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.

Policy and Advocacy Work Group Purpose Statement
The purpose of the OYS Policy and Advocacy Work Group is to codify best practices and change policies that hinder the juvenile justice system, including coordinating policy-related action items that arise in the work groups.

I. Welcome and Introductions
   a. Present: Christine Henningsen, Juliet Summers, Joy Suder, Patrick Bloomingdale, A’Jamal Byndon, Margaret Vacek, Mary Vicek, Kevin Lytle, Kerri Petersen, Jennifer Potterf, Janee Pannkuk, Karla Dush, Amber Parker, Debora Faga

II. Announcements
   a. OYS Updates
      i. NJJA Conference in Kearney, NE, May 2-4
      ii. Collective Impact Convening, Austin, TX, April 3-5
   b. Member Updates
      i. Juliet did an awesome job Thursday night at the League of Women Voters
      ii. The Sherwood Foundation has moved to 808 ConAgra Drive, The Chamber Building

III. Summary of last meeting’s activities
   a. Follow up:
      i. Christine will provide bulleted information on LB894 to share with other working groups (What the issue is, what it means, discussion points for consideration, etc.)
         1. Will delve into this during the Bills update
      ii. Kerri was looking into semantics of having a Policy Page on OYS website or one under Policy Group. This page would reflect what we support as a Working Group according to Theory of Change/Guiding Principles
      iii. Shawne will reach out to an OPS representative
         1. All middle schools and high schools in OPS have armed SROs, 1 in Millard, 1 in Elkhorn, Douglas County officers at some of the others
         2. Multiple trainings have been occurring for SROs over the last year, NASRO, not just Douglas County
         3. OPD is doing “Policing the Teen Brain” for patrol
4. “Educating the Teen Brain” session for middle school and high school administrators in OPS
5. Juvenile Justice Jeopardy that can be played in the schools where kids can learn how to interact with law enforcement and it will be demoed at NJJA Conference twice
6. Deputy Chief Gonzalez has made another request for additional office training that would include the superintendents of five school districts
7. The Chief did present at Omaha 360’s Youth Violence Summit
8. Strategies for Youth teaches the role of the SRO being more understanding what the youth is going through and takes adolescent development into account during their trainings for the SROs
9. Arrests at this time are going down
10. SRO discussion: Shawne has reached out to Ann McFarland and Lisa Utterback
11. SRO discussion: Mary Vicek has been impressed with the way the conversations have changed with OPD when making arrests

iv. How can we help Brad advocate for the kids
v. Greg Hepburn, DCYC, will be co-chair of Case Processing
vi. Caseloads for Douglas County, compared to other counties, suggest that we still need a 7th judge
vii. Probation numbers are up
viii. Follow up with Ray Curtis to get scheduling numbers this year compared to last year and the number with multiple filings

IV. Activity
a. Review Work Plan to include Identifying Target Dates, Responsible Parties, Resources Needed, EBPs, etc.
   i. Broke out into 4 groups to discuss the various strategies
      1. Strategy 1: Serve as a resource to address systemic barriers identified by the various working groups of system reform efforts
      2. Strategy 2: Maintain, understand, communicate and educate the current knowledge of legislative policy regarding youth and families, including system of care updates
      3. Strategy 3: Codify National best practices for youth and families involved or at risk of becoming involved in the juvenile justice system, which eliminate systemic barriers.
      4. Strategy 4: Create opportunities for organizations, institutions and community members to effectively engage and communicate in ways that demonstrate a shared accountability for results and build community engagement.

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