

## Introduction

### Who We Are:

The Nebraska Juvenile Justice Association is a non-profit organization founded in 1974 to provide statewide training for persons and professionals interested in juvenile justice issues.




NJJA strives to be a resource for juvenile justice professionals by providing: access to juvenile justice resources; information about emerging policy initiatives and best practices; recognition of the exceptional efforts of professionals in our field; and information about training and professional development opportunities.



### Mission:

The mission of the Nebraska Juvenile Justice Association is to improve services to youth in the juvenile justice system by serving as a resource for collaboration, leadership development, and education for juvenile justice system professionals.

### Our Goal:

|  Education                                 |  Leadership |  Collaboration |
|---|--|---|
| To broaden the knowledge and skills of professionals working with youth and families involved in the juvenile justice system. | To lead in a way to make intentional impact.   | To work together for a common goal.   |

# Education



**LIVE  
WEBINAR**

## Web Based Trainings

### January

Project Harmony

- Interpersonal Skills for Effective Interviewing
- Engaging through Empathy

### February

Project Harmony

- Navigating Discord
- Motivating Change

### June

Legal Aid of Nebraska

- Power of Attorney vs. Guardianship

### July

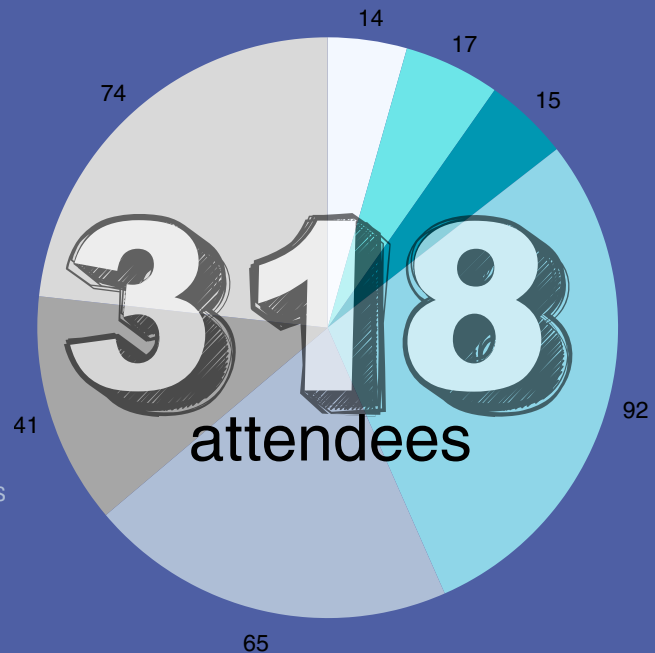
Project Review: Tribal Response and Resources for Human Trafficking Victims in Nebraska

### September

NJJA Webinar: Under the Radar: Supporting Socially Anxious Teens in the Juvenile System

### December

Understanding the Opioid Crisis: Overdose Prevention, Narcan and Reducing Stigma



The NJJA strives to host monthly trainings either as a webinar or an in person training. In the month of May an annual conference is hosted with multiple key-note speakers and breakout workshops.

## In-Person Training

In October, 51 professionals attended the Building Resiliency Through Community Support, Hope and Resources; Healing Trauma and Addiction. This was a highly requested subject for training in feedback of previous trainings hosted by the NJJA. This in-person training held five speakers with varying expertise in regards to trauma, addiction, and substance use trends.

These five speakers have helped create laws, founded organizations for support, worked as State Patrol officers, mental health professionals, and each in their own right have great passion for the work they do in regards to this subject.

