**Operation Youth Success**

**Families Work Group Notes**

Tuesday, August 21, 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, Jim Hubbard, Alexander Cayetano, Eve Bleyhl, Vivian Buckley, Colleen Roth, Judy Gutierrez, Dwite Pedersen, Shawne Coonfare, Karla Dush, Debora Faga

- OYS Updates
  - Strategic Planning meeting with the Steering Committee was held last week
  - Nebraska Families Support Network has submitted a grant application for a part-time youth council coordinator and a part-time navigator. These positions are ones we have tied to our work plan.
  - The Runaway Task Force has applied for 2 grant funding opportunities. One would bring the National Runaway Safeline training (train the trainer) to Douglas County, where we can invite community agencies to be trained in their curriculum. The other opportunity is the break-off Refugee group that would allow law enforcement, schools, churches, etc. to make a referral for cultural ambassadors to work with non-system involved, refugee youth and families, when youth run away.

- Family Engagement 2.1
  - Colleen Roth - Missing Youth Initiative through Project Harmony
    - Last October Colleen, Nicole Brundo, Shawne Coonfare, and Lt. Tracy Scherer started working together regarding missing youth.
    - Lt. Scherer presented some numbers; from December 1, 2016 through December 1, 2017, there were 3,200 missing juvenile reports in the Omaha area, 400 of those were 13 and under. Some of these kids are repeat runners. About half of them are system-involved.
They found that the non-system involved youth, oftentimes, were repeat runners with a long history of CPS contact.

They started collaborating about what can be done, some kind of intervention, especially for the 13 and under group.

Applied for a grant for an intake coordinator and a mental health therapist, which was approved; intake coordinator started yesterday, the mental health therapist starts next Monday.

Our goal is to keep the kids out of the system.

Want to break the cycle of picking the kids up and returning them home, repeat, and repeat; instead of returning them right away to their parents, bringing them to Project Harmony where an interview and assessment can be done.

The family can be brought in for assessment also, do some safety planning, figure out what mental health or other community resources they might need.

The group is reaching out to identify resources for non-system involved families.

Project Harmony has a triage center with child abuse trained nurse practitioners to treat the medical needs of the kids.

They have found that the kids do want medical treatment and because of this, they do start forming relationships with the medical staff.

Definition of missing youth: pretty much the same as the runaway definition OPD uses; missing youth are kids that have been abducted, runaway are kids that leave on their own.

This addresses the kids that have been called in by their parents.

When they are found, they go back to their parents unless they have warrants.

No one is working with the non-system involved youth right now; that is one of the goals of the group.

Perhaps encourage the parents to contact the Family Navigator program through Nebraska Families Support Network; the program has the ability to meet with the families where they are. They can call the Helpline to get connected.

Looking for community-based family services to assist the non-system involved youth and families; trying to figure out why these kids are running and get the families the help they need.

The Missing Youth Initiative could have their intake coordinator working with the Family Navigator program to address these concerns and help them connect with services.

The Initiative will have access to the missing youth reports from OPD and are able to reach out the parents if they see a pattern of running, to see if they are receptive to receiving help.

Under-used resources are faith-based organizations.
- Brookside Church has existing resources for foster parents and kids (Care Net?) and a Safe Families group.
- Bridges is another group that could be tapped into.
- Douglas County Community Response team is a group that could help.
- If you think of resources or contacts, please let Colleen know.

- Youth Council Progress
  - Committee met on August 8 and then again last week to do some behind the scenes work.
  - Initially the idea was to organize a community event to gather people who have had experience with the juvenile justice system.
  - Lakeisha had the idea to recruit people to the council, via nomination.
  - Decided to advertise the opportunity to nominate someone to become involved or self-nominate for people who meet the criteria:
    - Be between the ages of 19-30
    - Have a lived experience of the juvenile justice system
    - Be available to attend an informational meeting on October 22
  - A brief pre-screening questionnaire would be sent out to the nominees to give us an idea of what people would be coming to the informational event. There are going to be many methods used to contact nominees.
  - The informational meeting would allow us to explain the criteria, guidelines and commitments and then would provide a brief, formal application for people who want to go further with this opportunity to complete.
  - The format of the event would be an informal dinner, where the folks who have completed the pre-screening questionnaire would be invited. About an hour, hour and a half time frame, with child care available.
    - The Highlander or somewhere by Creighton would be good choices
    - Could Chris Rodgers help with something at Creighton?
  - Next meeting is Monday, August 27, at 4:30 pm, at Nebraska Families Support Network.
  - Would like the people who are on the Council to be mentors in the community.
  - Is Terra Luna doing a Juvenile Justice Lived Experience project? Karla will reach out to Keith to find out more about it and if it can be tapped into for the Council.
  - All of our work group members are invited to attend the meetings at any time if they wish.
  - Refer to the Juvenile Justice Council handout attached for more information on the process, timeline, next steps, etc.
  - Would like to have work group members at the event available to possibly help people fill out the application there if they want, talk about what the work groups are about, help out with child care, etc.

