



Collaborative 6-Month Progress Report

Community and Family Partnership

Counties Served: Platte, Colfax, Nance, Boone

July 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023

Purpose

Nebraska's Community Collaboratives participate in two data collections annually as a part of the evaluation of the state's community-based prevention system. The Collaborative 6-Month Progress Report serves several purposes: 1) provides a series of questions for all Community Well-Being Collaboratives to provide quantitative and qualitative data about their work during the past 6 months (July 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023), 2) ensures necessary data for state, federal, and private funders is available, and 3) supports a process of ongoing reflection and improvement for community collaboratives.

Scope

This report includes activities supported through the Prevention Infrastructure Contracts between Nebraska Children and Community Collaboratives. The first section of the report includes updates from the collaborative including growth, challenges, and needs experienced during the reporting period. In the second section, collaboratives shared stories of success or opportunity at both the individual and collaborative levels. In the third section, collaboratives shared information about their participation in the LB 1173 community conversations and partnerships started as a result. Lastly, the fourth section of the report includes information about the collaboratives work with older youth.

Nebraska Children utilizes the following funding sources to support this work: Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP), Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF), Nebraska Child Abuse Prevention Fund Board (NCAPF), Strengthening Family Funds, William and Ruth Scott Family Foundation, Sherwood Foundation, and any additional private funds.

Collaborative Update

In this section, coordinators were invited to answer questions about their collaborative's growth, challenges, and needs they experienced over the previous 6 months (July 1, 2023-December 31, 2023). The question and their corresponding answers are displayed below.

What successes and growth resonate with you and collaborative members the most?

Successes may include new or expanded partnerships, increased community awareness of the collaborative's work, engagement with other statewide initiatives, etc.

Thriving Families, Safer Children Related

Through our Thriving Families, Safer Children work we organized "Coffee and Conversation" time with Schuyler faith-based and cultural leaders in the community. Two women from African cultures were present as well as a deacon and his wife from a Schuyler church. Never before has this type of meeting been held in the community. Though we hoped for a larger attendance, we believe this was a good start to open the door to future conversation with these folks. Identified at this meeting was a need for mental health support among the community. Panel presentations, which are the fruit of our local TFSC, continue to be offered to schools and other (health care) in the four-county area. These panels continue to be a well-received strategy to increase awareness of our collective prevention work, local collaboratives, and Bring Up Nebraska. During this reporting period, presentations were provided to CHI Health, the local health department, and a number of schools for a total of 460 certified school staff. Panelists include local health and human services supervisors, local law enforcement, Child Advocacy Center, Community Response, Columbus Area United Way, and CFP Collective Impact Director (CID). Panelists are asked preplanned questions which last about 35 minutes with the remaining time used for questions from the audience. These panels have proven to be a fabulous avenue for us to share our collective prevention work as well as to describe how processes of mandatory reporting work along with reducing trauma. Resources are shared with those in attendance. A follow up email to the school administrator includes a flyer created for school staff which includes a compilation of resources shared as well as contact information for each panel person. An additional success of the panels is that they have helped us to get better acquainted with each other and with local law enforcement (city and county) in the four-county area.

The CFP CID was chosen to be part of the Nebraska Team attending the Thriving Families, Safer Children Working Session in Tempe, AZ. On this team were lived experience folks, NCCFF staff, HHS leadership and staff and others. The working session grounded the CFP CID in the fact that working with people in or coming out of systems such as foster care, juvenile justice, CPS are those we want to involve in the TFSC work we are doing. These folks may be different from those with lived experience with other areas of our CFP work.

Summer Food Service Program

Working to increase the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) – Nebraska ranks 49th in the nation for participation in the SFSP and *lost about 100 meal sites* between 2019 and 2023. Working with Nebraska Appleseed and HHS, CFP has learned there are pockets of our four-county area that are underserved for the SFSP. We have been in communication with entities who would have the ability to prepare and serve food (senior center, schools) and will be speaking with them at a Zoom meeting in late January on this topic as to how they could become a SFSP site.

