



Runaway Taskforce Purpose Statement

The Purpose of the Runaway Taskforce is two-fold:

- Prevent youth who are exhibiting runaway risk factors and behaviors from entering the juvenile justice system, by ensuring that appropriate community resources exist and meet the needs of youth.
- Ensure the justice system is effective, compassionate and empowers youth and their families to succeed while building an environment of mutual trust and accountability.

- Welcome and Introductions
 - Present: Stephanie Hoelsing, Shawn Miller, Christine Henningsen, Colleen Roth, Shawne Coonfare, Lt. Tracy Scherer, Nicole Brundo, Shelly Hug, Nicole Seymour, Ravan Charles, Kevin Lytle, Janee Pannkuk, Karla Dush, Amber Parker, Debora Faga
 - OYS Updates
 - OYS Staff attended the Collective Impact Convening in Austin, TX, April 2-5
 - OYS Steering Committee meeting next Thursday, April 19
 - If there are any barriers identified by work groups involving systemic change or legislative change, we can take that to the Policy & Advocacy Work Group for the support and assistance
 - Member Updates
 - Lt. Scherer met with SROs yesterday and suggestion was made to include SROs in this group
 - Invite Millard schools to the group

- Review
 - Summary of prior meeting's activities
 - Talked about narrowing down the focus to middle-school aged youth who are not system involved
 - How do we reach/assist that population
 - Any type of best practices going on already within the schools/community
 - Curriculum surrounding runaways
 - National Runaway Safeline
 - 10 question tool that can be used by law enforcement
 - Safe Place

- Activity:
 - Safe Place Presentation-Shawn Miller, Youth Emergency Services (YES) –(presentation slides included)
 - This presentation is geared more toward school teachers
 - Mission is to serve homeless and at-risk youth by providing critically needed resources which empower them to become self-sufficient
 - Youth homelessness comes in many shapes and forms
 - YES' Continuum of Care:
 - Slide presentation
 - In FY 2017 YES served 3,375 youth and adults
 - In FY 206 Street Outreach interacted with 10,600 youth ages 12-21 on streets; they provide:
 - Meals
 - Shower
 - Laundry
 - Pantry for food and clothing

- Job and housing assistance
- Build community
- See a nurse and therapist
- Attend classes
- Do not need to be truly homeless to be served
- It is a prevention approach; not a shelter
- Emergency Shelter:
 - Immediate housing
 - Ages 16-20
 - May stay 21 days
 - Case management
 - Therapist, VNA
 - School, job prep
 - Family connection
 - Do ask for ID in order to stay at the shelter
 - If reported as missing, is there a call made to identify them as found?
 - Majority of the youth served are 19 to 20
 - Less than 10 youth a year under 19 are served
 - Parent can call, but they usually don't; perhaps when contacting the parent remind them to call law enforcement and update the youth's status
 - A call can be made to law enforcement when a missing youth is at YES; however, law enforcement has to put eyes on the child in order to identify that it is the child and they are safe
 - Want to remain a safe place, so possibly bring the youth to the administrative office to meet with law enforcement?
 - Could there be a report sent that will allow the service to check to see if youth are reported missing?
 - YES can contact the OPD front desk to check on the status of a youth they are serving
 - Even in suspected abuse cases, not every child is able to be removed from the home
 - Set up a procedure to allow the youth to stay after verification
 - This could be similar to the current procedure that is used with Schools (cancelling the capias, allowing the youth to remain in school, etc.)
 - YES would notify LE; LE would meet with youth and YES house staff in the administrative office
 - Would like to have a specific OPD person that YES can contact
 - YES can contact the OPD front desk to check on the status of each youth
 - If there are questions related to a particular youth/situation, YES can contact Collen with Project Harmony
 - Law enforcement can always call Shawn at YES for information
- Transitional Living Program:
 - Ages 16 through 21
 - 18 month program
 - Empower youth to become self-sufficient
 - Connect them with community services
 - They pay rent, but get 80% back
 - Financial Literacy and Rentwise classes
 - Transition in place
 - Have a 72-hour window to obtain parental consent for youth under 19
 - If a parent cannot be reached, law enforcement is contacted
 - Average stay is 6-8 months

- Have an after-care program in order to reach out for follow-up
- 42% of youth return to a family member
- Maternity Home:
 - Pregnant or parenting teens ages 16-21
 - Parenting classes through NE Children's Home
 - VNA nurse
 - Therapist
 - Case Management
- If the youth staying at Safe Place has been reported missing, how can law enforcement work with YES to verify that the youth is actually there and safe
- Outreach is a prevention approach; youth cannot stay there
- Safe Place:
 - Safe Place is a shelter; a national program
 - Safe Place exists locally in Omaha, Bellevue, Papillion, Ralston, Gretna, Valley, Plattsmouth and Lincoln in Nebraska
 - In Council Bluffs, Glenwood, and Missouri Valley in southwest Iowa
 - Safe Place sponsors are trained in the procedure for Safe Place placement
 - Can text TEXT4HELP – text SAFE and address, city, state to 69866
- YES' first call is always to try to contact a parent
- YES also contacts counties outside of OPD jurisdiction
- YES presents to schools on a continuing basis
- Discussion of Best Practices/Curriculum
 - National Runaway Safeline
 - Evidence-based, 40 module curriculum
 - Can be presented in schools or at youth groups
 - It is available on-line and it is free
 - No special training to present
 - Interactive activities, life-skill building
- Decision Making/Next Steps
 - Could we infiltrate all the schools through the social worker group
 - Reach out to HHS to attend; Nicole will reach out to Amanda
 - Karla will contact Millard Public School representative
- Feedback Survey – Handed out

Public Comment: None

Next Meeting: Thursday, May 10th from 8:30am-10am. This meeting will be held at Project Harmony.

OYS 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**.