



Accepting the **Challenge**
Moving **Forward**

May 3-5 | Kearney, Nebraska | Younes Conference Center

Wednesday, May 3

Registration — 9:00 - 10:00 am

Welcome & Opening Remarks — 10:00 - 10:15 am

Keynote — 10:15-11:45am



● ◆ ■ **My Mother is “Crazy”: A Story of Lived Experience and Hope** — Angee Stevens: Angee Stevens, LCSW, shares her journey as the daughter, and now guardian, to someone diagnosed with what is considered a “Severe and Persistent Mental Illness.” Through the vulnerability of sharing her lived experiences, Angee provides a safe space to explore individual biases and ask questions, so that we as serving professionals can have a more positive impact in the lives of children and adults struggling with mental health challenges.

Lunch — 12:00-1:00 pm: UNO Juvenile Justice Certificate Program Presentation, Monica Miles-Steffens, Anne Hobbs, JD, PhD

Breakout A — 1:15-2:45 pm

- ◆ ■ **Suicide Prevention and Mental Health: Before, During, and After a Crisis** — Jennifer Krajewski: Session will provide mental health and suicide prevention information. Additionally, tips and tools will be provided to aid in recognition of early warning signs and symptoms to assist in preventing a crisis from occurring. Power point presentation will provide: *Overview of suicide prevention including signs, symptoms, and prevention tools. *Common mental health issues facing youth, with tips and tools to assist those who may be experiencing issues, *Tips and tools to aid in de-escalation, feeling regulation, and importance of establishing an ongoing mental health plan.
- ◆ ■ **Everyone Has A Story** — Paul Yates, Megan Cook: Everyone has a story. It’s our unique and individual stories that defines where we are today and where we could be tomorrow. How do victims and survivors of sex trafficking travel from today into their tomorrow? How can we provide the support they need for a successful journey of hope, change and self-worth? This session will include stories of determination to make a difference, a “Miracle Story”, The 180 Degree Challenge, a Life Changed Forever, protecting our youth and providing survivor opportunities of hope and change. We will discuss the myths that challenge us and the attitudes that define us.
- ◆ **Being the Change: UNO Juvenile Justice Certificate Program Capstone Projects** — Monica Miles-Steffens, Anne Hobbs, JD, PhD: The inaugural class of the UNO Juvenile Justice Certificate program has been meeting for nine months developing their skills and knowledge of juvenile justice and system reform. They will finish their program at the NJJA conference by presenting their final Capstone Projects. Presentations will discuss their work using implementation science to develop new gang intervention concepts, explore restorative justice perceptions, and enhance the knowledge of the Nebraska legislative body on adolescent brain development.
- ◆ **Juvenile Restorative Justice and Family Intervention Initiative** — Nicole Britten, Michele Lueders: Learn about Restorative Justice (RJ) Practices in Nebraska as well as a \$1M OJJDP Juvenile Justice System Reform grant which provides expanded RJ services. This interactive session will describe RJ services currently available and the expanded services available through the grant. Participants will learn how to access the RJ options through the approved mediation centers and the service providers and agencies that will benefit from these services, including Probation, schools, DHHS and more.
- ◆ ■ **Unite Nebraska - Coordinating Care for Justice Involved Individuals** — Ericka Lewon, Emily Lehmann, Eldon Bensen: How often do your clients express a need outside of the work you do? How do you connect clients to resources for things like housing, employment, clothing, food, medical services and more? We know unmet social care needs increase the risk of recidivism. Join us to learn more about how Drivers of Health impact justice involved community members and ways to better support their unmet needs.