Unaccompanied youth coming to the county and living in Schuyler continue to be a conversation we hold with the

Schuyler school district. When unaccompanied high school students were given a survey by school staff as to what their greatest needs were, dental care ranked as one of the highest needs. The CID connected Schuyler Community Schools high school nurse and ELL instructor with the local Federally Qualified Health Center in Columbus, Good Neighbor Community Health Center. Part of the struggle with these students in getting care is that they/students do not typically have transportation to get to an appointment especially when outside of Schuyler nor do they have insurance or Medicaid, yet their dental health may be causing significant pain. On the Zoom call with GNCHC, school staff described how though Friday appointments are open access (meaning first come, first served), there is often a line outside the dental door before the clinic opens for people waiting to be seen that day. Students from Schuyler cannot get in line to be seen for an open access appointment due to transportation barriers. After staff described this barrier to the clinic, the dental clinic manager agreed to hold a few appointments in the open access schedule specifically for Schuyler students who need to be seen but cannot get to appointments without planning ahead for them. Note that the collaborative coordinator had also contacted the UNMC College of Dentistry, Creighton College of Dentistry, the State of NE Dental Officer, and Midtown FQHC in Norfolk for what assistance with what they may be able to provide to the youth who have dental needs yet do not have Medicaid or insurance. Though each entity recognized and validated the concern, none of them were able to assist with dental care.

ERA2 funding has provided a way for those who were and still are impacted by COVID to access funds for rent, utilities, and the internet. The success of this funding is that CFP can serve those beyond its typical scope of children, youth and families or young adults to reach the elderly, those without children in their home, the disabled, etc. The funding received for ERA2 work has provided a supplemental funding stream to help subsidize the first partial award from NCFE. Coaches, CN, and the Collective Impact Director have all been working with ERA2 funding weekly. The has increased opportunities for us to share who CFP is as we share flyers about ERA2, plan for presentations, speak with atypical partners (senior centers, HUD housing, Veteran offices, etc.) about who CFP is and our purpose.

Mobility Mentoring - CFP recently purchased a basic membership for the Mobility Mentoring coaching model that was developed with “the goal of helping people with low incomes move out of poverty and reach economic independence”. A program of EmPath, a Boston-based nonprofit, the model incorporates four essential elements: coaching for economic mobility, the Bridge to Self Sufficiency® assessment, goal setting, and recognition for progress made on goals. Mobility Mentoring is based on “brain science research about the negative associations between the chronic stresses of poverty and the development of executive functioning skills”. With our basic “learning level” membership, CFP/CR staff will be able to connect to a peer network, access EmPath’s online Exchange Portal with recorded webinars, several Mobility Mentoring resources, a discussion forum, and a limited amount of technical assistance help. Staff are completing basic training modules at this time and will determine what resources from Mobility Mentoring, if any, that we want to add to our tool belt for CR Coaching.

CFP Biweekly Electronic Newsletter – the CFP newsletter continues to be a successful communication tool for the community to learn about our collective impact work. Roughly 50-75% of the newsletters are opened by the 350 email addresses it is sent to. It is everyone’s newsletter, and we welcome partners to share information through it.

CFP’s sustainability work went from 0 to 60 mph with the first award of a partial payment. This was the impetus for us to put our sustainability work into motion. Though we knew there would be a second payment coming, we made the decision to put into action ways in which we could allow CR and Coaching to possibly be subsidized by other funding streams. Thus, through an existing relationship with the Colfax County Attorney, we were able to describe to him how CR Coaching could help families and youth ages 11-18. He had funding from the Crime Commission that



he would have had to turn back due to inability to use. Instead, he submitted a modification to their budget and included CR Coaching in it. It was approved through June 2024. Moving forward, Coaching was included in the Crime Commission Juvenile Justice funding for the 2024-2025 budget year as well.

