



POLICY TALK

The Latest in Public Policy
Center News and Events

JUNE 2021

Featured News



Nebraska Strong Recovery Project Marks One Year of Crisis Counseling Outreach

Nebraska Strong Recovery Project crisis counselors have been working in every region of the state to provide outreach and resources to communities impacted by COVID-19. The project has recently been approved for an additional six months of outreach. The Public Policy Center provides training, evaluation, and technical assistance to Nebraska Strong partners. We recently released a new video highlighting Nebraska Strong's efforts around the state over the past year. [Watch the video](#)

Events

July 22 – 23, 2021

Great Plains Disaster Behavioral Health Conference



This year's conference, *Building Resilience*, focuses on skills and techniques related to individual, organizational, and community levels of resilience. Join us for this FREE virtual conference.

[Learn More](#)

Register
Today

October 7 – 8, 2021



Great Plains
CHAPTER

Congratulating Diane Kennedy on Her Upcoming Retirement

Help us wish Diane Kennedy a happy retirement! For nearly four years, Diane has been the PPC's administrative team lead and executive assistant. She will be missed, but we wish her the best with this new adventure! [Read More](#)

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](#)



Nebraska Psychological First Aid Training of Trainers Expands Reach

The Nebraska Psychological First Aid Training of Trainers (TOT) was piloted on June 17, 2021, with 13 participants from Nebraska and Missouri. Dr. Kate Speck unveiled newly developed curriculum which can be taught from any virtual platform and aims to assist in providing timely training to Nebraska disaster behavioral health responders.

[Learn more about Psych First Aid](#)

Spotlight of the Month

PPC Conducting Research on Leadership in Army Enlisted Soldiers

The University of Nebraska Public Policy Center (PPC) is working with the U.S. Army



Research Institute (ARI) to identify factors impacting the development of leadership identity in enlisted Army personnel. Dr. Mario Scalora and Dr. Denise Bulling will be working with Dr. L.J. McElravy, associate dean of Graduate Studies and associate professor in the Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communication at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. [Learn more](#)

Center News

Center Resumes Regular Hours of Operation on July 6

As of July 6, the Public Policy Center will be **officially re-opening** to the public. We will resume our regular business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Rosa Viñas-Racionero Leaves Lasting Impact on Center

Rosa Viñas-Racionero, a senior research specialist at the PPC, will be finishing her tenure at the PPC in July. Dr. Viñas-Racionero is returning to Spain where she will continue to work as a forensic psychologist and engage in targeted violence research.

Khadijah Davis To Attend Graduate School at Johns Hopkins

Khadijah Davis, a research coordinator at the PPC, has been accepted into the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Khadijah plans to enter the Master of Science in Public Health program in Health Policy this fall.

Honorable Mentions

- **Dr. Denise Bulling** has a new article discussing "Needs Assessment in the Crisis Counseling Program" in *The Dialogue*, a quarterly newsletter focused on disaster behavioral health. [Read Publication](#)
- **Dr. Lisa PytlikZillig** presented at the annual conference of the National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts on May 25.
- Undergraduate Research Assistant **Zachary Cheek** has been awarded a Don Lavoie Fellowship from the Mercatus Center at George Mason University for the 2021-22 academic year.
- Congratulations to the following undergraduate research assistants on making the Dean's List: **Cole Shardelow**, College of Arts and Sciences, philosophy; **Zack Cheek**, Hixson-Lied College of Fine and Performing Arts, music; and **Maria Faye Kohel**,

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](#)

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 experiencing difficulty during the events surrounding COVID-19.



[Visit Our Website](#)

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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.

Rural Response Hotline

1-800-464-0258

(M-F from 8AM-5PM)

Nebraska Family Helpline

1-888-866-8660

Free 24/7 confidential support for all Nebraskans.

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