

**Gage County**  
**Juvenile Services**  
**Comprehensive Community Plan**  
**November 28, 2012 – November 28, 2015**

**Prepared By:** Community Justice Task Force  
Gage County MAPS  
320 N. 5<sup>th</sup>, Beatrice, NE 68310

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**SECTION II**

**COMMUNITY TEAM**

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**Gage County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Community Plan  
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**Description of Team:** The Gage County MAPS Community Coalition formed in 2002. Prior to that time there was a group of community members associated with the Juvenile Diversion Program that met on a quarterly basis. With the formation of the coalition, the Community Justice Coalition was formed. It consisted of law enforcement, probation, diversion, and other community members associated with community safety. Currently, membership is open and includes law enforcement, probation, diversion, the Beatrice Safe Community task force and a small group of school professionals meeting around the issue of suicide prevention.

The group meets on a monthly basis at the Beatrice Police Department. The agenda typically includes issues such as planning for suicide prevention activities, compliance checks, high-visibility checkpoints, responsible beverage server training, pharmaceutical take-backs and media messages. They are an action oriented group of professionals that see the priorities of Gage County and work to prevent or intervene with the problem areas with the goal of a safer community.

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## **Section III**

### **Juvenile Justice System Analysis Tool**

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Nebraska Juvenile Court Report – Gage County

<b>Juvenile Arrests</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>
<b>Offenses</b>			
Forcible Rape	0	1	0
Aggravated Assault	2	4	4
Burglary	11	9	10
Larceny	9	11	19
Motor Vehicle Theft	3	3	4
Simple Assault	15	24	25
Arson	0	0	1
Fraud	0	0	1
Embezzlement	5	2	0
Vandalism	15	20	22
Weapons	1	2	1
Drug Abuse Violations	6	21	8
Driving Under the Influence	2	2	0
Liquor Laws	26	37	54
Disorderly Conduct	5	2	4
All Other Offenses (except traffic)	24	42	44
Runaway (Juvenile only)	32	38	16
<b>Totals</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>214</b>

When comparing Gage County juvenile offense data from 2009-2011 it is evident that there was a significant jump in arrests from 2009 to 2010. Also, liquor law violations have steadily increased while runaway arrests have decreased dramatically from 2010 to 2011.

The Juvenile Justice Systems Analysis Tool is not included in this current planning, however, there have been few changes since completed in 2009. An update of the plan including this tool will be completed in 2013 or as necessary.

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Information was obtained by the Nebraska Youth Risk and Protective Factor Student Surveys in 2007. The survey was not administered in 2009 to allow for a more seamless approach in administration across Nebraska. In the fall of 2010, the survey was administered by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services and the Nebraska Department of Education for Nebraska Partners in Prevention across the state. Beatrice Public Schools, Diller-Odell, Freeman and Southern schools completed the Nebraska Risk and Protective Factor Student Survey in 2010 and are included in Gage County Data. While the fifth school, Tri County, is physically in a neighboring county, the data was not included in the report.

The following table depicts the four core measures of past 30-day use, perception of risk or harm, perception of parental disapproval of use and perception of peer disapproval of use for alcohol, tobacco, marijuana and prescription drugs from data in the 2007 and 2010 Nebraska Youth Risk and Protective Factor Student survey.

