



# Probation Juvenile Justice Reform Efforts

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF PROBATION

August 2015 Report

## System Improvement Priorities

Juvenile justice system improvement efforts move jurisdictions towards improving outcomes for juveniles by better translating evidence-based practice and knowledge on “what works” into everyday practice and policy. Overall system reform has an ultimate goal of reducing crime and delinquency and improving outcomes for youth in the juvenile justice system. As supported by EBP, collaboration is an essential element toward system improvement and is a key factor in current improvements.

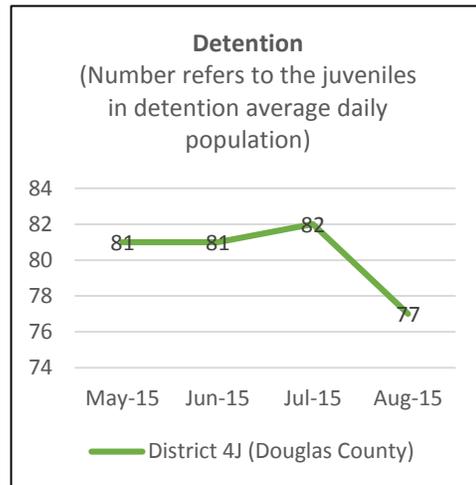
### Intake and Detention Alternatives

National best practice:

- Creation of a standardized intake screening instrument and reduction in detention to improve youth outcomes.

Progress and Achievements:

- The Nebraska Juvenile Intake Screening Risk Assessment (also known as the RAI) was revised to target appropriate use of detention and implemented statewide in 2013.
- The Office of Probation Administration requested and funded an evaluation of the RAI tool, which was completed June 2015 (see report for additional details).
- The Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) has shown significant detention reduction in Douglas and Sarpy Counties.
  - JDAI fundamentals have been trained to probation staff statewide.



Next Steps:

- The Office of Probation Administration has begun work with probation staff to significantly impact the override rate for detention.
- JDAI expansion planning has begun in Cass and Otoe Counties.
- Increasing detention alternatives accessed statewide by probation staff engagement in counties' Community-based Aid plans.

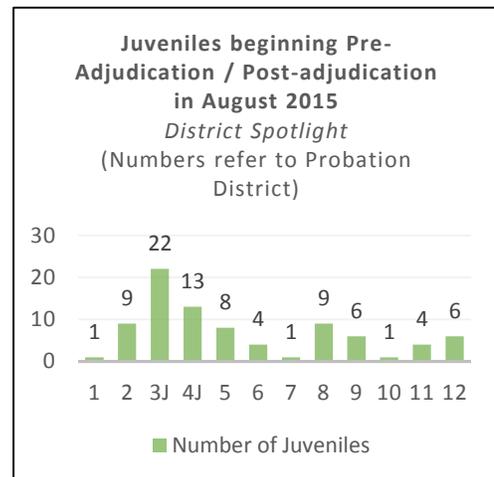
### Pre-adjudication and Investigation

National best practice:

- Pre-adjudication/pre-disposition supervision to divert low risk youth from the juvenile justice system, implementation of validated assessment tools and creation of a “service dispositional matrix.”

Progress and Achievements:

- The Nebraska Youth Screen (NYS) is a state-specific tool which is used to quickly screen risk level when a youth is placed on pre-adjudication/pre-disposition supervision.
- All officers are trained in supervision requirements for pre-adjudication/pre-disposition.
- The Youth Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (YLS/CMI) is a validated risk assessment utilized by probation since 2005.



Next Steps:

- The Office of Probation Administration is currently traveling to all probation districts to train juvenile staff regarding the use of pre-adjudication/pre-disposition supervision as a tool to divert youth from the juvenile justice system.
- Creation of tools to assist probation investigation officers in making targeted recommendations for the court.
- Implementation of assessment tools for mental health and status youth.

