

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS COUNCIL



A HOUSE DIVIDED AGAINST ITSELF CANNOT STAND
- ABRAHAM LINCOLN

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Meet the Council on the Web!

Over the past year the Council staff have worked diligently to increase the presence of the Community Corrections Council and its efforts through a Communication/Education strategy. Beginning in September 2007, newsletters containing up to date information on local and national community corrections efforts have been sent across Nebraska and the United States to interested stakeholders.

A piece of the communication strategy has been to develop a website where the public and interested parties may access more information on the Council, its accomplishments and upcoming endeavors.

On the website you will find the history and listings of the statutes creating the Council, a calendar of meetings and upcoming events, a library, related links to stakeholders involved in the community

corrections effort, and a way to the contact the Council for feedback or to request a presenter.

The **Library** includes historical documents, an introduction to the Nebraska Reporting Centers, including a map and individual Center information, PDF files of data, the Council History, communication papers and more. **Related Links**, located on the Library page, will connect the visitor to local and national community corrections participants. The **Reports/Survey** subcategory also contains great links to relevant reports such as, the University of Nebraska-Omaha *Moving Past the Era of Good Intentions: Methamphetamine Treatment Study*.

The Council welcomes everyone to visit them on their new website which rolled out November 25th, 2008. The website address is:

<http://ccc.nebraska.gov>

2009 Legislative Update

January 8th 2009 marked the 1st day of 101st legislature and welcomed 16 new senators to the body. The first ten days of the session, the period when new legislation may be introduced, saw 679 legislative bills and 10 legislative resolutions submitted for consideration. Below is a short list and summary of three bills affecting the work of the Council and its partners:

LB 274 (Christensen) Authorize the Director of Correctional Services to assign felony offenders to an incarceration work camp as prescribed— LB 274 authorizes the Director of the Department of Correctional Services to assign felony offenders to the Work Ethic Camp in McCook. Currently, offenders may only be assigned to the Work Ethic Camp as a condition of a sentence of intensive supervision probation or as a transitional phase prior to release on parole. No hearing has been scheduled for LB 274 as of the time this article was published.

LB 429 (Christensen) Change employment provisions of persons committed to the Department of Correctional Services— LB 429 removes a restriction in statute which

prohibits inmates under the supervision of the Departments of Corrections (DCS) from working in a school or other educational institution as part of a work release or other program sponsored by the department. The bill requires any inmates working in a school to be directly supervised by DCS staff while doing so. No hearing has been scheduled for LB 429 as of the time this article was published.

LB 659 (Fulton) Provide for data collection relating to persons released from incarceration— LB659 provides for a pilot study to examine the scope and availability of re-entry services for individuals released from prison in Nebraska. The bill directs the Community Corrections Council to contract with a private provider to collect data on individuals released on parole and report back to the Council and the legislature by December 31, 2009. No hearing date has been scheduled for LB 659 as of the time this article was published.

The Council Welcomes Two New Members



Senator Brenda J. Council and Senator Pete Pirsch were appointed in January 2009 by the Executive Board of the Legislature to the Council. The two new members replace outgoing Senators John Synowieki and Dwite Pederson who have been members of the Council since its inception.



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COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Kermit Brashear, Chair

Scot Adams, Director HHSS

Michael Behm, Executive Director of Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice

Esther Casmer, NE Board of Parole

Senator Brenda J. Council, Nebraska Legislature

Jeffrey Davis, Sarpy County Sheriff

Thomas Dorwart, Retired County Judge

Ellen Fabian-Brokofsky, Probation Administration

Karen B. Flowers, District Court Judge

Cathy Gibson-Beltz, Parole Administrator

Robert Houston, NE Dept of Correctional Services

John P. Icenogle, District Court Judge

Joe Kelly, Deputy County Attorney

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A Serious Look at National Community Corrections Programs

Recent media reports have noted that 1 in 100 adults in the United States are incarcerated, with a stunning 7.3 million American adults under correctional control at a cost of nearly \$50 billion per year. As a result, policymakers nationwide are interested in strategies to contain or reduce these costs while maintaining public safety.

