



**Operation Youth Success
Families Work Group Notes**
Tuesday, January 16, 2018
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

- Introductions
 - Present: Margaret Vacek, Joy Suder, Vivian Buckley, Shawne Coonfare, Jim Hubbard, Jennifer Beck, Judy Gutierrez, Michaela Jackson, Dwite Pedersen, Janee Pannkuk, Karla Dush, Amber Parker, Debora Faga

- OYS Updates
 - Catherine Rivier – OYS Data Analyst
 - “No Name Calling” Week – materials passed out
 - CBA Application was completed – has gone to the NE Crime Commission

- Review
 - Summary of last meeting's activities
 - Passed out Douglas County Juvenile Justice System Family Guide
 - List of work group member emails passed out

- Family Engagement 2.1
 - Shawn Coonfare - Diversion
 - Juvenile Assessment Center (JAC)
 - Stand-alone County department; report directly to Patrick Bloomingdale
 - When a youth is cited in Douglas County for any law enforcement violation or a formal truancy it goes to the County Attorney
 - County Attorney recognized a need for a decision-making entity, so the JAC came into being as a result of many blended grants in about 2003

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**.

- JAC performs formal assessment and screening in order to give recommendation back to the County Attorney for supervision and support for those youth
 - Meet with the youth and the parent/guardian separately and together
 - Different for truancy because they usually have a lot more information to start
 - County Attorney makes final decisions
 - If the youth successfully completes a diversionary process their record is sealed
 - If they choose not to participate, their case file goes back to the County Attorney for further action, usually that means court
 - If a youth is recommended for a warning letter, it is an automatic sealing of their record
 - Diversion plans consist of whatever the youth needs
 - Goal is to provide for the youth and the family the service they need; trying to encourage them to be in contact with their service provider
 - Communicate with older youth directly
 - Plans can be amended at any time
- Joy Suder - Court Hearing and Process
 - Private Attorney focusing on kids
 - Works with Case Processing – move kids through the system faster without sacrificing due process
 - Defense attorney is responsible for representing the expressed interest of their client
 - Guardian Ad Litem is responsible for representing what they feel is best for the child
 - Prosecutor is responsible for the state’s interest
 - Probation is responsible for providing supervision for the child
 - Families need to know:
 - The rights belong to the child
 - Their attorney tries to educate the child about their options and the consequences – “You control how long your case stays open”
 - Juvenile court is all about rehabilitation
 - Families need to be empowered to seek out solutions before it gets to the county level of services

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**.

- Teaching them the understanding of how things could happen
 - The type of hearing the child is going to matters regarding what can happen
 - Parents can seek out other solutions for the child – it helps in their court case
 - Education of the parent needs to start early – pre-school
- Jaci Dai-Klabunde - Juvenile Re-Entry Project
 - Attorney at Legal Aid Nebraska
 - Provides civil legal services for youth under 24 years of age, a US Citizen, lower income and have had some type of touch with the Juvenile Justice System
 - Record sealing
 - Related employment and housing issues
 - Trying to expand to Douglas County after having been in Lancaster County for a while
 - If the youth has gone through the court and successfully completed the probation process:
 - Under 17 record sealing is not automatic, the youth has to petition for sealing
 - Over 17 the judge is supposed to initiate the process
 - Legal Aid holds record check clinics
 - Help deal with collateral consequence from being involved with the Juvenile Justice system
 - Working to educate youth on what their options are and the fact that some organizations can see that you have a sealed record, i.e., law enforcement, court, military
- Activity
 - Tabled to next meeting
- Work Plan –approve draft
 - Tabled to next meeting
- Strategy sub groups
 - Tabled to next meeting

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**.

- Decision Making/Next Steps
 - Tabled to next meeting
- Public Comment
- Feedback Surveys – Handed out
- Gift Cards – Handed out
- **Next Meeting:** Tuesday, February 20, 2018

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**.