Break — 2:45-3:00pm - Exhibitors Open/Networking

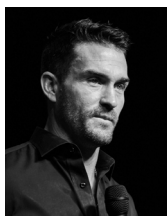
Breakout B — 3:00-4:15pm

- ◆ ■ **Suicide Prevention and Mental Health: Before, During, and After a Crisis** — Jennifer Krajewski: Session will provide mental health and suicide prevention information. Additionally, tips and tools will be provided to aid in recognition of early warning signs and symptoms to assist in preventing a crisis from occurring. Power point presentation will provide: *Overview of suicide prevention including signs, symptoms, and prevention tools. *Common mental health issues facing youth, with tips and tools to assist those who may be experiencing issues, *Tips and tools to aid in de-escalation, feeling regulation, and importance of establishing an ongoing mental health plan..
- ◆ ■ **Authenticity - What's Your Superpower?** — Miranda Stoll: In a society where “be yourself” is one of most overwhelming things to be told, we look deeper at what it takes to achieve that. Through the exploration of the nervous system and its patterns, exploring perception through the brain, and understanding the four “C”s in authenticity (consistency, conformity, connection, and continuity) you will be able to attune yourself to the AUTHENTIC you so you can be the superhero for the adolescents you serve.
- ◆ ■ **I'm Just a Kid: Simple Plan to bring Adolescent Behavior and Development to the Forefront of Juvenile Justice Practices** — Amoreena Brady, MaKayla Parriott, Trevor Patterson: This session translates the science of Adolescent Behavior and Development to applicable and sustainable practices in the Nebraska Juvenile Justice System. This session includes a Simple Plan that will educate and enhance your skills to apply adolescent development and positive youth approaches. When put into practice, these approaches can significantly impact re-offending and improve behavioral outcomes for youth in the justice system. By the end of this workshop participants will acquire knowledge in the five areas of adolescent behavior and development and learn how each area impacts roles within the youth justice system. Understanding the five areas of development increases the capacity to understand youth perspective, monitor bias, educate others, and aid youth in development.
- ◆ **Working with Gangs, Schools and Restorative Practices through Native Perspective** — Matthew Baker: An open honest conversation about working in the social services field as a Native American person. How having a Native foundation has helped working with the highest “at risk” youth in Lancaster county. Creating long lasting relationships with youth, school system and community partners. Explore ideas on why traditional community programming often times does not work for Gang involved youth.
- ◆ ■ **Trauma as a Lens, Not a Limitation** — Angee Stevens: Over the past two decades, trauma has become a common term to explain the reasoning and likelihood of certain risk taking behaviors. Too often, however, it is used as an excuse to look the other way rather than provide the consequences necessary for future success. This presentation will serve as an opportunity to look at the current trends and long term effects of trauma's impact on youth and society at large.

Diversion Meeting — 4:30-6:00pm

Registration — 8:00 - 8:30 am - Exhibitors Open/Networking

Welcome & Opening Remarks — 8:30 - 8:45 am



Keynote — 8:45-10:15am

● ◆ ■ **“From Prison to the “Olympics” - Breaking the Stigmas of Addiction** — Tony Hoffman

Through Tony Hoffman's incredible comeback story, From Prison to the Olympics, he will dive into deep topics of trauma/ mental health and how they are connected to people's behaviors. Tony will challenge infrastructure and how it has been set up for many years and the missing pieces to preventing and helping rehabilitate those who struggle with addiction and self destructive behaviors that can put communities in strain. Tony will speak about the Freewheel Project and the prevention work they did with youth and how he believes the model created behind experience is the true path to prevention.

