Welcome and Introductions

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.