

# Probation: Building Better Lives for Safer Communities



*Probation: Through the Court for the Community*

## Nebraska Probation: Biennial Report 2012-2013

Nebraska Supreme Court/Office of Probation Administration

[www.supremecourt.ne.gov/probation](http://www.supremecourt.ne.gov/probation)



A healthy democratic society can exist only if the people of the State have respect for their legal system. That respect comes not from being awed by the system but rather from understanding that system. The information in this report is designed to help the people of the State of Nebraska better understand the Probation System.

*Chief Justice of the State of Nebraska  
Honorable Mike Heavican*

## Probation Vision

*Be a nationally recognized leader in the field of justice committed to excellence and safe communities*

## Mission Statement

*We, the leaders in community corrections, juvenile and restorative justice, are unified in our dedication to delivering a system of seamless services which are founded on evidence-based practices and valued by Nebraska's communities, victims, offenders and courts. We create constructive change through rehabilitation, collaboration, and partnership in order to enhance safe communities.*

Probation in Nebraska represents the focused, accountable management of juveniles and adults who are permitted by the courts to reside in the community while abiding by the court's dispositional or sentencing order. Accountability management requires disclosure as to how probationers are supervised, in particular how that supervision contributes to individual rehabilitation and improved community safety.

Since 2005, the Nebraska Probation System has worked to adopt and implement new proven practices of investigation and supervision. Using the evidence-based model of good probation practice as a guide, probation officers appropriately assess a juvenile's or adult's risk to recidivate, their motivation to change the behavior that resulted in their involvement with the justice system in the first place, and what level of oversight is required by the officer to assure they are following the court's order. This accurate assessment followed by purposeful intervention by the probation officer and a swift response to any violation of the court's order improves the likelihood of successful completion of probation and consequently improves community safety.

This biennial report focuses on the state of Probation during the years 2012 and 2013. It is intended to provide meaningful information about the Nebraska Probation System during those years by offering an overview of the demographics of the probationer, successful discharges and revocations of probation, specialized programs that aid in both the rehabilitation and accountability of the probationer and information about the fees collected that support those programs.

Probation officers make lasting changes in each local community by assisting both juveniles and adults to become productive members of society. A special acknowledgement to the Administrative Office of the Courts and Probation, and to the Chief Probation Officers and their staffs for their continuous support of our probation officers and their outstanding contribution to the field of Probation.



*Ellen Fabian Brokofsky*  
*Probation Administrator*

The Office of Probation Administration has identified priorities for each of its divisions as follows:

## The Division of Organizational Development and Training



***Frank Jenson***  
***Deputy Administrator***

### **Division Priorities:**

- ◆ Modify the current personnel classification system to identify essential duties of all positions.
- ◆ Develop a program for staff advancement based on abilities, and a plan for employee recruitment and replacement.
- ◆ Define, develop and implement evidence-based training programs and policies for new and advanced officers.
- ◆ Identify areas to develop and implement electronic media training.
- ◆ Develop a customer service questionnaire.
- ◆ Review turnover rates and make predictions based on turnover data.

## The Division of Community-Based Supervision, Programming and Services



***Deb Minardi***  
***Deputy Administrator***

### **Division Priorities:**

- ◆ Develop, train, and implement advanced case management supervision practices.
- ◆ Support the expanded juvenile service project.
- ◆ Evaluate procedural compliance within districts.
- ◆ Evaluate specialized offender populations, program performance outcomes and provide an ongoing feedback loop to key stakeholders.
- ◆ Identify adult and juvenile justice system efficiencies for improvement in collaboration with other state agencies.

## The Division of Field Services



**Steve Rowoldt**  
**Deputy Administrator**

### Division Priorities:

- ◆ Develop performance standards for field service Probation functions.
- ◆ Develop a district evaluation template.
- ◆ Identify existing district service continuums while developing new efficiencies in field services.
- ◆ Assess supervisory and officer skills, as well as competencies within the field/ quality assurance areas.
- ◆ Improve existing and/or develop new processes within each district as they apply to the qualitative systemic approach to offender management.

## The Division of Juvenile Services



**Corey Steel**  
**Deputy Administrator**

### Division Priorities:

Prevent juveniles from returning to the juvenile justice system or entering the criminal justice system by:

- ◆ Engage juveniles and their families in the juvenile court process.
- ◆ Eliminate barriers for families accessing effective treatment and services.
- ◆ Partner with educational and community stakeholders to assure coordinated case management, focused accountability, and improved outcomes.
- ◆ Nebraska Juvenile Service Delivery Pilot Project statewide expansion, including:
  1. Develop Policy.
  2. Develop a service provider network and fee for service delivery system.
  3. Hire and train staff.

## 2012 - 2013 At a Glance Serving the Courts

The Nebraska Probation System is organizationally aligned with the judicial branch of government. In performing its function, Probation strives to achieve intertwined goals of community protection, offender accountability and competency development.

<b>Investigations:</b>				<b>Sentenced / Placed on Probation:</b>		
	<u>County Court</u>	<u>District Court</u>	<u>Juveniles</u>		<u>Adults</u>	<u>Juveniles</u>
2012	3,469	5,635	2,642	2012	10,958	5,674
2013	3,332	5,958	2,690	2013	10,622	2,995
<b>Juvenile Intakes:</b>				<b>Probationers Supervised:</b>		
					<u>Adults</u>	<u>Juveniles</u>
2012	1,818			2012	23,772	5,203
2013	1,611			2013	22,016	5,338

## Saving Taxpayer Dollars

Probation can effectively supervise offenders at a lower cost than prison through programs as shown below.

