



**Operation Youth Success
Policy & Advocacy Work Group Notes**

Wednesday, February 7, 2018

8:30-10:00 AM

Sherwood Foundation, 3555 Farnam Street

Policy and Advocacy Work Group Purpose Statement

The purpose of the OYS Policy and Advocacy Work Group, is to codify best practices and change policies that hinder the juvenile justice system, including coordinating policy-related action items that arise in the work groups.

- I. Welcome and Introductions
 - a. Present: Ravan Charles, Kerri Peterson, A’Jamal Byndon, Shawne Coonfare, Joy Suder, Jim Hubbard, Patrick Bloomingdale, Brad Alexander, Christine Henningsen, Mary Visek, Janee Pannkuk, Karla Dush, Catherine Rivier, Debora Faga
- II. Announcements
 - a. Ravan Charles with Terra Luna gave a little background on herself
 - b. Steering Committee next Thursday, February 15, 8:30a – 10:30a, Civic Center Room 903
 - c. One day left to contribute to the Governing Principles
 - d. SBA Provider Resource Fair at P-T conferences at South High School and Norris Middle School next Thursday, February 15
- III. Summary of last meeting’s activities
 - a. Changes were made to Strategy #4 in the work plan
 - b. Talked about Christine providing bulleting information on LB 894
 - c. OPS representative - specific position? McFarland – Student Code of Conduct? Talk with Lisa Utterback about it
- IV. Work Group Discussion:
 - a. Office of Inspector General of NE Child Welfare report on Juvenile Room Confinement
 - i. LB 870 - Reporting requirement for room confinement - Bill this year on the limitations – County’s position is opposed
 - ii. Brad provided background regarding his presentation at the hearing

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**.

- iii. Reducing the length of stay would greatly help the situation; kids are staying 35% longer this year than they did the previous year
- iv. Is there a way to measure the outcomes from providers? It seems that youth come back fairly quickly because of violent behavior.
- v. Do the courts do a good enough job of researching their out-of-home placements?
- vi. Family challenges are an obstacle to serving the youth in-home
- vii. Lack of understanding about what happens at DCYC
 - 1. There is a difference between “room confinement/restriction” and the traditional definition of “solitary confinement”
- viii. We need more judge’s voices in the mix
- ix. Access resources to better define best practices
- x. Next steps for this Bill: Think it will come out of committee and go to the floor
- xi. Get the data all in one place
- xii. DCYC has no control over how many youth come to them; they have to deal with the youth that are sent for however long they are told they will be there
- xiii. How do we help get the youth center’s voice out there to better effectuate change?

V. Activity

a. Follow up:

- i. Christine will provide bulleted information on LB894 to share with other working groups (What the issue is; What it means; Discussion points for consideration, etc.)
- ii. Kerri was looking into semantics of having a Policy Page on OYS website or one under Policy Group. This page would reflect what we support as a Working Group according to Theory of Change/Guiding Principles
- iii. Karla will reach out to an OPS representative
- b. Review Work Plan to include: Identifying Target Dates, Responsible Parties, Resources Needed, EBPs, etc.
 - i. Finalize draft
- c. Update on Runaway Taskforce – Tabled to next meeting

VI. Decision Making/Next Steps – Tabled to next meeting

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- VII. Feedback Survey – Handed Out
- VIII. Public Comment
 - a. Next meeting will be in a different room at CEC
 - b. The May meeting will be held on May 21st, in the Marion Ivers Board Room 128 at UNO's Barbara Weitz Community Engagement Center

Next Meeting: Monday, March 26, 2018, from 830am -10am, Barbara Weitz Community Engagement Center, Room 118

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