



Operation Youth Success Families Work Group

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

9:00-11:00 AM

Heartland Workforce Solutions

Purpose Statement: Empower families to better understand the system and engage in their youth's care.

Families Working Group Charter

- Empowering families to better understand the system
- Engage youth and families
- Seek help when needed

1. Introductions

- Present: Margaret Vacek, Jennifer Beck, Vivian Buckley, Bill Rolfe, Andrea Wright, Barbara Robinson, Jim Hubbard, Mary Jo Thompson, Judith Gutierrez, Mark LeFlore, Tom Hanks, Christine Henningson, Jaci Daiklabunde, Deanna Wagner, Stephanie Gardella, Kya Crawford, Natalie Hawkins, Verrelle Gordon, Michele Martin, Bobbie Adkins, Amber Parker, Karla Dush, Debora Faga

2. OYS Updates

- Review of OYS' purpose and Mission Statement
- Review of Feedback Survey and Gift Cards
- Family and Youth Forum Status
 - Still in planning stages
 - Please share if you are aware of any panels or groups we could collaborate with
- Data Analyst position has been filled; Catherine Rivier will be starting January 8, 2018
- Voices for Children Kids Count, January 31, 8:30 – 1000 am at UNO Barbara Weitz Community Engagement Center. RSVP is requested; call 402-597-3100, email voices@voicesforchildren.com or online at http://voicesforchildren.com/kids-count-2017-is-on-its-way/?blm_aid=19541

Operation Youth Success is bringing people together to decide what aspects of juvenile justice in Douglas County need to change and how that change will happen.

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**.

- CBA was submitted to the Crime Commission yesterday
- If you haven't yet liked the OYS Facebook page, please do so; updated daily and various trainings are listed there; <https://www.facebook.com/OYSOmaha/>
- OYS volunteered at Christmas in the Village
- NJJA Conference May 2-4 in Kearney
- 2018 NJJA Award/Scholarship information will be posted on our FB page; you may also find the information at <http://www.njja.org/awards/>
- 2018 Youth Impact! Brown Baggers – flyer handed out
- Family and Youth Participation
- Success: Eleven families have been identified to receive items from the “Pack the Closet” Linen Drive; 4 have received already and the other 7 will be distributed to this week

4. Family Engagement 2.1

- Law Enforcement presentation
 - Age 11-17 eligible for street release on any misdemeanor (considered an arrest, but is not booked); notification of parents or other relative 19 and older, or 15-17 can be street released to themselves but should still be followed up with parents
 - There is a link missing between the schools and the parents
 - What is the right response when youth show up at school
 - Re-education may be necessary
 - SRO's are police, but have received advance training
 - School security staff (officers) are not police officers
 - SRO's are only in middle and high schools, not in elementary schools
 - We need a place where youth can go without entering the system
 - Comment made that adults who harbor youth without notification to the parents should be held legally accountable
 - Remove the social stigma and encourage parent education
- Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) presentation
 - Background of CASA given
 - 30 hours of initial training given; continuing training 12 hours a year
 - Anyone can request an advocate; judge ultimately assigns
 - Number one goal is reunification

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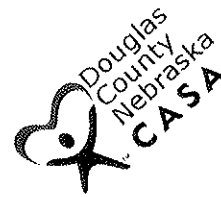
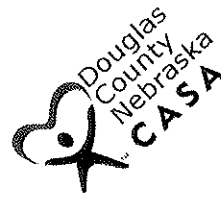
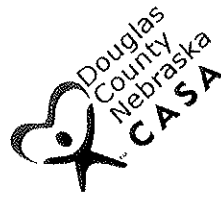
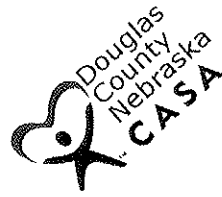
- There is more consistency within CASA personnel than most other organizations
 - Confidentiality– bound by statute “mandatory reporting”; anything that is said can be reported to the court
 - Information handed out
5. Work Plan Revised
- Review and Finalize
 - Volunteers for working as a contributor to the following strategies before the next meeting:
 - Strategy 1 – Increase youth and family participation and involvement, in all OYS activities to increase trust and transparency as a means to engage and bring more voices to the table – Kya, Barbara, Christine, Michele, and Bobbie
 - Strategy 2 – Provide youth and families the tools and information to advance their knowledge in the juvenile justice system – Andrea, Vivian, Jaci
 - Strategy 3 – Identify engagement opportunities for youth and families across the system – Mark, Bill, Mary Jo
6. Public Comment
- Adopting families raised as a possible action item (tied to Strategy 2 or 3)
 - Jaci Dai-Klabunde with the Juvenile Re-Entry Project shared that if a youth/young adult (24 years and younger) who had previous contact with the juvenile justice system are having difficulty obtaining employment, housing, education and/or having their record sealed, they can contact her for civil legal assistance.
7. Feedback Surveys – handed out
8. Gift Cards – given out
9. **Next Meeting:** Tuesday, January 16, 2018

