

Media Release

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NDCS Achieves a Higher Level of Excellence with EPIC

By Heather Czaplewski

“I am a believer!”

This was how the conversation started with Vicky Leibrandt, a Unit Caseworker at the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services’ Work Ethic Camp, when asked about the new Employee Positive Impact Councils (EPIC).

The councils, launched in late March, are a forum where every employee has an opportunity to help shape the agency.

“Getting feedback and information from the people who are doing the job will help make the entire agency more effective,” Leibrandt said.

EPIC, which has a presence at each of the agency’s 10 facilities, aims to achieve the agency’s Strategic Plan leading goal of “One Team- One Vision” and represents an opportunity for a cross-section of employees to have a positive impact on NDCS.

“The synergy created by the active dialogue, exchange of ideas and actions by EPIC members will be a driving force in moving our agency forward,” Diane Sabatka-Rine, Deputy Director of Institutions, said.

The council meetings focus on topics including improving staff safety; retaining employees; and increasing employee engagement.

A unique aspect of EPIC is that meetings will be open to all interested employees in the facility.

“This will give us a voice,” Mallori Graf, Unit Caseworker at the Nebraska Correctional Youth Facility, said. “Getting a variety of staff like teachers, caseworkers and corporals together will help us to see the entire picture, not just what our job is,” Graf said.

EPIC will meet at least every other month, but many of the facilities have already conducted multiple meetings since the launch. Any interested employee wishing to join or submit topics for the meetings can contact their facility Warden/Administrator.

The next scheduled meetings are will be held this month. Notice of the date and times will be posted within each facility and meeting notes will be posted to give employees that could not make the meeting an opportunity to learn what was discussed.

For more information on EPIC please check with the Warden/Administrators at each facility.