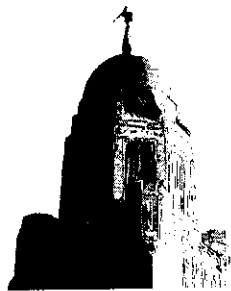


JULIE L. ROGERS
Inspector General



STATE OF NEBRASKA
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July 14, 2017

Ellen Fabian Brokofsky
Probation Administrator
1445 K Street, State Capitol Room #1209
Lincoln, NE 68508

Dear Ms. Brokofsky:

The Office of Inspector General of Nebraska Child Welfare (OIG) is in the process of compiling its Annual Report for state fiscal year 2016-2017. Neb. Rev. Stat. § 43-4331 requires the OIG, in our annual report, to detail recommendations made in investigative reports and their implementation status.

Over the past two fiscal years, the OIG has made 13 recommendations to the Administrative Office of Probation (Probation) in investigative reports:

- I. Adopt training and policy on supervising youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- II. Adopt policy on child welfare referrals and joint case management.
- III. Adopt policy on documentation and record keeping.
- IV. Increase internal quality assurance efforts at the state level.
- V. Adopt statewide policy or protocol on what a probation officer's role is between assigning an alternative to detention and a court hearing.
- VI. Create policy that specifies what restrictions are not appropriate for use as an alternative to detention.
- VII. Implement guidelines on when it is appropriate to use specific types of alternatives to detention.
- VIII. Require a simple mental health screening during intake interviews and select a uniform tool for officers to use.
- IX. Adopt policy requiring officers to make and document mental health referrals if an intake interview suggests that the youth has mental health needs.

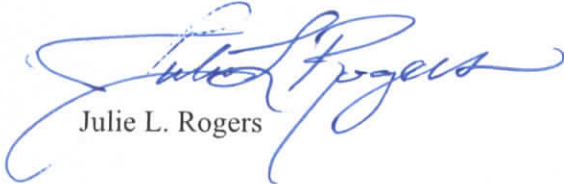
- X. Create an acknowledgment form for youth and parents after an alternative to detention is implemented that contains information on their rights and responsibilities.
- XI. Improve communication protocols between Probation and alternative to detention providers to ensure that key information on youth is appropriately passed on.
- XII. Collect and publish data on the length of time between alternatives to detention being assigned and a court hearing taking place.
- XIII. Assess whether changes to Nebraska law are necessary to clarify Probation's role in monitoring alternatives to detention.

Although Probation has not formally accepted these recommendations, the OIG is committed to providing updates on all of the improvements you have made in these areas.

To that end, we are requesting that the OIG is provided with information on what action, if any, Probation has taken on these recommendations no later than Friday, August 11.

Please do not hesitate to let me know if you have any questions or concerns. I look forward to highlighting the progress Probation is making in better serving the youth, families, and taxpayers of Nebraska in our annual report.

Respectfully,



Julie L. Rogers