



## October Program

Friday, October 12, 2012

9:00—10:30 a.m.

**Green Dot—Emily Nguyen**  
**Education and Prevention Manager**  
**Women's Center for Advancement**

### “So, What’s With the Green Dot?”

The Green Dot Strategy expands beyond the typical fields of research around the issue of intimate partner violence and sexual assault and looks at: Roger’s Social Diffusion Theory, the bystander literature found in the field of psychology, and the marketing and rebranding research.

This approach views all community members as potential bystanders, and seeks to engage them, through awareness, education and skills-practice to create positive, proactive behaviors. This strategy is focused on reducing violence one moment, one green dot, at a time.

The Women’s Center for Advancement with the support of Alegent Health and Catholic Health Initiatives funding, is working in collaboration with Omaha universities to bring this program to college students. The program was officially launched this fall.

This presentation will give you the context of partner violence and sexual assault on college campuses, background on the research surrounding bystander engagement, an introduction to the strategy itself and more information on how it is being implemented in the Omaha area.

Please pre-register by visiting the following link: <http://www.nebraskacacs.com/EventDetail.aspx?ID=977>

Nebraska Children’s Home Society

4939 S. 118th Street

Omaha, NE 68136

For more information,

Please visit our website:

[www.mccomahane.org](http://www.mccomahane.org).

This program is approved for 1.5 Nebraska Social Work continuing education hours. This program meets the criteria of an approved continuing education program for Social Work, Mental Health Practice, and Marriage and Family Therapists. We encourage everyone to register for this free program.

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### **Reminder:**

**The next  
Board  
Meetings  
will be held  
Tuesday  
September 18th  
and October  
20th  
From 11:45-1:00  
at  
Project  
Harmony  
In the new  
Building!**

The school year has started and I hope everyone is adjusting to their new routines. One sign of the new school year is the MCAC Annual Conference. This year's conference was held on August 24<sup>th</sup> at Nebraska Children's Home Society in Omaha. To say that the conference was a hit would be an understatement! This year's speaker, Ryan Sallans, shared with the audience his personal journey as well as practical tips for practitioners who work with clients in the LGBTQ community. His humor, personal stories, and candid advice kept the audience engaged for the entire day.

I want to personally thank Mr. Sallans for bravely sharing his story with us, and the entire Program Committee for their efforts in organizing this event. If you did not have the opportunity to hear Mr. Sallans speak, I encourage you to pick up his memoir Second Son, and/or visit his website at [www.ryansallans.com](http://www.ryansallans.com).

As you plan for the upcoming year, please keep volunteering for MCAC in mind. We continue to look for more individuals to help with our efforts. If you would like to join a committee or learn more about volunteer opportunities check out our website at [www.mcacomahane.org](http://www.mcacomahane.org).

Molly Schnabel, LCSW

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month...The Nebraska Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Coalition has the following on their website:

## Day of Unity

## Domestic Violence Awareness Month

2011

### History

DVAM evolved from the first Day of Unity observed in October 1981 by the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV). The intent was to connect battered women's advocates across the nation who were working to end violence against women and their children. The Day of Unity soon became a special week when a range of activities was conducted at the local, state and national levels.

These activities were as varied and diverse as the program sponsors but had a common theme:

- mourning those who died as a result of domestic violence
- honoring those who have survived domestic violence
- connecting those who work to end domestic violence

In October 1987, the first national Domestic Violence Awareness Month was held. In conjunction, that same year the first national toll-free hotline was begun. In 1989, Congress passed the first DVAM commemorative legislation. Such legislation has been passed every year since 1989. The Day of Unity is now celebrated the first Monday in October.



Project Harmony has expanded! With the completion of the building addition, Project Harmony has doubled in size, allowing for the expansion of services and partnerships. A new partner - Lutheran Family Services – has moved into Project Harmony. Therapists who work with the RSAFE program will serve children and family members affected by child sexual abuse, providing individual, family, and group therapy.

## **Case Coordination**

With the passing of LB 993, the Nebraska Unicameral enhanced utilization of child advocacy centers across the state, providing for team review of non-court involved cases. In order to meet this need, Project Harmony added case coordinators to our staff.

