

Lead the Change You Want to See: Turning Ideas into Practice

UNO Juvenile Justice Certificate 2023-24 Cohort
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Purpose

The program is designed to enhance participants' knowledge of “what works” and develop skills that can be applied directly with the youth they serve. The learning environment creates safe space for professional development by engaging in critical dialogue, self-reflection, skill demonstration, and exposure to experiential learning opportunities.



Goals of the JJ Certificate Program

The certificate program aims to impact Nebraska's juvenile justice workforce by:

1. Developing the capacity of current and future juvenile justice professionals to implement best practices in their organizations and Nebraska's Juvenile Justice System.
2. Equipping future juvenile justice leaders with the knowledge to lead Nebraska in an evidence-based manner.
3. Growing a statewide network of juvenile justice professionals who act as a resource and support to each other and their communities.





Capstone Project Requirements

To successfully complete the Juvenile Justice Certificate Program, each participant must complete a capstone project. The project chosen must:

- (1) demonstrate juvenile justice knowledge learned and
- (2) apply that learning to benefit your organization/community.

Participants should utilize implementation science concepts to assist in successful completion of their project.

Implementation Science

- Implementation science is the scientific study of methods and strategies that facilitate the uptake of evidence-based practice and research into regular use by practitioners and policymaker

~ From Implementation Science at University of Washington

- Implementation science refers to the “methods or techniques used to enhance the adoption, implementation, and sustainability” of a program or practice (Eccles & Mittman, 2006).

~ From the National Implementation Research Network (NIRN)

