**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: Tom Hanks, Margaret Vacek, James Hubbard, Mary Jo Thompson, Andrea Wright, Nicole Seymour, Justin Coleman, Lt. Vivian Buckley, Camas Steuter, Janee Pannkuk, Catherine Rivier, Karla Dush, Debora Faga

- Updates
  - OYS
    - NJJA Conference, May 2-4, Kearney, NE
    - Juvenile Justice Provider Forum (JJPF) is April 30; Jaci Dai’Klabunde with Nebraska Legal Aid and Jessica Kroeker with Project Harmony will be presenting
    - Prevention WG is participating in the Juneteenth Parade, June 16, if anyone would like to join us
    - Steering Committee Meeting this Thursday, April 19
    - OYS will have a table at Cinco de Mayo again this year; a sign-up invite will be going out to all work groups
    - OYS backbone staff attended the Collective Impact Convening in Austin, TX, April 3-5
    - The Art of Hosting is a program OYS is exploring
  - Member
    - World Refugee Day is June 16
    - May 4, Suicide Awareness at the Storm Chaser’s game at Werner Park

- Summary of last meeting’s activities
  - Heather Briggs, Probation, spoke to our group
• Broke out into small groups working on Strategies 1 and 2 of the work plan
  • Discussed the pamphlet
  • Discussed the video; possibility of having a Spanish version

• Group Discussion
  • Want to be intentional about bringing in the community; working with existing groups instead of creating new ones
  • Identify existing groups
  • Perhaps look at expanding a facilitation program to include youth
  • Youth Advisory Council

• Work plan revisions – broke into small groups to discuss the strategies
  • Strategy 1
    • Increase youth a 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
  • Strategy 2
    • Provide youth and families the tools and information to advance their knowledge in the juvenile justice system
  • Strategy 3
    • Identify engagement opportunities for youth and families across the system

• Work plan next steps
  • Notes from break out groups were submitted to Margaret and Karla for incorporation into the work plan to be discussed at next meeting.

• Family Engagement 2.1
  • DHHS – Initial Assessment of Child Protective Services, Camas Steuter, Eastern Service Administrator
    • 61 initial assessment staff located at Project Harmony, 7 of which are now co-located with PromiseShip
    • Get referrals in two ways; through the state-wide reporting hotline and through law enforcement
    • Smaller volume comes from direct files from judges and county attorneys
    • 8,000 calls come through their hotline a month; 2500 Douglas/Sarpy County calls a month, about 500 of which are accepted for assessment each month
    • Traditional Response - Initial Assessment Flowchart handed out (attached)
• Referrals to PromiseShip (Nebraska Families Collaborative) depending on Risk Determination
• Struggle with Sarpy County right now because they automatically check the “state ward” box; have an agreement to give DHHS 48 hours to try to work through the situation before actually making that happen
• Always look at coming up with a plan instead of removal
• Staff is on-call 24/7/365
  ▪ Intake can also be “not accepted” and in that case referrals can be made to several places, for example, Nebraska Family Helpline, Region 6, Community Response, or other community agencies
  ▪ Another category is Law Enforcement Only, which is, for example, if abuse is caused by a neighbor
  ▪ If a removal has to happen, the first option is a non-custodial parent, then a relative or possibly a neighbor/friend, final resort is a foster home
  ▪ Alternative Response Program (ARP)
    • Pilot program started in five counties, one of which was Sarpy County; now is state-wide and includes Douglas County
    • Have an independent team that manages these intakes
    • Has to meet the threshold for being accepted at the hotline
    • If the family qualifies under the criteria to meet the ARP
    • 50/50 to traditional and alternative in order to compare the responses; there have been about 600 eligible in Douglas County so about 300/300
    • Qualifying criteria: Neglect/generational poverty/low level physical abuse/adolescent mental health
    • There are 21 exclusionary criteria
    • Assessments are done a little differently than traditional
    • Interview process includes the family
    • Fully voluntary (still obligated to do a safety determination)
    • There is no central registry finding
    • Hoping ARP will be able to grow and increase
    • Families First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) changes the funding structure for everyone
    • ARP families are not referred to PromiseShip, they stay with the case team
    • Have increased the ARP staff and decreased case load, resulting in better worker satisfaction and carrying over to families satisfaction
Statewide 980 have participated, 961 were eligible but didn’t participate because of the randomizer

Legislation coming up that would remove some of the exclusionary criteria and allow more families to be eligible for ARP

- Statutorily, all reports, traditional and alternative, are shared with law enforcement
- The next juncture is community response – primary and secondary prevention
- Staff diversity – 15 out of the 61 staff are persons of color, 1 is Spanish-speaking; working on becoming more diverse

- Feedback surveys – handed out

- Next Meeting May 15, 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**.