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Substance</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> 2007</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup> 2010</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> 2007</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> 2010</b>	<b>10<sup>th</sup> 2007</b>	<b>10<sup>th</sup> 2010</b>	<b>12<sup>th</sup> 2007</b>	<b>12<sup>th</sup> 2010</b>
Past 30-day Use (% of those surveyed that had at least one use in past 30 days)	Alcohol	1.7	3	19.7	12	28.8	23	43.9	35
	Tobacco	1.3	3	10.2	6	13.8	13	26.3	20
	Marijuana	0	1	2.5	1	10.6	6	7.5	6
	Binge Drink	.9	3	9.9	5	14.8	16	29.5	23
	Prescription	.4	NA	2.5	3	3.3	3	3.8	3
	Over-Counter	.4	NA	1.5	0	1.8	0	.5	1
Average Age of Onset (years of age at first use)	Alcohol	10.3	NA	11.7	12.7	13.2	14.2	14	15.4
	Tobacco	10.5	NA	11.3	11.4	12.8	13.0	13.9	14.0
	Marijuana	10	NA	11.9	13.0	13.6	14.3	14.2	15.1
	Binge Drink	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	Prescription	NA	NA	NA	12.5	NA	13.5	NA	14.3
	Over-Counter	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Perception of Risk and Harm (% who believe there is moderate-great risk involved in using substance)	Alcohol	69.8	69.8	58	64.2	63.5	55.8	61.7	56.1
	Tobacco	88.2	84.0	83.3	89.7	91.9	87.2	88.6	88.3
	Marijuana	89.3	90.5	85.7	92.1	83.3	82.8	82.8	83.4
	Binge Drink	NA	78.5	NA	79.7	NA	72.6	NA	69.9
	Prescription	84.7	82.8	87.9	87.0	85.5	83.6	84.3	87.3
	Over-Counter	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Perception of Parental Disapproval % (Parents feel it would be wrong to use..)	Alcohol	96.1	97.5	88.6	91.4	86.6	87.3	75.2	78.2
	Tobacco	99.1	98.5	94.6	96.4	93.5	94.1	85.0	91.4
	Marijuana	100	100.0	98.5	98.6	96.1	95.0	95.8	97.0
	Binge Drink	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	Prescription	NA	NA	NA	99.5	NA	96.8	NA	97.0
	Over-Counter	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

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Perception of Peer Disapproval % (I think it would be wrong for someone my age to use...)	Alcohol	97	98.0	79.8	85.8	65.9	71.5	50	61.4
	Tobacco	98.7	98.0	84.7	89.1	78.7	80.3	61.1	64.6
	Marijuana	100	100.0	93.1	94.8	86.3	86.6	87.9	85.7
	Binge Drink	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	Prescription Over-Counter	NA	98.5	NA	97.4	NA	93.4	NA	89.5
		NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

According to the Nebraska Risk and Protective Factor Student Survey data from 2010 the following table indicates percentages of lifetime substance use. The Nebraska State Average is also noted.

2010	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	NE	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	NE	10 <sup>th</sup> Grade	NE	12 <sup>th</sup> Grade	NE
Alcohol	13	14	32	28	46	49	62	68
Tobacco	7	6	20	17	31	32	47	49
Marijuana	1	1	5	7	10	18	23	29
Prescription Drugs	1	1	3	2	4	7	5	11
Over the Counter	1	1	1	2	2	5	3	6

The following table indicates Risk and Protective Factor Scores in percentages. (2010)

Community	6th	8th	10th	12th	State	
<b>Risk Factors</b>						
Community Disorganization		33	NA	NA	NA	33
Laws and Norms Favorable to Drug Use		NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Perceived Availability of Drugs		35	24	26	29	29
Perceived Availability of Handguns		31	39	29	29	30
<b>Protective Factors</b>						
Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement		79	NA	NA	NA	78
Family	6th	8th	10th	12th	State	
<b>Risk Factors</b>						
Poor Family Management		29	40	33	28	31
Parental Attitudes Favorable to Drug Use		14	26	43	34	28
<b>Protective Factors</b>						
Attachment		64	50	61	64	60
Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement		71	66	60	66	66
School	6th	8th	10th	12th	State	
<b>Risk Factors</b>						
Academic Failure		63	44	40	34	40
Low Commitment to School		29	44	33	29	32
<b>Protective Factors</b>						
Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement		61	70	76	74	72
Rewards for Prosocial Involvement		65	55	70	65	65

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Peer / Individual	6th	8th	10th	12th	State
<b>Risk Factors</b>					
Early Initiation of Drug Use	NA	25	23	31	18
Early Initiation of Antisocial Behavior	NA	22	21	23	19
Favorable Attitudes toward Anti-s Behavior	30	28	31	38	33
Favorable Attitudes toward Drug Use	11	25	31	37	27
Perceived Risks of Drug Use	34	31	45	34	38
<b>Protective Factors</b>					
Belief in Moral Order	85	76	69	67	70
Prosocial Involvement	58	61	76	67	70