Implementation Science

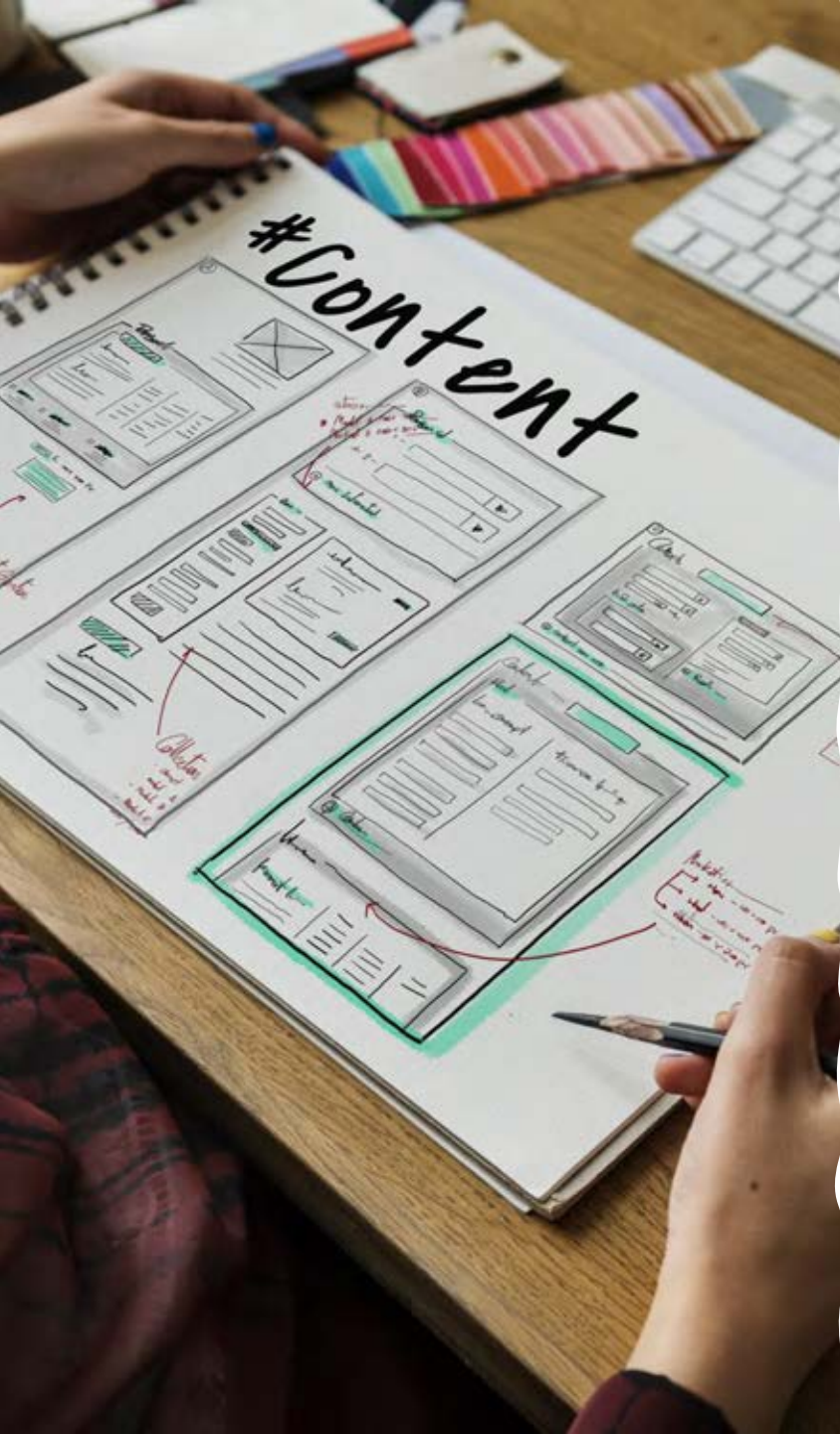
Core Capacity Areas

- Co-Creation/Partnership
- Leadership/Teams
- Getting and Using Data
- Workforce
Development/Systems

Implementation Stages

- Exploration
- Installation
- Initial Implementation
- Full Implementation





Implementing Diversion Risk Assessment Tool

Verla Little

Project Overview

- Historical Information
- Challenges
- Proposed Screening Tool
- Implementation
- Conclusion and Questions



NORTHERN HILLS
DIVERSION

History

Diversion in Lawrence
County, Meade County,
Butte County



Challenges





Diversion in Three South Dakota Counties

- Diversion:
 - Truancy Court
 - Teen Court
 - Case Management
- What does completion and success look like for juveniles?
- How do juveniles become involved in Diversion?
- Community partner involvement.

Proposed Screening Tool

- What is a screening tool?
- Dr Hamilton and WA State Screening Tool
- Lancaster County, NE Screening Tool Data Driven Since 2018
- Nebraska Youth Screen (NYS)



