



Nebraska Children's Commission
1225 L Street, Suite 401
Lincoln, NE 68508

August 28, 2018

Patrick O'Donnell, Clerk of the Legislature
State Capitol, Room 2018
PO Box 94604
Lincoln, NE 68509-4604

Dear Mr. O'Donnell:

The Nebraska Children's Commission is pleased to advance the attached Juvenile Services Committee report to the Judiciary Committee, as outlined by Neb. Rev. Stat. §43-4203(1)(b). The report was completed as a joint effort with the Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice. Information included within relate to legislative reform, services for high needs youth, transition services, and youth and family engagement. The Nebraska Children's Commission reviewed and accepted this report at the July 31, 2018 meeting.

Respectfully,

David Newell, Chairperson
Nebraska Children's Commission

Nicole Brundo
Juvenile Services Committee Co-Chair

Kim Hawekotte
Juvenile Services Committee Co-Chair

Enclosure:

JSC and NCJJ Joint Annual 2018 Report (Final-Legislature)

This Page Intentionally Left Blank

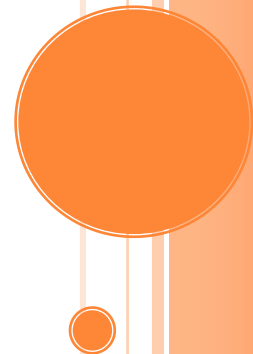
JUVENILE SERVICES COMMITTEE AND NEBRASKA COALITION FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE

2018 Joint Annual Report

Submitted by the Juvenile Services Committee Pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat.
§43-4203(2)(b)

Submitted by the Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice pursuant to Neb.
Rev. Stat. §43-2412(1)(d)

July 2018



Juvenile Services Committee and NCJJ Annual Report

Mission Statement: Design a comprehensive, accountable, culturally competent, continuum of care in the juvenile justice system that meets the needs of families and youth while maintaining public safety.

Committee Goal: To work collaboratively with the executive, legislative, judicial, and county branches of government, the Nebraska Children's Commission, and other key stakeholders to establish and support the development of the ideal juvenile justice system that will prevent children and youth from entering or becoming more deeply involved in the juvenile justice system.

Strategic Goals to Reduce Out of Home Placements

Legislative Reform: Promote legislative reform in line with best practices in juvenile justice.

High Utilizers of Services: Identify the gaps in services available to the juvenile justice population across Nebraska and strategies to increase efficiency serving youth with highest needs.

Transition Services: Review and make recommendations related to best practices in the juvenile justice out-of-home continuum of care, including transition supports.

Youth & Family Engagement: Develop strategies to obtain the voices of system involved youth and their families to encourage knowledgeable and prepared support systems for the youth.

Contact Information

For more information or to get involved with the Juvenile Services Committee, please visit childrens.nebraska.gov, or email necc.contact@nebraska.gov.

Joint Letter from Juvenile Services Committee and Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice Chairs

July 12, 2018

Dear Juvenile Justice Stakeholders,

The Juvenile Services Committee (“JSC”) of the Nebraska Children’s Commission and the Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice (“NCJJ”) present this joint report as a thoughtful contribution to the reform of juvenile justice in Nebraska and in compliance with [Neb. Rev. Stat. 43-4203](#) and [43-2412\(1\)\(b\)](#). Building a strong state requires youth to grow into healthy and productive adults, and the juvenile justice system plays an essential role in helping youth access the support they need to reach their full potential in their communities. Both groups are committed to community safety and youth well-being to grow adults who participate in Nebraska’s economy, workforce, and democracy. The recommendations contained in this joint report support the ongoing juvenile justice reform efforts, and reflect a collaborative, open, and inclusive process of discussion and information sharing.

The JSC and NCJJ made the decision to collaborate in order to eliminate duplication, coordinate work to support juvenile justice, and make the most responsible use of resources possible. Following Nebraska’s decision to no longer seek Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Title II Federal Juvenile grant funding, both bodies believed it is essential for the NCJJ to continue its statutory functions related to Community Based Aid funding, Disproportionate Minority Contact, and its subcommittees. The decision related to funding is discussed in more detail in this report.

Nebraska’s work towards a streamlined, collaborative, and rehabilitative- focused juvenile justice system will be on-going. However, with the continued support from your office, the diligent work of our state’s communities, and the JSC and the NCJJ’s dedication to connecting all components of this process, the work will find positive change for Nebraska youth, families and communities. Both groups are available as a resource to the Governor, Legislature, Judicial Branch, and any agency working to improve outcomes for youth involved in or at risk of becoming involved in the juvenile justice system.