The Beatrice Communications Center recorded the following totals for calls for service for the Beatrice Police Department, the Gage County Sheriff's Office, Wymore Police Department, Nebraska Game and Parks, Board of Public Works, Animal Warden and all Gage County Rural Fire/Rescue Agencies. These totals include every type of call received for each agency. Different types of calls, however, generate service requests from multiple agencies.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Totals</u>
2009	26,135
2010	25,492
2011	26,599

Juvenile contact cards are given as a type of warning for youth. The violation is never forwarded to the County Attorney for prosecution. The type of contacts vary and are typically not considered serious offenses.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Totals</u>
2007	114
2008	117
2009	71
2010	99
2011	63

The following table indicates alcohol and drug related arrests/citations of adults by the Beatrice Police Department.

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<b>Type of Arrest</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>
Driving Under the Influence	89	82	105	124	100	75	103
Minor in Possession	115	169	137	144	81	143	193
Procuring Alcohol to a Minor	8	4	5	7	7	9	14
Other Alcohol Related	63	57	63	77	52	43	62
Possession of Marijuana							
1oz or less	48	37	41	27	22	42	32
Possession of Drug Paraphernalia	51	37	43	32	32	53	53
Drugs/Narcotics Violations	25	6	13	5	17	18	14
Manufacture of Drugs w/ Intent to Distribute	5	5	8	12	4	16	33
Possession of Precursor to Manufacture Meth	11	0	0	0	3	0	2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>415</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>415</b>	<b>428</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>506</b>

Other arrests or citations included in the Beatrice Police Department annual report that could be Drug or Alcohol Related:

<b>Type of Arrest</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>
Assault 1 <sup>st</sup> -3 <sup>rd</sup> Degree	50	58	35	24	62	71
Domestic Assault	51	32	38	26	47	48
Burglary	9	11	15	18	15	11
Theft	48	55	57	52	28	39
Disorderly Conduct	20	12	12	19	23	29
Open Container	35	44	77	20	29	62

The following tables indicate alcohol and drug related arrests or citations of juveniles by the Beatrice Police Department.

<b>Type of Arrest</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>
Possession of Marijuana	16	10	5	4	5	13	5
1 oz. or less							
Possession of Drug Paraphernalia	10	7	9	4	9	16	7
Drug/Narcotics Violations	1	0	1	1	1	7	1
Manufacture Drugs with Intent to Distribute	2	1	1	1	2	4	4
.02 Violation	1	2	0	1	1	1	1
Minor in Possession	28	59	46	46	21	45	57
Procuring Alcohol for Minor	0	1	1	4	2	0	1
Open Container	2	5	2	0	0	2	1
Driving Under the Influence	6	8	1	2	0	2	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>77</b>

Data will be collected for prosecutions and diversion in all alcohol and drug related offenses in juvenile and adult in future years.

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The Nebraska Young Adult Opinion Survey was administered by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services from December 2009 to May 2010 with 19-25 year olds. The three most significant pieces of data received include:

- Approximately 2/3 of the young adults surveyed reported that they had used alcohol in the past month.
- 2 in every 5 reported binge drinking in the past month.
- About 3 in every 10 of those survey estimated that they drove a vehicle under the influence of alcohol during the past year.

The following information was also included in the Nebraska Youth Risk and Protective Factor Student Survey in 2010 for Delinquent Behaviors comparable to state averages (percentages).

