



**Operation Youth Success
Runaway Taskforce Notes**

Thursday, May 10, 2018

8:30am – 10:00am

Project Harmony, Training Room 1

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.
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- Welcome and Introductions
 - Present: Julie Mason, Jill Anderson, Amanda Nawrocki, Jackie Simmons, Mary Fraser Meints, Ronda Newman, Nicole Brundo, Lt. Tracy Scherer, Shawne Coonfare, Christine Henningsen, Karla Dush, Janee Pannkuk, Amber Parker, Debora Faga
 - OYS Updates
 - Prevention WG is participating in the Juneteenth Parade on Saturday, June 16th. All the work groups are invited to participate. We are filling backpacks with information to hand out during the parade, so if anyone would like their information included please let us know.
 - Steering Committee meeting next Thursday
 - Comprehensive Community Plan will be discussed
 - Nebraska chapter of Moms Demand Action will be sponsoring the “Wear Orange for National Gun Violence Awareness” event to be held at Columbus Park, 1515 S. 24th St., on June 2nd
 - Member Updates
 - Project Harmony submitted a grant for a mental health practitioner to be available for non-system involved runaways
 - Review
 - Summary of prior meeting’s activities
 - Shawn from YES gave a presentation
 - Talked about National Runaway Safeline
 - One instance since then of a youth from Dodge County that showed up Douglas County and the opportunity for the organizations to reach out came up
 - Activity
 - National Runaway Safeline Prevention Specialist, supports provided-Karla
 - Workplan activity
 - At the co-chair meeting, adding a 4th strategy was discussed: Support collaborative efforts that ensure continuity of services through communication sharing amongst and within necessary professionals and entities.
 - Real-life example was given, then broke into small groups to discuss various parts of the above strategy
 - Group 1-Prevention
 - Best practices, curriculum, education
 - How to reach youth/families: schools, community center, YMCAs, medical arena, parenting classes
 - Having contact with families, engaging them in positive activities
 - Have a safety plan

- Is there a curriculum that focuses on parents, educating them to identify risk behaviors, develop a relationship with their child stronger than their peers
- Training: who would we partner with, where would it be held, what would that look like
- Partnering with the Families Work Group
- Adding to existing protocols at medical interactions
- Normalizing education to parents at health clinics
- Group 2-Intervention and Crisis Response
 - Talking with Stacy's mom about legal ramifications
 - Law enforcement should help Joann, connect with crisis counselor
 - Coordinated response: Notify the school, have the SRO/social worker talk to their peers, school personnel may have information about the kids that the parents do not have
 - Police department coordinated response: make sure that the case very quickly went to the Project Harmony unit; continuity in the case; timely documentation so patrol officers have the information; involve the SROs in the investigation
 - Youth and agencies: in-home therapy, CPS involvement for Dave's needs, counseling for Joann, referrals after the fact, trying to develop some kind of matrix to go to various organizations detailing who to contact first (how do I
- Group 3-Community Response
 - How do we implement strategies to help all three kids?
 - What does a crisis response look like?
 - Sarpy County has a crisis/community response that is working very well
 - How do we bring some of that into Douglas County
 - Explore Sarpy's response – Amanda is going to reach out and get us some contacts
 - How do they develop their model?
 - How do they get the community involvement?
 - How do they get the police involvement?
 - Safety Plans for Runaways (Youth Links) – would like Karla to reach out and educate us on that
 - Invite Lakeisha and the other youth to the group to advise us
 - Have Region 6 at the table – Amber can send information that she already has
- All groups: What about Dave?
 - Address the homelessness; the adult and youth homeless issue intersect
 - Crisis issue, without getting the police involved
- Discussion: Working with immigrant and refugee populations- Lt. Scherer – tabled to next meeting
- Decision Making/Next Steps
 - Karla handed out information on professional development trainings through National Runaway Safeline
 - Do we want to do a train the trainer?
- Feedback Survey – handed out

Next Meeting: Thursday, June 14th, from 830am-10am, UNO 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**.