Jackie Simmons was promoted to Lead Case Coordinator. Formerly the only case coordinator to facilitate the multi-disciplinary teams (LB 1184) in the metro area, Jackie now serves as a resource to and provides leadership to the case coordinators. Jackie will continue to facilitate the treatment teams in Douglas and Sarpy Counties.

Carrie Strovers was promoted to a full-time position. Originally hired as RSAFE 10-14 Case Coordinator, Carrie now facilitates the non-court involved team that meets weekly. Carrie holds a J.D. and formerly worked in the Douglas County Attorney Office – Juvenile Division.

Mindee Rolles, LCSW is a new Forensic Interviewer/Case Coordinator. Mindee comes to Project Harmony from Children's Hospital & Medical Center where she worked as a medical social worker. Mindee conducts forensic interviews and serves as Case Coordinator for the Pottawattamie County Multi-Disciplinary Team.

Sara Hulac is the newest member of the case coordination team. A former Assistant County Attorney in the Douglas County Attorney's Office, Sara will facilitate the Douglas and Sarpy investigative teams as well as the Delinquency/Status Offense team.

## **Training & Research**

Due to the demand for child abuse and neglect training and the generosity of the Omaha community, training services also have expanded. Four conference rooms and a mock “apartment” to facilitate child abuse investigation training are now available at Project Harmony. Joining Mandy Busch and Deb Anderson are:

Dan McGinn is an Assistant County Attorney for Pottawattamie County, Iowa. Working part time at Project Harmony, Dan develops and delivers legal training in the Omaha metro and southwest Iowa and will also assist with case coordination in southwest Iowa.

Kristina Haynie was hired as our Research and Information Specialist. Kristina is an MSW/MPA graduate from UNO. She will coordinate outcome research with university partners as well as internal quality assurance projects.

Nick Zadina is a full-time Community Liaison Training Specialist. Nick will develop and conduct training at schools, churches, and other community agencies and with a background in theater, he will develop scenario-based training in the mock apartment. Nick's past experience includes the Boys Town Hotline where he worked as a Senior Counselor and Artistic Director at R.E.S.P.E.C.T., a non-profit agency that develops programming about bullying, violence, and abuse for children and youth.

To support the Training and Coordination staff, Shirley Gonsier was hired to be the Administrative Assistant. With past administrative experience at Boys Town, Shirley comes with a wealth of experience and knowledge to assist Project Harmony.

Finally, Deb Anderson, MSW, PhD is now managing training and coordination services at Project Harmony, providing leadership and supervision to the case coordinators, trainers, and support staff.

# Program Spotlight

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## Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI)

The Annie E. Casey Foundation's Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) is a nationally renowned reform process that effectively: lowers detention populations, enhances public safety, saves tax payer money, reduces the overrepresentation of minority youth, and introduces other overall juvenile justice system improvements. JDAI uses 8 Core Strategies to accomplish these improvements:

1. Collaboration between major juvenile justice agencies, governmental entities, and community organizations.
2. Use of accurate data to diagnose the system's problems and identify real solutions.
3. Objective admissions criteria and instruments to replace subjective decisions that inappropriately place children in custody.
4. Alternatives to detention to increase the options available for arrested youth.
5. Case processing reforms to speed up the flow of cases so that youth don't languish in detention.
6. Reducing the use of secure confinement for special cases like technical probation violations and status offenders.
7. Deliberate commitment to reducing racial disparities by eliminating biases and ensuring a level playing field.
8. Improving conditions of confinement through routine inspections of local detention centers.

In February 2011, Douglas County officially launched as the first Nebraska jurisdiction to embark on what is a statewide reform initiative. Sarpy County recently launched as a JDAI site in February 2012 and a Statewide Coordinator has been hired to facilitate expansion efforts across Nebraska.

Douglas County sought out this particular reform initiative to address its over-reliance on secure detention and to reduce the over-representation of minorities in the juvenile justice system. According to most recent data, minority youth in Douglas County are 2.5 times more likely to be arrested, nearly 2 times more likely to be detained and almost 3 times more likely to be confined in secure juvenile facilities, than their white counterparts.

