

Date

Name and address

Dear :

Lancaster County is evaluating the possibility of becoming a site for the Annie E. Casey Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI). Based on two decades of experience, the Lancaster County Board of Commissioners believes that a juvenile justice system based on community-based alternatives is more effective than a system centered on incarceration and out of home placement. We are now asking for your assistance in providing information about forming a partnership to become a JDAI site. Initially, what steps will the County Board need to take in order to become a JDAI site? In taking these steps, are there financial obligations which the County will be expected to assume? If so, are there any resources available to assist the County in becoming a JDAI site?

If Lancaster County moves forward as a JDAI site, the Board is cognizant of the importance of gathering and maintaining accurate data. In fact, the County is fully compliant with the data requirements of the Community-Based Juvenile Services Aid Program created under Neb. Rev. Stat. §43-2404.02. The Board is also aware that the data collection requirements of JDAI may result in re-entering the same information into the JDAI database [Quarterly Reporting Spreadsheet](#). Since the Community-Based Juvenile Services Aid Program applies state-wide, and JDAI is intended to be a state-wide program, it would make sense to expand the database required under §43-2404.02 to include all the information required by JDAI. The Juvenile Justice Institute could then work with JDAI to transfer the necessary information to the JDAI database. This process would eliminate the need for Lancaster County and counties across Nebraska to hire additional staff to meet the data entry requirements of JDAI, and thereby facilitate the expansion of JDAI. This is a key point for Lancaster County becoming a JDAI site.

The Lancaster County Board remains committed to building a juvenile justice system which provides the best possible services to our youth. We look forward to partnering with JDAI and the Juvenile Justice Institute, and hope to gain additional insight on how the County Board can improve services.

Sincerely,

Todd Wiltgen, Chair

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