Average Cost Per Offender (All facilities including Parole)

FY 2012 : \$77

FY 2013 : \$71

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One-Day Cost of Traditional Adult Probation: \$2.17

One-Day Cost of Traditional Juvenile Probation: \$7.13

One-Day Cost of Specialized Substance Abuse Supervision (SSAS): \$4.52

Cost Per Reporting Center Visit: \$16.38

Data collected from NPACS

## Fees Collected

<b>Fiscal Year 2011-2012</b>	<b><u>County Court</u></b>	<b><u>District Court</u></b>
Enrollment Fees	\$ 283,113	\$ 53,410
Program Fees	\$1,233,744	\$682,317
<b>Fiscal Year 2012-2013</b>	<b><u>County Court</u></b>	<b><u>District Court</u></b>
Enrollment Fees	\$ 248,535	\$ 55,140
Program Fees	\$1,099,647	\$687,878

*Source of Fees Collected information is from JUSTICE*

## Restitution and Community Service

2012 Hours of Community Service = 119,385

2013 Hours of Community Service = 113,279

2012 Dollars of Restitution = \$2,281,844

2013 Dollars of Restitution = \$2,526,410

## Awards and Recognition



(L to R) Probation Administrator Ellen Fabian Brokofsky, Court Administrator Janice Walker, Deputy Administrator Corey Steel (Employee of the Year), and Chief Justice Michael Heavican

### 4A DOMESTIC VIOLENCE UNIT SELECTED

The Domestic Violence Unit in District 4A in Omaha received a Criminal Justice Professional Award for service to crime victims from the Nebraska Coalition for Victims of Crime. The award was presented at a ceremony and luncheon at the Governor's Residence in Lincoln on May 3, 2013.

### SUPREME COURT EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION AWARDS – 2012

**Becky Smith**, Senior Secretary, District #1, Wilber -- Jean Miller Award for Probation Support Staff

**Kathy Long**, Senior Probation Officer, District #2, Papillion -- LaDonna Snell Award for Probation Officer

**Patty Lyon**, Drug Court Coordinator, District #6, Fremont -- Bob Keller Award for Probation Supervisor

Behavioral-Based Case and Caseload Management Training Team – Administration – **Deb Minardi, Julie Scott, Kari Rumbaugh, Amy Latshaw, and Toni Jensen** -- Outstanding Team

### SUPREME COURT EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION AWARDS – 2013

**Carol Larson**, Senior Secretary, District #4A, Omaha -- Jean Miller Award for Probation Support Staff

**Abby Kossow**, CBI Probation Officer, District #4A, Omaha -- LaDonna Snell Award for Probation Officer

**Jan Johansen**, Juvenile Justice Resource Supervisor, District #11, North Platte -- Bob Keller Award for Probation Supervisor

Cultural Committee, District #5 – **Lance Hall, Nick Luchsinger, Jill Pokorny, Carrie Rodriguez, Jill Spale, Christina Werner** -- Outstanding Team

**Corey Steel**, Deputy Probation Administrator / Juvenile Division, Office of Probation Administration, Lincoln -- Employee of the Year

### ABOVE AND BEYOND – Probation's Spring Management Meeting, April 2013

**Joe Budnick**, Chief Probation Officer, District #10, Hastings

**Shane Stutzman**, Chief Probation Officer, District #5, Columbus

**Gene Cotter**, Chief Probation Officer, District #3A, Lincoln

**Steve Ortmeier**, Deputy Chief Probation Officer, District #6, Fremont

**Julie Micek**, Reporting Center Coordinator, District #2, Bellevue



## Professionalism and Probation Staff

Mary Visek was sworn in as Chief Probation Officer for Probation District 4J in Omaha on December 12, 2012, in the Legislative Chambers of the Civic Center in Omaha by the Honorable Vernon Daniels, presiding judge of the Douglas County Separate Juvenile Court. Ellen Fabian Brokofsky gave the welcome and recognized the judges and others in attendance. Separate Juvenile Court Judge Elizabeth Crnkovich addressed the group regarding the excellent relationship between the Court and Probation.



*Chief Probation Officers, front row, l-r: Shane Stutzman, District #5, Columbus; Ron Broich, District #4A, Omaha Adult; Jodi York, District #2, Papillion; Kathryn Liebers, District #7, Norfolk; Tara Sprigler-Price, District #8, O'Neill; Sarah Rinne, District #1, Beatrice; Mary Visek, District #4J, Omaha Juvenile; Clay Schutz, District #9, Grand Island; Lincoln Adult; Linda Buehler, District #12, Gering; Lori Griggs, District #3J, Lincoln Juvenile; Joe Budnick, District #10, Hastings; back row l-r; Lonnie Folchert, District #11, North Platte; Bob Denton, District #6, Fremont; Gene Cotter, District #3A*

## Professionalism and Probation Staff

Joseph L. Budnick was sworn in as Chief Probation Officer for Probation District 10 in Hastings on June 26, 2012, by the Honorable Terri S. Harder, District Court Judge in Kearney County. The ceremony was held in the District Court Courtroom in the Adams County Courthouse in Hastings with Joe's family, judges and other guests in attendance. Ellen Fabian Brokofsky, State Probation Administrator, welcomed the group. The Honorable Stephen R. Illingworth, presiding district court judge of the 10<sup>th</sup> Judicial District, and Honorable Michael Offner, presiding county court judge of the 10<sup>th</sup> Judicial District, each welcomed the group and spoke of the collaboration between Probation and the courts. A reception followed the ceremony in the Adams County Office Building.



