

2019 NJJA Conference

NJJA | Nebraska Juvenile
Justice Association

Keynote and Breakout
Session Descriptions: Day 1

2019 NJJA Conference | **MAY 1-3, 2019** | Younes Conference Center - Kearney, NE

Keynote - 10:15 - 11:45am



Putting RNR into Practice: Utilizing Risk/Needs Assessment Results to Guide Risk Reduction Strategies with Juvenile Justice-Involved Adolescents - Keith Cruise

The Risk-Needs-Responsivity (RNR) model is the predominant framework for analyzing the factors contributing to delinquent behaviors, guiding assessment, and developing case plans in juvenile justice settings. Recent research has confirmed that greater adherence to RNR principles leads to decreased reoffending rates. This presentation will summarize lessons learned from this research and provide practical suggestions for juvenile justice professionals in translating these research findings into actionable case planning practices. Emphasis will be placed on the importance of responsivity factors and the need for enhanced cross system collaboration to maximize juvenile justice professionals' ability to translate the risk reduction findings from research into practice.

Breakout A - 1:00 - 2:30pm

Utilizing RNR Principles in Effective Case Planning: Overcoming Challenges and Building Champions - Keith Cruise: Building off of the keynote address, this workshop will focus on delineating practical case planning strategies, grounded in the Risk-Needs-Responsivity model that can be implemented in practice. This workshop will utilize group discussion and case materials to identify case planning barriers and strategies at both the system and individual level to help overcome barriers. Attendees will be able to connect the dots between all three RNR principles and effective case planning strategies that includes concrete strategies for how these principles can be applied in their own jurisdictions.

Race in Nebraska: Digging to the Root Causes of Inequity - Juliet Summers & Taylor Givens-Dunn: This is an interactive session where participants will consider the impact that historical events, laws, and policy decisions have had on their family and themselves, and engage in discussion with other participants to understand how those system structures have disparately impacted people of different racial and ethnic backgrounds.

Case Processing: a Core Strategy - Michele Lueders: Case processing work allows for more efficient movement of youth through the Juvenile Justice System. Case processing reform work includes the development of a system map for jurisdictions to assist in developing strategies to provide better outcomes for youth and families in the Juvenile Justice system. This session will educate attendees on the importance of understanding case processing and how to different strategies to improve case processing.

Suicide Prevention: Instilling Hope & Building Resiliency - Julia Hebenstreit: On average, we lose someone to suicide every 13 minutes in our country. Suicide is a preventable form of death and a very real public health problem that impacts individuals from a variety of backgrounds and of all ages. In this session, you will learn the risk factors and warning signs of suicide, protective factors, and positive coping strategies for good mental health. You will also learn how to help someone in need and what local and national resources are available.

See all speaker and presenter biographies beginning on page 7.

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Breakout B - 3:00 - 4:30pm

Race in Nebraska: Digging to the Root Causes of Inequity - Juliet Summers & Taylor Givens-Dunn: This is an interactive session where participants will consider the impact that historical events, laws, and policy decisions have had on their family and themselves, and engage in discussion with other participants to understand how those system structures have disparately impacted people of different racial and ethnic backgrounds.

Strengthening Families through Community Collaboration - Dr. Jasney Cogua-Lopez & Regina Costello: Boys Town will discuss how providers are able to work together to strengthen families, focusing on the difference between the development/execution of a Community Prevention Implementation System versus prevention programs within a community. A case example will illustrate the understanding of Community Implementation Systems at Boys Town–South Omaha. The example will address challenges and focus on opportunities that universally impact communities on a larger scale, ultimately keeping more youth out of the juvenile justice system.

Restorative Practices: Casting a Wider Net than Restorative Justice - Dr. Anne Hobbs, Monica Miles-Steffens: There are sectors within the U.S. juvenile justice system that have utilized restorative justice for decades. Despite this, the U.S. system in general has not adopted restorative practices as readily as other models. For example, only 4 restorative juvenile justice programs are cited on OJJDP's model programs guide (one of which was a program modeled after an Australia program). This presentation will highlight innovative ways RP are being used across the globe.