Jobs for Americas Graduates (JAG) Student Involvement at Columbus High School (CHS) CFP entered into a new relationship with CHS and their JAG students. JAG is a state based national non-profit organization dedicated to supporting young people of great promise. JAG serves youth who face significant challenges, to help them reach economic and academic success. The program is one that empowers young people with skills and support to succeed in education, employment and life. JAG students involved in this project may be dealing with issues the collaborative is aware of or working on such as food insecurity, transportation, housing, and more. This project is one way CFP is including the voices of lived expertise of youth; by having high school youth who are themselves, experiencing issues CFP is working on be involved with addressing these issues. JAG students selected mental health and substance use as the two topics applications must focus on. The intent of working with these students is to allow them the opportunity to experience a real world scenario where they can experience what it is like to work with a grant, write a request for proposal, market the grant, share funding parameters, grow their communication skills, use math skills for budgeting, see how others write a report and what may be missing from it, determine impact of a project, etc. The students are in charge, with the help of the JAG instructor, with conducting all the tasks related to this funding. CFP is providing the CHS JAG program with \$10,000 for this project with the funding being provided as mini grants to select applicants. Community service groups, school groups, or others may apply for the funds. Students decide the number of microgrants to offer (e.g. 5-\$2,000 awards or 10-\$1,000 awards).

Three Priority Areas of CFP – two of three have community ownership

Two of the three priority areas of CFP now have a community member who is taking the lead on the area's planning and/or coordination. A person from the local health department leads the Increased Mental Health Supports while a childcare center director is co-leading with the CID the Elevated and Equitable Early Care and Education priority. This shows community ownership!

Update on CFP's three priority areas

Elevated & Equitable Early Care and Education (EEEECE) – this group of people are so dedicated and love their profession, it just flows out of them! They have developed a first ever resource on the importance of the first three years of life to their lifelong development. The resource is a professionally created handout which can now be found in the new parent packets provided at Boone County Health Center (100 provided) and Columbus Community Hospital (550 provided).

Advocacy and Lived Expertise Voices of Early Care Educators - The EEECE team has reached out to newly licensed (within the last year) in-home or center providers to hear their feedback on what barriers, challenges or pain points the experienced as they worked with DHHS Licensure department. Two recently licensed in-home providers and two recently licensed center directors will be meeting in January along with the CID and First Five Nebraska to share these concerns with the Childcare Advisory Committee January 23 in the evening.

EEEECE team and Preschool Development Grant funds – CFP has two contractual staff that are amazing at their positions. Working with providers in the area on the PDG funds, several of our childcare centers and in-homes have maxed out on the funding allowed for them. The contract staff and dedicated providers have gone gung-ho on accessing the quality trainings available to them.

Rooted in Relationships and Circle of Security have both been doing well, again, in part due to the contract staff we have. CFP is now in the third cohort of RiR with a vibrant group of providers involved in it. COS is a small but mighty group which is well attended. Three families are involved in COS with two being recommended to attend by their case workers.

CFP/CAUW brought First Five Nebraska's Mike Feehan and J.R. Giron to Schuyler and Columbus each for a meeting with the community about the impact of childhood education and economic impact. "Everyone depends on someone who depends on childcare." Both sessions were well attended by those in different community sectors. After these meetings, CAUW/CFP followed up with all in attendance with an email about ways in which they can be involved in the work either by subscribing to First Five Nebraska's newsletter, becoming involved in CFP, writing to their Senators, being an advocate for quality childcare, etc.

Progress on Schuyler C4K and plans for a childcare center – as with many communities across the state and nation, there is a shortage of quality early childcare educators. Schuyler, a Communities for Kids+ community, is hitting this challenge head on. Community members were mobilized and meet on a monthly basis to review their work plans. SMART goals were created with regular check-ins as to the progress of the team. In November, the team determined a childcare center with the ability to care for 100 children in either a new construction or a renovation project was needed. Numerous business leaders, (Cargill, Nor-Am, CHI, e.g.) the Mayor, a City Council member, the City of Schuyler, interested citizens, childcare providers, the CAUW, and CFP can be found around the table planning for this project. While a contract person for CAUW/CFP leads this work and is currently funded by a CAUW Impact Grant, local business mentioned above have encouraged CAUW/CFP to present a budget to them for our contract person to continue the work for the next fiscal year. The businesses have expressed they would be willing to contribute to the ongoing support of a person to keep this work moving in Schuyler as it directly is related to their ability to hire and retain staff. A huge success is that the Lund Company (Omaha) is working with CAUW/CFP at the reduced rate of \$1,000 - \$2,000 to determine the size of the area we would need for a structure, play area and parking for 100 children. Knowing how important quality care is, we have requested 50-60 square feet per child.