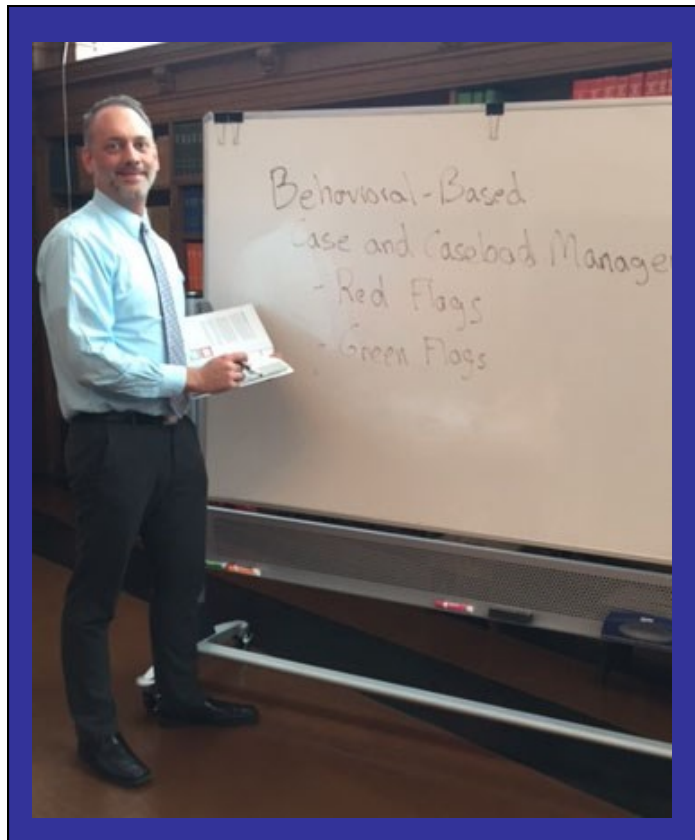
*l-r: Hon. Stephen R. Illingworth, Hastings; Hon. Terri S. Harder, Kearney; Hon. Michael L. Offner, Hastings; Joe Budnick, Chief Probation Officer*

## Judicial Branch Education Excellence in Training

The Judicial Branch Education division of the Nebraska Supreme Court oversees training and education for all Probation employees. Providing quality training is an essential function of the Nebraska Probation System. Justice is administered every time a Probation employee comes into contact with a member of the public, from the receptionist in rural Nebraska to the Probation Administrator in Lincoln.

All Probation training adheres to the evidence-based practices and reinforces the Nebraska Probation System's Vision and Mission. The trainings help officers and staff to reach the system's Vision and Mission on a daily basis when working with victims, offenders, communities and the courts. Research has shown highly-skilled and trained probation officers are better able to identify treatment needs among their clientele, and thus are better able to direct resources to those most in need resulting in reduced recidivism.

Judicial Branch Education and Probation continue to develop and offer interactive online education offerings. Web-based technology is utilized to broadcast live training throughout the state in an effort to reduce the cost associated with officers and staff traveling to Lincoln for training.



*Jerid Wedge, Probation Education Manager*

## Excellence in Training

**Thirty-eight State Probation Officers were sworn-in during September 6, 2012 ceremony.**



*New officers are: District #1- Ashley Griess, Cristy Leonard-Rivers, Michele Lueders, Nicole Tomlinson; District #2- Christine Allen, Jason Borgelt, David Fink, Lorelei Fox, Mia Rickman; District #3A- Pamela Cudaback, Monica Oberembt; District #4A- Angela Bixenmann, Morgan Farrell, Loraine Ford, Damon Strong, Christine Trosper, Danielle Vanecek; District #4J- Aimee Rehmeier, Juliana Schroeder, Nicole Ward; District #5- Lance Hall, Nick Luchsinger, Carrie Rodriguez; District #6- James Laufenberg, Robert Owens; District #7- Amy Kraft, Matthew McManigal; District #8- Terisa Gilligan; District #9- Meghan Moland; District #12- Kathryn Benish, Jason Brandt, Dezarae Clyburn, Brandon Cowan, Carolyn Williams*

**Thirty-four State Probation Officers were sworn in during the October 1, 2013, ceremony. Chief Justice Mike Heavican gave a formal oath of office to the new officers in the Warner Chamber at the Nebraska State Capitol.**



*New Officers are: District #1- Brian Luera, Amanda VanAsperen; District #2- Jennifer Rachels, Cynthia Sobotka, Sean Wenzel; District #3A- Jaime Evans; District #3J- Ashley Scott, Alicia Smetter, Anthony West; District #4A- Judeanne Cortese, Traci Kindig, Danielle Kramer, Melissa Strehle; District #4J- Michael Ambriz-Villa, Jamie Baburek, Melanie Bartlett, Daniel Bloom, Skyler Brouwer, Quintus Hampton, Jacqueline Jackson, Molly Marion, Lisa Mines, Kevin Owens, Richard Pope, James Selmon-Vasser; District #5- Rebecca Sindelar; District #6- Branden Brown; District #8- Nathan Olson; District #9- Skye Lindgreen, Brea Norton, Mary Rock, Megan Wobig; District #11- Tarin Chapin, Jamie Fisher, Aaron Rickett,*

## Nebraska Juvenile Service Delivery Pilot Project

Probation created strategies for providing access to services for juveniles and their families involved in the Juvenile Justice System.

