



Operation Youth Success

Runaway Taskforce

Tuesday, January 30, 2018

(Re-scheduled from January 11, 2018)

8:30am – 10:00am

UNO, Barbara Weitz Community Engagement Center, Room 118

- Welcome and Introductions
 - Present: Heather Briggs, Nicole Brundo, Shawne Coonfare, Karla Dush, Christine Henningsen, Jim Hubbard, Julie Mason, Mary Meints, Janee Pannkuk, Amber Parker, Catherine Rivier, Colleen Roth, Lt. Tracy Scherer and Nicole Seymour.
- Summary of prior meeting's activities
 - Worked on clarifying this Taskforce's Purpose
 - Discussed areas of Focus
 - Discussed next steps
 - OYS staff to research other community initiatives with this same population
 - Obtain relevant data for big picture (formal request for runaway foster care/probation youth, etc.)
- Activity:
 - Discussed other Taskforce Initiatives (Youth Task Force through Metro Area Continuum of Care Homeless (MACCH) and Trafficking Subcommittee of the Strengthening Families Act Committee of the Normalcy Task Force under the Nebraska Children's Commission)
 - Discussed the data from various sources (warrant, state ward, Helpline, law enforcement)
 - Discussion on Purpose of this Taskforce
 - Define Purpose (below is what was defined from previous meetings)
 - The purpose of the OYS Runaway Taskforce is to:
 - Prevent youth who are exhibiting runaway risk factors and exhibiting runaway behavior from entering the juvenile justice system
 - Ensure the justice system is effective, compassionate and empowers youth and their families to succeed and to build an environment of mutual trust and accountability

Suggested edit:

The Purpose of the OYS 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 (this last piece was the suggested addition).**
 - Ensure the justice system is effective, compassionate and empowers youth and their families to succeed while building an environment of mutual trust and accountability
- Outline of Work Plan-shared and tabled until next Meeting
 - Discussion of best approach to working through strategies. Do we continue to meet as large group or break out by strategies?-tabled until next meeting
 - Discussed co-chair opportunities (volunteers and nominations)

- Decision Making/Next Steps
 - Members agreed to take the month of February to review and provide feedback on:
 - **Work Plan:** feedback can be emailed to Karla prior to next meeting (Thursday, March 8th) or shared at the meeting
 - **Purpose statement:** review prior to meeting and bring final thoughts for discussion
 - **Co-chair opportunity:** consider co-chairing this exciting Taskforce and/or nominating a fellow group member. Interest and nominations can be emailed to Karla.
- Feedback Survey-handed out
- Public Comment

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 8th at 8:30am, Barbara Weitz Community Engagement Center, Room 118

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**.