



Operation Youth Success Families Work Group

Tuesday, May 15, 2018

9:00-11:00 AM

Heartland Workforce Solutions

Introductions:

Present: Margaret Vacek, Judith Gutierrez, Dwite Pedersen, Mary Jo Thompson, Andrea Wright, Vivian Buckley, Kevin Lytle, Amber Parker, Debora Faga, Catherine Rivier, Sarah Hayek

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 Thursday, May 17th
 - 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; if you post pictures on Facebook of you and/or your staff and friends wearing orange and use #wearorange we will re-post on our Facebook page.

Community Updates:

- June 1st, 4-7 pm, Ames Avenue Block Party event at Heartland Workforce Solutions in the parking lot
- June 16th, World Refugee Day at the Joslyn

Work Plan Updates from small workgroups:

- Looked at target dates and action steps
- Strategy 1:
 - Increase family/youth participation in all OYS activities
 - Would like to have youth/family co-chairing each of the work groups

Operation Youth Success is bringing people together to decide what aspects of juvenile justice in Douglas County need to change and how that change will happen.

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**.

- Look at what activities/panels/advisory groups are available locally and at the state level
- National initiative “Youth Move”
- Bringing various attendees to the table
- Diversity in recruitment efforts
- Connect with Opportunity Youth, Project Everlast, United Way, Voices for Children, Bridge to Independence
- Bring the document created by the youth involved in Youth Day at NJJA to share
- Strategy 2:
 - Responsibility and membership
- Strategy 3:
 - Identify opportunities and touchpoints
 - Develop a process workflow

Work Plan Next Steps:

- How will new bills impact families – Families First Prevention Act
- Show of hands – who would be interested in learning more about the Families First Prevention Act? Everyone
- Maybe bump the 2.1 presentation for next month to a presentation on FFPSA (Andrea)

Family Engagement 2.1

- Sarah Hayek, Family Engagement Specialist at PromiseShip
 - Supervises triage after-hours unit – crisis stabilization, Cultural Liaison position and Family Engagement Coordinator
 - Established in 2009 – Case management in Douglas and Sarpy Counties
 - Act essentially as DHHS for kids that are involved with child welfare in Douglas and Sarpy
 - Work with families on one of three ways:
 - Initial services, an immediate safety need, provide crisis stabilization for 30 days (services to keep the family safe while the investigation is going on); the goal is to provide enough stabilization that the family never has to transition to PromiseShip
 - Case management for court

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- Case management for non-court related
 - Only work with abuse and neglect, high or very-high risk
 - Focus a lot on family engagement
 - Encourage families to bring their support system into the meetings
 - Have developed multiple units that focus on family engagement
 - Kinship assessment
 - Kinship Stabilization teams
 - When kids are in foster care there is a home that is vetted through Boys Town that they are placed with
 - Foster home is responsible for day to day care
 - Kinship Stabilization Teams mentor, brainstorm, help the families about what their needs are and how to get them what they need
 - Families don't have to use them unless they need or want them
 - Family Engagement Unit is new
 - Focuses on letting families know that we are here for the same reason they are, working with you to ensure that your kids are safe
 - Family welcome sessions
 - Personal invite to families who have become involved in the last 30 days
 - Get to meet other families and their family permanency specialist, if they haven't already, and other people who work at PromiseShip
 - Overview of team meeting process, hold your team accountable
 - The goal is to have this family-driven
 - Helps not only the families, but the workers
 - Use external partners, peer mentors, and have recently created a Father Engagement Specialist position
 - Project Harmony has a triage unit that helps with kids until they can be placed, not long-term, hopefully only a few hours
 - Keeping diversity and inclusion at the forefront of their recruitment efforts
- Feedback Survey – Handed out

Next Meeting – June 19, 2018

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