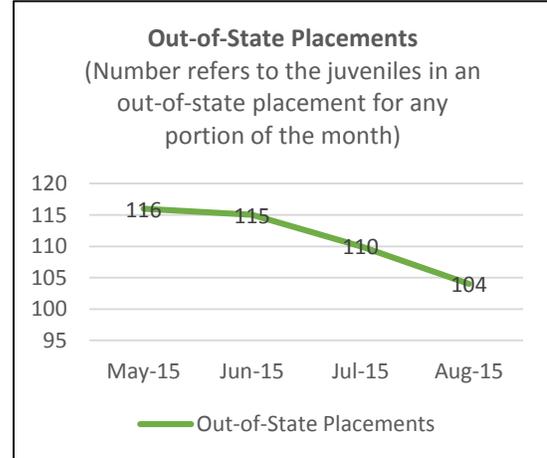
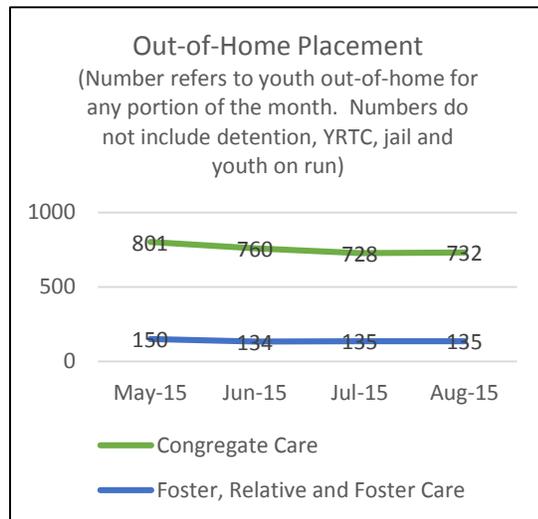
## Case Management and Services

### National best practice:

- Supervision should be focused on risk and identified domains, creation of client-specific outcomes and family engagement.

### Progress and Achievements:

- The Office of Probation Administration implemented the principles of Evidence-based Practices in 2006 which identify skill-trained staff as essential to probationer success. This laid the foundation of expertise by specializing officer caseload standards based on risk level (for example high risk, low risk, and juveniles who sexually harm).
- All probation staff are trained on how to assess using the YLS/CMI, as well as how to focus case management on identified high domains. Additionally, all high risk supervision officers were trained on prioritizing and mapping risk in creating a



supervision plan.

- Administration has created client outcomes and are currently training staff.
- All probation staff are trained on the Enhanced Family Engagement principles.
- Juvenile Justice Resource Supervisors are located in all probation districts and are responsible for ensuring staff are using targeted services.
- Trained all juvenile staff and supervisors regarding service utilization, the benefits of keeping youth in their communities and funding.

### Next Steps:

- Creation of skill-based training focused on targeting services.
- Analyze data elements related to client outcomes.

- Creation of status youth-specific supervision.
- Increase access statewide to a continuum of in-home services to ensure youth remain within their communities.

## Reentry

### National best practice:

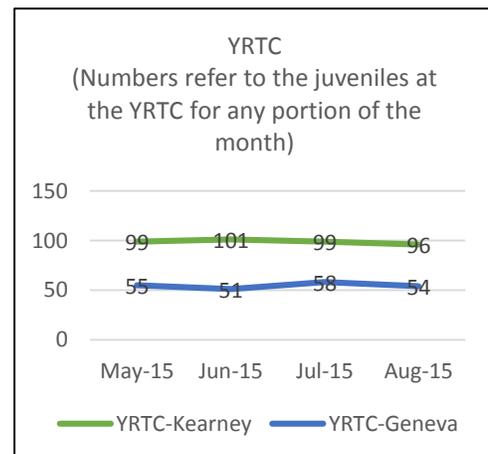
- Reduction in institutional commitments and quality transition planning upon entry into the facility.

### Progress and Achievements:

- The youth placed at the YRTC's has dropped close to 50% since passage of LB561 and the decrease has maintained (detailed in the graph).
- Developed the Individualized Reentry Plan which is completed by the youth and their team so that transition planning occurs immediately.
- Increased family team meetings and family engagement while youth are placed at YRTC.

### Next Steps:

- Implementation of the Individualized Transition Plan for youth placed in out-of-home facilities.



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