NCFF funding for increasing quality and social emotional development is available in the form of Preschool Development Grant (PDG) and Rooted in Relationships (RiR).

PDG funds were allotted to Platte and Colfax, each with their own dollar values, in 2023. The intent of PDG funds is to enhance quality among licensed in-homes, centers, and preschools or those who are in process of becoming licensed. Funds are reimbursement based. The amount of funds a provider can receive is capped at \$2,000 for in-homes and \$6,000 for centers. Several providers in Platte and Colfax County have maxed out on the funds they can be reimbursed for which means they have taken the maximum quality programs/training they can. There are four tiers of quality enhancement activities each with different dollar values attached to them.

The percentages of in-home Platte County and Colfax County licensed childcare providers that took part in PDG were 59% and 67% respectively. The percentages of licensed centers that took part with PDG were 75% in Platte and 33% in Colfax counties. In each of the two counties, one preschool worked with PDG funding. The total amount of funding awarded to licensed in-home, centers and preschools for Platte and Colfax counties was \$114,000 and \$13,700 respectively.

Rooted in Relationships (RiR) included Provider Collaboration meetings which occurred every other month during this reporting period with 20-23 attendees at each meeting. Family Engagement included the evidence-based strategies of Parents Interacting with Infants (PIWI), nine in attendance, and Circle of Security, six in attendance. The CFP community newsletter is released to interested childcare providers and parents who take part in the strategies implemented with this funding. RiR providers can access the ESU7 similarly as school teachers can and is a wonderful partnership and big draw for providers. Regarding the Pyramid Model, there have been two successful Pyramid trainings for Cohort 2 and a Mindful training for Cohort 1. Blending the two cohorts has resulted in friendships and mentoring blossoming.

Empowering & Embracing Voices of Lived Expertise – Recently added to this team is a number of people which has increased its momentum. One focus of the team is that of creating a three to four question survey which could be utilized by multiple partners to assess how well we, collectively, are doing with cultural humility, services provided

and asking for feedback on how to improve services from our users. The other focus of the team is that of offering a cultural humility presentation to the community. From the presentation, we believe more conversations, such as DEI, will be opened up which haven't occurred historically.

Increasing Mental Health Supports – In March 2023, many sectors of the community came together on the topic of mental health for several hours. We heard those in attendance state that they were confused with what mental health meetings were occurring on what days of the month and that several of them were attending different mental health meetings monthly which was difficult to keep track of.

In an effort for increased community coordination, multiple behavioral health related community meetings previously held on different days and times, have been merged into one day (six hours span) so they are better organized and fall on one day of the month. Community members can come and go to the meetings on Zoom as they follow the schedule shown below. Meetings merged include Adult Behavioral Health, Juvenile Planning Service Committee, Provider Networking, Communities Against Substance Misuse, Suicide Prevention Coalition and Networking Opportunities/Announcements.

9:00-10:00 Adult Behavioral Health (quarterly)

10:00-11:30 Platte County Juvenile Services Planning Team (quarterly)

10:00-11:00 Provider Networking (the two out of three months that we do not have the Juvenile Planning Services Committee meeting)

11:00-12:00 Communities Against Substance Misuse (monthly)

12:00-2:30 Suicide Prevention Coalition (monthly)

2:30-3:00 Networking Opportunity/Announcements (monthly)

A newly formed Suicide Prevention Coalition began in the fall of 2023. Though there was a coalition in the central eastern area of Nebraska, the coalition covered a significant number of counties. The group of folks who formed the local Suicide Prevention Coalition will be working specifically on the cause in the four-county service area.

