



**Operation Youth Success
Policy and Advocacy Work Group Notes**

Monday, November 26, 2018

8:30-10:00 AM

UNO, Barbara Weitz Community Engagement Center, Room 128

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: Margaret Vacek, Mary Visek, Jennifer Potterf, Christine Henningsen, James Hubbard, A'Jamal Byndon, Joy Suder, Janee Pannkuk, Karla Dush, Debora Faga
- II. Announcements
 - a. OYS Updates
 - i. OYS Steering Committee Meeting is here at the CEC in room 209 this Thursday at 8:30 am; will be focused on CBA funding.
 - ii. Christmas in the Village this Saturday, December 1st; if anyone wants to volunteer with the backbone staff we will be there from 10 am to noon.
 - iii. OYS & JDAI Work Group Recognition & Collaboration, December 14th, 4-6 pm, UNO CEC Rooms 230/231.
 - b. Member Updates
 - i. First United Methodist Church will have a presentation – Race Relations: Dinner and Discussions, Tuesday, December 11, 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm; The Intersection of Disproportionate Minority Contact, Justice and Law Enforcement.
 - ii. Mary visited in Singapore on vacation and was able to spend one day at the juvenile courts and juvenile probation looking at how the juvenile detention system is handled there and gave us a quick overview of some of the differences.
 1. Youth placed in shelter begin home passes immediately; the staff assess the needs of the family during the home pass.
 2. Youth write their own court reports.
 3. There are no status offenders.

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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**.

- III. Activity
 - a. Updates
 - i. DCYC Visitation Policy
 - 1. Wanting to expand the sibling visitation regulations in Douglas County to allow younger siblings to visit without needing “special” visitation.
 - 2. Awaiting update from DCYC.
 - 3. Explore the possibility of allowing a video visitation platform, in addition to physical visitation.
 - ii. OYS State of the System-Jim, Margaret and Karla
 - 1. Small group met last week to talk about what it will look like.
 - 2. Tentatively January 25, 2019.
 - 3. Review the last year for OYS and JDAI, have a keynote speaker and allow for Q&A sessions.
 - iii. Pack the Closet-Margaret and Karla
 - 1. Handout flyer attached.
 - 2. 2nd Annual drive; donations being accepted in November & December.
 - iv. JJC update-Margaret and Karla
 - 1. 3rd meeting will be tonight.
 - 2. Motivated group of young people, very eager to address system change.
 - 3. Have set ground rules for meetings and expectations of members.
 - 4. Going to talk about the current DCYC sibling visitation policy at tonight’s meeting and get their input on what they would like to see happen with this policy.
 - 5. Would like to identify a couple of JJC members to be a part of the Steering Committee.
 - a. Will bring it to the JJC at tonight’s meeting to get their input.
 - 6. Will the “JJC” be confused with the JJC in Sarpy County? Possibly look at distinguishing themselves by name.
 - b. Family Advocate process discussion-Margaret and Karla
 - i. Nebraska Family Support Network received a grant to fund an advocate position for youth/families at detention hearings.

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- ii. Set up a meeting with the presiding judge to allow for better communication, become familiar with the advocate, what they're there for, and set up ground rules.
 - iii. Case Processing committee could possibly help, next meeting is December 17th.
 - iv. Is "advocate" the right term for this position? Perhaps "navigator," "liaison," or "support" person?
- c. Legislative Planning-Christine
- i. Update (Loss of placement, solitary confinement, sealing of records, etc.)
 1. Loss of placement is actually the change in the detention standard, which passed last year, and will go into effect July 1, 2019. The only thing that might come up is from the County Attorney in Lancaster County, who wants to have it dialed back some, to put in more discretion for the judge to possibly override.
 2. Do anticipate another bill introduced on the use of room confinement.
 3. Streamlining the sealing of records process will most likely come up again.
 4. HHS budget request for the \$4 million to put up a fence at the Kearney facility.
 5. "Right to Counsel" bill will be brought up again.
 6. Juliet and Christine are meeting with Pansing-Brooks next week.
 7. Christine will provide some bullet points on the solitary confinement piece to Karla that the JJC could take a look at and discuss.

IV. Feedback Survey – Handed out

Next Meeting: Monday, January 28, 2019, 8:30am -10am, Barbara Weitz Community Engagement Center, Marion Ivers Board Room, Room 128

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