Implementation



LAWRENCE COUNTY



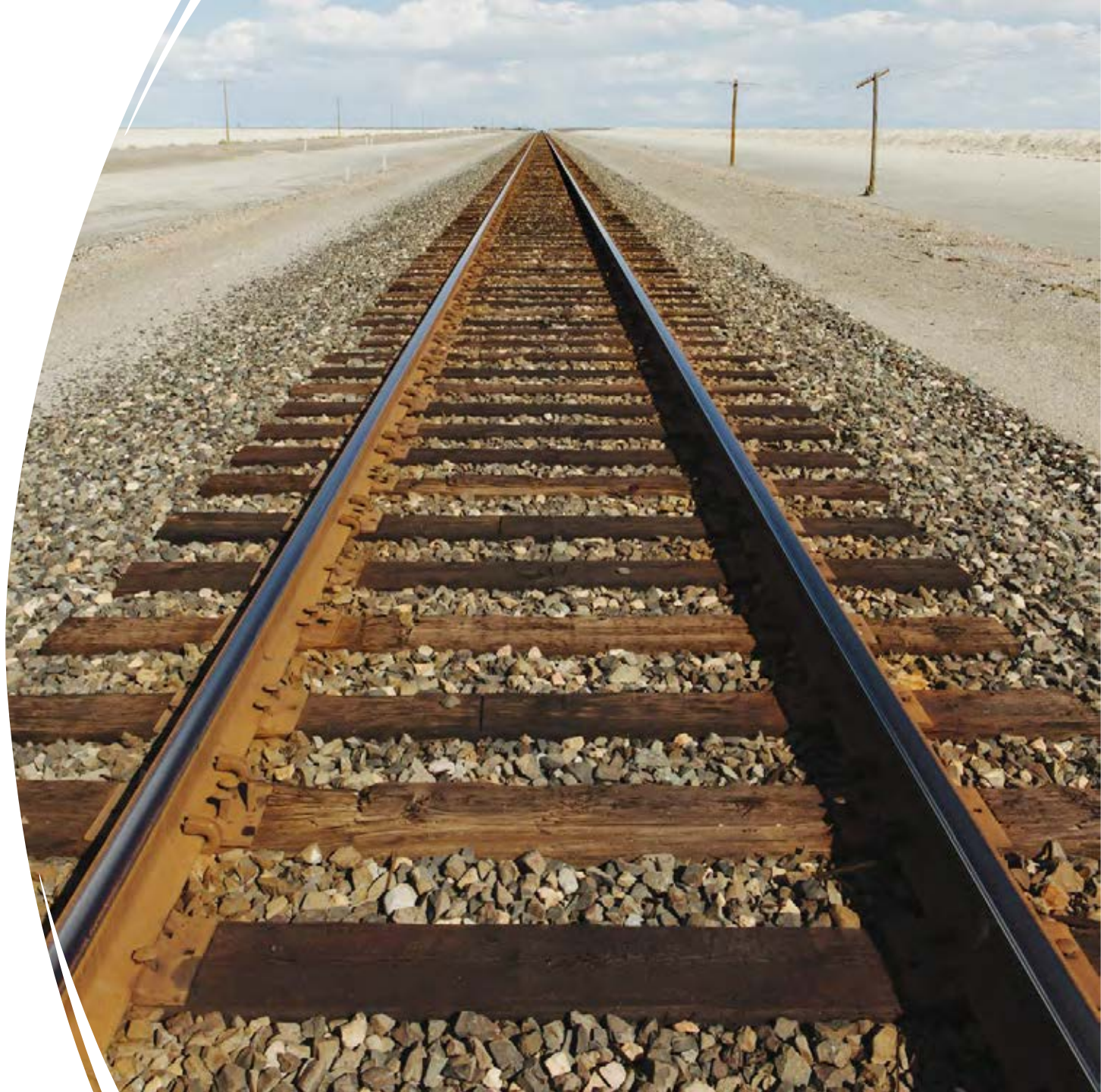
MEADE COUNTY



BUTTE COUNTY

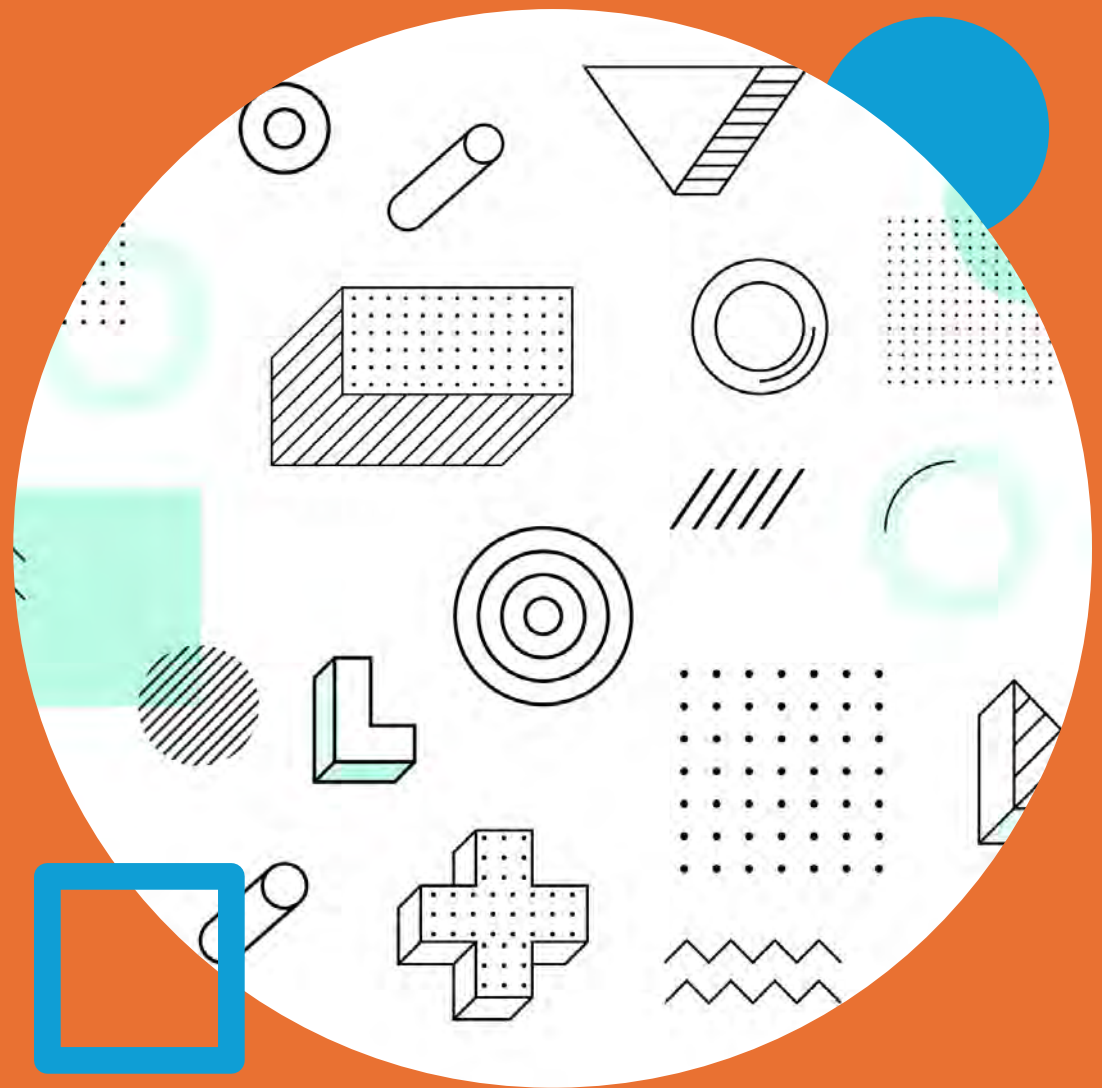
Next Steps

- Implementation of a screening tool
 - Struggles and objections
 - Pilot in Lawrence County
 - Support from the Deputy State's Attorney
 - Support from Juvenile Probation Officers
 - Number of historical referrals
 - Original and first Teen Court in SD



Designing Services for Pregnant and Parenting Mothers

Latasha Ellis



Community Youth Coaching (CYC)

- Is a **youth-guided**, family driven service that provides an innovative, individualized **alternative to detention, strengthening community safety** and appearance in court through **intensive relationship building, skill building** and **positive youth development**.

(supremecourt.nebraska.gov)



Project Overview

- . Providing pregnant juvenile justice involved youth with comprehensive information and access to necessary resources to support their well-being during this important time.





Vision for Connected Services and Supports

- Education and Information
- Access to Health Care
- Connection to Support Services
- Supplies and Essentials
- Parenting Classes and Workshops
- Emotional Support
- Follow up/Continuity of Care

Connecting the dots

- By focusing on these areas, we can help ensure that pregnant youth have the information, resources, and support they need to have a healthy pregnancy and prepare for the arrival of their baby.
- Helping them navigate these systems of support can make a meaningful difference in their lives and contribute to positive outcomes for both the youth and their children.





Project Goal and Proposed Outcome

The goal of the program is to reduce recidivism rates. We want to pull and keep these young ladies out of the system.

My outcome for this program, is to promote positive results among pregnant and parenting teens on juvenile probation in Omaha, Nebraska, through the implementation of comprehensive wraparound support services.

Project Objectives

1

Reduce the recidivism rate among participants by 25% compared to the baseline rate observed at the start of the program.

2

Increase utilization of support services by 50%.

3

Improve maternal and child wellbeing.

Data

- According to Youth Emergency Services: There are approximately 10-15 of pregnant girls in the Juvenile Justice System in Omaha, NE at any given time.
- Demographics:
 - Approximately half are 17-18 years old
 - Over half are youth of color
 - Over half have dropped out or are not enrolled in school
 - Nearly 70% are from low-income households
 - Most are system involved for non-violent offenses

Lessons Learned

Importance of tailored support services

Taking a holistic approach to addressing participants' needs

Fostering collaboration and partnerships with community organizations.

Next Steps

- Work with agency leadership and community partners on full implementation.
- Collect data for project evaluation.
- Develop sustainability plan.