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Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

CASA for Douglas County Mission Statement: Training, empowering, and inspiring volunteer advocates to improve the lives of abused and neglected children.

Our vision is to provide a CASA to each child who needs one by the year 2020.

Essential Volunteer Duties:

- Meet with the child on a consistent basis, a minimum of one time per month.
- Attend meetings with case professionals, parents and/or foster parents.
- Establish and maintain contact with schools, therapists, medical professionals and other professionals involved in the child's life.
- Monitor court ordered services to ensure effectiveness, and advocate for additional services as needed.
- Document observations, facts and circumstances of the child's situation in a written court report including recommendations for placement, services and permanency.
- Maintain complete records of contacts, hours and mileage in online database system, Optima.
- Attend court hearings.

Participation and/or Support:

- CASA Holiday Party in December or January and Volunteer Recognition Event in April.
- Omaha Gives! in May and the Superhero Run in July.

Training:

- Complete 30 hours of pre-service training.
- Complete 12 hours of continuing education training annually.

Minimum Requirements:

- Able to commit to a minimum of 2 years.
- Willing to donate 8 to 10 hours per month.
- Able to commit to training hours as noted above.
- Attend court hearings or arrange for supervisor attendance.
- Able to maintain objectivity and professionalism in dealing with the child and all other parties involved.
- Ability to maintain confidentiality.
- Possess excellent verbal and written communication skills.
- Possess a working knowledge of Microsoft Word, Email and basic computer skills.
- Must have reliable transportation.
- Must be at least 21 years of age.
- Must pass a background check, have a valid driver's license/identification, valid auto insurance (if applicable), valid phone number and have a permanent address. (Note: the background check is run every four years.)



A Court Appointed Special Advocate, CASA, is a trained volunteer, sworn in as an Officer of the Court and appointed to a specific juvenile court case by a Judge. A CASA is the voice for abused and neglected children who are living in foster care. Working in conjunction with case professionals and attorneys, a CASA advocates for the best interest of a child. A CASA meets with the child at least monthly and attends monthly team meetings with case professionals, parents and/or foster parents. A CASA will meet with teachers, daycare providers, medical and mental health providers and other service providers as needed. At least every six months, a CASA will write a court report with recommendations to the court. A CASA will also attend periodic court hearings.

A CASA receives 30 hours of training scheduled over a five week period and includes 3 hours of online training and 3 hours of in-person training each week. The in-person session is scheduled twice a week providing flexibility to choose either a daytime or an evening class (see schedule below for sessions offering this option). A CASA is also required to attend 12 hours of on-going training annually. On-going training opportunities are provided throughout the year by CASA for Douglas County, and by partner agencies and non-profit organizations. On-going training can also be acquired through online presentations and readings.

Training schedule:

2018

January 9 – February 6	Tuesday 5:30 – 8:30 or Thursday 1 – 4
February 27 – March 27	Tuesday 5:30 – 8:30
April 17 – May 15	Tuesday 5:30 – 8:30 or Thursday 1 – 4
May 29 – June 26	Thursday 1 – 4
July 17 – August 14	Tuesday 5:30 – 8:30 or Thursday 1 – 4
September 4 – October 2	Thursday 5:30 – 8:30
October 23 – November 20	Tuesday 5:30 – 8:30 or Thursday 1 – 4

Please contact Deanna Wagner, Recruitment Coordinator, CASA for Douglas County
402-932-5683 or dwagner@casaomaha.org
2412 St. Mary's Avenue, Omaha, NE 68105
www.casaomaha.org

CASA for Douglas County is a member of the National and Nebraska CASA Associations and conforms to the National Standards and Code of Ethics. CASA provides equal volunteer opportunities to all applicants without regard to race, color, religion, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, national origin, age, disability, military status, or veteran status in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.