



## Operation Youth Success

### Families Work Group

Tuesday, April 18, 2017

9:00-11:00 AM

Heartland Workforce Solutions

- Introductions and Welcome
- Operation Youth Success Updates
  - Showing of “In the Middle of Nowhere” Wednesday, June 14, at UNO CEC – 6:30 pm. Daniel Beatty will be there.
  - Cinco de Mayo booth – Saturday and Sunday, May 6 & 7. Will be sending out a sign-up sheet for volunteers to man the booth, perhaps in 2 hour increments
  - CEC building closed the week of May 7
  - NJJA meeting in Kearney May 17-19
  - Collective Impact Training in Boston May 23-26
- Operation Youth Success Workgroup Status Updates
  - The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Ames Avenue Block Party, Friday, May 26, 4-7 pm at Heartland Workforce Solutions. Melissa Steffes is the contact for OYS to see about getting a booth
  - The Nebraska Association of Homes and Services for Children is hosting their annual fall conference at Mahoney State Park on October 19. Keynote speaker is Mildred Muhammad.
  - Families Workgroup is looking for volunteers to take on a co-chair role. We need to distribute the co-chair responsibility documentation.
  - A’Jamal is no longer a part of this workgroup, he is focusing on the Policy workgroup
  - Judith Gutierrez is very interested in joining this workgroup.
- Old Business:
  - Video
    - Desiree Acosta will send us a link to her video project so we can view it
    - Are there components of her project that we might be able to use in our video?
    - July timeline for completion
    - Time was spent with the students taping and informing
    - Next step – need to figure out what media outlets we want to best utilize the video
      - Courthouse kiosk or flat screen on the wall to run video loop – contact Ray Curtis
      - Stream it at the Youth Center
      - Post on OYS website and Facebook page

#### 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**.

- County web page(s) – DOTComm would be contact, pending approval
- Work Plan Updates-ALL
  - Revisit the Family Guide
    - How well is it being used?
      - It is a valuable tool that should be utilized more often
    - How often is it being used?
    - How many people know about it?
      - Revisions
      - Distribution
        - Would like it to go out with the truancy letters
        - Need more printed
        - Hand these out at detention hearings
      - There is a Spanish translation. Would like several people to take a look at it to ensure that it is translated correctly.
      - Is there a way to gather and use data to track how it is being used and how useful it is to families?
  - Detention hearing description and our role in supporting the families. Would like to start having someone at these hearings to help families understand what’s going on.
  - Invitation to observe Judge Daniel’s court process
  - Healing Neen - Tonier Cain – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s7T1Pycw3BE>
    - Suggested as homework prior to next meeting – available on YouTube
  - Judges & Other court staff – training specifically for child/family work
    - Some assume roles without the experience/education/expertise
  - Are we missing opportunities to make contact?
  - What is normal? Need to prepare youth to be able to take care of themselves – life skills and understanding of how things should work to allow them to succeed.
  - Youth released from care sometimes experience a loss of stability
    - Consistency & security of placement – Meeting basic needs – which sometimes are questionably met upon release
    - All youth need opportunities to fail safely
- New Business:
  - Legislative Updates
    - LB158 – Requires automatic appointment of legal counsel for juveniles statewide. 27 senators voted to revisit funding
    - LB461 – tax cuts for the wealthy; would significantly reduce state revenue

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- Omaha briefing of “Open Skies” on Monday, April 24, 3 pm @ UNO Thompson Alumni House
- HR1809 was approved with minor amendments
- April is Child Abuse Prevention month

➤ Public Comment

➤ Information Sharing and Community Happenings-ALL

- Youth Center is doing a pilot at the Boys and Girls Club – day reporting for youth who have been expelled
- Children’s Mental Health event hosted by JAC – May 5 from 6 to 8
- May 16, 17 & 18 – Riders at Boys Town to pick up letters from the kids and deliver to the Governor
- Metro Area Suicide – talking points
- 13 Reasons Why – original programming series on Netflix deals with many sensitive issues teens may have to deal with including suicide, bullying and rape

➤ Next Meeting May 16th

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