Raising Awareness of Restorative Justice

Maeve Hemmer



Identifying My Project

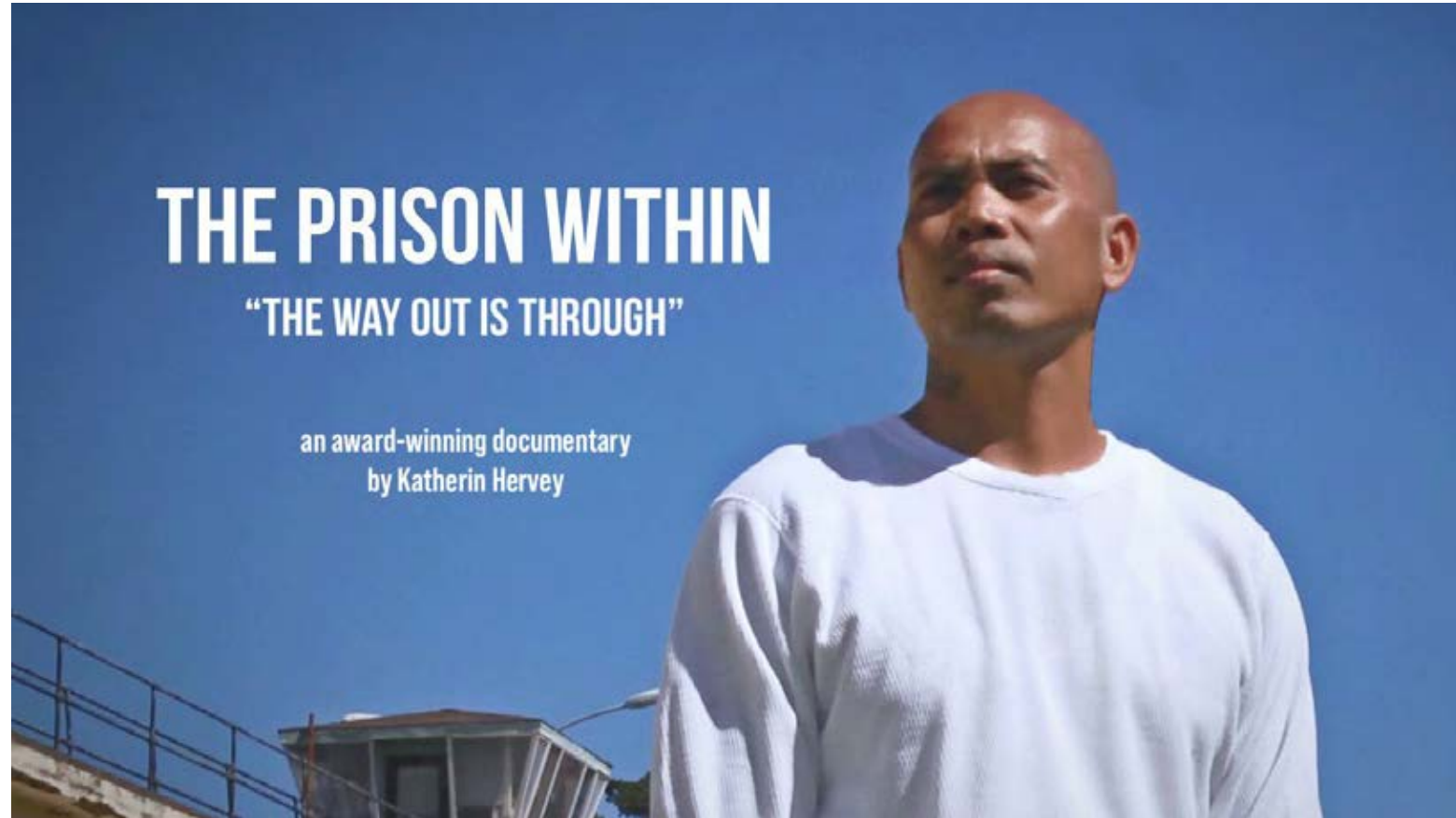
- Wants:
 - Increase awareness around the issue of incarceration in Nebraska.
 - Offer thoughtful prevention as an alternative to punitive reaction.
 - Highlight the important work being done by people in prison.



The Prison Within

VOEG (Victim Offender Education Group): 72 week program that assists incarcerated individuals in “understanding and developing insight into the underlying circumstances of their lives and the choices that led them to prison.”

San Quentin State Prison in California - Circle of men convicted of murder



Omaha 360 Awareness Program

- Restorative Justice Program facilitated by La’Ron Jones (IPS) and two young men incarcerated at NCYF.
- Supported by Restorative Justice local practitioners.
- Graduated around 1/3 population of NCYF.



Omaha 360 Awareness Program

- Mission: “to create and generate open dialogue amongst gang-involved and incarcerated individuals...for the purpose of self reflecting and self-evaluating the damage and harms that we have caused ourselves, our families, and our community, and more importantly our victims and their family.”
- Vision: “tremendously reducing the number of young men who leave NCYF and go back into our community committing violent crimes.”