- The pilot project was first implemented in the Douglas County Separate Juvenile Court, Judicial District 4, in July 2009.
  - ◆ Juveniles were able to access needed services sooner thus decreasing the need for out-of-home care.
  - ◆ A continuum of services was developed and made accessible through community-based providers.
- The court was provided comprehensive case management and access to the needed service options.
  - ◆ The priority was to serve the juvenile while residing in their family home.
  - ◆ The project cultivated new, evidence-based services to be offered by community providers.
  - ◆ It was designed to remove financial barriers for juveniles in need of services.
  - ◆ It preserved the juvenile justice mantra of least intrusive and least restrictive.

### Nebraska Juvenile Service Delivery Project 3-year Outcomes

Total juveniles: 1,216

Discharged as of June 30, 2012: 783

Of the juveniles discharged —

- 639 completed probation (82%)
- 144 were committed to Department of Health and Human Services/Office of Juvenile Services (18% )

In addition.....

- 1,089 utilized services while remaining at home (90%)
- 127 utilized out-of-home placements (10%)
- 99% of youth in out-of-home care have not experienced a substantiated abuse or neglect report
- 77% utilizing out-of-home care have been in care less than 12 months
- 98% of youth have had two or fewer out-of-home placements while in the Project
- 85% have not entered higher levels of care
- 98% were arrest-free during their term of probation
- 66% have not re-offended within 12 months of discharge from probation

## Nebraska Juvenile Service Delivery Pilot Project Expansion

Legislative Bill 561, passed in May of 2013, charged the Nebraska Juvenile Probation System to treat and rehabilitate court-involved youth as opposed to punishing them. The Nebraska Juvenile Service Delivery Project, established as a pilot in 2009, was expanded statewide in a 3-step phase-in process beginning July 1, 2013, with full implementation July 1, 2014. The expansion of the project resulted in the Office of Probation Administration taking over the duties of the Office of Juvenile Services with respect to its previous functions of community supervision and parole of juvenile law violators and providing evaluations for such juveniles. The Office of Juvenile Services continues to operate the Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Centers and provides the care and custody of the juveniles placed at these facilities. Expansion of the project was possible with the transfer of funds from the Department of Health and Human Services and the Office of Juvenile Services. These funds were used to provide community-based services and juvenile parole to the Office of Probation Administration.

This charge allows Nebraska to assess current gaps in the system and create a continuum of care which includes diversion services, mental health treatment and reentry programming that is evidence-based.

The goal of reforming juvenile probation in Nebraska is to prevent juveniles from returning to the juvenile justice system or entering the criminal justice system by:

- Engaging juveniles and their families in the juvenile court process
- Eliminating barriers to accessing effective treatment and services and
- Partnering with educational and community stakeholders

Under this system reform, the Nebraska Juvenile Probation System strives to provide a balanced approach to justice. Probation officers have a primary responsibility to facilitate youth rehabilitation. In coordination with judicial support, Nebraska juvenile probation is devoted to the successful futures of juveniles and their families. Families are empowered to be a part of the decision-making process which greatly aids the success of youth. Juveniles access necessary services, without barriers at all stages of the court process. This includes financial resources for services both treatment and non-treatment. While juvenile probation officers still have a primary responsibility to hold youth accountable, enforce orders of the court, and ensure public safety, the punitive aspect is diminished.

## Juvenile Supervision

Probation's juvenile programs include juvenile intake / detention alternatives, predisposition investigations, supervision / case management, and reentry.

### **Juvenile Intake / Detention Alternatives**

Juvenile Intake is defined by Neb. Rev. Stat. §43-250 concerning juveniles held in temporary custody by a law enforcement officer. Probation officers are the decision-making authority as it applies to need for preadjudication placement or supervision and the need for detention of a juvenile. This includes secure or non-secure detention as indicated in statute.

### **Predisposition Investigation**

A risk assessment is completed at the predisposition investigation phase and will help probation officers determine the specific risk and need factors of the juvenile. These responsive assessments are specific to the type of juvenile and will help Probation identify specific issues and behaviors.

### **Supervision / Case Management**

This is the evidence-based principle of addressing the issues that brought the juvenile in front of the court. The assessments provide critical guidance for supervision and case management activities for juveniles placed on probation by the court.

### **Reentry**

After July 1, 2013, all youth newly committed to the Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Centers in Kearney and Geneva, upon discharge, reenter the community under an order of Intensive Probation Supervision. Reentry is a process that intentionally prepares youth and families for return from Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Centers and any other out-of-home placement back to their communities. Activities and communications prior to discharge strengthen the connection between the youth in placement with their family, home, and community.

## **Specialized Programming**

### **Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative**

Since 1992, the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI), a project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation, has demonstrated that jurisdictions can safely reduce the use of secure confinement without impacting public safety. JDAI is being replicated in almost 200 jurisdictions in 39 states and the District of Columbia. JDAI is based on eight core strategies that address the primary reasons why youth are unnecessarily or inappropriately detained. The eight core strategies are: collaboration, data driven decisions, objective admissions, alternatives to detention, case processing, special detention cases, reducing racial disparity, and conditions of confinement.