Juvenile Court Judge Vernon Daniels and former Chief of Police and current CEO of the Urban League of Nebraska, Tom Warren, are co-chairing this reform initiative. Kimberly Thomas is facilitating the day-to-day activities. Feel free to contact Kimberly Thomas at 402-444-1700 or [Kimberly.Thomas@douglascounty-ne.gov](mailto:Kimberly.Thomas@douglascounty-ne.gov).

Are you looking for something meaningful to volunteer with? We have many opportunities for you to volunteer with our coalition. Look on our website to view our different committees. We are always looking to expand our level of knowledge and experience!

[www.mcaomahane.org](http://www.mcaomahane.org)

# Program Spotlight

## Crossover Youth Practice Model (CYPM)

Based on this cumulative and growing body of knowledge, the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform (CJJR) has developed a practice model that describes the specific practices that need to be in place within a jurisdiction in order to reduce the number of youth who crossover between the child welfare and juvenile justice systems, the number of youth entering and reentering care, and the length of stay in out of home care. The Practice Model for Crossover Youth will infuse into this work values and standards; evidence-based practices, policies and procedures; and quality assurance processes. It will provide a template for how states can immediately impact how they serve crossover youth and rapidly impact outcomes.

Douglas County was named a CYPM site in January 2012. Juvenile Court Judge Doug Johnson and Boys Town Sr. Director of Business Development, Nick Juliano, Co-Chair the Initiative. Kimberly Thomas is facilitating the day-to-day activities. Although Douglas County was named a CYPM site, it is the highly collaborative nature of the initiative that will be the crux of its success. The Department of Health and Human Services, State Probation and Douglas County juvenile justice stakeholders have all agreed to model this promising practice that ensures youth, that meet our current target population, will have their cases “staffed” within 72 hours of referral, to the Juvenile County Attorney, to make a recommendation on whether the case should be diverted from the juvenile justice system entirely, placed into a coordinated child welfare and juvenile diversion program, or filed in juvenile court and have required child welfare and juvenile justice coordinated case planning. The goal of the practice model is to divert youth from the delinquency system by enhancing and providing timely services that can decrease their risk of being involved in juvenile justice. Families and youth are involved at every point in the decision making process. For more information, feel free to contact Kimberly Thomas at 402-444-1700 or [Kimberly.Thomas@douglascounty-ne.gov](mailto:Kimberly.Thomas@douglascounty-ne.gov).

The CYPM Subcommittee meets the last Tuesday of the month (12-1p.m.) in the Jesse Lowe Conference room, Third Floor, Civic Center. All meetings are open to the public and we welcome your input.

### **Population Served (if not included in description):**

The Crossover Youth Practice Model will “staff” any youth that is referred to the Juvenile County Attorney’s Officer for a status or delinquency referral and has a current/active Child Welfare case, as the victim (either voluntary or court involved), or their case has been closed within the last 12 months.

Location and contact information:

Name (if applicable) \_\_ Kimberly Thomas \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_ 1819 Farnam, LC-2, Omaha, Ne 68183 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_ 402-444-1700 \_\_\_\_\_

Fax Number \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_ Kimberly.Thomas@Douglascounty-ne.gov \_\_\_\_\_

Web: <http://cjjr.georgetown.edu/pm/practicemodel.html>

National Children's Alliance &  
Midwest Region Child Advocacy Center  
2012 Education Video-Conferences  
Viewed from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. at  
Project Harmony  
11949 Q St  
Omaha, NE 68137

(To view from your office computer, contact Deb Anderson :danderson@projectharmony.com or Mandy Busch: mbusch@projectharmony.com for assistance.)

**September 13** How could a Mother? Analysis of 55 Cases of Maternal Neonaticide

To register: <http://www.nebraskacacs.com/EventDetail.aspx?ID=732>

**September 20 (Webinar-2:00 p.m.)** Parental Alienation

To register: <http://www.nebraskacacs.com/EventDetail.aspx?ID=867>

**September 25 (Webinar-3:00 p.m.)** When Babies Cry... Preventing Shaken Baby Syndrome by Educating Caregivers about Crying

To register: <http://www.nebraskacacs.com/EventDetail.aspx?ID=871>

**September 27** Current Trends in Child Abuse

To register: <http://www.nebraskacacs.com/EventDetail.aspx?ID=733>

According to What Health.com, The United States recognizes the following:

