

DRAFT LETTER FROM BOARD TO State JDAI Committee

September 14, 2017

Monica Miles-Steffens
Director of Placement
Nebraska Probation Administration
521 S 14th St
Lincoln, NE 68508

Dear Ms. Steffens:

In June, 2017, the Lancaster County Board of Commissioners indicated to you that Lancaster County is evaluating the possibility of becoming a Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI) site and followed up with questions, one of those addressing the steps that the County Board needs to take to become a JDAI site.

Per your answers, the County Board directed the Juvenile Justice Steering Committee (JJSC) composed of leaders in local government and juvenile court to form the collaborative group that would take the initial steps in determining Lancaster County's readiness and level of interest in moving forward to become a JDAI site.

On August 31, 2017, the group met to discuss the standardized Readiness Questionnaire which your office provided and helped to facilitate the discussion. The minutes of that meeting are attached for your reference.

A reading of those minutes would indicate that the consensus of the group is that the implementing of JDAI principles would provide (1) impetus towards the discovery of additional alternatives to meeting the needs of juveniles, especially on the back end of care, (2) an historical record of the County's conduct of alternatives to detention, and (3) a third point of view in the evaluation of data in terms of effectiveness.

The consensus of the JJSC is that they believe that the implementation of JDAI in Lancaster County would be beneficial and that they are committed to the process. The JJSC recognizes that it will take the lead in the JDAI implementation in accordance with the JDAI model.

Therefore, the Lancaster County Board of Commissioners requests the technical assistance from the state JDAI Committee to become the next JDAI site in Nebraska.

Please initiate the next step in the process which will involve a meeting with the JJSC and the state JDAI coordinators in order to plan for the system assessment and the detention utilization study.

We appreciate your assistance in moving forward on this very important initiative.

Sincerely,

Todd Wiltgen, Chair
Lancaster County Board of Commissioners

Roma Amundson, Commissioner and Chair
Juvenile Justice Steering Committee