CAUW Leads Community Work with CFP Present at the Table

Marigold Lane, transitional housing for single parent women with children or single parent women, launched housing its first family the weekend of Labor Day with many local agencies assisting in donating supplies for the two-bedroom apartment. Tenants are chosen by the board of directors (BOD) and are recommended from a CR Coach working with a CR mom/woman or a Center for Survivors Advocate who is working with a mom/woman. A payment schedule has been developed whereby the tenant is scheduled to gradually take over the rent and utilities over the course of seven months. Months 1 and 2 are paid for fully by Marigold Lane with subsequent months finding the mom/woman paying an increasing portion of the rent while Marigold Lane subsidizes less. The tenant has the opportunity to remain in the apartment and take over the lease if they choose to do so. The tenant handbook has been translated into Spanish. The first mom with children housed in September currently remains in the apartment. Marigold Lane has relationships with three different landlords who have the heart of helping single moms/women. Funds for this project have come from a CAUW Impact Grant. We are discussing the sustainability of this project and refining the policy. The BOD meets monthly and consists of Tom Catterson (Center for Survivors), Shae Spitz (local realtor), Greg Schatz (1C Church), Bonnie McPhillips (HUD housing), Kelli Goldblatt (lived expertise person with Hope Harbor), Lori Peters (Habitat for Humanity), Maria Alvarado (Platte County Adult Diversion), Tammy Bichlmeier (CFP/CAUW), Hope Freshour (CAUW) and Roberta Miksch (CAUW/CFP). The CAUW continues to coordinate monthly transportation meetings with NDOT and local partners such as education (including higher ed with local community college) businesses, service providers, schools, city, and county government, elected officials, health care, and other organizations. Employer transportation and outside city limits transportation are the two primary focuses on this time. Though many recognize the need for students to get to

school, the team feels strongly that we must be successful with Phase 1 before we bring on Phase 2 which is a transit system which includes student transportation. Though we do not know the exact cost of this project, we do know that 75% of the funds will come from state and federal funds with 25% of the funding coming from local funds. Thus, we must have buy-in from employers for this project to manifest itself. The CAUW/CFP is optimistic that larger local businesses would be willing to contribute to this project.

Imagination Library through the CAUW consistently has 1600 children receiving free monthly books in English or Spanish. This is a wonderful opportunity for parents and children to read and listen to books together and promotes literacy.

What challenges do you have in growing your community prevention infrastructure?

The initial partial award from NCFE placed CFP/CAUW in a position where we had to be creative with the funds, we had received knowing they would last us for staff time through January. We addressed this challenge by combining a portion of ERA2 hours to the CWB hours of CFP staff. However, even doing this, our CN, Coaches and Collective Impact Director (CID) hours were cut from 40 to 36/week for Coaches and CN while CID switched from a salaried to an hourly position; her hours were cut to 38/week. The ERA2 funding requires Coach, CN and CID positions to work at least eight hours per week on ERA2 specifically which means for the CID, eight hours a week she would normally be working on CFP work on is now spent directly on ERA2 through communications, community presentations, etc. The second payment will aid us in supporting staff time for CWB.

Evaluation of our work is a challenge in that we need to strengthen it. An example of this is that we did not have an evaluation to provide to those who heard the panel we've presented over and over again. This is a huge, missed opportunity for CFP.

What did you do to address those challenges?

We addressed this challenge by combining a portion of ERA2 hours to the CWB hours of CFP staff. However, even doing this, our CN, Coaches and Collective Impact Director (CID) hours were cut from 40 to 36/week for Coaches and CN while CID switched from a salaried to an hourly position; her hours were cut to 38/week. The ERA2 funding requires Coach, CN and CID positions to work at least eight hours per week on ERA2 specifically which means for the CID, eight hours a week she would normally be working on CFP work on is now spent directly on ERA2 through communications, community presentations, etc. The second payment will aid us in supporting staff time for CWB. To overcome the evaluation challenge, we intend to work closely with the NCFE evaluation team and/or the UNMC MMI team.

What do you still need in terms of resources or support to address those challenges?

What we need to overcome these challenges is one fiscal year budget so that we can forecast and budget for the entire year as to how our funds will be utilized. We understand why there are two partial payments. Partial payments, each with their own contract, are not ideal for operating a fiscal year budget nor for the amount of resources such as staff time either on the part of NCFE or backbone agencies as they create more work for both. If there is any way to avoid partial payments moving forward and to work from one contract and one payment, that would be ideal and appreciated.

What is your greatest pain point?