- Work Plan Updates and Next Steps
  - CBA and Work Plan alignment for Families WG
• Have information ready, have something prepared, so when funding opportunities arise the information is ready.
• How is funding for the video being handled and what is the status?
• Is it really that there are not services available for system-involved families, but, possibly, it is more that the families are not engaging the services that are available.

• Sibling Visitation DCYC
  o Brad Alexander and Rondy Woodard presented to the Policy Work Group regarding the possibility of reducing the visitation age range to under 8 for inclusion.
  o They looked at King County, Seattle, WA, which has a policy that allows this.
  o Right now sibling visitation is allowed under a “special” visit being set up.
  o Brad was going to take suggestions back to see if policy could be changed to allow 0-12 siblings to visit without “special” visits.

• Public Comment
  o Handed out the potential “Youth and Parent Survey” (attached) to be distributed at various venues to gather family’s feedback.
  o Would like the group to review and make suggestions at the next meeting.

• Feedback Survey – Handed out

• Next Meeting September 18, 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.
Operation Youth Success – Families Work Group
Juvenile Justice Council

Timeline
- Planning committee meeting – Monday, August 27th
- Start advertising the week of August 27th
- Nomination period ends Monday, September 24th
- Planning committee meets again to review nominations
- Information meeting – Monday, October 22nd, 6:30-8:00 pm

Recruitment Process
- Advertise the opportunity and encourage community members to nominate individuals
- After a nomination is received, send a follow-up email with a link to an online pre-screening questionnaire
- Send a follow-up email with details of the informational meeting
- Explain commitment and responsibilities during the informational meeting and provide application
- Individuals complete application
- Committee screens application and selects 15 council members

Nomination Criteria
- Be between the ages of 19-30
- Have a lived experience of the juvenile justice system
- Be available to attend an informational meeting on October 22nd

Pre-Screening Questions
- Are you between the ages of 19-30?
- Have you been involved in the juvenile justice system?
- How old were you when you were involved in the juvenile justice system?
- Are you willing to share your lived experience?
- If you could make two changes to the juvenile justice system, what would they be?
- Is there anything else you would like to share?

Next Steps
- Collect feedback from OYS Families Work Group
- Create flyers and social media posts
- Create nomination form on Google Forms
- Create pre-screening questionnaire on Google Forms
- Post flyers at various locations
- Share social media posts
- Identify a location for the October 22nd informational meeting
- Identify food and beverage sponsor for October 22nd informational meeting
- Recruit childcare providers for October 22nd informational meeting
- Create application for council membership
- Create council member responsibilities and guidelines
Operation Youth Success needs your voice to help transform the juvenile justice system in Douglas County.

Find out how you can join the Juvenile Justice Council at:
**YOUTH AND PARENT SURVEY**

*Operation Youth Success* 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 enter our juvenile 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.

Please take a moment to share your ideas and experiences on ways we can improve system coordination, communication and outcomes for youth and families in the juvenile justice system.
Based on your experience.....

How can we help families understand the juvenile justice system?

What are some ways you would like to be included in your child’s care, when they are involved in the juvenile justice system?

How can those working in the juvenile justice system, build trust with families and youth they are working with?

What resources do you feel are missing in the community for families and youth?

What roadblocks have you come up against when seeking help/services for your child?

What policies and practices, need to be added or changed that would help improve the overall juvenile justice system?

What ideas do you have that would help make sure that all youth and families are treated fairly in the juvenile justice system?