In 2008, the Pew Charitable Trusts' Public Safety Performance Project brought together top policy makers, practitioners and researchers to analyze state community corrections reform. These experts evaluated a wide

range of policies and practices and the result is a group of five core recommendations shown to reduce recidivism in practice.

The five measures recommended by the experts are:

- ◇ Implement evidenced based practices
- ◇ Provide Earned Compliance Credits (good time) to offenders supervised in the community
- ◇ Utilize administrative sanctions for violations
- ◇ Performance incentive funding: Allow community corrections agencies to receive a portion of the money saved by divert-

ing individuals from prison

- ◇ Performance Measurement: collect recidivism, employment, and substance abuse data on offenders.

Additional information on these provisions and the text of the full report *Policy Framework to Strengthen Community Corrections* by the Pew Center on the States Public Safety Performance Project, go to:
http://www.pewcenteronthesates.org/report_detail.aspx?id=47134.

Technology Makes it's Mark on Methamphetamine Manufacturing

Manufacturers of methamphetamine had easy access to cold and allergy medicines containing pseudoephedrine until nationwide legislation called for the items to be placed behind the counter. Even then, the manufacturers simply purchased pseudoephedrine at multiple pharmacies in a practice known as "smurfing". In an attempt to combat this trend, the pharmacies kept a written log of buyers containing such information as name, ID, and purchases. However, there was no real time communication between the pharmacies. The purchaser could literally leave one store and move on to the next within a few minutes.

The Methamphetamine Production Prevention Act of 2008 includes provisions regarding what information must be recorded if a state utilizes an electronic logbook.

Many states in the United States are now working to put in place an electronic log system that allows the pharmacies to have real time communication helping to reduce the amount of "smurfing". The Kansas Bureau of Investigation (KBI) has partnered with the Kansas Board of Pharmacy to run a one year pilot program beginning in August 2008. Based on the nationwide electronic log system initially developed in Australia, the Kansas program connects pharmacies and law enforcement through the internet. If a person should purchase pseudoephedrine then attempt the same purchase at a different location, the second pharmacy and the police are notified in real time.

Arkansas is another state that has made the move to electronic logging. In 2007 the Arkansas Crime Information Center (ACIC) was required

by legislature to develop a real-time statewide electronic logging system. To this end the ACIC developed a web based portal so both large and small scale pharmacies would have easier access. The barcode on the Arkansas driver's licenses allow the pharmacists to scan the ID. Information is instantaneously sent to LeadsOnLabs databases to check if the person is eligible to make the purchase.

Electronic logging is a relatively new technology. Queensland, Australia saw a significant drop of 37% in methamphetamine manufacturing after the first year of electronic logging. Due to better communication, there will undoubtedly be a significant change in the states using this technology. For more information see www.methshield.com

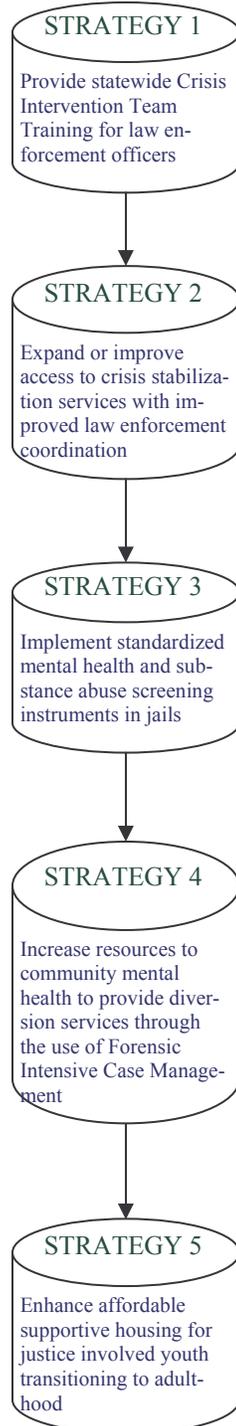
Nebraska Justice Behavioral Health Initiative: Stakeholders Gather for Strategic Planning