	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	NE	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	NE	10 <sup>th</sup> Grade	NE	12 <sup>th</sup> Grade	NE
Suspended for Substance Use/Possession	0	0	0	1	1	2	2	2
Suspended for other reasons	4	5	8	6	6	6	3	4
Carried a Handgun	1	12	3	5	6	5	3	6
Sold illegal drugs			0	1	2	4	1	5
Stolen/Tried to Steal a Vehicle			3	1	2	2	0	1
Arrested	1	2	2	3	2	4	4	4
Attacked someone with idea of seriously hurting them	7	9	10	10	10	10	7	7
Drunk/High at School	1	1	1	4	4	9	10	13
Stolen property over \$5 value	5	9	13	16	16	20	18	20
Driven a vehicle under the influence of alcohol	0	1	1	1	7	5	19	20

Information received during a strategic planning committee at Beatrice Public Schools indicates the following challenges from community members, teachers, and students: Apathy; Lack of student and teacher motivation; Budget / Economy; Social

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issues such as substance use, bullying, family chaos, student and parental disengagement, dropouts and poverty; Focus on testing vs. learning; Accountability

The facilitator from the Nebraska Department of Education indicated that these challenges were the same across the nation. He added that “only about one in four eighth grade students are ready for a rigorous high school curriculum. Only one-half of graduates are ready for college demands.”

Emergency room and persons seeking treatment data is unavailable at the time of this writing due to restrictions in confidentiality, however, the coalition coordinator is attempting to work with the necessary partners in obtaining this data for future planning.

Emergency responders recently offered that they would be able to provide data regarding prescription drug overdoses. As an example, during January 2012, the Beatrice Fire and Rescue responded to five intentional prescription drug overdoses in one 24 hour period.

Beatrice was recognized as a Safe City in September 2011 by the National Safety Council following an extensive data collection and application process. Suicide and injuries related to slips, trips and falls were supported by data as the priorities. Beatrice Safe Community committee continues to plan strategies, implement, evaluate and train according to the priorities in the community.

When prioritizing the problem areas in regards to substance abuse it is not difficult to see that underage alcohol use, drug use and the consequences are a factor in the schools, criminal justice system, as well as other social costs including healthcare. In fact, national crime statistics indicate that alcohol and drug use are a factor in 85% of all crime.

The Search Institute and research from the 40 Developmental Assets indicate that the more of the assets a youth perceives that they possess, the more likely they are to exhibit positive behaviors and attitudes such as exhibiting leadership, maintaining good health, valuing diversity and succeeding in school. They are also less likely to participate in harmful or unhealthy choices like problem alcohol use, violence, illicit drug use and sexual activity.

While there is no “magic number” of assets young people should have, data indicates that 31 assets is the benchmark for experiencing the positive effects of the

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assets. Unfortunately, the average youth in the United States indicates in survey results to possessing only 18.6 of the 40 assets. Rural youth report, on average, to experiencing fewer than their urban peers – with Gage County being rural. An asset/engagement survey is planned in Beatrice Public Schools in the winter 2013.

Information from the Search Institute also indicates a disturbing trend in the perception of youth in parental disapproval of alcohol. Of the youth that were surveyed, the 6<sup>th</sup> graders indicated that 81% of their parents would disapprove of alcohol use. In the same year, 12<sup>th</sup> graders indicated that only 42% of their parents would disapprove of their alcohol use. Therefore, in just six years, the percentage of parental disapproval (in national statistics), drops almost in half. That same trend was indicated in Gage County's Nebraska Risk and Protective Survey in 2007, however not as dramatic from 96.1% parental disapproval in 6<sup>th</sup> grade to a 75.2% in 12<sup>th</sup> graders.

While there is only anecdotal evidence of the prescription drug abuse in our community, the accounts of “pharm parties” and texts inviting youth to “bring \$10 and smoke” before school in the parking lot are accounted repeated by parents and youth. In his annual report, Chief Bruce Lang of the Beatrice Police Department noted that “Car break-ins and random burglaries of people looking for prescription drugs remain a significant problem.”

## **Section IV**

### **Community Socio-Economics**

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Gage County, Nebraska is a rural county directly south of the state capital of Lincoln, Nebraska along Highway 77 in Southeastern Nebraska. Immediately north of the Nebraska-Kansas state line and within 60 miles of both Iowa and Missouri, the 855 square mile county is highly rural, culturally homogenous, and impoverished according to the state and national criteria.