Break — 10:15-10:30 am - Exhibitors Open/Networking

Breakout C — 10:30-11:45 am

- ◇ ■ **Youth Violence Prevention and Intervention** — George Devers, Tomeki Cobbs: Youth violence is more than a law enforcement problem. It is a major and well-recognized public health issue. Like many contagious diseases, it spreads from person-to-person. Our approach to youth violence prevention is different. We treat it like a health condition. YouTurn utilizes the evidence-based Cure Violence Health Model to stop the spread of violence by using methods and strategies associated with disease control.
- ◇ ■ **Understanding Street-Gang Affiliation, Mentality and Culture** — Diante Jones: A presentation to educate youth service professionals on the complexities of street-gang affiliation, the street gang mentality and the street gang culture. From early modern day indicators of early street gang involvement, to the challenges of youth service providers to intervene, this presentation gives insight into, and provokes innovation thought within the world of gang intervention. Contents of Presentation include: Definition of “Street Gang”, Modern Day Indicators of Street-Gang Affiliation, Contextual Reality of Street-Gang Involved Youth, 10 Pillars of Gang Affiliation, Challenges for Gang Intervention Service Providers and Frontline Gang Intervention Methods & Tools
- ◇ ■ **Youth Voice: Not Just Optional** — Lincoln Arneal, Grey Leffler, Tyeisha Thompson, Haylee Wing: Young people should be involved in decisions not only about their lives but also about the systems that impact their lives. Involving them in the systems will provide professionals with new insights and help develop better results and outcomes for future young people. Hear directly from members of the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation youth advisory board on how they use their voices and promote youth voice in other organizations.
- ◇ ■ **Opening Pandora’s Box: Addressing Suicide Risk Communication** — Erin Curran, Lindsay Meyer: In 2020, suicide was among the top 9 leading causes of death for people ages 10-64, and the second leading cause of death for people ages 10-14 and 25-34. It is imperative that probation practitioners are aware of signs of suicide. What’s next, though? This presentation will provide participants with strategies to have meaningful conversations with individuals who are experiencing suicidal ideation.

Awards Luncheon — 12:00 - 1:00 pm

During lunch service, the 2023 NJJA awards will be presented. These awards are: the Nebraska Juvenile Justice Association Scholarship Award, the Evelyn E. Labode Service to Youth Award, the NJJA Commitment to Excellence in Leadership Award, and the Spirit of Youth Award.

Break — 1:00 - 1:15 pm Exhibitors Open/Networking**Breakout D — 1:15-2:30 pm**

- ◇ ■ **Training Student Mentors and Serving Youth Mentees: The Juvenile Reentry Mentoring Project** — Anne Hobbs, JD, PhD: This presentation will be led by university students enrolled in the Juvenile Reentry Mentoring Project (JRMP) and will include input and perceptions of the youth they mentor. The JRMP matches youth in detention or YRTC to a college age mentor. Youth meet with students for two semesters: first in the facility and then in the community. Hear how this course was a life-changing experience for both the students, and the youth they served.
- ◇ ■ **The Intersection of the Nebraska Student Discipline Act and the Special Education Rights of Students** — Lauren Micek-Vargas: This session will examine the intersection of Nebraska Student Discipline Act and Special Education Rights of students, with a focus manifestation determinations and how changes in placement (including emergency exclusions, shortened days, expelled student programs, other changes in location) impact student rights and school responsibilities. While the purpose of the Nebraska Student Discipline Act is to assure the protection of all student constitutional right to due process and fundamental fairness, the approach taken in this area of law can conflict with obligations schools have, and rights students have, to not be disciplined for actions that are a manifestation of their disabilities. In addition, changes in placement implicate a right to a hearing under both the Student Discipline Act and IDEA/Nebraska Rule 51.
- ◇ ■ **Weeding out the Truth - Cannabis and Adolescents** — Kenneth Zoucha, Laura Schutte-Lundy: Nebraska is only one of a handful of states that has gone beyond decriminalization of cannabis to make cannabis legal for medical and/or recreational use. With legalization comes the perception that cannabis is not harmful, with a large reduction of adolescents that consider cannabis to be dangerous. In our presentation, we intend to present the current evidence about cannabis youth in adolescents and potential harms. We will discuss several strategies for talking with teens about cannabis.
- ◇ ■ **The Effects of Social Media on Student Mental Health: Risk Factors & Protective Measures** — Molly Woodman, Sidney Howard: When faced with isolation induced by the pandemic, America’s youth turned to social media for support and entertainment. This presentation delves into the benefits and consequences that social media has had on youth mental health. In this session, we will examine the negative and positive effects of youth social media use, while explaining the risk factors and protective factors we can employ to encourage positive social media practices in our children and teens.
- ◇ ■ **Reflective Practice as a Support for Juvenile Justice Professionals** — Dayna Goff, Tracy Kock: The presentation will provide an introduction to Reflective Practice and begin to explore the general concepts of the Facilitating Attuned Interactions (FAN) model of Reflective Practice. We will share information about what we do at the Nebraska Center on Reflective Practice and how Reflective Practice can have a direct impact on the work helping professionals engage in. Participants will leave with a general knowledge of specific techniques to use to better attune with clients and/or their staff and increase engagement.