Engaging the Source: New Approaches to Address Youth who Run Away - Sarah Forrest & Christine Henningson: Those who work in the formal juvenile justice system or in prevention and diversion programs often struggle with how to effectively approach youth who run away. Since 2010, Nebraska's laws have prioritized keeping these children out of detention and formal juvenile justice system involvement. But many of those in the field continue to see these cases and struggle with what to do. Using interactive case studies, this session will provide practitioners with a better understanding of this complex issue, as well as practical tools for responding to the individual youth they encounter.

YRTC Tour

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Keynote - 10:15 - 11:45am



The Illusion of Choice - Rebecca Bender

Rebecca Bender was lured out of her small community and forced into human trafficking for nearly six years. Tricked by a man she thought was her boyfriend, many vulnerabilities she was unaware of set her up to be a target for traffickers. Her inspiring story of resiliency and hope will remind you of why you do the work you do.

Breakout C - 2:30 - 3:00pm

Commercial Trafficking: Tools for Effective Investigation and Prosecution - Rebecca Bender: Law enforcement, probation, prosecution, victim advocates and expert witness all are working tirelessly to help combat exploitation. This breakout session will give you tools to help with trial and investigation, lay a foundation for victimology of trafficking-specific cases and will better assist in victim disclosure.

Juvenile Justice Policy Reform from the Perspective of Young People - 2018 Members of the Nebraska Youth Justice Policy Fellowship: This panel will include young people who are graduates of the Nebraska Youth Justice Policy Fellowship. Panel members, who are currently or have recently been involved in Nebraska's juvenile justice system, will relate their personal experiences to current policy issues and propose specific solutions to be considered by policy makers and system leaders. Opportunities for all young people to have their voices heard in new ways will be identified.

What Causes Empty Seats? Early Warning Signs of Non-Attendance - Wendy Kaiser: This interactive session will explore the warning signs often seen in youth and families at risk of attendance issues. This session will detail specific warning signs, discuss how problematic areas and needs can be identified via an evidence-based assessment, explore cultural connections to attendance, and guide professionals as they work to engage students and families in this space. The session is best suited for individuals working directly with youth and/or families.

Evidence-Based Nebraska Update - What Works? - Anne Hobbs & Lindsey Wylie: Many juvenile justice practitioners and funders want to know what prevents youth from getting involved in delinquent acts. In this presentation, the staff and faculty of JJI will update practitioners on the latest research findings and program evaluations conducted under the Evidence-based Nebraska Project. Findings may include: best practices in truancy interventions, the efficacy of school resource officers, best practices for prevention and promotion programs, and whether utilizing drug testing improves outcomes for youth. Other research findings may include how to recruit and retain youth in programming and the use of assessment tools to tailor more meaningful interventions for youth.

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Breakout D - 1:30 - 2:45pm

How to Work With Victims of Trafficking - Rebecca Bender: An in-depth look for any youth service provider, on how to work with victims and better locate state and national resources. Learn promising practices and language that has power for each youth you are serving. Walk away with tools to identify, respond, and know your lane in this arena.

Juvenile Justice Policy Reform from the Perspective of Young People - 2018 Members of the Nebraska Youth Justice Policy Fellowship: This panel will include young people who are graduates of the Nebraska Youth Justice Policy Fellowship. Panel members, who are currently or have recently been involved in Nebraska's juvenile justice system, will relate their personal experiences to current policy issues and propose specific solutions to be considered by policy makers and system leaders. Opportunities for all young people to have their voices heard in new ways will be identified.

Plan for Your Future! - Scott Eckel & Christine Henningsen: This session prepares youth to discuss their juvenile court experience in future endeavors. We will provide hands-on instructions for how to check if your record is sealed, how to initiate the process, and how to verify that their record has been sealed. There will be opportunities for youth and providers to practice advocating for record sealing, role-playing interviewing scenarios, and how to respond to application questions involving their juvenile record in applications.

Re-thinking Justice: Victim Youth Conferencing leading the way in Restorative Justice in Nebraska - Alisha Jimenez & Mary Rose Richter: Victim Youth Conferencing (VYC) is a restorative justice program available statewide from the Office of Dispute Resolution-approved regional mediation centers. VYC is accessible to youth at any stage of the juvenile justice process, including referrals from schools, diversion, courts, and probation. This session will share the program's success, including low rates of re-offending and high rates of reparations to the victim. Presenters will use practical demonstration and youth/victim testimonies to demonstrate how VYC works, and will share research findings from an external evaluation.

