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