This question was brought to the CFP Steering Committee to answer for a broader view; they mentioned a few pain points. First, partial funding has brought uncertainty and staff reduction of hours with it. Considering this, sustainability work has been prioritized and is in progress. Secondly, though CFP has been doing work in Colfax and Platte for years and in all four counties for 1.5 years, fragmentation remains with a feeling of not being connected in all four counties. Increasing awareness of CFP is a process and one that is never ending. Third, having an annual report specific to CFP to share with the four-county area would be beneficial in helping to increase awareness of our mission and what we do. The report ideally would share minimal yet contain information and data about how we are serving and reaching children, youth, and families. We have not discussed internally as staff what this might look like. Lastly, and connected with educating others, is that of identifying in the biweekly CFP newsletter which pieces of work are supported by CWB. It may be confusing for readers to know which pieces of the work seen in the newsletter are conducted and funded by CFP versus those of other agencies. Staff will meet to discuss what this could look like in the newsletter.

What considerations are being discussed by your collaborative to overcome or work through this pain point?

Knowing the Steering Committee addressed the question of CFP's greatest pain point the week prior to submitting this report, the collaborative has not discussed working through these pain points. Internally as staff, we will be discussing how we can differentiate in our newsletter which efforts are financially supported by CFP through NCFE funding.

If you had a magic wand, what would your collaborative do to reach your goals?

This question was brought to the CFP Steering Committee to answer for a broader view. Responses included additional funding to widen our net and provide more services. An example of this is that CFP has been wanting to add a third Community Response Coach for over a year now yet does not have the funding to do so. Additionally, more licensed, quality childcare providers, and volunteer interpreters would be wonderful.

Stories of Success and Opportunity

In this section, coordinators were asked to provide two narrative stories that have occurred over the previous 6 months (July 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023). Coordinators were provided prompts to help guide the formation of their stories; these stories may be about success or moments of opportunity. The first story is about a child or family who passed through Central Navigation in your community and was connected into the Community Response (CR) prevention system. The second story is about the work as a collaborative.

Please enter a story narrative about a child/family who passed through Central Navigation in your community and was connected into the Community Response (CR) prevention system. Answer these questions in your story: Who is this story about? What was the child/family situation? What were the actions that were taken? How did the child/family fair through participation in the activities? What were the outcomes?

Central Navigation story

This story is about a single mother and two children. Their situation (needing financial assistance, long-term stability with health, electric bill, clothing/therapy for children, therapy for mother) led them to reaching out to CFP's Community Response team for assistance. Due to the mother's health needs, she was unable to work her full-time job regularly. This put a financial strain on the family just before the holidays. The Coach helped the family apply for ERA2 (Emergency Rental Assistance), made a referral to Goodwill for clothing for the family, put requests in for Support Services within Community Response (for personal hygiene and oil change), made a family nomination to Santa Cop Program so the children could have a hot Christmas meal and gifts, connected with school counselors/social workers to make sure needs were met at school and gaps were filled and provided a list of therapy options for mother.

After a few months the family was finally approved for ERA2 assistance including rent, utilities, and Wi-Fi help. The family was approved for clothing vouchers at Goodwill to get what they needed for the winter season. Community Response helped pay for hygiene products and an oil change so mom could continue driving to her medical appointments in another community. The family was chosen for a hot meal and Christmas Gifts at the local Police Station. The school staff helped meet the children's needs including clothes, hats, gloves, and a winter coat. Mother was on a waitlist for several months and just recently started weekly therapy!

From the beginning, this mother was very committed to Community Response! She always communicated with Coach and showed for all meetings. Even though she didn't feel well at times, she pushed through to provide for her and her children. She was dedicated to her job when she felt good and was able to become a certified manager at the restaurant she worked at. Coach built the foundation of a strong/trusting relationship with the mother during one of her most vulnerable times (during intake). This relationship was very important in the long run because she trusted Coach to help her and her family with the things they needed. This case was open for just under three months and a lot was accomplished due to the parents being engaged.

Please enter a story narrative about your work as a collaborative over the last six months. Answer these questions in your story: Who is this story about? What was the collaborative situation? What were the actions that were taken? How did the collaborative fair through participation in the activities? What were the outcomes?