Sincerely



Cassandra Blakely
NCJJ Chairperson



Nicole Brundo
JSC Co-Chair



Kim Hawekotte
JSC Co-Chair

Juveniles Services Committee and Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice Collaboration

Juvenile justice policies and programs are essential to the well-being of youth and safety of communities. When youth who are in or at risk of entering the juvenile justice system can remain safely in their communities, they can reach their full potential. Nebraska’s economy and workforce rely on healthy youth living, working, and raising families safely in their communities. Nebraska has made juvenile justice a priority with stakeholders working together to identify innovative solutions to the challenges facing youth who are involved with or at risk of becoming involved with the juvenile justice system.

In order to enhance collaboration, coordinate initiatives, and increase the impact and efficacy of juvenile justice reform in Nebraska, the Juvenile Services Committee (“JSC”) of the Nebraska Children’s Commission and the Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice (“NCJJ”) have begun collaborating in the form of joint meetings, joint reporting, and inclusive workgroups. This collaboration will allow the most coordinated response possible for juvenile justice reform, while allowing each body to meet its statutory obligations in the most efficient way possible.

The two have divided initiatives and work based on the juvenile justice continuum of care.



These groups will work together in 2018 towards juvenile justice reform and improved outcomes for Nebraska’s youth and families. Both groups remain willing to serve as a resource to the Legislature, Governor, Judicial Branch, and state agencies for any juvenile justice related issue or initiative.

105th Legislature, 2nd Session Highlights

LB732

[Legislative Bill 732](#) (Riepe) changed the annual reporting requirements related to the Nebraska Children’s Commission and the JSC. The annual report to the Legislature deadline has been changed from December 1st annually to September 1st annually. This abbreviated report will cover the shortened period of December 2017 to June 30, 2018. For subsequent years, the JSC will report on state fiscal year, July 1st to June 30th for each September 1st annual report.

LB670

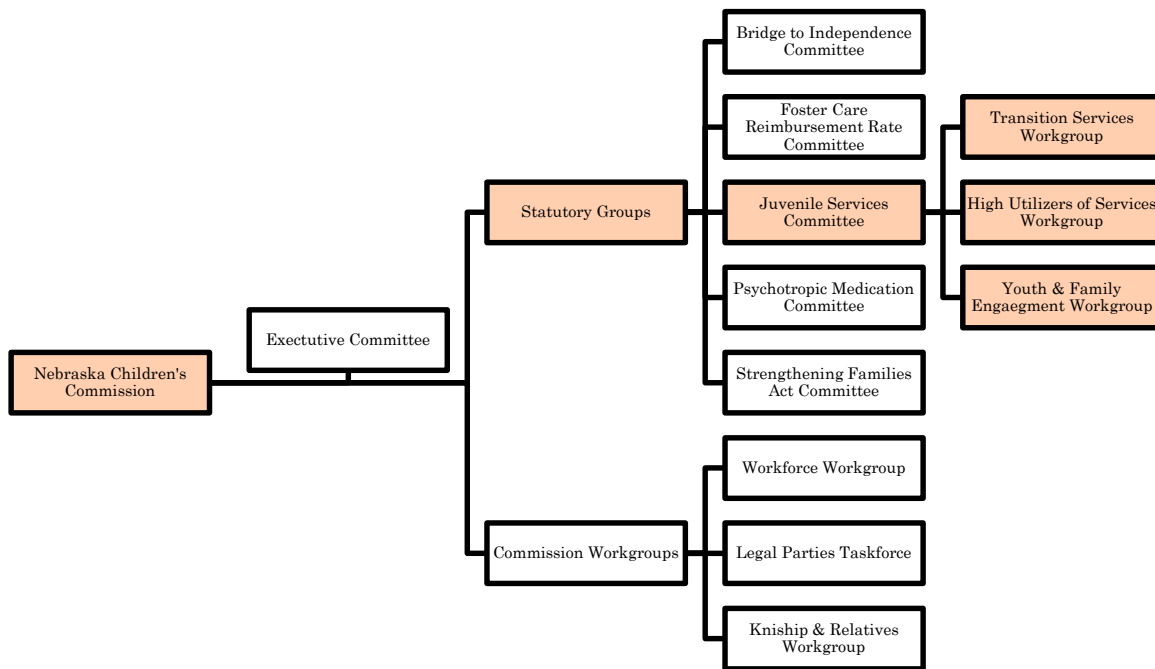
[Legislative Bill 670](#) (Krist) was a juvenile justice legislative package which contained several pertinent sections relevant to the JSC and NCJJ. Amendments incorporated several other bills introduced, all of which resulted in:

- changes to membership and duties of the Coalition (LB 670);
- changes to provisions relating to a report on juvenile facilities and detention room confinement (LB 516);
- a clean-up bill from the graduated response bill from 2017 (LB 673);
- peace officers’ duties regarding encounters with youth under age 11 (LB 774);
- provisions for jurisdiction to make factual findings under the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act (LB826); and
- provisions changed relating to placement and detention of juveniles (LB 1112).

The Committee’s legislative reform group was highly active during this session, testifying, researching and providing for a roundtable discussion on detention facilities. The Committee & NCJJ will continue to monitor the impact and capacity of Nebraska’s continuum of care for juvenile justice in order to implement and comply with these changes.

LR451

[Legislative Resolution 451](#) (Bolz) was introduced on March 27, 2018. The interim study is to examine the work of the Nebraska Children’s Commission and to evaluate the need for the commission’s continuation and any revisions to its structure and purpose. The Committee is to report annually to the Nebraska Children’s Commission, the Health and Human Services Committee of the Legislature, and the Governor. The following is the organizational structure of the JSC, formerly named, the Office of Juvenile Services Committee.



The Juvenile Services Committee was appointed in 2013. Attendance records have been reviewed and indicate participation is active and a quorum is consistently met at quarterly meetings. The need for the JSC to remain as a statutory body has been reviewed. The JSC recommends the continuation of the Committee irrespective of the Nebraska Children’s Commission statutory sunset date (June 30, 2019). A review and amendment of [Neb. Rev. Stat. §43-4203\(b\)](#) will be needed in the event the Nebraska Children’s Commission sunsets and is no longer the parent Commission to the Juvenile Services Committee. Great progress has been made by the Committee, and further work remains.

Juvenile Services Committee Mission

Design a comprehensive, accountable, culturally competent, continuum of care in the juvenile justice system that meets the needs of families and youth while maintaining public safety.

Juvenile Services Committee Goal

To work collaboratively with the executive, legislative, judicial, and county branches of government, the Nebraska Children’s Commission, and other key stakeholders to establish and support the development of the ideal juvenile justice system that will prevent children and youth from entering or becoming more deeply involved in the juvenile justice system.

Juvenile Services Committee 2018 Strategic Priorities

During 2018, the Committee surveyed its members in order to prioritize and refine the organizational structure of the Committee and its workgroups. Following the results of the survey, the Committee realigned resources and initiatives in order to balance the work of the two statutory bodies and to reduce the number of workgroups and priorities. A list of 2017 recommendations and their status update is included in [Appendix A](#). There were 15 recommendations adopted by the Nebraska Children’s Commission. As of June 28, 10 have been implemented or are in progress.

2017 Workgroups

Legislative Reform
Placement and Needs Mapping
Evaluation and Assessment
Out-of-home placements & Transition Services
Cross-System Coordination

2018 Workgroups

Transition Services
High Utilizers of Services
Youth and Family Engagement

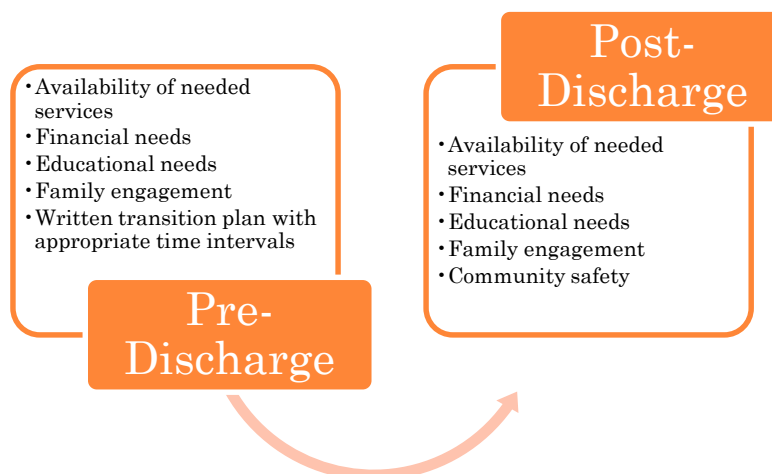
The survey sent out to members indicated the identified goal for the year was the reduction of out-of-home placements. Three workgroups were identified to aid in this goal were: Transition Services, Youth and Family Engagement, and High Utilizers of Services. Members were encouraged to join groups.

