

OYS Updates

November 14- December 31, 2017

The Program Coordinator continues to meet with all but one work group's co-chairs to discuss planning and support needs for the next work group's meeting.

- In November, OYS Backbone staff attended the School Based Coalition Meeting
- OYS hosted 2 Webinar viewings
 - November 28th: Family and Youth Engagement in School Justice Partnership
 - December 6th: Trauma-Informed Classrooms: Moving Theory into Practice
 - OYS is looking forward to continuing to host webinars as workgroup meeting time's permit. At a minimum, OYS will continue to share training opportunities with workgroups, via Facebook, etc.
- OYS Backbone staff volunteered at Christmas in the Village
- OYS Backbone staff attended the Youth Impact! Annual meeting on December 6th, 2017.

Community Engagement:

Regular meeting was held on December 4, 2017. A revised draft of the work-plan and mission statement was handed out to the group. The group was advised that the work-plan was not denied by the Steering Committee; but rather, that it was tabled until a member (co-chair) of the CEC Working Group was present at the Steering Committee meeting, to answer any questions from Steering Committee members that may arise.

A description about the role of OYS was provided to the workgroup, including but not limited to: work-plan development support, support to the co-chairs and workgroup as a whole. The group continues to have uncertainty on whether or not they will remain under the umbrella of OYS.

A draft copy of the OYS bylaws was handed out to the group for discussion. The group was encouraged to attend the next OYS steering committee where the bylaws were going to be voted on. They were also encouraged to write the Committee a letter with stated concerns.

Families:

Regular meeting was held on November 21, 2017. Judith Gutierrez was introduced as the new co-chair. The group reviewed the Families work group's charter (Empower families to better understand the system; engage youth and families; seek help when needed) and Purpose Statement.

Pack the closet continues through the end of the month. A suggestion was made to collect information on who was receiving the items, in order to reflect those served. To maintain confidentiality, the group suggested this be done by collecting the zip code of the recipient(s).

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The group discussed bringing back Juvenile Justice 101, due to the increase and change in the workgroup membership. Juvenile Justice 101, involves representatives from various system points (as identified by the Families Workgroup) speaking to the workgroup about their respective role with youth and families; how they incorporate youth and family voice and what may be a barrier in their role of doing so. The group also discussed inviting the other OYS/JDAI co-chairs to these meetings.

The group worked to finalize the work-plan by breaking into 3 separate groups. Each group was assigned one of the strategies. The group members discussed the strategy and identified areas that may be missing or may need to be amended. Each group presented their discussion items to the larger group.

It is important to note that we had 2 youth present in this meeting. The youth either had a parent/grandparent who is currently a member of the workgroup. Both youth were active in the discussion of our strategic plan and provided great insight to the larger group from their perspective.

The regular December meeting was held on December 19th. The group reviewed the workgroup's charter and mission statement. A review of OYS' purpose and mission statement was also provided, in addition to a review of the feedback survey and gift cards.

Pack the Closet was successful. It was reported that 11 families were identified to receive the various items donated.

Family Engagement 2.1 (the title was changed as it appears to be a better fit for what the group is trying to accomplish) had its first two speakers. Lt. Vivian Buckley with OPD spoke to the point of LE contact and representatives from CASA spoke to their services. I would like to share that there were 3 family members and one youth present (one of the two who was at November's meeting) during this meeting. Their discussion and feedback to the presentations was invaluable and led to a lot of information sharing and connections being made.

The work-plan was reviewed and finalized. Members volunteered to be part of a subgroup that would focus on one of the 3 strategies. Important to note is that all 3 family members and youth also volunteered to be part of a sub-group.

Jaci Dai-Klabunde with Legal Aid of NE, Re-entry Project was also present and provided a brief synopsis of her role within the project. Youth and young adults (age 24 years and younger) can contact her for free legal civil assistance if they are having difficulty obtaining employment, housing, education and/or in having their record sealed.

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Prevention :

Regular meeting was held on November 15th. The group reviewed the Prevention work group's Purpose Statement (Reduce entry and recidivism by strengthening community support and increasing access to preventative services) and welcomed new members Andrea Wright and Michaela Jackson.

A review of last year's accomplishments was given, which included enhancing prevention services with Thrive Center Omaha and the Latino Center of the Midlands through CBA funding. The work group submitted a proposal which the steering committee and Nebraska Crime Commission approved. A competitive bidding process initiated by the Douglas County Purchasing Department yielded eleven proposals; two proposals most closely aligned with the terms of the solicitation were selected. The Prevention work group also co-authored an application with Hartman Avenue Neighborhood Association to obtain funds from the (Omaha) Mayor's Grant Program to revitalize Norwick Park.