CFP Collaborative Story

As with the two prior questions, this was brought to the Steering Committee for their input. By and large, the answer is mental health vouchers which is a concept originated by CFP several years ago. Mental health vouchers exist for students (elementary through high school) and young adults up to age 26 to access. Vouchers are requested when a family/student does not have Medicaid, insurance, are underinsured or have a high deductible that would prohibit a family from accessing services for their child.

School staff, such as counselors or nurses, identify students who may benefit from counseling, they speak with the student and their parents and if the family encounters one of the situations described above, they are eligible for mental health vouchers which cover the cost of up to ten sessions with a licensed (or provisional) mental health practitioner. CFP contracts with a number of local counseling agencies, including in Boone County, to accept these vouchers. CFP also contracts with an agency out of Omaha to provide bilingual services via Telehealth.

Between July 1 – December 31, 2023, 18 youth and 1 young adult were served through Mental Health Vouchers. Thirteen were Platte County residents, one was from Colfax County, three were from Boone and two were from Nance. The total expended on these youth or young adults was \$7,717 in CWB CFP funds. If it weren't for these MH Vouchers, we don't know if these young people would have received care or not. Note that the youth/young adult included in this data were those that had payments made for counseling services during this reporting period.

Another success story of the collaborative, per the Steering Committee, is that of increasing law enforcement involvement with our work. This is in part due to the panel presentations we've been providing which include the presence of local law enforcement as we travel within the four counties to schools. County and/or city law enforcement are involved in these panels. Additionally, law enforcement may be found at our Thriving Families, Safer Children meetings and/or collaborative meetings. These relationships have been growing during this reporting period.

LB 1173 Activities

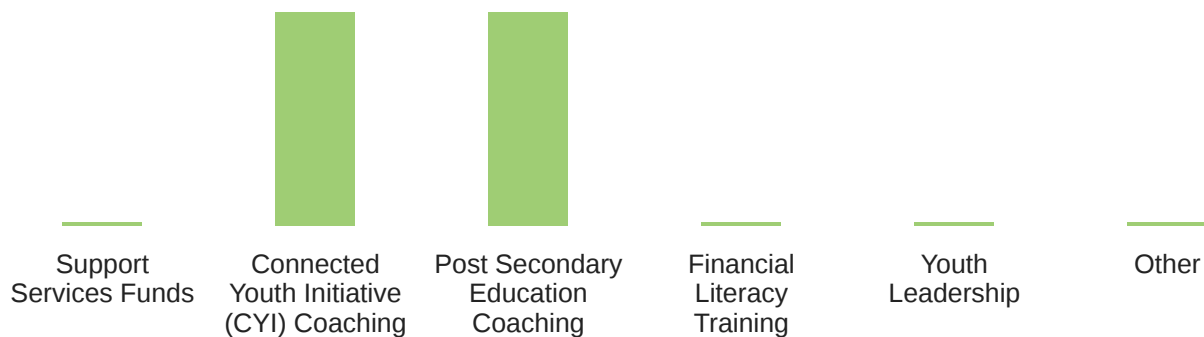
Legislative Bill 1173 was passed unanimously by the 2022 Nebraska Legislature and tasked the three branches of state government to work together to transform child and family well-being in Nebraska. Community collaboratives took part and led efforts to offer community listening sessions in connection with LB1173 consultants, The Stephen Group. In gathering various multi-sector community partners for these conversations, communities had the opportunity to further engage community and state partners. In this section, coordinators were asked a few questions about their engagement with this specific work.

Community and Family Partnerships reported their community did not participate in any of the community conversations that came out of this work.

Youth Focus

Nebraska Children and Families Foundation's Connected Youth Initiative (CYI) exists to support transition-aged youth and young adults ages 14 to 26, in Nebraska, who are living without the support of family and have life experiences that can make transitioning to adulthood overwhelming. Throughout 2023, CYI has made improvements and expansions across Nebraska and will continue into 2024. To help inform their further improvement efforts, coordinators answered the following questions.

