

Platte County Juvenile Diversion Coordinator Teri Schuller announces that Platte County has been recently approved for \$118,731 in juvenile services grant funds from the Nebraska Crime Commission in order to continue Platte County's efforts of diverting "low level" juvenile offenders out of the court system. The Crime Commission funding supplements funding also received from the Platte County Board of Supervisors, the local United Way and the local YMCA's "Go Play Grant." Programing includes: (1) juvenile and parental assessments conducted by assessment specialist Vanessa Ocegüera, in order to match juvenile therapeutic needs with local community based resources; (2) providing adult supervision to juveniles as undertaken by diversion officers Teri Schuller, Santiago Vasquez, Stephanie Manzano and Kerry Lassek; The Juvenile Diversion Program services an average of 110-130 youth ages 11-18 each year; (3) community service work as supervised by Stacey Whiting; (4) educational class instruction as undertaken by Teri Schuller (i.e., the "Why Try Decision Making Class), Jennifer Alexander (i.e., the English language parenting class), Luz Colon-Rodriguez (i.e., the Social Boundaries Class), Colegrove Counseling (i.e., the Substance Abuse Awareness Class) and Santiago Vazquez (i.e., the Juvenile Justice 101 Class); (5) Columbus Public Middle School "40 Developmental Assets" program, as coordinated by Angie Kruse; (6) Lakeview Community Middle School "40 Developmental Assets" program as coordinated by Youth and Families for Christ; (7) An alternative school program as coordinated by Youth and Families for Christ; (8) Columbus Public School anti-gang "Upward Movement" program, as coordinated by Youth and Families for Christ; (8) Triumph Builder's Club, a character building program for middle school boys, as coordinated by Mariano Menendez; (9) Time For Change Coalition: anti-gang prevention and youth scholarship programs, as coordinated by Santiago Vasquez, and the Summer Parks Enrichment Program, as coordinated by Amber Furby; (10) School attendance monitoring by Vanessa Ocegüera; (11) Columbus High School mandatory study hall program, supervised by Angie Peck; (12) Community Planning by the United Way's Tammy Bichlmeier; (13) Grant funding Bookkeeping by Maxine Wessel; (13) Juvenile Mental Health System Committee/Team, coordinated by the Chief Deputy Platte County Attorney Breanna Anderson; (14) Mental Health treatment and evaluation services provided by Community Mental Health Providers; (15) Family Support services provided by Good Life Counseling and Boys Town; (16) Community Planning Committee made up of dozens of local community agencies and services providers, as coordinated by Teri Schuller. Teri Schuller wishes to recognize these people and many others supporting them, all of whom are so critically important to the continued success of Platte County's Juvenile Diversion/Services Programing. The programing has evolved during the past eighteen years. Platte County youth have had the opportunity to benefit from the available support systems that have become positive change factors assisting youth in making better choices. It is Teri's hope that the County's Diversion/Juvenile Services Programing, under the Platte County Attorney's Office, will continue to function well into the future.

Diversion picture: Standing: Kerry Lassek- Diversion Officer, Santiago Vasquez- Bilingual Diversion Officer, Breanna Anderson – Chief Deputy County Attorney , Vanessa Ocegüera – Assessment Specialist/Attendance Monitor

Sitting: Teri Schuller – Platte Valley Diversion/ Juvenile Service Administrator, Stephanie Manzano – Diversion Officer