Strategic Priority One: Transition Services Workgroup

Review and evaluate supports needed and available to Nebraska youth and families at the time of transition from one placement setting to another, specifically from congregate care settings to family-like settings.

This group originally began as the Youth Rehabilitation Treatment Centers (YRTC) and Out of Home Placement Workgroup. After forwarding recommendations related to the YRTCs, the group reconvened as the Out-Of-Home Placement and Transitions Workgroup. During 2016 they focused on the juvenile justice out-of-home continuum of care, along with transitions back to youths’ communities. As the Committee refined its operations and scope, this third re-iteration of the group will now focus exclusively on transition services in 2018, working to highlight that the planning for effective transitions must begin at the time of out-of-home placement.

The goal of this workgroup is to develop an educated model to use during transitions listed below. There are three main types of transition which occur from congregate care to a family-like setting. Those include re-entry from the YRTC’s, therapeutic, and non-therapeutic placement settings.



The group is working on the creation of transition checklists for stakeholders, including consultation with providers, court professionals, the Administrative Office of Probation, and the Office of Juvenile Services. Best practice recommendations will be submitted as they relate to the areas included on the drafted checklists. At this time, the workgroup is in the process of developing formal recommendations, which will be ready for review in 2019.

Strategic Priority Two: High Utilizers of Services Workgroup

Identify the gaps in services and strategies to increase efficiency around youth with high needs.

A reiteration of the former “Placement and Needs Mapping” Workgroup, this workgroup will further explore the demographic of the most critical youth receiving services. Created in 2018, this workgroup is currently defining its population, scope and deliverables. “High utilizers of services” are juvenile justice involved youth, with complex care needs, whom experienced multiple placement settings and delays in appropriate placement due to a lack of available options. These youth have often experienced multiple interventions from various systems including child welfare, educational services, developmental disabilities and/or behavioral health in addition to juvenile justice involvement.

This group has met once in 2018 and additional meetings are planned in quarters three and four. Aggregate baseline data is being collected by the Administrative Office of Probation, and Division of Behavioral Health to inform the group’s definition of this critical population. At this time, this group has no formal recommendations. As the workgroup gathers, evaluates, and analyzes data, a refined scope, definition, and timeline for deliverables will be set forth. Formal recommendations will be available in 2019.

Youth & Family Engagement Workgroup

Develop strategies to obtain the voices of system involved youth and their families to encourage knowledgeable and prepared support systems for the youth.

Through engagement, youth and family voice inform policy, practice, and service provisions by providing their perspective of navigating the juvenile justice continuum of services. Created in 2018, this workgroup is currently researching existing youth and family advisory forums in Nebraska.

Workgroup Goals:

1. Gather promising practices for including youth and family voice in policy and practice.
2. Identify all youth and family councils in Nebraska and create a resource guide to share with other entities which don’t have a council, and for youth and families seeking opportunities to become involved.
3. Make recommendations to the Committee on best practices for youth and family engagement at all stages of the system to support youth and families.

At this time, this group has no formal recommendations. Formal recommendations will be available in 2019.

Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice Updates

The Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice (Coalition) was created in 2000 by LB1167 and codified at [Neb. Rev. Stat. §43-2411](#) as an advisory committee to the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice (Nebraska Crime Commission) to make recommendation on awarding of grants; identify juvenile justice issues, share information, and monitor and evaluate programs in the juvenile justice system; recommend guidelines and supervision procedures to be used to develop or expand local diversion programs for juveniles; and prepare an annual report including recommendations on administrative and legislative actions which would improve the juvenile justice system.

During this reporting period, the Coalition was required to comply with the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP Act) as the State Advisory Group (SAG) for Nebraska to be eligible for receiving the Title II federal juvenile grant. The purpose of Title II funds is to support creation of an overarching, developmentally appropriate, and trauma-informed framework for states to use to inform and connect youth justice work to development of individual and multi-agency, comprehensive state plans that support the well-being of all youth. Nebraska's eligibility for receiving Title II funding is determined by its compliance with the four core requirements of JJPD Act.

