



Operation Youth Success Families Work Group Notes

Tuesday, June 19, 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

Introductions:

Present: Margaret Vacek, Judith Gutierrez, James Hubbard, Andrea Wright, Dwite Pedersen, Terra Goodwin, Rachelle Miller, Angela Jarecki, Eve Bleyhl, Tom Hanks, Janee Pannkuk, Karla Dush, Amber Parker, Debora Faga

Families Engagement 2.1:

- Families First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) – Andrea Wright, Program Director, Heartland Family Services
 - Presentation is focused on the Juvenile Justice side of FFPSA
 - Passed February 9, 2018
 - Significant victory for children and families
 - Focuses on prevention for children at risk
 - Supports the idea of the kinship caregiver
 - Supports youth transitioning from foster care
 - Focuses on evidence-based services and substance abuse treatments
 - Promotes permanency for children
 - Covers a wide range of child welfare programs, including preventive services, foster care and adoption
 - There are multiple effective dates in the bill
 - It includes significant amendments to:

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- Title IV-E (foster care, adoption assistance and Chafee independent living services)
 - Title IV-B (child welfare services)
- What is Title IV-E funding?
 - Pays for foster placement of youth who meet federal eligibility criteria
 - Is IV-E utilized in Juvenile Justice?
 - Yes – in a smaller amount. Youth have been adjudicated and placed with a foster family or a child care institution.
- Benefits for youth in the Juvenile Justice system
 - Foster care maintenance payments
 - Categorically eligible for Medicaid
 - Entitled to Independent Living Plan
 - Chafee Foster Care benefits (former foster youth)
 - Provides protection to reduce out-of-home placements
- Benefits for Juvenile Justice System
 - Federal resources/\$\$ for the cost of placement – help expand placement options
 - Encourage development of evidence-based practices (EBPs)
- Allowable services
 - Mental health & substance abuse prevention and treatment
 - In-home parent skill-based services
- How long may a family receive services?
 - 12 months
 - Candidate for Foster Care
 - Pregnant or parenting foster youth
- Investing in Prevention and Family Services
 - The Act specifies evidence-based requirements that entail meeting “promising,” “supported,” or “well-supported” criteria similar to that used by the California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse for Child Welfare
- Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP)
 - Trauma-informed model of care
 - Designed to meet the needs of children with serious emotional and behavioral disorders or disturbances
 - Implement the treatment identified in the 30-day assessment
 - 30-day assessment required
 - Big thing focusing on is a placement assessment

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- Policy work group is working through increasing sibling visitation for youth in the system
- DC Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to approve and adopt the new Community Plan, which has been submitted to the Crime Commission; hopefully, by August, they will have reviewed all of it
- Community Updates-ALL
 - Omaha Fire Department is having Coffee with a Firefighter tomorrow at Hardy Coffee Company, 2112 N. 30th St., 8:30-10:30 a.m.
- Work Plan- Strategy 1:
 - Increase youth and family participation and involvement in all OYS activities and to increase trust and transparency as a means to engage and bring more voices to the table
 - How can we further expand this strategy?
 - Get representation from the YMCA and Boys and Girls Club
 - Holding meetings at times that are more conducive to family participation
 - Make sure families know why their involvement is important
 - Can everyone identify a friend, neighbor, someone they have worked with in the past, and help them share their family voice
 - Identify, build trust, help move it forward, and sustain it
 - Independent youth voice
 - Are we looking for families to become members, or come to share their stories and give insight to the group? We want both.
 - Parent/Youth Leadership Training
 - Family Council
 - Youth Council
 - Forums/Surveys
 - Stop saying “why can’t we,” say “let’s do this.”
 - Identify a day before the beginning of the school year to begin this type of forum
 - Reach out to leaders in certain communities
 - Be specific in presentation to the families – we’re working on reform on XYZ on long-term changes to the system

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- Be mindful of the wording: We want to hear your voice on your lived experience in the juvenile justice system
 - Include the refugee population at some point
 - How do we disseminate the information we gather to the interested players?
- Decisions and Next Steps:
 - Andrea will send out the list of workgroups for review to determine which groups OYS members should be involved in
 - The co-chairs and Karla will work with Angela to develop an outline for implementation of strategy 1, prior to next meeting. To include: dates for information sharing and forums and specifics of such (location, common message/agenda, etc.)
 - Co-chairs develop a draft of survey questions re: Juvenile Justice that can be left at various system points as a means to obtain community feedback
- Feedback Survey – handed out
- Public Comment
- Next Meeting July 17, 2018

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