

Jim Bennett - Bio

With over two decades of Youth Service experience, Jim Bennett's career includes working with youth in a variety of different capacities. Jim currently serves as the Director of Placement of Supervision Services for the Nebraska State Probation Administration's Juvenile Division and is helping to implement Juvenile Justice Reform in the State of Nebraska for youth in out of home placement. Jim's youth service career began at the Menninger Clinic in Topeka, Kansas working with youth in a mental healthcare setting. He moved into the juvenile justice realm working in the Lancaster County Youth Services Center and then shifted to the educational arena as a Transition Specialist with the Lincoln Public Schools in the Pathfinder Program within the Lancaster County Youth Services Center.

Jim serves as Vice President for the Nebraska Juvenile Justice Association and has been on the Nebraska State Core Competencies for After-School Programming design team. Jim has helped to design program youth standards for the cities of Lincoln and Omaha, Nebraska and is a part of the Nebraska Department of Education's Out of Home Placement Transition Workgroup. Through the course of his career, Jim has maintained a strong foundation in youth development and is a facilitator for the Academy for Educational Development Advancing Youth Development training. Jim believes that youth voice and choice at every systemic level is vital to success and he advocates for youth and family engagement at all system points. Jim holds a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology with a Minor in Political Science from the University of Nebraska – Lincoln and is currently pursuing a Master of Arts in Counseling from Doane College. Jim is also a member of the Georgetown University Center for Juvenile Justice Reform Fellows Network.