



Operation Youth Success

Runaway Taskforce

Thursday, March 8, 2018

8:30am – 10:00am

UNO, Barbara Weitz Community Engagement Center, Room 221

- Welcome and Introductions
Present: Shelly Hug, Carrie Strovers, Kyle Kinney, Julie Mason, Ronda Newman, Shawne Coonfare, Nikki Novak, Christine Henningsen, Jim Hubbard, Mary Meints, Nicole Brundo, Lt. Tracy Scherer, Karla Dush, Debora Faga
- OYS Updates:
 - 11th Annual Violence and Prevention Justice Summit, Saturday the 10th at North High School, 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
 - NJJA Conference in Kearney, May 2-4th
 - Kim Culp Juvenile Justice Forum, March 22nd at UNO, 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.
- Review:
 - Summary of prior meeting's activities
 - Review
 - What we want to focus on
 - Different initiatives
- Activity:
 - Purpose of this Taskforce was approved as below
 - The Purpose of the OYS Runaway Task Force 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.
 - Discussion and finalization of Work Plan Draft
 - Strategies, Action Steps, etc.
 - Definition discussion
 - Discussion of other groups working in similar areas: Youth Links, Trafficking Committee
 - Focus on middle school group, before they run and runners (first and multiple) who are not yet in the system
 - How do we get the resources to these kids
 - Training for both the kids and the parents
 - Best approach to working through strategies

- Narrow to two strategies (1. Youth, and 2. Parents) and identify action steps
 - Two categories: Prevention and Intervention
 - Discussion on doing both categories at the same time or sequentially;
 - Discussion on main group meeting every other month and having break-out groups on off months
 - Focus groups with families
 - Taskforce Co-chairs
 - Lt. Tracy Scherer
 - Volunteers?
- Decision Making/Next Steps
 - Look at the Safe Place curriculum and see if it needs to be tweaked for this group's purpose
 - Have the presentation presented to this group at the next meeting
 - Train the trainer
 - Can we get them into the middle schools
 - Figure out what schools and talk to the social workers
 - Every school handles it quite a bit differently; will be a time-consuming process
 - Education of the school
 - Put communication with school social worker on the plan as a goal
 - List of school social workers by the next meeting
- Feedback Survey – Handed Out

Public Comment:

- March 18-24 is National Safe Place Week

Next Meeting: Thursday, April 12, from 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. at UNO CEC Room 221

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**.