### **Crossover Youth Practice Model**

Georgetown University's Center for Juvenile Justice Reform has developed a model that describes the specific practices that need to be in place within a jurisdiction in order to reduce the number of youth who "crossover" between the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. The Crossover Youth Practice Model (CYPM) infuses values and standards; evidence-based practices, policies and procedures; and quality assurance processes. It also provides a template for how states can impact their response to "crossover" youth and improve outcomes. Nebraska has one local CYPM site in Douglas County, this implementation team began efforts in 2012.

## Sentencing Alternative to Prison

In 2012-2013, the Specialized Substance Abuse Supervision (SSAS) program continued to target clients who were convicted of felony drug offenses; driving under the influence third offense or above; or any felony client pending revocation by the court due to a drug or alcohol violation. SSAS is ordered as a condition of probation by a district court judge as an alternative to prison. SSAS can also be ordered by the Board of Parole for a parolee as a transition from prison. One of the main goals of the program is to offer an alternative to incarceration by treating the highest risk substance abusers through a holistic approach directed at changing a client's lifestyle through comprehensive supervision, drug testing, treatment services, and immediate sanctions and incentives.

There are both community safety and economic benefits in targeting individuals who are at highest risk to reoffend. As part of an internal review of the SSAS program since inception (2006) until June 2012, there were 554 probationers discharged from SSAS that were diverted from the prison system. Of those individuals completing SSAS, 81% were employed at the time of discharge and 91% remained crime free one year after discharge.

Of the 554, 111 or 20% were revoked while on probation and sentenced to prison. Up to one year after discharge from SSAS, 41 or 7% had committed a misdemeanor II violation or above.

Of the 41 convicted of a new crime, only two were sentenced to the Department of Correctional Services. Therefore, a total of 113 or 20% of the original 554 SSAS participants ended up in the prison system. In other words, 441 participants in the SSAS program were diverted from prison between inception (2006) and June of 2012. These same 441 individuals would have resulted in an average yearly cost of \$15,435,000 (\$35,000 per inmate per year) to the state had SSAS not been available.

The program is currently operating at capacity which is adding to the ongoing prison population problem. The need to expand the SSAS program continues to be on the horizon.



*Freedom From the Bondage of Self  
Dedicated by artist Barrett Stinson symbolizing the  
work of Specialized Substance Abuse Supervision*



## Supervision for Offenders Who are at a Higher Risk to Re-offend

Probationers that are assessed to be of the highest risk to re-offend are supervised in an intensive manner. We refer to this intensive supervision as community-based intervention or CBI. These CBI probationers are supervised by specially trained and highly-skilled officers who have a lower caseload, in order to intervene with the individual's behaviors that are associated with their criminal activity. During this biennium, the probation officers moved away from the old way of supervision, consisting of a certain number of office visits per month to a more comprehensive supervision that allows for intensive oversight of the individual in the community. In 2012 and 2013 there were 9,020 probationers supervised through this intensive supervision.

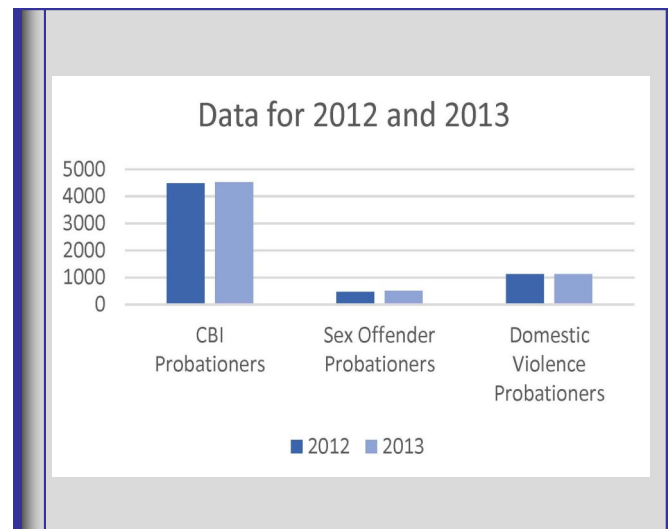
## A Victim-Centered Approach to the Supervision of Domestic Violence and Sex Offenders

Probation takes very seriously those crimes where a person was victimized. As a result, Probation has chosen to provide a specialized approach to supervision for domestic violence and sex offenders.

Supervision for domestic violence is grounded in victim safety and offender accountability. Probation officers maintain regular contact with victims in order to better supervise probationers and overall monitor their behavior change.

According to the Department of Justice, "Batterer intervention programs are an integral part of any comprehensive approach to domestic violence." Officers work closely with these program providers as the probationer learns to replace their violent behaviors with more socially appropriate behaviors. In addition, probation officers maintain regular contacts in the home and on the job with probationers to further provide accountability and overall success of these individuals on probation. In 2011-2012, probation supervised 2,236 domestic violence offenders.

While there is a small percentage of probationers who have committed a sex offense under probation supervision, it is a population that requires a specialized approach. Probation officers target interventions specific to the type of offense. Officers work with treatment providers and a victim's representatives to address treatment needs and to provide an increased level of accountability. According to the Center for Sex Offender Management, specialized interventions and specialized caseloads improve a jurisdiction's ability to hold sex offenders accountable and overall improve community safety. In 2012-2013, Probation supervised 975 sex offenders.