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From Trauma Informed to Trauma Capable: Initiating the Healing Process - Cheryl Turner: This presentation builds on information from Trauma Informed Care to provide basic skills that attendees can be cognizant of and utilize when interacting with individuals impacted by unresolved trauma. Discussion and focus will center on approaching and working with a child or adolescent who is demonstrating that they are feeling unsafe or vulnerable through their actions and behaviors.

Utilizing Voice and Choice to Improve Outcomes for Crossover Youth and their Families - Hon. Douglas F. Johnson, Dr. Ryan Spohn, Nick Juliano and Marlon Wofford: This session will describe how the inclusion of youth and families in a system decision point improves decision-making and enhances outcomes for crossover youth. Case specific examples will be presented along with practical advice, lessons learned, and evaluation results to assist participants interested in replicating this approach.

Planning and Intervening with Youth Who Have Sexually Harmful Behaviors - Julie A. Smith, Michael Nehe: Youth with sexually harmful behaviors pose a complex challenge for our communities. Cultural and ethical norms often lead to overestimated risk, resulting in over-supervision that increases rather than decreases their future risk. Using case studies, this session will focus on understanding risk factors as identified by the Center for Sex Offender Management (CSOM) and developing meaningful interventions.

Up In Smoke – Facing Emerging Substance Use Issues Head On - Renee Faber, Jessica Haebe: Substance use is prevalent among youth involved in the juvenile justice system. Today's emerging drugs coupled with risk factors among this vulnerable population present unique challenges for the courts and community-based providers. This session will address drugs trends such vaping and marijuana while discussing prevention and intervention strategies at the community level.

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Keynote and Workshop
Descriptions: Day 3

Keynote and Workshops - 8:30 - 11:45am



Calling all Hope Dealers: Every Child Has a Story, Every Story Deserves Heroes - Hasan Davis

After a brief overview of some of the pressing issues across our youth serving systems Hasan Davis will share his experience of transitioning through the education, justice and social service systems. These were systems that, often, failed to provide him the level support he needed to be successful. Hasan was lucky to find that on his journey there were, within each system, outliers and resisters who found a way to engage, encourage and empower him. With the support of these “Hope Dealers,” Hasan was able to transcend his mounting list of “failures” to become an advocate for himself and eventually a champion for others experiencing difficult times.

Workshop I 8:30-9:45am

Pages from the Hope Dealers Handbook - Hasan Davis: Hasan believes that each person in the community has the opportunity, and the responsibility, to influence and change the way youth encounter the education, justice and social service systems. With the help of courageous and committed “Hope Dealers” Hasan has managed to navigate many challenges and overcome major social, emotional and physical challenges. Hasan will share the simple strategies his personal champions (Hope Dealers) employed to help him complete the “JD shuffle” and go from Hasan Davis Juvenile Delinquent to Hasan Davis Juris Doctor.

Workshop II 10:15-11:45am

Strategies for Engaging Students in their own Success - Hasan Davis: In this interactive workshop Hasan will explore the foundations of Social Emotional Learning (SEL) and the impact of non-cognitive engagement on group culture, behavior and norms. In an exploration of the Affective Domain (often referred to as The Feeling House, per Hasan’s Mentor, the late Dr. Willie Parker) Hasan will share a couple of exciting strategies for building a strong classroom (or small group) culture of accountability. Come ready to dive into a live experience of these great tools.

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2018 Members of the Nebraska Youth Justice Policy Fellowship

The Nebraska Youth Justice Policy Fellowship is a program aimed at supporting students involved in juvenile justice and interested in improving the system to make their voices heard in policy. Through eight sessions over the course of four months, fellowship participants discuss issues in juvenile justice policy, refresh their knowledge of Nebraska civics and how laws and policies come into being, and learn how young people can be advocates for change. In a final project, each fellow prepares a policy plan proposal reflecting on a policy they believe should be changed, drawing on data and research as well as their personal experience, and articulating a strategic plan for making that change happen. The fellowship is run by Voices for Children in Nebraska in partnership with Boys Town, and fellows who wish to remain involved in policy after are encouraged and connected to opportunities for youth engagement. We are excited to be here at NJJA!