# Leadership

## Annual Conference

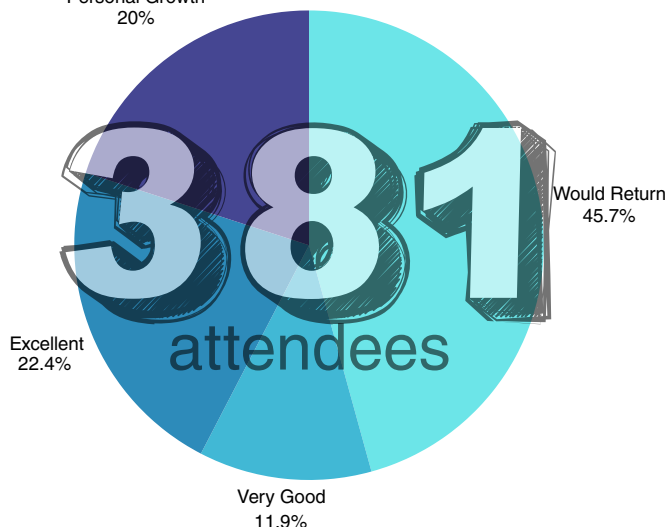
The 2024 annual conference was held May 1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> in Kearney at the Younes Conference Center. This two and a half day event hosted key note speakers Gaelin Elmore, a nationally sought-after keynote speaker, trainer, he works with organizations and people to become belonging-informed in order to help children overcome trauma and unleash their potential, Alicia Kozak, an internationally acclaimed and highly sought-after motivational speaker, advocate, and Internet safety expert, and Judge Robert Lung, a District Court Judge in the 18th Judicial District of Colorado.



**NJJA** | Nebraska Juvenile Justice Association  
**2024 NJJA CONFERENCE**  
KEARNEY, NEBRASKA | YOUNES CONFERENCE CENTER  
MAY 1-3, 2024



Personal Growth  
20%



### Hear From Attendees

- I do feel the keynote speakers in the morning were really great and gave great advice on how to work with victims and juveniles and their stories were really inspirational.
- All keynote speakers were fantastic. I also enjoy networking and meeting new people.
- The keynote speakers were great! I made some valuable connections through breakout classes.
- The keynote speakers were outstanding. They had really great information about their topics and it was extremely relevant to my job.



### Speaker Takeaways:

#### Gaelin Elmore

- C.A.R.E.
  - Compassion
  - Authenticity
  - Resilience
  - Empowerment
- The Game of Life
- Space for Personal Connection
- Relatable

#### Alicia Kozak

- How to keep youth safe in an ever-growing virtual world
- Healing has hills and valleys
- Be honest with your own recovery journey
- The world of AI

## 21 Youth

## Youth Day

- Whitehall
- Boystown
- YRTC - Kearney
- YRTC - Hastings
- Aspire to Greatness
- NCCF Youth Advisory Board
- Hanny Arram Center for Success



# Colaboration

NJJA  
Nebraska  
Juvenile  
Justice  
Association

PODCAST  
Juvenile  
Justice  
in Nebraska



## Podcasts

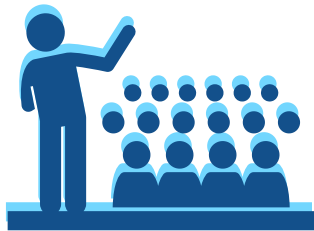
3



The NJJA intermittently produces podcasts with experts in their fields. These experts range from mental health professionals and child welfare workers to legal workers and those with lived experiences.

These podcasts are packed with education, resources, and answers to questions you may not have thought about!

- Learn more about Radius and their work with youth in Nebraska.
- Chats with a few 2024 conference attendees and their work with youth in Nebraska.
- UNOJJI Assistant Director, Monica Miles-Steffens, and certificate fellows about the program.



15

## Trainers/Professionals



Liz Bartels is a Training Specialist at Project Harmony. In her role as Training Specialist, Liz trains professionals and community members about child abuse laws, trauma, methods to engage youth and families, and prevention strategies.



Jonathan Davis is a Training Specialist at Project Harmony in his role he trains teachers, nurses, child welfare workers, and other professionals about child abuse laws, reporting procedures, and prevention.



Lizzie Hudson is the Trauma Training Specialist for TMO, she specializes in trauma-informed practices, community-specific traumas, and domestic violence. Lizzie has devoted her career



Jayne Wagner is the Managing Attorney of the Health, Education & Law Project of Legal Aid of Nebraska. Jayne continues working in the areas of guardianships, family law, advanced directives, housing, and public benefits such as Social Security and Medicaid. She was appointed to the Supreme Court Commission on Guardianships and Conservatorships in 2019.



Kirby Williams (Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma) is a violence prevention specialist addressing violence against Native people and tribal communities and is a survivor of intimate partner violence and sexual assault. She holds a master's degree in clinical psychology and has worked to raise awareness and promote prevention of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, and stalking, as well as conducted numerous trainings on serving Native American survivors of these crimes.



