



**Operation Youth Success
Absenteeism Work Group**

Wednesday, April 26, 2017
3:00-4:30 pm

UNO Community Engagement Center

- **Welcome and Introductions:**
- **Old Business:**
 - Attendance Awareness Month
- **New Agenda Items:**
- Community Planning Activity (OYS)

If money was not an object, what is the single most important thing you would change to reduce the number of young people entering the juvenile justice system in Douglas County?

1. Mental health for parents and youth
2. Status offense reform
3. Greater access to quality bilingual behavioral health services – culturally responsible supports
4. Increased school staff to provide small class sizes
5. Equip young people with a mentor or other caring adult that would help identify early intervention or prevention services to combat absenteeism and connect resources
6. Quarterly home visits for every student then address needs identified in home visits
7. More in home support; more on-on-one mentoring for students; alternative education options without stipulations; transportation; more money to support in school service for supporting attendance; trauma and mental health support
8. Build a “JJ Hub” or “JJ community campus” that would include all kinds of great services, specific to absenteeism, a drop-in education center; less restrictive than some current programs, would work with/communicate with existing programs, and reflect other national best practices regarding JJ absenteeism

What is Douglas County doing well that you could not live without?

- Partnerships and collaborations between organizations
- Ethic program at Boys and Girls Club
- Positive outlook of trying to support students and not penalize them
- Offer referrals
- School-based social workers
- Child well-being pilot

Mission Statement:

Across Douglas County, our vision is a ***comprehensive, coordinated, and community-wide*** approach to ***juvenile services*** that eliminates the need for youth involvement with our justice system while maintaining ***public safety***.

For *all youth* who do enter our justice system, our goals are to provide ***effective, compassionate, and individualized*** support that empowers **youth** and their **families** to **succeed** and to build an environment of ***mutual trust and accountability***.



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- Catching warning signs
- Formal and informal organizations that are building relationships with families/students
- The plan is good

Which programs/services have true potential but might need more resources to build capacity?

- Pathways to Success program
- Culturally responsive and family support
- Mentoring
- Transportation
- Having program housed on site
- Language diversity
- Parenting program

What is missing?

1. Start early with stressing the importance of attendance; not taking a vacation during the school year
2. Transportation
3. Physical space; environment
4. Mental/behavioral health services
5. Status offense reform

- **Public Comment**

Important Upcoming Dates:

- Next working group meeting: June 28, 2017
- Nebraska Juvenile Justice Association Conference – May 17-19, 2017

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