The Four Core Requirements are:

1. Removal of status and non-offenders from secure detention facilities;
2. Separation of adult and juvenile offenders throughout incarceration;
3. Removal of juveniles from adult jails and lockups, and
4. That state must collect and analyze data to identify and address any disproportionate numbers of minority youth at specific decision points throughout the juvenile justice system.

New federal regulations taking effect July 1, 2017 require any state receiving funds to have no violations of juvenile detainees being held in an adult facility. Any violations will result in a 40% reduction in federal grant and administrative funds from Title II. In the past year, we believe Nebraska had 3 violations. The increased requirements, along with decreased funding and administration does not make it feasible for the Nebraska Crime Commission to administer this grant going forward. Beginning July 1, 2017, the state of Nebraska is no longer seeking the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Title II Federal Juvenile grant.

When a state decides to not apply for the funds, a local government or nonprofit organization may apply for the funding as a "non-participating" entity. The non-participating entity must choose only one of the four core requirements to focus on. A government agency from Nebraska did apply for the funds, focusing on Disproportionate Minority Contact. The awarding of funds decision has not been made at the time of this report.

While the Coalition is no longer federally mandated due to the withdrawal from Title II funding, the Coalition remains active with five standing subcommittees who meet in addition to quarterly Coalition meetings: Executive, Grant Review, Disproportionate Minority Contact, Youth, Diversion, and Community Planning.

The goal of the Coalitions remains to improve all aspects of the juvenile justice system in the state of Nebraska by assisting communities and the state with the planning and implementation of systemic improvements, advocacy, education, and award recommendations of state funds for such purposes. It is hoped the lives and futures of children, youth, and families involved with the juvenile justice system will be improved.

Due to the desire to not duplicate efforts with other statewide commissions and coalitions, and to develop strong recommendations for juvenile justice in Nebraska, the Coalition has joined forces with the Children's Commission Juvenile Services Committee to hold joint meetings and provide annual recommendations.

Diversion Subcommittee:

The Juvenile Diversion Subcommittee of the Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice is a working group established in 2013. The duties of the subcommittee, outlined in [Neb. Rev. Stat. §81-1427](#), include assisting in regular strategic planning related to supporting, funding, monitoring, and evaluating the effectiveness of plans and programs receiving funds from the Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program.

In January 2018, the subcommittee developed a strategic plan identifying priorities of the subcommittee in which goals and direction could be established moving forward. Those goals were then assigned to working groups to start the process of achieving those statewide goals. The Diversion Subcommittee Strategic Plan can be found [here](#).

For more information about juvenile diversion in Nebraska, please see the Annual Report [here](#).

Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Division

The Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Division is a separate and distinct budgetary program within the Nebraska Crime Commission. Funds under this program shall be used exclusively to assist aid recipients in the implementation and operation of programs or the provision of services identified in the aid recipient's comprehensive juvenile services plan, including programs for local planning and service coordination; screening, assessment, and evaluation; diversion; alternatives to detention; family support services; treatment services; truancy prevention and intervention programs; pilot projects approved by the Nebraska Crime Commission; payment of transportation costs to and from placements, evaluations, or services; personnel when the personnel are aligned with evidence-based treatment principles, programs, or practices; contracting with other state agencies or private organizations that provide evidence-based treatment or programs; pre-existing programs that are aligned with evidence-based practices or best practices; and other services that will positively impact youth and families in the juvenile justice system.

The Director of the Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Division of the Nebraska Crime Commission is responsible for providing technical assistance and guidance for the development of comprehensive juvenile services plans; coordinating the review of the Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program application and making recommendations for the distribution of funds; developing data collection and evaluation protocols, overseeing statewide data collection, and generating an annual report on the effectiveness of juvenile services that receive funds; developing relationships and collaborating with juvenile justice system stakeholders, providing education and training as necessary, and serving on boards and committees when approved by the commission; assisting juvenile justice system stakeholders in developing policies and practices that are research-based or standardized and reliable and are implemented with fidelity and which have been researched and demonstrate positive outcomes; developing and coordinating a statewide working group as a subcommittee of the Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice to assist in regular strategic planning related to supporting, funding, monitoring, and evaluating the effectiveness of plans and programs receiving funds; and working with the coordinator of the Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice in facilitating their obligations specific to the Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program. The Financial Grants Monitor is responsible for fiscally monitoring subgrantees, processing reimbursement contingent upon documentation, reviewing cash reports, processing cash requests, and the overall fiscal oversight of the Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Division.