The work-plan was reviewed and finalized.

A review of Law Enforcement contact data and Helpline data showed similar hot spots of zip codes 68111, 68104 and 68107. The group discussed that next steps would involve members researching what services currently exist in those areas, who can access those services, cost, transportation, cultural competency of staff, etc. There was also discussion about the crisis response teams in Douglas and Sarpy County and if there was a possibility to expand the population they serve. Members volunteered to research the latter as well as the existing services in the identified hot spots.

There was no meeting held in December.

School Based Arrest:

Regular meeting was held on November 28, 2017. The group continued discussion on the workgroup's mission/purpose statement. Suggestions were narrowed down and members were asked to review and consider for final decision in January's meeting. Those for consideration included:

*The SBA task force aims to keep young people in school, improve student outcomes, and ensure students receive fair and equitable treatment

*The SBA taskforce goal is to reduce rates of in-school arrests and exclusionary discipline

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*The SBA taskforce promotes fair and equitable in-school discipline, regardless of individual student characteristics such as behavioral health, mental health, special education status, race and ethnicity.

Both Norris Middle School and South High School have agreed to partner with the workgroup in holding a resource fair during spring semester Parent Teacher conferences. Upcoming conferences are scheduled for the week of February 12th. Planning discussion was held on next steps.

The strategic plan was reviewed and discussed. Changes to the draft were made and will be finalized at January's meeting.

There was no meeting held in December.

Re-entry:

Regular meeting was held on November 30, 2017. The work group reviewed the Mission of Re-entry (to increase the number of juveniles successfully re-integrated back into schools and the community through coordinated transition support, thereby increasing overall academic success and ultimately reducing recidivism). This is achieved through supporting re-entry and residency in the community following any out of home placement and; supporting the efficient re-entry to school/educational program/work as part of the transition process.

The group reviewed the homework that various members brought to the meeting. An Education Contact Sheet for Out of Home Placements was reviewed. This sheet provides information to Parents/Guardians on how to begin the re-enrollment process. It includes the contact person for each school district, their phone number and with a suggestion from this meeting, will also include the fax number. There is also a reminder of what documents to have on hand, to aid in the preparation for this process. I would note that two working group members made mock calls to the respective school districts to 'test' the process with the information contained within the contact sheet. This contact sheet should be finalized by the January meeting as the group is awaiting contact from one school district.

OPS and Ralston's process for a youth returning school was presented and reviewed. Mapping of these processes will be reviewed in January's meeting. Also reviewed, was the barriers to the re-entry process as identified by various OPS staff. This will be an area that the workgroup will take a deeper look into. One major point of discussion was a HUB for students to go to, in situations where they are close to earning a credit, but change placement and lose the opportunity to earn it. Often times this occurs when a semester is close to ending.

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Runaway Taskforce

This taskforce resumed on December 7th. The group took time to review the purpose of the group, common agenda and 4 guiding principles. All of which were developed in previous meetings. In an effort to 'reboot' and 'recommit', the group discussed that it was important to identify which runaway groups we were talking about and the definitions of such. Along with this, who may be missing from these discussions?

The group discussed the idea of a coordinator/navigator position that could have access to all system information. This would allow various system points to become aware of and share with each other when a youth who is on run is picked up by Law Enforcement. Thus, allowing those currently involved to increase support for the youth, decrease the chance of duplicity in services, etc.

Another discussion was a crisis response approach for returned runners.

To help narrow down the groups of focus and to avoid duplication of efforts, next steps will include researching if other taskforce/groups exist that are focusing on runaways; obtaining data to for the big picture on the different system points as it relates to youth on run (foster care, probation, etc.).

OYS Program Manager Activities:

- Serves on the Nebraska Juvenile Justice Association (NJJA) Conference planning committee. Meetings were held December 7th, 13th (telephone) and 14th which the PM attended. The Program Manager is serving on a subcommittee to select conference speakers.
- Serves on the Nebraska Crime Commission Community Planning Subcommittee. A subcommittee meeting was held on December 7th, 2017 which the PM attended. The Program Manager will review and score eighteen county applications for aid.
- OYS Program Manager along with Assistant County Administrator, Catherine Hall and Grant Specialist, Rich Murcek assisted in completion of the Douglas County Community-based Juvenile Services Aid application for FY2018 funds. The final application (at 286 pages) was submitted to the Nebraska Crime Commission on December 18th.
- Attended Douglas County Child & Youth Services Committee meetings.
- OYS Backbone staff regularly attend Omaha 360 meetings on Wednesday afternoons.

