



Operation Youth Success Policy Work Group

February 27, 2017

8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

UNO Community Engagement Center Room 127

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**.

Welcome and Introductions

Announcements-OYS updates /Good News

- New OYS Staff Introduction
 - Administrative Assistant – Debora Faga
- Handouts
 - Youth Impact Brown Bag – Thursday, March 2nd – Serving Immigrant and Refugee Youth in the JJS
 - Operation Youth Success – One-pager
 - Implicit Bias Workshop – March 23rd – Register on Eventbrite
 - Nebraska Youth Advocates – held Juvenile Defense Attorney Training
 - 35 participants
 - Curriculum – National Juvenile Defender Center

Co-chair Announcement

- Christine Henningsen and Margaret Vacek

✚ Staff secure discussion –

- Accredited facility. Passed inspection in the fall (2016).
- Need for staff secure vs. an alternative. No alternative is available right now.
- Not mandated to have a staff secure facility.
- If the County did not have one, what would be the ideal alternative?
 - Must be local, youth continue to earn credits through home school district, proximity - family has ability to visit. Must meet stringent inspection standards.
- If can only secure them with staff, means more staff engagement.
- Seen as a distinction without a difference.
- From a rehabilitation perspective, how do we imagine the best option and figure a way to get there?
- How do we imagine best-practice – and find a way to get there?
 - Meets legal obligations & at the same time ensures the best outcomes for kids.
- Residential setting, secured by staff
- Some runners are placed in shelter - locally
 - When beds are not available, staff secure can sometimes become utilized as a default or “overflow”
 - These options do exist locally, we just may not have the beds available
 - Need varies, fluctuates daily
 - Local facilities provide the same level of care
 - Youth links – concern - paying for beds which are not occupied
 - Youth Links, Boys Town, CSI, Uta Halee
 - JJS is not the only customer – can also be utilized by DHHS
- If staff secure is eliminated, what is the County’s obligation?
 - Previously – youth have sent youth to Sarpy County
 - Is it the County’s obligation to pay for that
- Are the youth in staff secure low risk, medium risk?
 - Not generally a risk to community safety
 - Generally run away, truancy (status offenses)
- County run vs. Community run facility
 - Reimagine – on DCYC campus, rename
- Often, when things do not work at a shelter – return to staff secure
 - Staff secure not refuse to serve

- Becomes a default
 - Status offenders cannot be detained
 - Shelter, Foster Care, or staff secure
 - Staff secure becomes the default
 - Youth are not running from staff secure
- Non-runaway, low-risk offender response
- The staff secure unit at DCYC meets the legal definition of staff secure –
 - Structure design –
 - For all intents and purposes – seems as though it is another secure unit
 - Classification decision
 - In some ways have more limitations than those youth in secure
- Should have better alternatives for better outcomes for kids
- Data of youth detained in staff secure – mapping
- Simply moving to shelter does not mean improvement –
 - Key is the programming available within a redesigned concept
- Addressing mental health within the population involved
- Detention (even in a staff secure form) for truancy or mental health problems is not solving the problem
- Status Offenders as JJS population –
 - NE handles it differently
- Working with ATD committee to increase bed hold time to 48 hours (placement)
 - Youth running from placement – most located within 48 hours
 - Current: 24 hour bed hold contractually
 - If placement will allow the youth to return, would this reduce the problem
- Data
- Legal Implications – what is the County responsible for doing
- A small committee was formed to continue to work on this item

✚ EPIC Program discussion

- Moved from DCYC to Blackburn (BAP)/North Omaha Boys and Girls Club (BGC)
 - Adding BAP students
 - Probation youth in need of services
 - Have access to educators and MH services
 - Access to Boys and Girls Club
 - Those who remain with the BGC are eligible for college scholarships at time of graduation
 - Next steps – DCYC submitted grant for continued funding for next year
 - Students who need help during the day
 - Expelled students added to grant application
 - Would make a difference for students leaving DCYC who are not immediately able to return to school
 - BGC would like to assist expelled students during the day
 - How to run the program during the summer?
 - Run at DCYC during the evening over the summer?
 - Population is more likely youth suspended, not expelled
 - If youth have been expelled, how will they attend EPIC if it is located at Blackburn?
 - If we discussed a Campus environment (re: staff secure), EPIC should be included in that conversation.
 - Not opposed to the county running EPIC
 - Not opposed to county funding programs – reducing the number of youth in secure detention – cost savings
 - Voluntary or court-ordered participation?
 - Can JAC refer kids?
 - Have not previously – when located in DCYC
 - Previously - contracts with other community-based youth service organizations
 - would be an option at this time
 - Can Probation refer kids?
 - Registered provider – verification
 - Should the County be providing services that are available in the community?

- (Public Question) Mental Health Evaluation for Runaways – thought was voluntary
 - Clarification – Evaluations occur when Court Ordered

✚ Run Away task force update

- TerraLuna assisting with formation/planning process
- Principled-based perspective – Youth-centered & Principle-driven
- Decided to invite YES House and School District to next meeting
- Grounded in mutual philosophy & common vision

✚ Legislative Update – Voices For Children at the session today (no report)

- Douglas County is likely to get a 6th judge, possibly a 7th – unfunded
 - Emergency clause on the bill
 - Best case – phased in
 - Locating court rooms
- Many bills remain in committee

✚ Public Comment

- Citizen Comment:
 - Legislative update
 - System does not work very well for the youth – associated family members
 - Misapplication of the intent of privacy laws
 - Never want to listen to what people want to say because fear lawsuit
 - RE: Privacy Laws
 - Reexamine the application, by all agencies and staff, of privacy laws
- Citizen Comment:
 - Diversity
 - Very disappointed in how few of the community participate
 - Demystify issues
 - Welcome the least among us
 - Transparency
 - Seek out input from those who have survived the system

Next Meeting: March 27, 2017 @ 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. at the UNO CEC room 127