

Monica Miles-Steffens, Director of Placement-Court Services

Monica began her career in juvenile justice at the Lancaster County Detention Center as an intern and, over a five-year period, moved up to second shift supervisor. From there she became the Juvenile Justice Specialist for the Nebraska Crime Commission overseeing state and federal grant funding, providing grant writing and management training, community and strategic planning and facilitating the Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice. During this time Monica worked diligently with stakeholders to enhance and expand community based programs and services along with implementing new policies, procedures and legislation to improve Nebraska's Juvenile Justice System. Monica then accepted an opportunity to become the first Probation Education Manager for Nebraska Probation Administration. She led the training initiative as the system began moving toward evidence based practices, re-implemented a training for trainer program and was active in developing policy and protocol. Monica returned to the Crime Commission for a brief time to implement the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds for the VAWA and JAG programs before founding Miles Ahead Consulting. As a consultant, Monica has worked with numerous state and local government agencies and non-profit organizations. Her expertise is working with entities on strategic planning, project management and implementation, and training. Monica has returned to Nebraska Probation again in a newly created position to assist in leading juvenile justice reform. Her focus is on front end system work around juvenile intake, detention alternatives, evaluations and pre-adjudicated supervision. In this position she serves as the statewide coordinator for the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

Monica is a member of the Nebraska Juvenile Justice Association Board, Minority Justice Committee, and Crime Commission Diversion and Community Planning Committees. Monica received a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology from Doane College in Crete and a Masters of Public Administration from UNO.