On October 10th 2008, the Nebraska Justice Behavioral Health Initiative held a strategic planning meeting at the Country Inn and Suites in Lincoln, NE. The meeting was organized by Jim Harvey from the Division of Behavioral Health within the Department of Health and Human Services as a follow-up to the state being awarded a three year \$250,000 implementation grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance.

The purpose of the meeting was to continue developing partnerships among stakeholders and provide input on Nebraska's draft strategic plan to improve outcomes for persons with behavioral health disorders in the criminal justice system. This plan targets young adults between 18-24 years of age and is focused on implementing the Sequential Intercept Model. The model is designed to intercept and divert individuals with behavioral health problems out of the criminal justice system at various stages in the process.

Attendance at the meeting included a wide array of stakeholders from both the behavioral health and criminal justice fields. Scott Adams, Director of the Division of Behavioral Health and Bob Houston, Director of the Department of Corrections provided introductory comments and expressed support

The Justice Behavioral Health Initiative goals/strategies:



and optimism for the grant and the ongoing collaboration between the behavioral health and criminal justice systems. Terry Nutzman, Director of the Office of Juvenile Services, presented information on the needs and challenges youth with behavioral health issues transitioning to adulthood face. Representatives of the five behavioral health regions presented on developments within each respective region and the progress they are making on implementing the five strategies outlined in the strategic plan. These presentations were followed by a panel discussion during which representatives from probation, the Community Corrections Council, Health and Human Services and the University of Nebraska public policy center all provided valuable information.

The afternoon portion of the meeting consisted of breakout groups focusing on the five strategies and how best to implement them statewide. Meeting participants were asked to provide input on each of the five strategies and to identify other issues that should be addressed. Groups rotated so that all participants had a chance to provide input in each area. The input was recorded and changes were included in the final Justice Behavioral Health strategic plan.

THE STRATEGIC PLAN TARGETS YOUNG

ADULTS 18-24 YEARS OF AGE FOCUSING ON IMPLEMENTING THE SEQUENTIAL INTERCEPT MODEL, DIVERTING INDIVIDUALS WITH BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROBLEMS OUT OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

THE ONGOING COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEMS ARE FUNDAMENTAL TO THE SUCCESS OF THE NEBRASKA BEHAVIORAL HEALTH INITIATIVE

Word From The Council



"Babylon in all its desolation is a sight not so awful as that of the human mind in ruins." —S.B. Davies, 1835.

If the Council continues the promotion and support of the community-based programs, the apparent trend of reducing the prison population should likewise continue. However, it is relatively early and the programs will need to be watched, studied and probably amended. Implementation and maintenance of these innovations will result in the

saving of untold thousands of dollars for the taxpayers. That is good— everyone will agree. But I believe that there is a further and greater benefit to society. That is the rehabilitation and return to safe and productive living by those currently caught in the substance abuse trap. While the scope of the Council's duties is broad, the focus appears to be concentrated on substance abuse. Mental health issues are often associated with and a major part of the problems confronting addicts and serious users. These issues must be addressed as early as possible. Mental health and substance abuse providers can, and usually do, a competent and sometimes almost impossible job in changing the attitudes of those in need. But after treatment, if required, continued

support in the counties of the probationers and parolees is vital. Nearly all of the individuals completing treatment are focused in the right direction. Turning someone loose into his former environment without the care, support and commitment of after care personnel is no more than divorcing him from the people he desperately needs. The chemical dependant person, after treatment, is vulnerable and in a fragile state of mind. The greater number of these we can truly aid will benefit all of us.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas H. Dorwart, Retired Judge
Community Corrections Council

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