The county seat, Beatrice, lies near the geographic center of the county and is surrounded by a dozen smaller communities. Beatrice has a population of approximately 12,838 and is the home of many businesses and industries in Gage County. The smaller communities range from Holmesville, a quaint, unincorporated village along the Big Blue River with under 100 residents; to Adams, a community of almost 500 people in northern Gage County that is growing in both population and economic affluence; to Wymore, a blue-collar community of 1,600 with perpetually high rates of poverty, crime and unemployment. The total population of the county has not fluctuated from approximately 23,000 residents in nearly 50 years.

We have minimal race and ethnicity diversity in the community with 96.95% of people being white. 1.57% of the people in Gage County claim Hispanic ethnicity with 98.43% being non-Hispanic. Females account for 52.15% of the population with 47.85% being male.

A total of 4,970 youth under the age of 18 reside in Gage County. With 97% of those being White, 1.5% being Black, .5% being Asian and 1% being American Indian.

A total of 69.61% of the people in Gage County affiliate with a religion. 10.53% are Catholic and 14.58% are another Christian faith.

Gage County's economic base has historically been and continues to be, rooted in agriculture. From raising crops and livestock to servicing irrigation equipment; from machinery sales and repair to the ethanol and bio-fuels industry, our economic history and future appear to be deeply tied to the success or challenges of the agricultural sector.

Gage County also has a large amount of light manufacturing. Within the past year, however, the industrial sector has seen cycles of growth and decline, with seasonal layoffs, re-hires and plant closings. This fluctuation has caused fluctuation in our residents' fiscal security. Gage County has an unemployment rate of 4.7% comparable to 4.1% in Nebraska. Beatrice has an unemployment rate of approximately 6.1%.

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Health and Human Services is another large employment sector, providing a key economic base for Gage County. Home of the Beatrice State Developmental Center (BSDC), the state home for individuals with developmental disabilities, has had large cuts in funding and employment opportunities in recent years. The community also has a newly built hospital, Beatrice Community Hospital and Health Center.

Gage County is home to the Homestead National Monument which hosted a recent anniversary celebration. The display of the original Homestead Act and the annual Homestead Days Celebration brought approximately 50,000 people to Gage County.

Several of the small towns have community celebrations, as well. There are two large recreation areas in Gage County with the opportunity for camping, boating, and fishing: Nebraska State Park Rockford Lake and Big Indian.

Beatrice has a public school system which includes four elementary schools, one Middle School which is 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade and one High School which is 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Beatrice also has two private/parochial schools – St. Joseph Elementary School and St. Paul Elementary School. Gage County also has Freeman School District, Southern Schools, Diller-Odell School District and Tri County Schools. Beatrice hosts two alternative high school programs also. Southeast Community College has one of three campuses in Gage County.

The median income for a household in the Beatrice is \$40,779. The per capita income for the city was \$17,816. About 7% of families were below the poverty line, including 11.6% of those under the age of 18. Within Beatrice Public Schools an average of 43.5% of the students utilize free and reduced rate lunch (November, 2012).

One of the strengths of all of the Gage County schools has been our connection to our schools, especially school sports. However, therein lies a weakness of the community. If youth choose not to be involved with school sports or other school activities, due to Gage County being very rural, there are few opportunities for free or low cost pro-social entertainment within the county.

Law Enforcement agencies serving Gage County includes Gage County Sheriff's Department, Beatrice Police Department and the Wymore Police Department, as well as the Nebraska State Patrol. Beatrice serves as the District #1, Nebraska State Probation Office. Gage County has an active Adult and Juvenile Diversion Program.

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Arrest data received from Nebraska Crime Commission indicates a 29.7 arrest rate per one thousand. The majority of the offenses (26.4) are listed as property offenses with only a 3.3 rate per thousand being violent offenses.

Other data regarding specific offenses related to juveniles is included in the previous section.

## **Section V**

# **Identified Priority Areas & Corresponding Strategies**

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**Gage County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Community Plan  
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**ORGANIZATIONAL PRIORITY AREAS**

**Priority #1: Continue a strong Diversion / Community Service and Juvenile Services Coordination Program**

The Gage County Juvenile and Adult Diversion Program is designed for first time or low risk offenders. Level of risk is assessed with tools such as the Nebraska Youthful Screen Instrument and the LSI – Short Version. This program is operated under the direction of the Gage County Attorney with an agreement that Gage County MAPS Community Coalition facilitate the program.