**September:**

Muscular Dystrophy Month  
National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month  
National Suicide Prevention Week ( 9/10-9/16/12)  
Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Awareness Day is Sunday, September 9<sup>th</sup>

**October:**

Down Syndrome Awareness Month  
SIDS Awareness Month  
Breast Cancer Awareness Month  
National Depression Screening Day is Thursday, October 4th  
Mental Illness Awareness Week October 7<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>

**Therapists:** *If you would like to increase your referrals, make sure to complete the Therapy Resource List Information Form. You will be included on the MCAC therapist list that is available to all MCAC members. This listing is absolutely free with your paid membership.*

- 9/05/12 Darkness to Light/Stewards of Children  
9 – 12, 3 credit hours.  
Project Harmony, see [www.nebraskacacs.com](http://www.nebraskacacs.com) for registration information.
- 9/11/2012 Medical Aspects of Child Abuse and Neglect, Dr. Suzanne Haney, M.D.  
9-12, 3 credit hours.  
Project Harmony, see [www.nebraskacacs.com](http://www.nebraskacacs.com) for registration information.
- 9/12-14/2012 Nebraska Alliance of Child Advocacy Centers Presents:  
9<sup>th</sup> Annual Protect Our Children Conference
- 9/13/2012 How Could a Mother? Analysis of 55 cases of Maternal Neonatacide  
1-3 PM, 2 credit hours  
Project Harmony, see [www.nebraskacacs.com](http://www.nebraskacacs.com) for registration information.
- 9/13-14/2012 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Children’s Cove Conference on Child Sexual Abuse  
Hyannis, MA, see [www.nebraskacacs.com](http://www.nebraskacacs.com) for registration information.
- 9/19/2012 Child Abuse and Neglect 101: Reporting and Responding to Child Abuse and Neglect  
9-12, 3 credit hours  
Project Harmony, see [www.nebraskacacs.com](http://www.nebraskacacs.com) for registration information.
- 9/20/2012 Current Trends in Child Abuse.  
1-3, 2 credit hours.  
Project Harmony, see [www.nebraskacacs.com](http://www.nebraskacacs.com) for registration information.
- 10/2/2012 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Safe at Home Conference  
Niagara Falls, NY, see [www.nebraskacacs.com](http://www.nebraskacacs.com) for registration information.
- 10/8-12/2012 Child Sexual Abuse Forensic Interview Training  
Minneapolis, MN, see [www.nebraskacacs.com](http://www.nebraskacacs.com) for registration information.
- 10/9/2012 Medical Aspects of Child Abuse and Neglect  
9am – 12pm. 3 credit hours.  
Project Harmony, see [www.nebraskacacs.com](http://www.nebraskacacs.com) for registration information.
- 10/11/2012 Medical Aspects of Child Abuse and Neglect  
12-1pm, 1 credit hour  
Southwestern Community College, see [www.nebraskacacs.com](http://www.nebraskacacs.com) for registration information.
- 10/29-31/2012 National Institute for SART Team Leaders  
St. Paul, MN, see [www.nebraskacacs.com](http://www.nebraskacacs.com) for registration information.
- 10/30/2012 Child Abuse and Neglect 201: Collaboration in Child Abuse Investigations  
8am – 12pm, 4 credit hours.  
Project Harmony, see [www.nebraskacacs.com](http://www.nebraskacacs.com) for registration information.

## Therapy Resource List Information Form

A benefit of being a member of MCAC is the Therapy Resource List. This is a published list that contains the names and contact information for therapists in the community who are also MCAC members. This list is distributed to community professionals to use as a resource guide. If you are currently an MCAC member and would like to have your information published in the Therapy Resource List, please fill out the form and return to the contact below.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Specialization: \_\_\_\_\_

Psychiatric Consult: \_\_\_\_\_

Fee: \_\_\_\_\_ Hours: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send the above information to:  
[penny@hopefulheartscounseling.com](mailto:penny@hopefulheartscounseling.com)

Or mail to: Penny Cavender MS LMHP 2211 Peoples Rd. Ste F Bellevue, Ne 68005

[www.mcacomahane.org](http://www.mcacomahane.org)

We're on the Web!

Metropolitan Child Advocacy Coalition  
PO Box 6646, Elmwood Station  
Omaha, NE 68106

