



NATIONAL
**CHILD PASSENGER
SAFETY BOARD**

A program managed by the National Safety Council

rear facing • forward facing • booster seat • seat belts

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Nebraska Child Passenger Safety Advisory Committee Selected as Team of the Year
Children ride safer on Nebraska roads thanks to work of these dedicated individuals

ITASCA, IL – In Nebraska’s state ballad, these words are included in the second stanza:

*’Cause the good life is there
With sun and fresh air
And neighbors who care*

Count members of the Nebraska Child Passenger Safety Advisory Committee in that select group of neighbors who care. Since the committee’s inception more than two decades ago, they have worked to guide the state’s CPS programming and to ensure equal CPS training opportunities exist in counties across the state. In 2022, they proudly noted:

- Car seat use rate climbed to 95% – up from 56% in 1999
- 345 certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians worked to educate parents and caregivers on proper use of car seats, booster seats and seat belts
- The Technician recertification rate remained stable at about 65%

Today, the Nebraska Child Passenger Safety Advisory Committee is saluted for its efforts as the National Child Passenger Safety Team of the Year by the [National Child Passenger Safety Board](#). The award is sponsored by [Toyota Motor North America](#).

The committee currently consists of 22 members, including CPS Instructors, the state highway safety staff representative and the state Safe Kids coordinator. The list reads like a Who’s Who of transportation safety in Nebraska:

- Amanda Ablott, Erin Ayad, Jeanne Bietz, Amy Borg, Sara Estrada, Scott Eveland, Alicia Gentle, Travis Hedlund, Nicole Hicken, Jenn Keller, Jason Kerkman, Sayward Klinginsmith, Bobbi Kuhlman, Kate Kunz, Sophia Lopez, Kristin Luethke, Peg Ogea-Ginsburg, Laura Osborne, Anita Owen, Tim Pickering, William Rowell, Suzanne Rutten.

“Success comes when everyone is closely aligned and working together,” National Child Passenger Safety Board Chair Jennifer Pelky said. “You see that with this team in Nebraska. The dedication and commitment to service is evident. They’re good people doing great things.”

Over the years, Advisory Committee members have recruited and mentored numerous CPS Technicians, Tech proxies and Instructors. Together, they have amassed nearly 200 years of service. The following organizations are represented on the committee:

- Nebraska Health and Human Services; Nebraska Highway Safety Office; Mary Lanning Memorial Hospital; Children’s Hospital and Medical Center – Omaha; Scottsbluff Police Department; CHI Health; Nebraska State Patrol; City of Lincoln Police Department; Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital; Avera St. Anthony’s Hospital; Northeast Nebraska Community Action Partners; Faith Regional Health Services; and Volunteers from Auburn, Grand Island and North Platte

“Each member leads local community programming and takes the lead in implementing Advisory Committee recommendations,” said Jeanne Bietz of the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. “This has created consistency for CPS programming across the state.”

To build a diverse CPS program, Advisory Committee members plan the location of Technician certification training courses and place an emphasis on attracting individuals from many communities and a variety of organizations. The result?

- 86% of children living in poverty under the age of 10 are being served by a Safe Kids CPS program or fitting station

As a fundamental piece of their work, Advisory Committee members provided guidance in creating Nebraska’s childcare transportation training curriculum, foster care training and DHHS Children and Family Services training. Every step of the way, they’ve distinguished themselves as good neighbors.

About the National Child Passenger Safety Board

The National Child Passenger Safety Board’s mission is to save lives and prevent injuries by promoting child passenger safety through education, mentorship, engagement and innovation. The Board’s work is managed by the National Safety Council. For more information about child passenger safety or the National CPS Board, please visit the Board’s website at

www.cpsboard.org