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Project Harmony enhances access to children, families

Special to the Daily News

Project Harmony, along with the Northeast Nebraska Child Advocacy Center, started delivering a coordinated response to children suspected of abuse/neglect or witness to a violent event using a third partner, the Bridge in Fremont, as an alternate site.

“We are excited about this new initiative to provide child advocacy services in the Fremont and Blair communities,” said Project Harmony Executive Director Gene Klein. “This joint partnership will be more convenient for families and investigators alike.”

The Bridge provides a child and family friendly space for Project Harmony to deliver forensic interviews and advocacy services.

“We are grateful for the services Project Harmony provides for the children in our community who have been abused,” said the Bridge Executive Director Suzanne Smith. “Providing the safe space is a privilege.”

Coordination with mental health will be arranged with local providers and medical exams, and when indicated, will continue to be delivered at Project Harmony in Omaha by medical providers with specialized training and expertise in child abuse/neglect conditions.

The Northeast Nebraska advocacy center continues to provide the leadership to the multidisciplinary team and case review to ensure a high quality response.

“We look forward to collaborating with Project Harmony and the Bridge,” said Northeast Nebraska Child Advocacy Center Director Kelli Wacker. “This is an excellent opportunity to enhance services to



THE NORTHEAST NEBRASKA Child Advocacy Center, along with Project Harmony, are working together in response to suspected child abuse/neglect victims using a third partner, the Bridge in Fremont.

children and families in the region.”

The new collaborative effort serves children and families from Dodge and Washington counties every Tuesday at the Bridge.

Law enforcement and Department of Health and Human Services will continue to schedule appointments through the Omaha location as usual.

Any referral not served on Tuesday will access Project Harmony for urgent and non-urgent situations and will occur at the Omaha location. All referrals from any other county in this service area will be coordinated with the Northeast Nebraska advocacy center.

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KELLI WACKER
NORTHEAST NEBRASKA CHILD
ADVOCACY CENTER