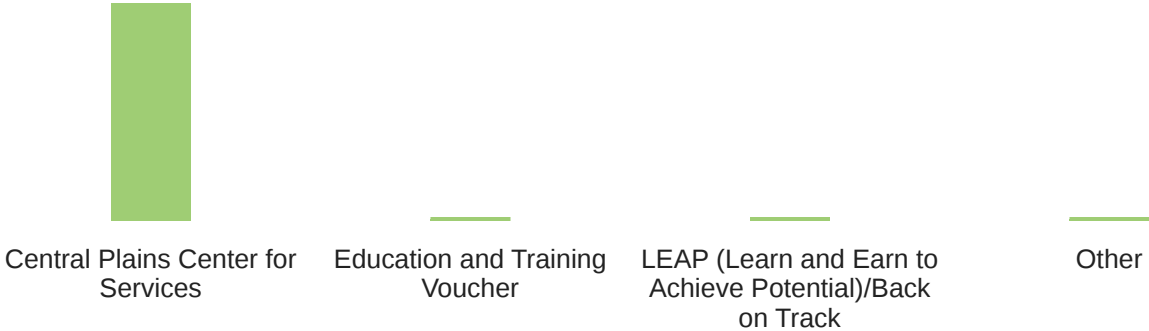
What Older Youth Services does your team utilize? (Check all that apply)



Connected Youth Initiative (CYI) Coaching was selected as an Older Youth Service your team utilizes, please indicate which your team utilizes:



Post Secondary Education Coaching was selected as an Older Youth Service your team utilizes, please indicate which your team utilizes:



In your community, what criteria does Central Navigation use when determining to refer a young person to Connected Youth Initiative (CYI) coaching?

When the young person contacts Central Navigation and voices a need for resources (if it is for monetary resources, employment, housing, etc.), the CYI Program is explained to them to see if it is something they are interested in or not. If so, the CN will make the referral; the CNs gather information about their current situation that may be helpful for the CYI coach, but we do not look at specific criteria beside their age to determine whether or not to make a referral. Their willingness to participate is generally all that is considered.

Please describe the referral process your collaborative's Central Navigator(s) employ when referring a youth to Connected Youth Initiative (CYI) coaching.

The CN generally contacts the Central Plains Center for Services local staff to verify that they are able to serve the young person and may assist in have the CR/CYI Participant Information form is completed and submitted which is then emailed to Central Plains. If the referral can't be accepted, then services through Community Response are offered and a Family Coach can meet for several months with them to meet their needs.

Platte and Colfax Community and Family Partnership
 Summary of Participants Entering through Central Navigation

	Jul 23 - Dec 23
Number of Participants	63
Number of Children	132
<i>Gender</i>	
Male	9 (14.3%)
Female	54 (85.7%)
Other/Prefer not to say	0
<i>Race/Ethnicity</i>	
American Indian or Alaska Native	0
Asian	0
Black or African American	0
Hispanic or Latino	34 (54.0%)
Multiracial	0
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0
White	22 (34.9%)
Another Race/Ethnicity	7 (11.1%)
Prefer Not to Say	0
Not Reported/Missing	0
<i>Age</i>	
Participants ages 14-18	2 (3.2%)
Participants ages 19-26	10 (15.9%)
Participants ages 27-40	40 (63.5%)
Participants ages 41-60	10 (15.9%)
Participants 61+	1 (1.6%)
<i>Disabilities</i>	
Number of Participants with Disabilities Served	5 (7.9%)
Number of Children with Disabilities Served	13 (9.8%)
Number of Participants that Qualify for Public Assistance	40 (63.5%)

Support Service Funds Distributed in Jul 23 - Dec 23

Priority Area	Number of Requests	All Dollars	Percent of Total	Average Dollars per Request
Daily Living	8	\$ 861.12	2.5%	\$ 107.64
Education	3	\$ 375.00	1.1%	\$ 125.00
Employment				
Housing	28	\$ 15,707.54	45.9%	\$ 560.98
Mental Health	31	\$ 7,777.00	22.7%	\$ 250.87
Parenting	7	\$ 559.68	1.6%	\$ 79.95
Physical/Dental Health	1	\$ 599.00	1.8%	\$ 599.00
Transportation	19	\$ 3,823.12	11.2%	\$ 201.22
Utilities	14	\$ 3,374.48	9.9%	\$ 241.03
Other	9	\$ 1,147.33	3.4%	\$ 127.48
Total	120	\$ 34,224.27		\$ 285.20