Rebecca Bender

Rebecca Bender is the founder and CEO of the Rebecca Bender Initiative (RBI). She is an award-winning, nationally recognized expert on human trafficking. After escaping nearly six years of modern day slavery, she wrote her first book, *Roadmap to Redemption*, followed by her recent curriculum *Elevate*. RBI's advanced trainings have equipped FBI, Homeland Security, Former President Jimmy Carter, local law enforcement, medical professionals, service providers, and faith communities across America. Rebecca serves as an advisor to both the Oregon DOJ Human Trafficking Council and the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services. She is also the recipient of the Female Overcomer Award, Unlikely Hero Award, Hero to our Generation Award and multiple FBI and Congressional recognitions. She lives in the Pacific Northwest with her husband and their four daughters, and is currently finishing her masters. She is a sought after speaker and consultant and has been featured on the Today Show, NBC Deadline Crimes, Forbes, Huffington Post, and Sports Illustrated.

Dr. Jasney Cogua Lopez

Jasney E Cogua is the Director of Community Initiatives at Boys Town. Dr. Cogua has a Ph.D. in Comparative Sociology from Florida International University. In her current role she is focused on establishing and guiding LIFT Together, a multi-tier, multi-component, community-based community implementation system that uses Boys Town's family- and school-based programs to generate community-wide impact. She has worked in the area of program implementation and program evaluation primarily with the Latino community for over 10 years as a Project Director, Project Evaluator, and Principal Investigator. Her research addresses behavioral health access and disparities across ethnic and gender minorities. She has been a part of several university, foundation, and SAMHSA/BJA-funded projects involving the deep understanding of the Latino community, family relations, and drug addiction recovery for youth and adults. Additionally, she has held faculty and research positions at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, Florida Atlantic University, Florida International University.

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Regina Costello

Regina Costello is the Director of Community Support Services at Boys Town – South Omaha. In this role, Regina is responsible for managing and supporting all community engagement efforts that support the LIFT Together initiative as well as all the school and home-based services provided by Boys Town. Regina had worked as Bilingual Care Coordination Manager/Supervisor of South Omaha since May 2015 and held other positions at Boys Town since 2003. Regina holds a Master's Degree in Human and Family Services from Bellevue University.

Keith Cruise

Keith Cruise is a Professor and Director of Clinical Training in the Department of Psychology at Fordham University and Adjunct Professor of Law at Fordham School of Law. He holds a PhD in clinical psychology from the University of North Texas and a Masters of Legal Studies degree from the University of Nebraska. Dr. Cruise conducts research on the clinical-forensic assessment of youth within the juvenile justice system. Various research projects have focused on developing and validating specialized risk/needs assessment protocols, investigating the utility of mental health screening instruments with justice-involved adolescents, and understanding the connection between trauma exposure, trauma reactions, and delinquent behavior. Dr. Cruise's clinical-forensic practice has involved providing direct care assessment and treatment services with justice-involved adolescents conducting post-disposition assessments of risk and treatment amenability, providing expert testimony to juvenile courts, and providing technical assistance and consultation to local and state juvenile justice systems in implementing trauma-informed screening and assessment practices. Dr. Cruise is a co-principal investigator on a grant from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention investigating the impact of trauma screening on service delivery and legal outcomes for justice-involved youth and is a co-director of the Center for Trauma Recovery and Juvenile Justice (CTRJJ), a technical assistance center that is part of the National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN).

Hasan Davis

For more than 25 years, Hasan has held to the belief that each child can and will succeed as long as adults in their world create hope. Starting as a counselor and a teaching artist, and through his years as a youth development specialist, Hasan has transformed the attitudes and strategies of school and facility staff, parents, and members of the community to help hundreds of children graduate from high school and go on to earn degrees from colleges and universities. He brings to the process a powerful combination of passion, caring, and leadership to craft a refreshing, common-sense roadmap to help all youth achieve their dreams, no matter the odds. "I was a tough kid. Growing up in inner-city Atlanta in the 1970s and '80s, I had to be. My teachers didn't know what to do with me, so they just ignored me. The more they ignored me, the madder I got, and the anger just built on itself. After my 7th-grade year, I was put in an alternative school, which I was expelled from in my senior year before anyone discovered that I suffered from dyslexia and attention deficit disorder.