For more information about the Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program, please see the Annual Report [here](#).

Community Planning Advisory Subcommittee

Pursuant to [Neb. Rev. Stat. §43-2404.01](#), the Director of the Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program shall develop and coordinate a statewide working group as a subcommittee of the coalition to assist in regular strategic planning related to supporting, funding, monitoring, and evaluating the effectiveness of plans and programs receiving funds from the Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program. The working group was developed in 2013 and is comprised of approximately 14 individuals from across Nebraska. This statewide working group is referred to as the Community Planning Advisory Subcommittee of the Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice.

Juvenile Services Funds

Juvenile Services funds are state funds appropriated by the Nebraska Legislature and administered by the Nebraska Crime Commission. Availability of funds are announced on an annual basis and applications are accepted through a competitive grant process. The purpose of these funds, as outlined in state statute, are to provide the implementation of programs that are considered to be evidence based or working towards becoming evidence based. These funds provide program development and evaluation consultation for projects funded through Juvenile Services. A variety of projects are funded through juvenile services such as programs for assessment and evaluation, family support services, alternatives to detention, delinquency prevention, community centers, mentoring, substance abuse, school programs, prevention of delinquent behavior, diversion and to address Disproportionate Minority Contact.

For a listing of FY 2017 Juvenile Services programs please visit <https://ncc.nebraska.gov/sites/ncc.nebraska.gov/files/2017-JS-Listing.pdf>

2018 RECOMMENDATIONS

STATUTORY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Juvenile Services Committee recommends the continuation of the Committee irrespective of the Nebraska Children's Commission statutory sunset date (June 30, 2019). A review and amendment of Neb. Rev. Stat. §43-4203(b) will be needed in the event the Nebraska Children's Commission sunsets and is no longer the parent Commission to the Juvenile Services Committee.

Appendix A

2017 Recommendation		Update as of June 2018	Status
Priority: Legislative Reform: Promote legislative reform in line with best practices in juvenile justice.			
1	Current juvenile justice legislation must be monitored to identify gaps that prevent adoption of best practices.	Legislative review is performed regularly at meetings. A Legislative Workgroup that reconvenes each session specifically to review legislation relevant to the work of the Committee.	Ongoing
2	Best practices in sealing and expunging should be a priority in legislative reform to allow youth to thrive and reach their full potential.	LB869 (Pansing Brooks) indefinitely postponed.	Delayed
3	Legislation should encourage diversion program. Counties are encouraged to adopt the best practice of offering diversion prior to filing in juvenile court.	The committee has worked to gather data on diversion practices of the various counties.	In Progress
4	Support the Administrative Office of Probation in their implementation of the graduated response grid.	The graduated response grid has been implemented and regular updates are provided to the Committee.	Implemented
Priority: Placement and Needs Mapping: Identify the placement needs of the juvenile justice population and the resources available to these youth throughout the state			
5	The Placement and Needs Mapping Workgroup (PNMW) will continue identifying the needs of the juvenile justice population and the resources available throughout the state.	Workgroups are in progress of identifying the scope of data necessary for the PNM workgroup to map.	In Progress
6	The PNMW will create a needs assessment for decision makers to use in planning out-of-home services and placements location capacity. This will support a juvenile justice system of care where youth with out-of-home placement needs are served in their communities at the least restrictive level of care necessary.	This task in on hiatus until consensus is reached about data to be pulled.	In Progress
Priority: Evaluation and Assessment: Apply the highest standards of evaluation, assessment, and research in the social sciences to the understanding of existing needs of youth in Nebraska.			
7	A Unified and shared database should be created for agencies that assess, serve, and treat youth across the state. This database could allow for enhanced case management, as well as prediction of needs across the state and individualized data outcomes for research.	LB225 (Crawford) passed to conduct a Child and Juvenile Data Feasibility Study. Reference Nebr. Rev. Stat. 43-1306.	In Progress- Pending study outcome
8	Current emphasis on programs and actions that prevent initial contact with the juvenile justice system should continue.	Collaboration has begun with the Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice whose focus is on preventative diversion efforts through Community Based Aid funded programs.	Implemented
Priority: Out-of-Home Placements and Transitions: Review and make recommendations related to best practices in the juvenile justice out-of-home continuum of care, including transition supports.			
9	The YRTC's should remain open and serve their current high risk population.	YRTC's are open and currently serving a high risk population.	Ongoing
10	The Legislature should fund the YRTC's at a level to meet the staffing requirements of the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA).	Unsure if staffing is now in-line with PREA requirements.	Further Assessment is Needed
11	The YRTC's are currently the only juvenile justice no eject, no reject facility in the State. This can result in youth who should be served elsewhere being admitted to the YRTC, including youth with severe mental health, developmental disability, or substance abuse needs. The Out of Home Placement and Transitions Workgroup (chaired By Vicky Thompson-Smith) will continue working towards systemic solutions to this important issue.	This task has been broken down into time limited, task focused workgroups. The current High Utilizers of Services Workgroup is examining many of these populations and how to best meet their needs.	In Progress

