



POLICY TALK

The Latest in Public Policy
Center News and Events

JULY 2021

Featured News



PPC and Partners Create Suicide Loss Cards for First Responders and Survivors

In the aftermath of a suicide, those responding to the scene—loved ones and first responders—need care and information. **Quinn Lewandowski**, a senior research specialist at the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center, and Don Belau, the clinical director for the Lincoln/Lancaster County LOSS team, worked with first responders and the Nebraska Critical Incident Stress Management Program at Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services to create pocket-sized cards for first responders and families navigating suicide loss.

Read the story in Nebraska Today or see news coverage on **NTV News** and **KLKN-TV Lincoln**. See **Quinn's**

Events

THE PPC IS HIRING!



The University of Nebraska Public Policy Center is now hiring a research coordinator, a research specialist, and a post-doctoral research fellow to assist with current and future funded projects. Accepted applicants will join a diverse, interdisciplinary research team within the PPC that engages in a variety of research and consultation activities involving private and public sector partners. Interested applicants should apply for the research coordinator position on or before **July 26** ([apply here](#)), the research specialist position on or before **July 30** ([apply here](#)), and the post-doctoral position on or before **September 30** ([apply here](#)).

Note: Positions will remain open until filled, so interested applicants can apply as long as the post is active.



Nebraska Strong Recovery Project Receives Six-Month Extension for Outreach Efforts

Nebraska Today featured an article highlighting the one-year anniversary of the **Nebraska Strong: Recovery Project** and the six-month extension the project received to continue to provide crisis counseling and outreach to Nebraskans impacted by COVID-19. The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services collaborates with the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center, the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, and the state's six behavioral health regions on the project. The Public Policy Center has taken on a prominent role in training Nebraska Strong staff, evaluating the impact of the program, and providing technical assistance for all the project partners.

[Read the story in Nebraska Today.](#)

LANGUAGE MATTERS



Stigma plays a crucial role in recovery from mental health and substance use disorders. Language Matters with **Dr. Kate Speck** provides a review and refinement of language used now and offers an alternative way of thinking.

[Learn More](#)

– August 3, 2021

Language Matters for professionals in psychology, behavioral health, social work, substance use, peer support, and criminal justice

Register Today

– August 17, 2021

Language Matters: Lunch and Learn for consumers, families, and the public

Register Today

Spotlight of the Month



19th Annual Great Plains Disaster Behavioral Health Conference Was a Success!

Thank you to everyone who participated in the **19th Annual Great Plains Disaster Behavioral Health Conference** this month. We had over 200 participants each day! We would especially like to thank all our wonderful speakers for their engaging presentations on building resilience. Sheri Dawson, Director of the Division of Behavioral Health in the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) provided our conference welcome. Featured speakers included Dawn Webb, Texas Nurses Association; Dr. Anita Chandra, RAND Corporation; Dr. Stephanie F. Dailey, George Mason University; and Dr. Jean LaFauci Schutt, LaFauci Counselor Consulting.

Chris Schroeder of Nebraska Emergency Management Agency moderated our community and organizational resilience panel, which included: Mikayla Johnson of Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, Jessica Davies of Panhandle Public Health District, Eric Evans of Missouri Department of Mental Health, Jim Davidsaver of Lincoln-Lancaster County Emergency Management, and Dr. Tom Cardwell of the American Red Cross.

We want to thank our partners who helped make this conference possible: Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, Nebraska Extension, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Counseling and Psychological Services, Nebraska Medicine, Bryan Health, and Omaha Metropolitan Healthcare Coalition.

Center News

Highlighting the Importance of Question, Persuade, Refer Training in Long-term Care Facilities

Senior research specialist **Quinn Lewandowski** appeared on the Aging Partners "Live & Learn" segment to talk about Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) training in long-term care facilities around the state. [See the interview.](#)

Center Resumes Regular Hours of Operation in July

As of July 6, the Public Policy Center is officially open to the public. We have resumed our regular business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.,

Monday through Friday.

Great Plains Association of Threat Assessment Professionals In-Person and Virtual Conference in October

The 2021 Great Plains Association of Threat Assessment Professionals Conference is October 7 & 8. This year's theme is Multidisciplinary Threat Assessment Teams: Stability in Crisis. You can attend in person or online. [Learn More](#) about the conference or [Register Today](#).

Honorable Mentions

- **Dr. Adam Houston, Dr. Janell Walther, and Dr. Lisa PytlikZillig**'s article "National Weather Service Data Needs for Short-Term Forecasts and the Role of Unmanned Aircraft in Filling the Gap: Results from a Nationwide Survey" has been accepted for publication in the *Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society*. Dr. Houston is a professor in the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Drs. Walther and PytlikZillig are senior research managers at the Public Policy Center.

Community Resources

Nebraska Youth Suicide Prevention

Nebraska Youth Suicide Prevention is working to decrease the suicide rate among young people by sharing resources on their website for people currently dealing with anxiety and worry. During difficult or challenging times, mental health is especially important.



Visit Our Website

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 1-800-273-8255

Free 24/7 confidential support for people in distress, prevention, and crisis resources for you or your loved ones, and best practices for professionals.

Nebraska Strong Recovery Project

The **Nebraska Strong Recovery Project** is working to help those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic by sharing resources on the Nebraska Strong website, Facebook, and Twitter. The hotlines provide free and confidential support for all Nebraskans

Rural Response Hotline 1-800-464-0258 (M-F from 8AM-5PM)

Nebraska Family

experiencing difficulty during the events surrounding COVID-19.



**Visit Our
Website**

Helpline
1-888-866-8660
Free 24/7 confidential support for all Nebraskans.

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