Break — 2:30-3:00 pm - Exhibitors Open/Networking**Breakout E — 3:00-4:15 pm**

● ◇ ■ **All “ya need is love?” The realities of fostering and adopting youth with attachment issues** — Anne Hobbs JD, PhD, Chris Hobbs: While good intentions may start the fostering journey, it is not always easy to love the people we live with, especially those who have a history of being hurt and let down by adults. Attachment issues present one of the primary obstacles to successful youth outcomes in foster care and adoption. We will include information on attachment issues as well as therapeutic approaches to connecting with hard-to-reach youth.

● ◇ ■ **Building A Bridge: Connecting Families with Resources for Early Intervention Services** — Kim Hawekotte, Abby Carbaugh, Marian Fey: Key to an effective JJ system is a strong and robust prevention/early intervention system. Research has shown that damage happens when a youth is placed deeper than needed into the JJ system. BRIDGE is a model of care that meet a family’s needs by building upon the strengths of the family. It is family-center, strengths-based community hubs that provide culturally responsive supports to families.

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● ◇ ■ **988 -Transition from the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline to a Local Behavioral Health, Mental Health & Suicide Prevention Crisis Line** — Kyle Kinney, Michelle Nunemaker: The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline transitioned to 988 in July 2022. Nebraska has administered this change and will continue enhancing this service as we move forward. 988 is a more robust, coordinated, statewide access point for any behavioral or mental health concern, with a three-digit number that is easier to remember. Join us in this session to learn more about what the 988 rollout has meant for Nebraska, where we are heading with this service, and how you can get involved in building awareness for your clients’ utilization of 988.

Youth Call to Action — 3:00-4:30 pm (Youth Only)**Networking Reception — 4:30-6:00 pm - Exhibitors Open, Music Bingo with Prizes!**

Registration — 8:00 - 8:15 am

**Youth Kick Off — 8:15 - 8:30 am**

Keynote — 8:30 - 9:45am

● ◇ ■ From Skid Row to CEO – There's More To You Than You Can See — Joe Roberts

In this keynote, Joe shares his story of redemption, a story that relates to the work you do every day. He teaches how anyone can transform and overcome perceived limitations and live their dreams with the right help and guidance. As you walk with Joe through the tough streets of East Vancouver in the 1980's you will experience the depths and degradation of a former hopeless, homeless opioid addict, to the heights and triumph of a successful entrepreneur and philanthropist. Embedded in this keynote is the remarkable story of Joe's interaction with a police officer. In 1991, Ontario Provincial Police Constable Scott MacLeod answered a typical distress call, a man with a gun, threatening suicide. Just another addict going to jail was his first thought. Little did Scott know his involvement would be the beginning of a life transforming event for Joe Roberts. Hopeless and suicidal, Joe had one thing on his mind; end it for good. This inspiring story demonstrates how powerful that next interaction can be. Joe's story embodies the resiliency of the human spirit. His message is inspiring, energetic, humorous, honest, raw and unforgettable.

Break — 9:45-10:00 am

● ◇ ■ Keynote Workshop: Energy Health Management — 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Closing — 12:00 - 12:15 pm