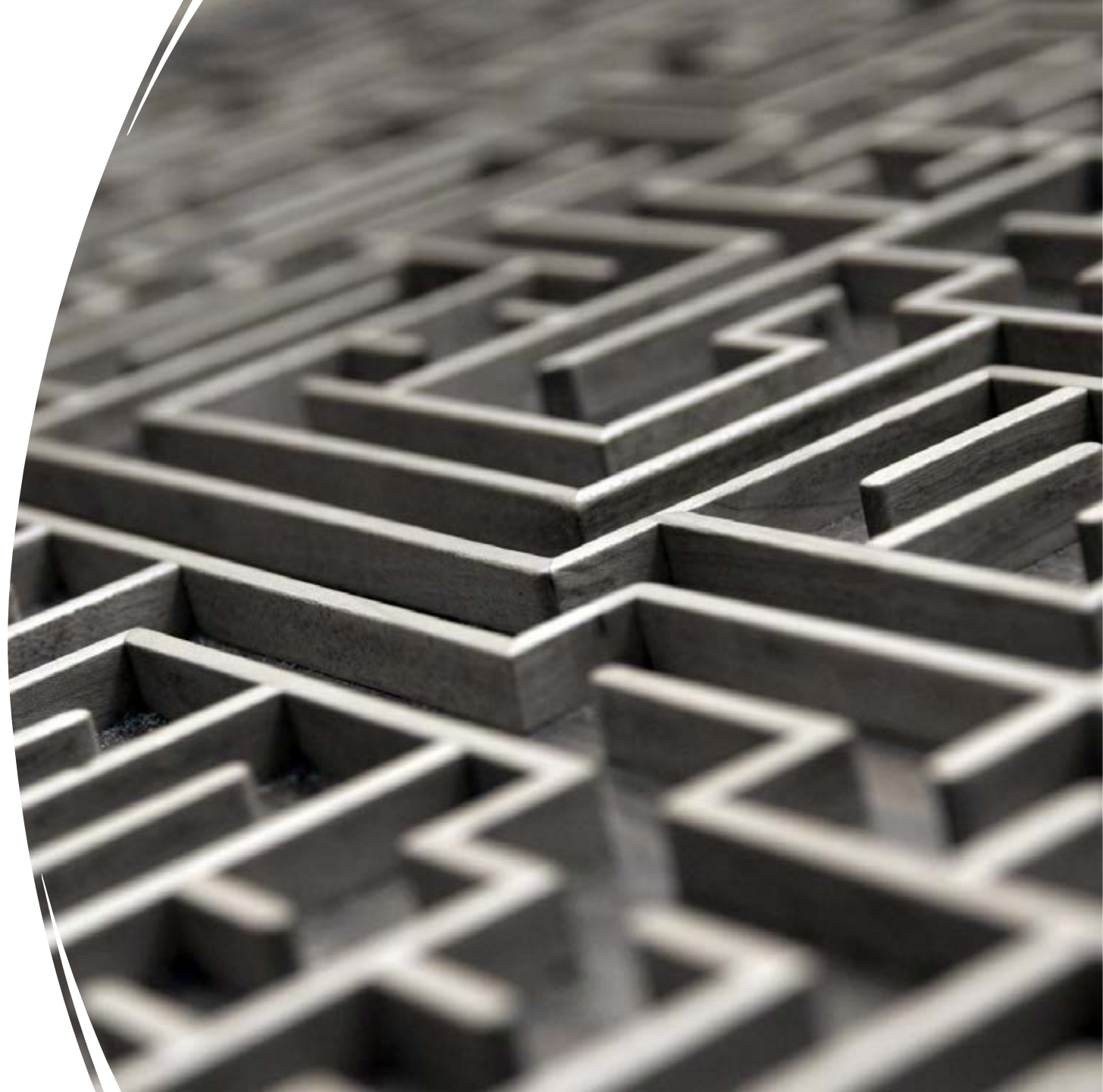


Capstone Project

- Screening “The Prison Within” in Nebraska.
 - Community Screening / Panel Discussion
 - NCYF Screening / Panel Discussion
- Panelists:
 - Katherin Hervey - filmmaker
 - Troy Williams - featured in *The Prison Within*
 - Michael Nelson - featured in *The Prison Within*
 - La’Ron Jones - mentor at NCYF/Restorative Justice advocate
 - Facilitator: Shakur Abdullah - Restorative Justice Practitioner

Challenges

- Coordinating timeline for mini grants/applications for partnerships
- Identifying dates and securing approval.
- Finding grants/funding sources that want to fund events

