

Dear Families Working Group,

Thank you for another productive meeting this month! We are sharing a recap of our discussion below and outlining your homework / next steps.

Meeting summary

We've moved from our discussion of the system map into planning how we can work on the barriers / opportunities identified in this exercise.

- Last month we identified opportunities to increase the information and communication between the system and families at various points. This month was focused on discussing the details of how to implement these ideas
- We identified that the most needed intervention is a peer navigator to be offered to the family when they come into contact with the system. This looks different for the street release vs. DCYC scenarios
 - For the street release scenario, this would involve a police officer offering to connect the family to an optional system navigator service that could explain what will happen next to the youth / family. Many felt this could help turn an “at risk” time into an “opportunity time” for those families looking to get connected to help.
 - For the DCYC scenario, we also identified the need for a system navigator and a discussion of why the DCYC family liaison cannot play this role today. It was revealed that the DCYC family liaison is often in the dark about the youth’s charges when they are brought in. The group felt a quick win could be to share the police report with DCYC’s family liaison and the family liaison to be equipped to go beyond their current role to explain what the police report means and what next steps might look like, with a focus on the detention hearing.

The topics of policy and data surfaced in a major way this month:

- Policy and data came up with respect to the issue of out of home placements
- Members identified that out of state placements are often a source of anxiety for family members. The group decided they want to do some research to better understand how many youth are being sent out of state, for what reasons, and why the capacity to serve these youth does not exist in NE. The data group also felt this research should be conducted
- Some group members moved this discussion into the policy arena by mentioning that some youth need to be placed out of state for safety reasons (i.e., gangs). The issue here is when the child comes back home and re-enters the same environment from which they left – potentially threatening any progress made while out of state. System professionals are limited in their capacity to work with families to improve the environment since these services cannot be ordered by the court. There was a feeling that this policy should be investigated to figure out if there was any chance to make the transition better – but the group acknowledged this would be a huge piece of work to take on

Next steps (with homework assignments highlighted in yellow):

- Janee will be contacting Cindy at DCYC and Shayna at OPD to better understand the information flows required to improve the family liaison's access to the police report
- Janee / FSG will try to map how many youth are at each stage of the system, including how many youth are placed out of state and why
- Janee will discuss the policies regarding services for families with Tony Hernandez and Tom Hanks
- The group's homework is to think about the following question regarding how we will measure our success: how would you know our working group was successful in increasing trust between the system and families, helping families better understand / engage with the system, improving coordination among system professionals, and providing better access to services:
 - At this time next year?
 - 5 years from now?
 - 10 years from now?

Meeting logistics

- Our next meeting will be on June 16th from 9AM to 11AM at Heartland Workforce Solutions, 5752 Ames Ave. (next to Planet Fitness).