Adults and Juvenile Offenders pay an enrollment fee of \$200 and Court costs.

The adult offenders are required to complete 40 hours of community service and a class or counseling that correlates with the offense. They are required to pay restitution to a victim if applicable. Each offender is given a six month timeline which is flexible.

Juvenile offenders are required to attend a four-week course with their parent which deals with communication, choices, goal setting, relationships and responsibility. They are also required to complete 20 hours of community service.

The Court will occasionally use the community service as an option for Juvenile offenders. The offender and their parent meet with the facilitator to receive a list of possible locations of community service and sign the appropriate paperwork. It is then returned to the community service facilitator and completion communicated with the Court.

The Juvenile facilitator works with Juvenile programs within the county to monitor services and seeks out funding for needed programming. The facilitator also works with the Comprehensive Juvenile Justice Plan in the planning, priority development and implementation of the County goals.

While all of these programs are currently under the direction of Gage County MAPS Coalition, it is hoped that these responsibilities can be divided in the future.

Currently the Adult Diversion Program maintains a roster of approximately 125 offenders throughout the year. The Juvenile Diversion Program maintains an active roster of approximately 25 offenders.

The Community Service Program serves approximately 25 youth per year.

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Efforts are being made to enter data into the statewide case management program for diversion. However, due to equipment and time constraints, the Gage County Diversion Program has not been participating in data collection.

**Strategy 1: Continue to offer programming and services within the county with the cooperation and direction of the Court and the County Attorney.**

**Stakeholders Involved**

Gage County MAPS Community Coalition, Gage County Attorney and Gage County Court

**Timeline**

Continuously throughout the year for all three years.

**Resources Required**

Funding is currently received offenders to operate the Diversion Programming. Community Service participants are not charged a fee, however, there is not a large population that is served. The Juvenile Service Coordinator is currently funded by the County Aid grant funds.

**Expected Results**

It is expected that there will continue to be a program that will benefit the county in cost savings and the offenders in dismissing their offenses from their criminal history. They also receive education or counseling that will decrease recidivism.

## **ISSUE BASED PRIORITY AREAS**

### **Priority #1: Substance Abuse**

Substance abuse to include underage drinking, binge drinking, drunk driving and riding with drunk drivers are included in this priority area. Also included is pharmaceutical abuse including taking more than the prescribed or recommended dose, stealing or purchasing someone else's medications, or "pharming" parties.

Data supporting this priority area is located in "other assessments" earlier in this planning tool.

This is not a new priority in Gage County as it was the original goal of the Gage County MAPS community coalition. While there has been some progress with underage drinking through the efforts of many grant programs, it continues to be an issue in our area.

Issues surrounding pharmaceutical abuse has recently become an issue in Gage County, much like other areas of the state and country.

**Strategy 1 : Compliance Checks/Responsible Beverage Server Training:** Underage operants (often SCC Criminal Justice students) are hired to work with the Beatrice Police Department or the Gage County Sheriff's Department. They attempt to make a purchase at establishments with a liquor license and if they succeed, the officer cites the clerk. The violations are reported to the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission.

The County Attorney has agreed to offer those cited in these type of offenses the Adult Diversion Program where they are required to attend the Responsible Beverage Server Training.

This class is also offered and encouraged for any clerk, bartender and owner of establishments holding a liquor license in the county.

### **Stakeholders Involved**

Gage County MAPS Community Coalition, Gage County Adult Diversion, Gage County Sheriff's Department and Beatrice Police Department. Also Nebraska Liquor Control Commission

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**Timeline**

The compliance checks are held at least twice a year. This will continue to take place throughout the next three years given funding is available.

**Resources Required**

Funding is currently received from Region V Systems Federal Block Grant for these activities.

**Expected Results**

It is expected that there will be a decrease in alcohol sales to minors.

**Strategy 2: Shoulder- tap operations:**

Again involving underage operants working with law enforcement. The minor asks adults to purchase alcohol outside of establishments with a liquor license. Those purchasing will be cited.