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Scott Eckel

Scott Eckel is a staff attorney with Legal Aid of Nebraska. His specific role is the Juvenile Re-entry attorney, working actively in Nebraska's largest counties to seal the records of youth and help them with other legal matters that may stem from their original juvenile offense. Scott graduated from Creighton Law this past year, and served as Lead Articles Editor on the Creighton Law Review.

Renee Faber

With 20 years of experience in the behavioral health field, Renee Faber serves as the Supportive Services Specialist for the Nebraska Administrative Office of the Courts and Probation Rehabilitative Services Team. In this role she works with Registered Service Providers and probation staff regarding non-clinical service development, training and implementation for supportive services and tools such as drug testing and electronic monitoring for individuals under supervision.

Sarah Forrest

Sarah Forrest is the Special Projects Coordinator with the Nebraska Alliance of Child Advocacy Centers. In her role, she focuses on improving the response to the commercial sexual exploitation, including trafficking, of Nebraska's children and youth. Sarah has over eight years of experience researching, identifying, and advocating for improvements to Nebraska's child welfare and juvenile justice systems. She is a graduate of Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.

Taylor Givens-Dunn

Taylor Givens-Dunn is the Community Engagement Specialist at Voices for Children in Nebraska. She is responsible for leading in-person and online engagement strategies and fostering relationships with communities and individuals impacted by juvenile justice, child welfare, economic stability, and health care access. Taylor holds a Masters in Social Work and a Masters in Public Administration from the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Prior to joining Voices for Children, she served as a practicum student providing mental health services at Nebraska Children's Home Society. Taylor is an active member of the National Association of Social Workers and a 2017 recipient of the Young, Black, and Influential ServiceAward.

Jessica Haebe

Jessica Haebe is the Prevention System Coordinator for Region 1 Behavioral Health Authority, serving the eleven rural and frontier counties of the Nebraska Panhandle. Her work centers on providing substance abuse prevention training and technical assistance to communities and coalitions throughout the Panhandle.

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Julia Hebenstreit

Julia Hebenstreit is the Executive Director of The Kim Foundation. She received her J.D. from Creighton University in 2005, and her BS in Journalism from the University of Nebraska Omaha in 2002. She has been with The Kim Foundation since 2011, and prior to that worked for local non-profits doing development, strategic planning, communications and advancement. She has a passion for helping people and improving lives, and serves on the Executive Committee for Nebraska Association of Behavioral Health Organizations, as the 2015 Hill Day State Captain for the state of Nebraska, and as an active member of the Nebraska Suicide Prevention Coalition, the Early Childhood Mental Health Coalition, BHECN Advisory Committee, RESPECT Advisory Board, Connections Advisory Board and the Project Propel Planning Group.

Christine Henningsen

Christine Henningsen is Director of Nebraska Youth Advocates a program at UNL's Center on Children Family and the Law (CCFL), which serves as a resource center for juvenile defense attorneys in Nebraska. Prior to joining CCFL, Christine practiced for five years as an Assistant Douglas County Public Defender, primarily in juvenile court. She is a certified trainer through the National Juvenile Defender Center and graduated summa cum laude from Creighton Law in 2003.

Dr. Anne Hobbs

Dr. Anne Hobbs is a licensed attorney, published research faculty, as well as the Director of the Juvenile Justice Institute at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. She and her husband have four grown children and then started over in 2018, when their youngest went to college, by adopting five incredible little people. Anne has served on a variety of Advisory Groups including Nebraska Children's Commission Juvenile Services Subcommittees, the Community Planning Advisory group, the Nebraska Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative, and the Nebraska Brain Injury Task Force. Anne began evaluating programs roughly 20 years ago, as the director of Juvenile Diversion for Lancaster County, and has never grown tired using data to answer the question "what works?"

Jessica Holder

GOALS Center Family Advocate Jessica Holder has an MPA from UNO and undergraduate degrees in Sociology with an Inequality Emphasis and in Political Science. Prior to working with families, Jessica worked as an employment training specialist to empower those with mental illness to find and maintain long-term work while coordinating their disability benefits. Jessica was a teenage mother with limited resources, and she is passionate about helping families reduce barriers to success by aligning them with relevant community supports. In her free time, Jessica stays busy with her children Korbin, Mailey and Laiken.

