



PROGRAM & PROJECT QUICK LOOK

NEBRASKA JUDICIAL BRANCH JUVENILE SERVICES DIVISION

Juvenile probation officers serve as an arm of the court providing investigation and case management for juveniles who are placed on probation or under the supervision of the court. Juvenile Probation supervises youth from ages 11 – 18, up to the age of majority; with the mission of creating constructive change through rehabilitation, collaboration, and partnership in order to enhance community safety. The Juvenile Services Division is responsible for statewide administration of detention intake and alternatives; investigations and assessments; supervision; case management; services, placement; reentry; and financial assistance for necessary placement, treatment, or services for court involved juveniles.

ORIGIN & AUTHORIZATION

Nebraska Revised Statutes Chapter 43. Infants and Juveniles.
Nebraska Supreme Court Rules § 6-104. Time for disposition of juvenile cases.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The goal of juvenile probation is to prevent youth from returning to the juvenile justice system or entering the adult criminal justice system by: engaging youth and their families in the juvenile court process; reducing barriers to accessing effective rehabilitative services; and partnering with education and other community stakeholders.

PRIORITIES

- Risk Reduction and Recidivism: Youth involved in the juvenile justice system receive targeted services with the goal of reducing risk and sustaining behavior change for the long term.
- Diverting Status Youth: Juvenile justice system collaboration will increase the number of status youth who are diverted from the juvenile justice system or for those who do enter, a reduced term of probation supervision.
- Service Development / Placement Reduction: Developing and utilizing home and community-based services will reduce the use of out-of-home placements.
- Detention: Place only those youth in detention that are a community safety risk and/or a risk to flee the court's jurisdiction. For those youth who are placed in detention, ensure their stay is as short as possible, without impacting community safety.
- Education and Employment: Ensure youth involvement in pro-social activities, including education and employment.

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Juvenile detention intake booster training statewide;
- Emergency Professional Foster Care service created as a detention alternative;
- Reception center pilot in Lancaster County;
- Western Nebraska service expansion: crisis shelter, group home, foster care, and ecological in-home family therapy;
- Home-based services expanded to cover 62% of Nebraska counties.
- Launched and trained new Graduated Response Matrix;
- Rebrand of the RISE program – now Recognizing Increased Skills in Education;
- Launch of Probation Youth Council;
- Implemented Nebraska's Aggression Replacement Training (NE-ART) statewide;
- Implemented and trained a streamlined predisposition investigation;
- Established statewide crossover core team to guide and monitor ongoing implementation;

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RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS, CONTINUED

- Lancaster County Probation implementing Probation System Review recommendations in partnership with RFK National Resource Center for Juvenile Justice for;
- Designated a staff to specifically oversee juvenile justice reform efforts;
- Enhanced training for juvenile officers on success planning and identifying target risk behaviors; including the driver; and
- Annual recidivism rate of 19%, as defined by the Nebraska Supreme Court.

LOOKING FORWARD

It is an exciting time for juvenile justice! Many of our national partners have published best practice guidebooks that synthesize research and translate the essential components for probation success. While Nebraska continues to engage in reform efforts, it is important to consider new research and information with a goal of improving the success of youth and families served. Critical next steps include system collaboration to enhance efforts to divert status and low risk youth from the juvenile justice system to community based resources. Smaller caseloads allow juvenile probation officers to build strong relationships and more effectively target high risk behaviors for the youth they serve. Probation continues to be a national leader in transforming our practices. Reform efforts include such things as a renewed emphasis on relationships – both with youth and their families; access to skill building, cognitive programming, and rehabilitative services; embracing our provider partners and community organizations; and motivating youth through incentives and sanctions.

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REFERENCES

Juvenile Services Division: <https://supremecourt.nebraska.gov/probation/juvenile>

Annual Detailed Analysis: https://supremecourt.nebraska.gov/sites/default/files/files/14/FY2019_Juvenile_Detailed_Analysis.pdf

JDAI Progress Report: <https://supremecourt.nebraska.gov/jdai-progress-report-2019>

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