

June 2023

UNIVERSITY OF
Nebraska | PUBLIC POLICY
CENTER



POLICYTALK

The Latest in Public Policy
Center News and Events

Featured News

2023 Nebraska Disaster Behavioral Health Training to Focus on Psychological First Aid for Schools

2023

NEBRASKA

DISASTER BEHAVIORAL
HEALTH TRAINING

July 27, 2023

9:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.



SAVE THE DATE

The **2023 Nebraska Disaster Behavioral Health Training** is planned for July 27. The featured speaker, Sally Carlson, has an MA and Educational Specialist degree. The free virtual event will provide an overview of Psychological First Aid for Schools. The training is for all behavioral health providers and mental health professionals, psychologists, nurses, emergency managers, disaster responders, public health officials, clergy, and school staff. This event has been approved for 1.25 continuing education credits for psychologists and is sponsored by the Department of Health and Human Services and the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center. **Learn More.**

**Register
Today**

Center Highlight

Center Offers Free Online Course on Building Suicide Safe Schools

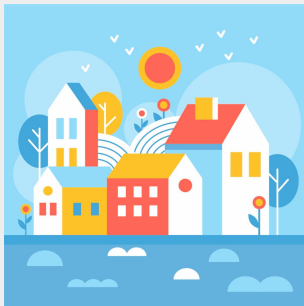


The Public Policy Center, in partnership with the Nebraska Department of Education, sponsors free online suicide safe schools training available to all Nebraska educators. To date, this online course is continuing through 2023 and has resulted in more than 30,000 educators and staff completing the training in

school districts throughout Nebraska since 2020.

[Learn More.](#)

Strong Neighborhoods Grants Program to Support Neighborhood-Based Programs Across Lincoln



Civic Nebraska and members of the Community Builder Coalition announced \$25K in Strong Neighborhoods Grants to support neighborhood-based, resident-led programs and projects across Lincoln. The coalition includes Civic Nebraska, Collective Impact Lincoln, Lincoln Community Learning Centers, Lincoln Parks and Recreation's F Street Community Center, Lincoln Community Foundation, Lincoln Public Schools, Lutheran Family Services, Nebraska Appleseed, NeighborWorks Lincoln, and the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center.

[Learn More.](#)

Events

Great Plains Association of Threat Assessment Professionals Training Event



Great Plains
CHAPTER

SAVE THE DATE!

The 2023 Great Plains Association of Threat Assessment Professionals training event is for threat assessment professionals in law enforcement, schools, corporate security or human resources, and behavioral health professionals. More details coming soon!

Presented by the Association of Threat Assessment Professionals Great Plains Chapter.

Center News

Help us Welcome Our Newest Team Members:

The Center has welcomed several new members to our staff.



Brian Hanson joined our research team as a senior research specialist. Brian brings experience as a teacher and scholar of political science and public policy. His areas of interest include the politics and policy of the rural United States.



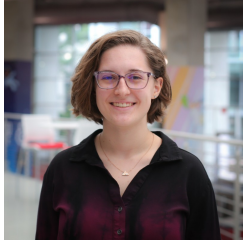
Madison Vanek joined the team as an administrative support associate in 2023. She earned her bachelor's degree in Political Science with a focus in International Relations and Public Policy from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Her interests include psychology and political science.



McKenna Schneider joined the Center as a Training & Outreach Specialist. She earned a BA from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in English and Communication Studies. She is pursuing her MA in Applied Behavior Analysis and is compelled by the idea of using evidence-based practices to improve the lives and wellbeing of others.



Nyomi Thompson joined our research team as a senior research specialist. Nyomi received her BSW from The Ohio State University, and her MSW and MS in Social Policy at the University of Pennsylvania. Her areas of interest are health policy, suicide prevention, and community engagement and empowerment.



Madeleine Grimm joined our research team as a research coordinator. A recent graduate of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, she earned her BSBA degree with a focus on Economics. She was previously an undergraduate research assistant for the UNL Economics Department.

Student Spotlight



This month we welcome Meklit Aga as a new undergraduate research assistant. Meklit was a member of our most recent class of Policy Scholars and is majoring in psychology and neuroscience at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Her interests include the role of public policy in various medical practices and its effects on different communities.

Honorable Mentions

- **Dr. Mario Scalora** led threat management and violence prevention training in Lincoln, Nebraska. The training involved over 80 educational and behavioral health professionals related to school safety as part of a grant/partnership with Lincoln Public Schools Safety and Security.
- **Dr. Mario Scalora** and **Dr. Denise Bulling** led threat assessment trainings in Columbus, Nebraska and Milford, Nebraska. The trainings took place in ESU 7 and involved more than 120 educational and law enforcement professionals as part of our continuing collaboration with the Education Service Units coordinating council.
- **Dr. Denise Bulling** attended the 2023 MCIR Summit Nebraska Iowa Region American Red Cross training. The training included a mass casualty simulation and family assistance center exercise.
- Congratulations to our undergraduate research assistant, **Claire Jumper**, and our undergraduate copy editor, **Ruth Bailey** for making it onto the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Dean's List for the spring semester!

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

**National Suicide
Prevention Lifeline
Call or Text 988**

dealing with anxiety and worry. During difficult or challenging times, mental health is especially important.



**Visit Our
Website**

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 Family Helpline

1-888-866-8660

Free 24/7 confidential support for all Nebraskans.

Rural Response Hotline

1-800-464-0258

(M-F from 8AM-5PM)

University of Nebraska Public Policy Center

215 Centennial Mall South, Suite 401
Lincoln, NE 68588
402.472.5678 | ppc.unl.edu

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Public Policy Center | 215 Centennial Mall South, Suite 401, Lincoln, NE 68508

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