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Alisha Jimenez

Alisha Jimenez, M.A., J.D., is the Restorative Justice Program Analyst for the Nebraska Supreme Court's Office of Dispute Resolution (ODR). Alisha's work with the Nebraska ODR includes providing support to the six ODR-approved mediation centers in implementing Nebraska's victim offender mediation program, termed Victim Youth Conferencing (VYC), across the state of Nebraska. She works closely with the University of Minnesota's Center for Restorative Justice and Peacemaking in collecting and maintaining databases and providing quality assurance with the VYC process. Alisha works with Nebraska's six ODR-approved mediation centers to develop new case management materials, including participant surveys, an evaluation codebook, and an updated database. She convenes regularly with the centers' Restorative Justice Coordinators to help reduce the distance between centers across the state and increase collaborative efforts and learning between centers.

Hon. Douglas F. Johnson

Judge Douglas F. Johnson is a 1987 Creighton University School of Law graduate. He was appointed to the Separate Juvenile Court of Douglas County, Nebraska in 1993. He is an adjunct professor of law at Creighton University School of Law, teaching Juvenile Law since 1995. He is a Past President of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) and is a long time member of its teaching faculty. In 2005, Judge Johnson started Nebraska's first Family Drug Treatment Court (FDTC) which focused on families with children from birth to five years of age. In 2014, he worked with Project Harmony to expand 0-5 FDTC to include all families with children birth to five in the Douglas County Juvenile Court, and it is now called: Impact From Infancy. Judge Johnson serves on numerous national, regional and local commissions, committees, and Boards. Judge Johnson and his dog, Finnegan, became a certified therapy team in 2014. Since 2012, Finnegan has come to court every day and provides comfort to children, parents and professionals. Judge Johnson's greatest delights are his wife, Mary, and daughters Anne and Kathleen, and faithful dog Finnegan.

Nick Juliano

Nick Juliano is Director of Regional Advocacy and Public Policy for Boys Town. For more than 20 years Nick's career has been dedicated to improving outcomes for youth and families involved in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. Nick has been co-chair of the Crossover Youth Practice Model initiative in Douglas County since its launch in 2012. He is a Fellow of the Multi-System Integration Certificate Program from the Georgetown Center for Juvenile Justice Reform and is currently working on his PhD in Public Administration at the University of Nebraska Omaha.

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Wendy Kaiser

Wendy Kaiser, MPA, is the Quality Assurance Coordinator at the GOALS Center where she manages program evaluation, data, and quality initiatives. With a history of working in both public and nonprofit child welfare and social service positions for over 10 years, Wendy is a strategic thinker who is passionate about continual improvement within the systems that serve vulnerable youth and families. She is also a faculty member at Bellevue University in the Child Protection and Juvenile Justice program, where she enjoys helping students grow professionally. Outside of work, Wendy is focused on being active in the Papillion community and raising her children, Emma and Benjamin.

Michele Lueders

Michele Lueders has 20 years of experience working with young people and their families in Nebraska. Michele has worked in the field directly with youth and their families, worked as a supervisor supporting front line staff in their work as well as working in an Administrative role to improve outcomes for young people. Currently, Michele serves as one of two statewide JDAI Coordinators for Nebraska. Within this role Michele provides technical assistance to local JDAI jurisdictions in Nebraska and works diligently to expand JDAI framework across Nebraska. Michele has lead multiple initiatives to improve outcomes for young people in Nebraska. Michele's background includes working within child welfare, behavioral health, juvenile justice and management. This background has assisted Michele in advocating for system changes in Nebraska. Michele earned her bachelor's degree through the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in Human Resources and Family Sciences and her Master's degree in Management with a Leadership emphasis through Doane College.

Monica Miles-Steffens

Monica Miles-Steffens, is currently the Director of Placement-Court Services for the Nebraska Administrative Office of Courts and Probation. In this position she is responsible for the implementation of a continuum of evidence based programs and services aimed at rehabilitation and restorative justice. Her career also includes direct care work in juvenile detention; overseeing state and federal grant funding for youth and victim services; grant writing, management, and training; community and strategic planning; facilitating state level juvenile justice coalitions; and implementation of evidence based initiatives such as the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI). Monica has worked diligently in Nebraska and nationally 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 is also the founder and President of 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.

