



# Operation Youth Success Families Work Group Notes

Tuesday, July 17, 2018

9:00-11:00 AM

Heartland Workforce Solutions

**Purpose Statement:** Empower families to better understand the system and engage in their youth's care.

## **Families Working Group Charter**

- Empowering families to better understand the system
  - Engage youth and families
  - Seek help when needed
1. Introductions
    - a. Present: Margaret Vacek, Judy Gutierrez, James Hubbard, Dwite Pedersen, Michaela Jackson, Mary Jo Thompson, Angela Jarecki, Alexander Cayetano, Lakeisha Phelps, Vivian Buckley, Tom Hanks, Janee Pannkuk, Amber Parker, Karla Dush, Debora Faga
  2. Updates
    - OYS
      - Juvenile Justice Provider Forum (JJPF) Knowledge Exchange, Monday, July 30, 2-4 pm, County Extension Office
      - Ready to begin working on the video vignettes that this group proposed. Once funding has been procured, we will start on the first one.
      - Community Based Aid (CBA) will be opening up for applications sometime in September for the next fiscal year. We are encouraging work groups, if they have an idea that might be appropriate for this funding stream, to start working on their applications now; then when the application period does open up you will have something ready to go, because the turn-around time is fairly short. When the application period opens up, all work group members will receive an email notifying them of the time frame. The application from the last fiscal year is online at the Crime Commission website; the current application is available on the OYS website. Encourage all applicants to look at the Nebraska statute that governs CBA prior to making any decisions about what goes on the applications, as it is a specific funding stream.

### 3. Family Engagement 2.1

- Youth Impact! - Margaret Vacek, Director of Advocacy and Public Policy – Boys Town
  - Youth Impact! started a little over 5 years ago, out of the Georgetown certificate program.
  - Works with youth and families involved in the juvenile justice and child welfare systems.
  - It is a nationally recognized best practice.
  - Convened a group of people with Project Everlast and Nebraska Family Support Network.
  - Want to prevent youth from becoming involved in the juvenile justice system just because they are involved with the child welfare system.
  - At the time in which a child picks up a charge and it goes to the County Attorney, before it's filed, those youth are identified by the County Attorney's office and they come to the team, who describes the process, what it is going to look like, pre-working with the family. The goal is to have the family drive the process, what does the youth and family need, and who do they want at the table.
  - Youth Impact! operates under 1184 Statute which allows stakeholders to participate in collaboration and information sharing about the youth.
  - Four outcomes: File on it and it goes through the court proceedings, enhance child welfare services, develop a diversion plan, or NOLLE PROS (do nothing)
  - The final decision is the county attorney's, but we listen to the family and youth.
  - The team meets every Thursday. Tim Leahy, with JAC, coordinates with the family to get them to the meeting and explains the process.
  - When the youth and family leave the meeting it is known what their case plan is and what it looks like; they have a hard copy of the plan.
  - The target definition is an open child welfare case or a case that has been closed within the last 12 months and picks up a new charge.
  - It is important to make the youth and family feel at ease and comfortable with being a part of the team.
  - The youth and family are offered the opportunity to do follow up work and work with their navigator.
  - If the interventions are not successful for the youth or the family, the teams go back to see what is not working and the respective case management team goes back with them and determines what is necessary.

- If a child picks up a charge that is school-related, the role of the schools is important to the team, as they offer a different perspective from the other professionals.
- Being trauma-informed, the whole child welfare case is not brought to the table, only the charge that brought the youth to the table.

#### 4. Work Plan- Strategy 1: Increase youth and family participation and involvement

- Family and Youth Councils

- Youth Council defined as being made up of youth over the age of 18 and, possibly up to 30, who have been touched by the juvenile justice system. Families Council, made up of those who have a loved one, who is at risk or has been involved in the juvenile justice system; as well as individuals who have been touched themselves by the system.
- Angela, Alexander and Lakeisha will be working on planning an event to bring families and youth together to form the youth council.
- Looking at holding the event in September or October, after school starts.
- Need to offer child care during the event.
- Use Facebook, flyers, word of mouth, etc. to get the invitations out.
- What do we want the vision/mission of the council to be?
- Inform what OYS does, have a Q&A session to determine.
- Need to be careful about not letting this become a complaint forum.
- First develop the councils through this event; inviting, welcoming, and explaining what we want to learn from them. What does the process look like and what is it about?
- Vision? How to improve the processes for future youth involved or at risk of becoming involved in the justice system, and developing the strategy for this.
- Members of this work group, invite five youth/families to come to the event.
- Might have to have two separate groups for the different age levels.
- At subsequent council meeting, have speakers providing information on various touch points of the justice system.

- Family and Youth Survey

- Handed out sample questions for the survey.
- Too lengthy and too much jargon.
- Have scaled questions with, maybe, one or two open-ended questions.
- Use available technology.
- Use iPads or IClickers to do the survey instead of one on paper, for live survey audiences.
- Have surveys on paper in the waiting areas of various places.

- Not a one and done, this should be continuing.
- Questions: What worked, what didn't work, what was the major barrier to your success?
- Rating system questions or the ability to choose more than one answer.

5. Ideas for 2019 Youth Impact! Brown Bagger

- a. Handed out information on the next Brown Bagger on October 10<sup>th</sup>; suggested possible topics:
  - i. Immigration and DACA – What does it mean for our families and youth?
  - ii. Refugee (repeat)
  - iii. LGBTQ
  - iv. SRO information/panel
  - v. New “risk to self” statute that is in effect July 19

6. Feedback Survey – handed out

Next Meeting: August 21, 2018

**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**.