## Problem-Solving Courts

Problem-Solving Courts—most commonly referred to as drug courts in Nebraska—use judicial oversight and a comprehensive team approach to improve outcomes for victims, communities and participants. The purpose of drug courts is to achieve a reduction in recidivism and substance use among substance using individuals and to increase an individual's likelihood of successful rehabilitation. This is accomplished through early, continuous, and intense judicially supervised treatment, mandatory periodic drug testing, community supervision and the use of appropriate sanctions and rehabilitation services.

Nebraska's 25 adult, juvenile, family, DUI and young adult problem-solving courts are working together—through a 5-year strategic plan—to guide problem-solving courts in the adoption of practices and standards proven most effective in improving the lives of individuals, their families, and communities. The plan will establish accountability for the success of problem-solving courts in Nebraska, thereby reinforcing the benefits derived from full support of current and additional problem-solving courts throughout the state.



Judge James Kube and graduate Beverly Ernesti, Norfolk

### FIVE FOCUS AREAS

2013-2017

#### NEBRASKA PROBLEM-SOLVING COURT STRATEGIC PLAN

1. Ensure Nebraska problem-solving courts are sustained long-term.
2. Establish a foundation of common principles and operations across all programs.
3. Ensure the use of strategies and practices that have been found to be successful through research.
4. Promote problem-solving court success and ensuring quality service access to all.
5. Maximize the use of existing programs and making recommendations regarding the establishment of new types of problem-solving courts.

#### VISION

Nebraska Problem-Solving Courts is an institution of the Nebraska Supreme Court utilizing innovative court programs through which individuals and families thrive, and all Nebraska communities become safer.

#### MISSION

The mission of the Problem-Solving Court Leadership Group is to make problem-solving courts available to all eligible participants and to ensure these courts have the resources necessary.

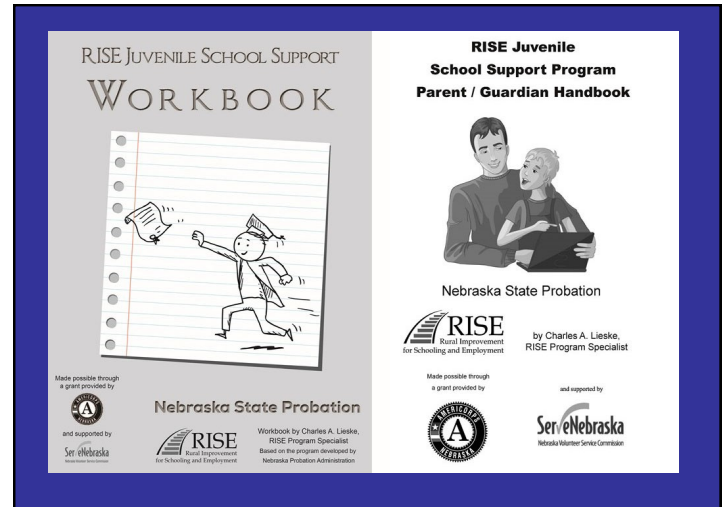
## Rural Improvement for Schooling and Employment (RISE)

The Office of Probation Administration RISE program assists adult and juvenile probationers by facilitating curriculum-based groups focused on building educational and employment skills. This evidenced-based AmeriCorps grant-funded program was expanded in 2012 when a statewide workbook was created and implemented. In addition, a juvenile parent handbook was created to assist parents in understanding the program and help them talk to their child about the RISE program. Juveniles referred to this program are either at risk of dropping out of high school, or have been assessed by a probation officer as high risk.

During the grant year 2012-2013, the RISE program enrolled over 480 juveniles in the program, with over 160 graduating. The juveniles who graduated from the RISE program were evaluated one year later to determine if they had returned to the Probation system and 71% either did not receive any new charges that brought them back before Probation or were revoked while on probation.



*RISE Program Specialist Charles Lieske Governor's Point of Light award in 2013*



*RISE program implements Juvenile School Support Workbook statewide in 2012*

The community safety benefit of the RISE program could not be possible without the dedication of the RISE Program Specialists, who are enrolled AmeriCorps members.

In 2013, Charles Lieske was honored by receiving the Governor's Point of Light award for being a volunteer who gave his time, talent and energy to help Nebraska build stronger communities. Additionally, the RISE Program Specialists have served over 5,000 adult and juvenile probationers statewide in need of skill development. The program has graduated over 1,600 adult and juvenile probationers and, of these probationers, 80% of the graduates did not return to the Probation system a year after graduation.

In addition, the RISE Program Specialists have taken the lead in days of service, including implementation of the Cornhusker Community Book Drive, which promotes literacy statewide. The RISE program has continued to receive support and funding from ServeNebraska and will continue its efforts in the upcoming years.