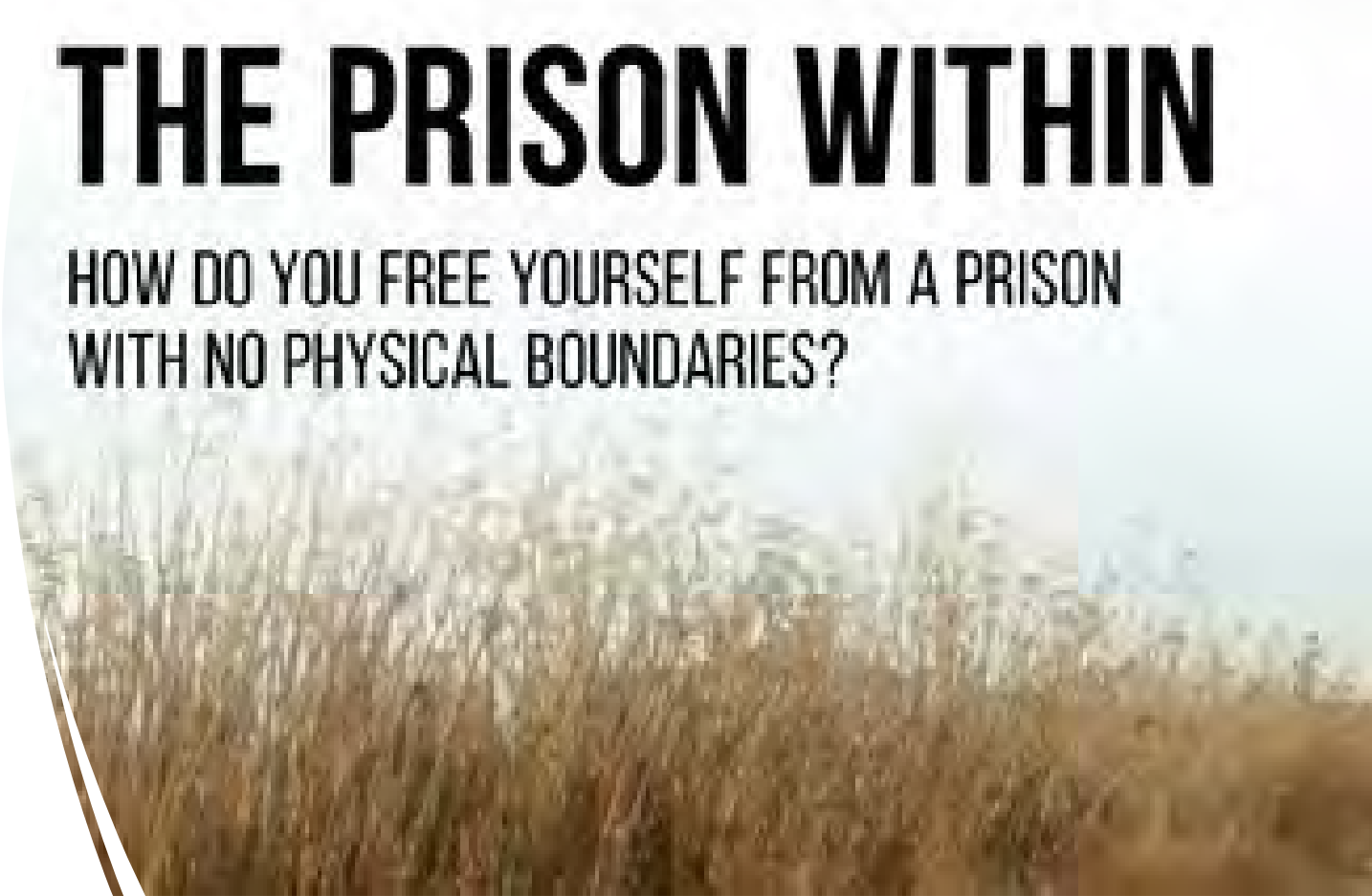


Bringing it to Life

1. Met with filmmaker
2. Developed budget for the cost to screen
3. Applied for partnership with local theatre
4. Working with Monica to identify and reach out to potential co-sponsors for the event

THE PRISON WITHIN

HOW DO YOU FREE YOURSELF FROM A PRISON WITH NO PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES?





Questions?



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JJ Certificate Program Questions

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