# Colaboration

# Trainers/Professionals



Kyle Mitchell is a mental health advocate, international speaker, Top 1% TEDx-er, author, and social media influencer (Social Anxiety Kyle) who is passionate about solving the problems associated with poor mental health in the world and the impact they have on our communities, especially teens and youth.



Tiffany Gormley, is a Licensed Independent Mental Health Practitioner (LIMHP) with over a decade of experience in the field and specializes in cognitive-behavioral therapy (CBT), dialectical behavior therapy (DBT), EMDR and trauma-informed care.



Meghan Trevino is the Assistant Executive Director for West Central District Health Department (WCDHD) in North Platte, NE (serving Lincoln, Logan, McPherson, Thomas, Hooker, and Arthur counties), and is an active member of the Community Connections Lincoln County Substance Abuse Prevention System Coalition.



Sergeant Dean Christensen has 29 years of experience with the Nebraska State Patrol. He is currently the Drug Sergeant with Troop E and Commander of Investigative Services WING Drug Task Force. Sergeant Christensen is an active member on the Drug Court Board.



Justin Phillips, MA and White House Champion of Change for Advocacy, Prevention and Treatment is the Founder and Executive Director of Overdose Lifeline, Inc. a non-profit dedicated to reducing the stigma of substance use disorder and preventing deaths resulting from opioid overdose. Operating statewide, ODL addresses the opioid public health crisis through subject matter expertise, education, advocacy, and support for affected families.



Amy Holman is the Project Coordinator at the Nebraska Pharmacists Association, where she leads two impactful grant-funded initiatives: the Nebraska MEDS Drug Disposal Program, facilitates safe medication disposal through pharmacies statewide, and the Statewide Narcan Program, providing life-saving overdose reversal medication free of charge, making it accessible to all Nebraskans.



Miranda Stoll is a LIMHP, LADC therapist that works for Healing Hearts & Families, as well as Inner Reflections Counseling Center. Miranda has learned from and work with a diverse population that includes Veterans, survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking and their families, drug court participants, federal parolees, and many other youth and adult populations.



Tammy Sassaman, LMHP, CMSW is a Licensed Mental Health Practitioner and Certified Master Social Worker with over 20 years of experience as a clinical supervisor, therapist, and leader in the behavioral health field. She currently serves as the Executive Director of the Nebraska Juvenile Justice Association. In addition, Tammy works as a Behavioral Health Specialist Supervisor at Saunders Medical Center, where she provides therapy to clients of all ages and supervises behavioral health services.

# Colaboration

# Trainers/Professionals



Gaelin Elmore works with organizations and people to become belonging-informed in order to help children overcome trauma and unleash their potential. Gaelin's passion and energy for his work stems from his heart for justice and his own lived experience. His own belonging journey has led Gaelin to the National Football League, and now stages, board rooms, and organizations, all across the country, aiming to inspire, encourage, and equip others to think differently about their work and its long-term impact on others.



Alicia Kozak is an internationally acclaimed and highly sought-after motivational speaker, advocate, and Internet safety expert, and television personality who has inspired millions through her in person and on-screen appearances. At age 13, Alicia became the first widely reported Internet-related child abduction victim, after she was kidnapped and held captive by an Internet predator. Following her miraculous rescue, Alicia has devoted her life to raising awareness of missing persons and protecting children against predatory crime.



Judge Robert Lung serves as a District Court Judge in the 18th Judicial District of Colorado, provides presentations nationally and internationally on issues such as human trafficking, childhood trauma and resiliency to an exceptionally diverse audience base including the military, the medical field, the educational field (including the U.S. Department of Education), various judiciaries in the U.S. and internationally, faith-based organizations, first-responders, mental health professionals and law enforcement.

Thank you for your continued support of the Nebraska Juvenile Justice Association. Your commitment plays a vital role in advancing our mission to improve the lives of youth and families across Nebraska. Through your ongoing engagement, we are able to promote best practices, provide meaningful training opportunities, and advocate for a fair and effective juvenile justice system. Together, we are making a lasting difference—thank you for standing with us.