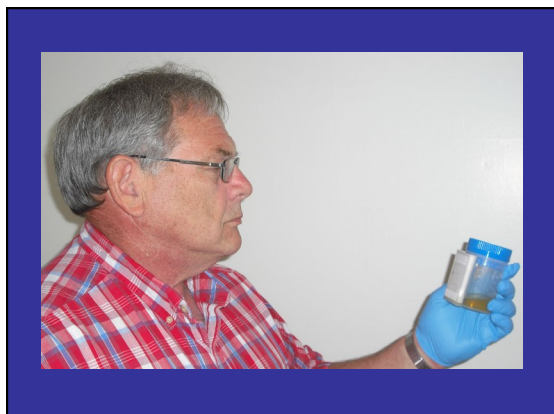
## Drug Testing for a Change

Substance use is a crippling factor for many in our Probation and Problem-Solving-Court population. Deterring abuse is our primary goal which is accomplished through random drug testing along with substance use treatment. Probation's clients are expected to call in to a recorded message every day to hear if their drug testing group is to report in for drug testing that day. Drug testing frequency of Probation's clients is determined by their drug of choice and other risk factors associated with the individual client. Probation's clients can expect to be drug tested any day of the week, 365 days a year. This ensures both compliance and accountability.

Drug testing of clients is essential for their success. It provides a means to determine drug use or relapse so officers can intervene as quickly as possible when appropriate. Drug testing provides a deterrent for future drug use and helps identify those who are relapsing, allowing for appropriate intervention. Ultimately drug testing aims to help clients get out of substance use and into recovery.

Probation's primary drug testing specimen is urine because it provides a long window of detection after use, but alternate specimens such as sweat and oral fluids are also used when appropriate. Breath is the primary specimen used for detecting alcohol use, but Probation also utilizes sweat or transdermal alcohol detection. Transdermal alcohol is measured by a bracelet worn around the client's ankle that measures alcohol in the client's sweat continuously 24 hours per day, 7 days a week.

The ultimate goal of Probation's drug testing program is helping clients maintain sobriety, resulting in reduced recidivism and therefore safer communities.



*David Rea, drug technician in District #5, conducts a drug test.*

Number of Alcohol/Drug Tests Performed on Nebraska Probation Clients		
Year	Alcohol Tests	Drug Tests
2012	114,373	99,920
2013	123, 123	105,648

Number of Alcohol/Drug Tests Performed on Nebraska Problem Solving Courts Clients		
Year	Alcohol Tests	Drug Tests
2012	16,035	39,630
2013	14,636	41,831

## Reporting Centers

Reporting Centers have been an integral part of Probation since 2006. Reporting Centers offer a variety of programs and services that target the specific needs of clients all in one building. Programs are based on research and focus on assisting people in gaining and maintaining sobriety, obtaining meaningful employment and cognitive restructuring to assist clients in changing their thinking patterns which leads to changes in behavior. Clients can then take their new skills and work toward reintegration into their families and communities.

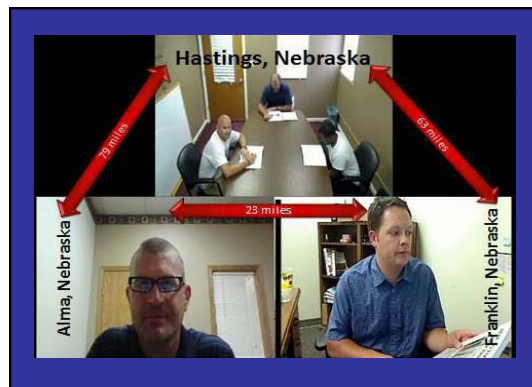
During this biennium, the reporting centers have continued to add to the programming schedule by offering over 143 programs and services statewide. A major focus for programming began to integrate behavioral health groups into the centers. Groups regarding trauma, mental health, and women and men specific groups along with mental health assessments are available for clients.

The newest reporting center opened in 2012 in Gering, Nebraska. This center added a site in the far western part of the state to serve clients who may otherwise not have an opportunity to receive programming.



*District #12 Probation Reporting Center in Gering.*

## Probation TeleServices (PTS)



In 2011, the Office of Probation Administration launched a new service, Probation TeleServices (PTS). Over the last two years, PTS equipment has been installed in a variety of locations throughout the twelve judicial districts on laptops, small table systems and larger room systems placed in reporting centers.

PTS has one major goal and that is to offer programs and services statewide to areas that may have not otherwise received services. PTS offers the availability for a 2-way connection of two or more locations through audio and video equipment and merges that gap between all barriers that probation officers, treatment providers and probationers deal with in the state due to transportation and logistical issues. For example, probation officers in Hastings can communicate with clients and staff in a location many miles away by utilizing the TeleServices equipment. This is a time and cost savings by eliminating lengthy travel and ensuring services are available statewide.



## Fee for Service Voucher Program

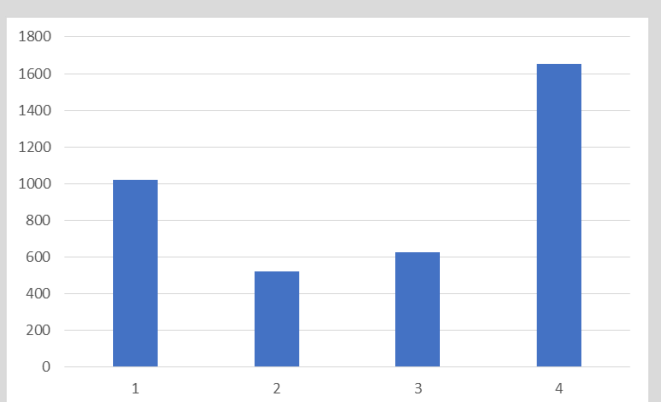
### Service Provides Positive Impact to Community Safety

In Nebraska, the Department of Correctional Services and the Office of Probation Administration have historically reported that upwards of 90% of all offenders entering into the criminal justice system have substance abuse problems. In 2006, the adult Fee for Service Voucher Program was created to provide targeted individuals on probation, parole and in problem-solving courts financial assistance for evaluation and treatment services. As national research shows, untreated substance use issues increase the likelihood that an individual will return to the criminal justice system. The coordinated treatment of the individual by both justice and therapeutic professionals creates an environment of structured support and accountability; lowering the individual's propensity to reoffend in the community. Additionally, the adult Fee for Service Voucher Program lowers prison overcrowding by providing less expensive treatment alternatives and community supervision options.

