

# JUVENILE JUSTICE HOME-BASED INITIATIVE

A COLLABORATIVE PROJECT—BETWEEN THE NEBRASKA COURT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF PROBATION, AND LOCAL FOUNDATIONS—AIMED AT REDUCING THE NUMBER OF OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENTS FOR JUSTICE-INVOLVED YOUTH ACROSS THE STATE.

## ► OVERVIEW

Over the last several years, the Nebraska Legislature has voiced a vision for juvenile justice reform, which would reduce the number of out-of-home placements for youth, as well as provide services to youth within their homes, schools, and communities. Effective intensive in-home family and community-based services are not available in most Nebraska communities. Where services are available, they often lack the capacity to meet the needs of all eligible youth. From this realization, there was a need identified to make more evidence-based community services available to juveniles who are not considered a danger to themselves or their communities, as there is consistent evidence of more favorable outcomes when youth are treated in their homes and communities.

Funding provided by the local foundations make it possible to implement MST services in several areas across the state and for the Boys Town Ecological In-Home Family Treatment services to be expanded and replicated. The purpose of the Juvenile Justice Home-Based Initiative is to increase the availability of in-home services to youth involved with Juvenile Probation, allowing more youth to remain in their home and community and fewer youth to be placed out-of-home. Additionally, the selected program boast outcomes alleviating issues resulting in delinquent behavior, thereby decreasing recidivism. The Juvenile Justice Home-Based Initiative grant runs from January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2018; however the Nebraska Court Improvement Project is ensuring the programs are sustainable for years to come.

## IN 2014 IN NEBRASKA

- + **10,539** YOUTH WERE ARRESTED
- + **197 (1.9%)** WERE ARRESTED FOR VIOLENT CRIMES
- + **2,777** YOUTH WERE HELD IN DETENTION FACILITIES
- + **203** YOUTH WERE COMMITTED TO THE YOUTH REHABILITATION AND TREATMENT CENTERS (YRTCS)
- + NEBRASKA RANKS **3RD** FOR HIGHEST RATE OF JUVENILE INCARCERATIONS

Source: 2015 Kids Count Report

## 2015 PROBATION OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENTS

PLACEMENT TYPE	NUMBER OF ADMITS	AVERAGE STAY
Congregate Care	1846	64.95
Detention	1718	28.36
Foster Care	322	68.54
Jail	35	41.86
YRTC	221	150.42
Runaway	394	28.99
<b>Total</b>	<b>4536*</b>	<b>63.85</b>

\*1814 Unduplicated Youth | Source: Feb. 2, 2016, Office of Probation Administration, 2015 Admit to OHP Data.



## ► PROGRAMS

### **Multisystemic Therapy (MST)**

**MST** is an intensive family- and community-based treatment program that focuses on addressing all environmental systems that impact chronic and violent juvenile offenders -- their homes and families, schools and teachers, neighborhoods and friends. MST recognizes that each system plays a critical role in a youth's world and each system requires attention when effective change is needed to improve the quality of life for youth and their families. MST works with the toughest offenders ages 12 through 17 who have a very long history of arrests. MST outcomes include reducing out-of-home placements and re-arrest rates, as well as increasing parenting skills, improving family relations, improving school or vocational participation and achievement, increasing participation in pro-social activities, and creating a support network of friends, relatives, and neighbors to assist in maintaining changes.

### **Boys Town Ecological In-Home Family Treatment (Boys Town EIHT)**

**The Boys Town EIHT** is a strength-focused home and community-based program designed to reduce risk that contributes to delinquent behavior and family dysfunction. Family Consultants work to enhance and improve youth and family functioning in the home and community and prevent the need for youth to be detained or placed in an out-of-home setting. Each family has an individualized service plan developed to include youth and family-driven goals that address the emotional, behavioral, social, educational and emotional needs of families. The services include a strong focus on family engagement, initial and ongoing assessment, individualized interventions, and case closure planning for long term outcomes. This service is designed to implement focused interventions and cognitive behavioral techniques to enhance youth skill development, such as social skills, problem-solving, and anger management skills. Family Consultants work with parents on evidence-based, behaviorally-oriented parenting practices to improve family functioning and stability in the home. Interventions also include development of informal and formal supports, linkage to community resources, and concrete services. The outcomes of these interventions are reduced truancy, substance abuse, curfew non-compliance, and other youth maladaptive behaviors.

## ► IMPLEMENTATION INFORMATION

The implementation of MST and Boys Town EIHT will occur in two separate phases. We are currently in Phase 1 of the Juvenile Justice Home-Based Initiative. Phase 1 includes the implementation of four MST providers across the state, based in Omaha, Lincoln, and Norfolk areas. Phase 1 also incorporates an expansion of existing Boys Town EIHT services in the Grand Island/Kearney and North Platte areas. During Phase 2, additional MST teams will be added in the Omaha and Lincoln areas, and Boys Town will select and train a provider in the Scottsbluff/Gering region to replicate EIHT services. For updated timelines and information, be sure to stop by the Nebraska Court Improvement Project website.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT

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