kelli Schadwinkel	Voting	Director of Juvenile Placement , Administrative Office of Probation, Juvenile Services Division	Representative of juvenile probation
Vicky Smith	Voting	Program Manager , CEDARS Youth Services	Group home/Shelter representative
Bobbi Taylor	Voting	Contract Consultant	Young Adult with Previous Juvenile Justice Experience
Vacant	Voting		Judge representative
Dr. Richard Wiener	Voting	Bessey Professor of Psychology , University of Nebraska, Lincoln	Data expert representative
Brenda Kastens	Resource	DHHS Program Coordinator , DHHS, Medicaid and Long-Term Care	Representative of DHHS, Division of Medicaid and Long-Term Care
Sen. Patty Pansing Brooks	Resource	Senator, District 28 , Nebraska Legislative Council, District 28	Representative of the Judiciary Committee of the Legislature
Julie Smith	Resource	Juvenile Justice Programs Specialist , Administrative Office of Probation, Juvenile Services Division	Representative of Juvenile Probation
Vacant	Resource		Representative of the office of Juvenile Services

Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice Membership

Member Name	Member Type	Title and Organization	Representation
Elaine Menzel (Chair)	Voting	Legal Counsel , Nebraska Association of County Officials	The Executive Director of the Nebraska Association of County Officials or his or her designee
Denise Kracl (Vice Chair)	Voting	Colfax County Attorney , Colfax County	One county attorney
Roma Amundson	Voting	County Commissioner , Lancaster County	One county commissioner or supervisor
Colleen Barnes	Voting	Criminal Justice/Sociology Instructor , Northeast Community College	At Large Member
Neleigh Boyer	Voting	Attorney , DHHS, Division of Legal Services	The chief executive officer of the Department of Health and Human Services or his or her designee
Stanford Bradley	Voting	Youth Program Coordinator , Malone Community Center	Youth Advocate
Patrick Connell	Voting	Vice President of Behavioral Health, Compliance and Government Relations , Boys Town	Community-based, private nonprofit organizations who work with juvenile offenders and their families (2nd District)
Misty Flowers	Voting	Executive Director , Nebraska Indian Child Welfare Coalition	Community-based, private nonprofit organizations who work with juvenile offenders and their families (3rd District)
Monika Gross	Voting	Executive Director , Foster Care Review Office	The executive director of the Foster Care Review Office
Brian Halstead	Voting	Deputy Commissioner , Nebraska Department of Education	The Commissioner of Education or his or her designee
Amy Hoffman	Voting	Director of Juvenile Programs and Interventions , Nebraska Crime Commission	The executive director of the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice or his or her designee
Janteice Holston	Voting		Youth under 24 years of age
Denise Manthei	Voting		Young Adult Member
Daniel Schleusener	Voting		Representative from law enforcement
Jill Schubauer	Voting	Youth Systems of Care Specialist , Region 3 Behavioral Health	One member of a regional behavioral health authority established under section 71-808
Steve Solorio	Voting		Non-Profit - 1st District
Amanda Speichert	Voting	Attorney , Lindemeier & Dawson Attorneys at Law	One public defender
Tami Steensma	Voting	Director , Sarpy County Juvenile Justice Center	The director or his or her designee from a secure juvenile detention facility or a staff secure youth confinement facility;
Bobbi Taylor	Voting	Contract Consultant , Nebraska Children and Families Foundation	Youth under 24 years of age
Vacant	Voting		Youth Advocate
Judge Chad Brown	Non-Voting	Judge of the Separate Juvenile Court , Douglas County Court	One separate juvenile court judge
Judge Joel B. Jay	Non-Voting	County Judge , 11th Judicial District Court	One county court judge
Kari Rumbaugh	Non-Voting	Assistant Deputy Administrator for Juvenile Services , Nebraska Probation Administration	The probation administrator of the Office of Probation Administration or his or her designee