During 2012 and 2013, this program, administered by the Office of Probation Administration, was able to provide services to approximately 4,000 individuals who otherwise would not have had access to these risk-reducing, treatment interventions. Therapeutic services are delivered by over 700 statewide Registered Service Providers to individuals in the criminal justice system. These providers have fulfilled the requirements set forth within the Standardized Model for Delivery of Substance Use Services, in accordance with the Nebraska Supreme Court rule.

Since its inception in 2006, the Fee for Service Voucher Program has looked for ways to increase efficiency and resource sharing between those agencies that utilize adult voucher services. During this biennium period, enhancements were made to the Fee for Service Voucher Program to strengthen reporting, treatment, and financial compliance for both clinical and justice professionals.

### Number of Adult Vouchers Utilized for Level of Care



1-Evaluation, 2-Outpatient, 3-Intensive Outpatient, 4-Short-term Residential

### Expansion into Juvenile Service Delivery

Through several legislatively-driven changes the Fee for Service Delivery Program has increased financial assistance and service availability to a broader target population. With this expansion, the program has been centralized in the Office of Probation Administration and provides assistance for both adult and juvenile populations. This enhancement includes mental health and substance use treatment, as well as non-treatment services, for youth involved with Nebraska Probation, not otherwise covered through various funding.

## Interstate Compacts for Juveniles and Adults

The Interstate Compacts continue to ensure public safety with regulatory rules for probationers and juveniles who wish to relocate to another state.

**Adult:** The Interstate Commission for Adult Offender Supervision (ICAOS) passed several rules that went into effect March 1, 2012, addressing national concerns focused on gangs, victim notification and violent offenders. The rule changes were trained to all Nebraska probation staff utilizing a web-based training program, as well as an Administrative Memo was created regarding these changes and was sent to the entire judicial branch.

The rule changes assisted the states in ensuring that if an offender is a gang member, that information is included in a transfer request and evaluated during an investigation. Also, the new rules expanding victim notification ensuring victims are notified prior to allowing an offender returning to the sending state. Finally, the violent offender definition was clarified to detail that the sending state identifies if an offender's charge is violent in nature.



**Juvenile:** The Interstate Commission for Juveniles (ICJ) also passed several rules that went into effect in 2012. These rules addressed juvenile concerns when transferring juvenile sex offenders, notifying victims and returning out-of-state runaways. These changes were also trained and notification was submitted to stakeholders.

The rule changes assisted juveniles and families allowing for a juvenile sex offender to immediately move with their legal guardian. Additionally, a victim notification form was created, which is submitted with a transfer request to ensure victims are notified during juvenile supervision in another state. Finally, rules were passed to ensure that if an out-of-state runaway alleges abuse or neglect, the state holding the runaway reports this information and notifies the home state.

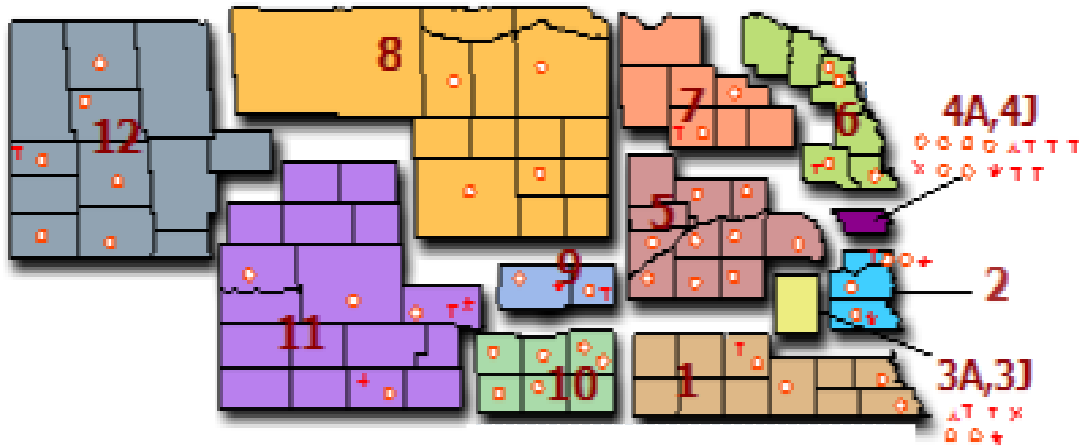
The adult and juvenile interstate compacts are enacted by supporting statute in Nebraska and the rules carry the weight of federal law. The Interstate Compact Office with Probation Administration ensures the state is in compliance with these laws and is a resource and support for probation, as well as other stakeholders who work with adults and juvenile probationers who are relocating, or juveniles who have run away from another state.





## Nebraska Judicial/Probation Districts

July 1, 2009



- O Probation Office
- X Probation Office Juvenile
- \* Reporting Center
- T Problem-Solving Courts
- ^ Juvenile Problem-Solving Courts
- + WEC

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