Appendix A

2017 Recommendation		Update as of June 2018	Status
Priority: Cross-System Coordination: Identify areas of potential cross-system collaboration, and promote best practices to coordinate services and program.			
12	State funded entities are encouraged to fund in a manner that boosts the use of the Collective Impact Model and encourages braided funding.	Unaware if this is being promoted at the state level.	Further Assessment is Needed
13	The State of Nebraska, in partnership with state and private entities that fund juvenile justice initiatives, should explore the use of blended funding. This collaborative process should identify necessary changes in legislation, policy, and funding requirements to support blended funding.	Carryover from a previous subcommittee. Will need clarity and definition around blended vs. braided funding to make next steps and assign work to new subcommittee.	Further Assessment is Needed
14	Encourage the use of telehealth to increase access to services across the state.	This strategy continues to be important, however no subcommittee is actively pursuing it at this time.	Delayed
15	Review the data related to service gaps and outcomes gathered as part of the System of Care to assess its ability to address the treatment and non-treatment needs of youth involved in the Nebraska Juvenile Justice system.	Both the Transition Services and the High Utilizers of Services Workgroups are working on these issues.	In Progress

Juvenile Services Committee Membership

Member Name	Member Type	Title and Organization	Representation
Jim Bennett	Voting	Director Of Juvenile Placement , Administrative Office of Probation, Juvenile Services Division	Representative of juvenile probation
Michele Borg	Voting	Education of Systems-Involved Students (ESIS) Coordinator , Nebraska Department of Education	Representative of the Department of Education
Nicole Brundo (Co-Chair)	Voting	Deputy County Attorney, Division Lead , Douglas County Attorney's Office, Juvenile Division	County attorney representative
Tamara Gavin	Voting	Deputy Director , DHHS, Division of Behavioral Health	Representative of DHHS, Division of Behavioral Health
Judge Larry Gendler	Voting	Judge of the Separate Juvenile Court , Sarpy County Juvenile Court	Judge representative
Kim Hawekotte (Co-Chair)	Voting	Executive Director , Foster Care Review Office	Representative of the Nebraska Children's Commission
Nick Juliano	Voting	Director Regional Advocacy and Public Policy , Boys Town	Treatment placement representative
Cynthia Kennedy	Voting	Chief, Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program , Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice	Nebraska Crime Commission representative
Mark LaBouchardiere	Voting	Facilities Director , DHHS, Division of Children and Family Services, Office of Juvenile Services	Representative of the office of juvenile services
Tom McBride	Voting	Executive Director , Nebraska Juvenile Justice Association	Advocate group representative
Kari Rumbaugh	Voting	Assistant Deputy Administrator , Administrative Office of Probation, Juvenile Services Division	Representative of juvenile probation
Patrick Sailors	Voting	Director of Crisis and Residential Services , Child Guidance Center	In-Home Service Representative
Dan Scarborough	Voting	Geneva YRTC Facility Administrator , DHHS, Division of Children and Family Services, Office of Juvenile Services	Representative of the office of juvenile services
Vicky Thompson Smith	Voting	Program Manager , CEDARS Youth Services	Group home/Shelter representative
Margene Timm	Voting	Supervising Attorney of the Juvenile Unit , Lancaster County Public Defender's Office	Defense Attorney Representative
Deb VanDyke-Ries	Voting	Director , Nebraska Court Improvement Project	Representative of the Court Improvement Project
Dr. Richard Wiener	Voting	Beddey Professor of Psychology , University of Nebraska, Lincoln	Data expert representative
Nicole Berggren	Resource	Program Manager , DHHS, Division of Children and Family Services, Office of Juvenile Services	Representative of the office of juvenile services
Lisa Neeman	Resource	Administrator II, Health Services Delivery Systems , DHHS, Medicaid and Long-Term Care	Representative of DHHS, Division of Medicaid and Long-Term Care
Sen. Patty Pansing Brooks	Resource	Senator , Nebraska Legislative Council, District 28	Representative of the Judiciary Committee of the Legislature
Julie Smith	Resource	Juvenile Justice Programs Specialist , Administrative Office of Probation, Juvenile Services Division	Representative of Juvenile Probation
Rico Zavala	Resource	Juvenile Justice Service Director , CEDARS Youth Services	Group home/Shelter representative

Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice Membership

Member Name	Member Type	Title and Organization	Representation
Vacant	Voting	,	Community-based, private nonprofit organizations who work with juvenile offenders and their families (2nd District)
Vacant	Voting	,	Community-based, private nonprofit organizations who work with juvenile offenders and their families (3rd District)
Vacant	Voting	,	Representative from law enforcement
Roma Amundson	Voting	County Commissioner , Lancaster County	One county commissioner or supervisor
Cassy Blakely (Chair)	Voting	Technical Assistance and Training Coordinator , American Institutes for Research	At Large Member
Jim Blue	Voting	President and CEO , CEDARS Youth Services	Community-based, private nonprofit organizations who work with juvenile offenders and their families (1st District)
Neleigh Boyer	Voting	Attorney , DHHS, Division of Legal Services	The chief executive officer of the Department of Health and Human Services or his or her designee
Darrell Fisher	Voting	Executive Director , Nebraska Crime Commission	The executive director of the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice or his or her designee
Brian Halstead	Voting	Deputy Commissioner , Nebraska Department of Education	The Commissioner of Education or his or her designee
Kim Hawekotte	Voting	Executive Director , Foster Care Review Office	The executive director of the Foster Care Review Office
Denise Kracl	Voting	Colfax County Attorney , Colfax County	One county attorney
Brett Matthies	Voting	Manager of Emergency Services , Region 6 Behavioral Health Services	One member of a regional behavioral health authority established under section 71-808
Elaine Menzel (Vice Chair)	Voting	Legal Counsel , Nebraska Association of County Officials	The Executive Director of the Nebraska Association of County Officials or his or her designee
Justin Meyers	Voting	Young Adult Representative ,	Young Adult Member
Sheli Schindler	Voting	Director , Lancaster County Youth Services Center	The director or his or her designee from a secure juvenile detention facility or a staff secure youth confinement facility;
Amanda Speichert	Voting	Attorney , Lindemeier & Dawson Attorneys at Law	One public defender
Jeanne Brandner	Non-Voting	Deputy Administrator of the Division of Juvenile Services , Administrative Office of Probation	The probation administrator of the Office of Probation Administration or his or her designee
Hon. Vernon Daniels	Non-Voting	Judge of the Separate Juvenile Court , Douglas County Court	One separate juvenile court judge
Hon. Roland Randin	Non-Voting	County Judge , 12th Judicial District Court	One county court judge

Juvenile Services Committee Statutory Authority

Juvenile Services Committee Statute Neb. Rev. Stat. 43-4203(b)

The commission shall create a committee to examine the Office of Juvenile Services and the Juvenile Services Division of the Office of Probation Administration.

Such committee shall review the role and effectiveness of out-of-home placements utilized in the juvenile justice system, including the youth rehabilitation and treatment centers, and make recommendations to the commission on the juvenile justice continuum of care, including what populations should be served in out-of-home placements and what treatment services should be provided at the centers in order to appropriately serve those populations.

Such committee shall also review how mental and behavioral health services are provided to juveniles in residential placements and the need for such services throughout Nebraska and make recommendations to the commission relating to those systems of care in the juvenile justice system.

The committee shall collaborate with the University of Nebraska at Omaha, Juvenile Justice Institute, the University of Nebraska Medical Center, Center for Health Policy, the behavioral health regions as established in section 71-807, and state and national juvenile justice experts to develop recommendations.

The recommendations shall include a plan to implement a continuum of care in the juvenile justice system to meet the needs of Nebraska families, including specific recommendations for the rehabilitation and treatment model.

The recommendations shall be delivered to the commission and electronically to the Judiciary Committee of the Legislature annually by September 1.