**Stakeholders Involved**

Gage County MAPS Community Coalition, Gage County Adult Diversion, Gage County Sheriff's Department and Beatrice Police Department. Also Nebraska Liquor Control Commission

**Timeline**

The shoulder tap strategy has not yet been employed, however the goal would be to hold at least twice a year. This will continue to take place throughout the next three years given funding is available.

**Resources Required**

Funding is currently received from Region V Systems Federal Block Grant for these activities.

**Expected Results**

It is expected that there will be a decrease in alcohol sales to minors.

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**Strategy 3 : High visibility checkpoints:** Working with the Gage County Sheriff's Department, in addition to other county law enforcement, volunteers set up a checkpoint on any major highway. Procedures have been developed in which law enforcement stops every third vehicle going through the checkpoint. Insurance, driver license is checked and observations are made concerning alcohol use.

**Stakeholders Involved**

Gage County MAPS Community Coalition, District #1 Probation, Gage County Sheriff's Department and Mothers Against Drunk Driving.

**Timeline**

The high visibility checkpoints have been completed at least one time a year and will continue to take place throughout the next three years given funding is available.

**Resources Required**

Funding is currently received from Region V Systems Federal Block Grant and the Nebraska Department of Highway Safety for this activity.

**Expected Results**

It is expected that there will be a decrease in alcohol related crashes, drunk drivers and people riding with drunk drivers.

**Strategy 4: Media campaign:** Working with local media outlets such as radio and newspaper, as well social media, information and positive messages are employed to encourage parents, community and others to not provide alcohol, set consistent rules and boundaries, in addition to advertise local events.

**Stakeholders Involved**

Gage County MAPS Community Coalition, Gage County Sheriff's Department, Beatrice Police Department, KUTT, KWBE, Arbor State News, The Beatrice Daily Sun and the Voice News.

**Timeline**

These spots are used throughout the year and will be throughout the next three years given funding is available.

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**Resources Required**

Funding is currently received from Region V Systems Federal Block Grant for this activity as well as from offender fees in Gage County Diversion.

**Expected Results**

It is expected that there will be a change in social norms.

**Strategy 5: Support of local Drug free groups in the schools including Red Ribbon Week.** Local groups are supported with information, funds for activities and scholarships for attendance to June Jam and other leadership activities.

**Stakeholders Involved**

Gage County MAPS Community Coalition, Beatrice Public Schools, Freeman Schools, Southern Schools, Diller-Odell Schools, Tri County Schools, Southeast Community College

**Timeline**

Funds are currently provided to support activities and June Jam when available. This will continue during the next three years.

**Resources Required**

Funding is currently received from Region V Systems Federal Block Grant for this activity.

**Expected Results**

It is expected that there will be a change in social norms.

**Strategy 6: Conduct Pharmaceutical Take-back Days** - Unwanted and unneeded medications, vitamins and over-the-counter drugs are brought to disposal days which are held in cooperation with the DEA. Law Enforcement assists with the collection and the contents of the collection are disposed of by the DEA.

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**Stakeholders Involved**

Gage County MAPS Community Coalition, Keep Beatrice Beautiful, Gage County Sheriff's Department, Beatrice Police Department and Wymore Police Department, DEA and KWBE Radio

**Timeline**

Collection dates are held from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. in the spring and the fall. This will continue with the direction and assistance of the DEA.

**Resources Required**

Funding is currently received from Region V Systems Federal Block Grant for reimbursement of time for the Officers.

**Expected Results**

It is expected that there will be a change in the perceived danger of unused medications in the community and across the age span.

**Priority #2: Mental Health, Bullying and Suicide Prevention**

While there is evidence of links with mental health and suicide attempts and deaths, there also seems to be a correlation with bullying. A recent study also found that there was a correlation with bullying and substance abuse.

Nationally in the United States in 2010 there were 38,364 suicide deaths. This is 10<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death in the United States. This rate has steadily increased since 2000. Ninety (90) percent of the people that die by suicide have been diagnosed with a treatable mental health disorder.