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Michael Nehe

Michael Nehe has been serving as the Domestic Violence Program Services Specialist since 2015. He joined the Administrative Office of the Courts and Probation as an Intensive Supervision Probation with District #3A in 2006 and served as the Specialized Domestic Violence Officer from 2008-2015. In addition to his work with Probation involving Juveniles Who Sexually Harm, Mike's areas of focus also include Domestic Violence, Victim's Issues, and Adult Sex Offenders. He is an active member of the Nebraska State Domestic Violence Coordinated Response Team, the Nebraska State Batterer's Intervention Program Standards Committee, the Lincoln Threat Advisory Team as well as a member of the Great Plains Chapter of the Association of Threat Assessment Professionals. He also has previous experience as a sworn law enforcement officer.

Mary Rose Richter

Mary Rose Richter is a graduate of the University of Nebraska College of Law and holds an undergraduate degree in Psychology from Marquette University. She is currently the Director of Restorative Justice Programming at Central Mediation Center in Kearney. She is a member of the Nebraska State Bar Association and prior to her current position, practiced in general civil litigation with an emphasis on family and juvenile law. Mary Rose developed an interest in restorative justice as an affiliate mediator with Central Mediation and currently runs the Victim Youth Conferencing program at the Center.

Julie A. Smith

Has 20 years' experience working with high risk youth and families in the State of Nebraska. She began her career in school-based prevention efforts with at-risk youth and families, has provided family support services, and worked with young mothers in residential group home programs. Julie worked for the Department of Health and Human Services prior to beginning her Probation career in 2013. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Human Development from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and began a Master's program in Education also from UNL before beginning her career with the Department of Health and Human Services. Julie has been the Reentry Program Specialist with the Juvenile Division of the Administrative Office of Probation since 2016 focusing on supporting the implementation of best practice around the utilization of out-of-home placements and reentry and transition planning.

Dr. Ryan Spohn

Dr. Ryan Spohn is the Director of the Nebraska Center for Justice Research at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, where he performs statewide and local research and evaluation activities targeted at improving the performance of Nebraska's juvenile justice, criminal justice, and corrections activities. His published research includes the areas of juvenile delinquency, families, victimization, and processes of the criminal justice system.

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Juliet Summers

Juliet Summers is responsible for overseeing Voices for Children's policy research, analysis, and advocacy efforts on behalf of children involved in Nebraska's child welfare and juvenile court systems. Prior to joining Voices for Children, Juliet served as a public defender, representing children and families in the juvenile court of Douglas County. Before that, she taught 2nd grade on the Rosebud Indian Reservation through Teach for America. Juliet holds a law degree from the University of Chicago and a B.A. in political science from Duke University. She is a member of the Nebraska bar.

Cheryl Turner

Cheryl Turner is a trauma and attachment therapist who has worked with children, adolescents, families, and adults within the Lincoln Community for the past 19 years. Cheryl has completed extensive training in various areas of trauma and mental health and has focused her career on helping those most in need learn the skills necessary to be successful. Cheryl currently is employed at The Center on Children, Families, and the Law as a training specialist and provides training to Child and Family Services Specialists, Public and Private School systems, audiences at a local, regional, and national level, and is a certified Adult and Youth Mental Health First Aid instructor.

Marlon Wofford

Marlon Wofford is a Father Engagement Specialist with the Nebraska Family Support Network. Marlon's primary credentials for this work is his lived experience successfully navigating the judicial system to gain custody of his 4 daughters when his wife's addiction threatened the family's wellbeing. As his journey unfolded, Marlon voluntarily worked with child and family services to get the support he needed to be successful. When his oldest daughter began to display significant mental health challenges, Marlon knew he was out of his depth and called the Nebraska Family Helpline. He was connected with a Family Navigator at the Nebraska Family Support Network. His Navigator helped Marlon get his daughter set up with appropriate mental health services and supported him throughout the custody process. Marlon kept moving forward, even when the going got rough. Marlon brings this same commitment and passion to his work in engaging parents at Youth Impact, helping them better understand the process and goals of diversion.

Lindsey Wylie

Dr. Lindsey Wylie is the Director of Research at the Juvenile Justice Institute. Her research interests include understanding the legal system's therapeutic and anti-therapeutic impact on vulnerable populations, including juveniles and older adults. She also examines the relationship between law and policy and biases towards these groups. Her current projects include evaluating evidence-based practices in Nebraska juvenile justice programs, studying the (un)intended collateral consequences of juvenile justice involvement, and perceptions of youth in the juvenile justice system.