In Gage County, there have been 10 completed suicides in 2012. In 2011 there were three. Attempted suicides across the age span have also increased (19 in 2012), as well as the calls for service for mental health reasons (74 in 2012) and the admissions in emergency protective custody (7 in 2012).

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**Gage County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Community Plan  
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In April and May, 2012 the Gage County MAPS Coalition hosted QPR trainings for the community and within the school for personnel. Three members of the community have attended the LOSS conference and there is a LOSS team available for support for survivors following a completed suicide. A support group has been offered in Gage County for survivors for several years, however, it is not well attended.

An awareness campaign has been implemented with billboards, print and radio messages leading to the Out of the Darkness Walk and fundraising in Beatrice. “Save a Life” cards were distributed in businesses, the hospital, mental health providers and medical providers in Gage County. It contains several hotline numbers, as well as local numbers of resources.

Three individuals attend the Nebraska Statewide Coalition on Suicide Prevention on a monthly basis and participate in the state suicide prevention plan.

**Strategy 1 : Awareness, education and training for community and professionals within the schools in the subject areas of mental health, bullying and suicide.**

**Stakeholders Involved**

Beatrice Public Schools, Freeman Schools, Diller-Odell Schools, Southern Schools and Tri County Schools, as well as Southeast Community College. Gage County MAPS Preventionist Task Force, Gage County Attorney, local law enforcement, funeral directors, Blue Valley Behavioral Health and individuals interested in the subject.

**Timeline**

Activities have been initiated and will continue throughout the next three years.

**Resources Required**

Schools are implementing Signs of Suicide trainings and atleast three people are being trained as suicide specialists in Beatrice Public Schools. Members of the community will be trained in the ASSIST program and offered periodically. Funds will continually be sought out for assistance in training and awareness.

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**Gage County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Community Plan  
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**Expected Results**

Suicide Survivors will be supported in Gage County with the LOSS team and the support group. Awareness of mental health, bullying and suicide rates will be increased within our community.

**Priority #3 : Mentoring and Afterschool Programming**

Youth who are supported by adults and older peers in a committed and long term mentoring relationship are more likely to be successful in school and within the community.

Students in a mentoring relationship are

- Less likely to use illegal drugs
- Less likely to use alcohol
- Less likely to skip school and/or class
- Less likely to participate in violence

Beatrice Public Schools hosts the school based TeamMates Mentoring Program for students in 3<sup>rd</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. This program is facilitated by the Gage County MAPS Community Coalition with fundraising, recruitment, matching and training responsibilities. There are currently approximately 35 matches within the school.

The Beatrice Middle School also hosts the TEAMS program for 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup> graders. (Together Everyone Achieves More Success). This is a group mentoring type of program that is facilitated by the University of Nebraska Extension Office. It is funded by the CYFAR grant program for five years. (Children, Youth and Families At-Risk) This program works within the 4-H program for healthy youth development and encouragement of college entry.

In August, 2012 the 429 Factory – an after-school program for middle school youth- was forced to cease operations due to lack of funding. This left a void for approximately 50-60 youth that attended the program on a daily basis.

**Strategy 1 : Continue operations of current mentoring programs offered in Gage County and development of after-school programming.**

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**Stakeholders Involved**

Beatrice Public Schools, Freeman Schools, Diller-Odell Schools, Southern Schools and Tri County Schools, as well as Southeast Community College. Gage County MAPS Community Coalition.

**Timeline**

Activities have been initiated and will continue throughout the next three years.

**Resources Required**

Funds will be sought out, as well as continued recruitment, training and creative options for after school care.

**Expected Results**

Youth in Gage County that wish to have a mentor or attend an after school programming will feel supported and included.

## **Appendix**

### A. Approval Letter/minutes from County Board

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**Gage County Juvenile Services Comprehensive Community Plan  
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November 28, 2012

To Whom It May Concern:

The Gage County Board of Supervisors was provided a copy of the plan prior to this date for review. During a regular scheduled meeting of the Gage County Board of Supervisors members discussed and approved the Gage County Three Year Juvenile Justice Comprehensive County Plan as presented by Christina Lyons.

Sincerely,

Rex Adams  
Chairman