



Runaway Taskforce Purpose Statement

The Purpose of the Runaway Taskforce is two-fold:

- Prevent youth who are exhibiting runaway risk factors and behaviors from entering the juvenile justice system, by ensuring that appropriate community resources exist and meet the needs of youth.
- Ensure the justice system is effective, compassionate and empowers youth and their families to succeed while building an environment of mutual trust and accountability.

- Welcome and Introductions
 - Present: Nicole Seymour, Shawne Coonfare, James Hubbard, Jill Anderson, Julie Mason, Krynne Pekny, Colleen Roth, Cara Stirts, Cindy Goodin, Cassandra Dittmer, Nicole Mitchell, Lt. Tracy Scherer, Rich Murcek, Keith Miller, Ravan Charles, Shelby Anderson-Holt, Janee Pannkuk, Karla Dush, Debora Faga

- Activity
 - National Runaway Safeline Grant Update
 - Grant was approved, so we will be able to bring the training in
 - A small group will meet immediately after this meeting to discuss further, then bring back to the Task Force; if you are interested in staying please do.
 - Group Participatory Evaluation- Keith Miller, TerraLuna Collaborative
 - Broke into small groups to go over Interview Questions (attached)

- Activity Results

Funding: Importance-3.5; Group's Depth of Learning/Understanding (scale of 1-5 Not Deep/Deep)-5; System's Depth of Learning/Understanding (scale of 1-5 Not Deep/Deep)-don't know.
Funded projects to motivate – move the needle.
The grant received that will allow training to our community agencies for ongoing education and supportive services.

Deepened Partnerships: Importance-5; Group's Depth of Learning/Understanding (scale of 1-5 Not Deep/Deep)-5; System's Depth of Learning/Understanding (scale of 1-5 Not Deep/Deep)-3.5.

WP Strategy: Support collaborative efforts that ensure continuity of services through communication among partnership entities.

Long-term commitment between all decision makers.

Partnerships across the collaborative are positive with a focus on the greater good by participants.

Having buy-in and leadership from LE to make positive community change.

Bridging the relationships of services in the community.

Compassion in this group for service youth and making a difference.

System stakeholders enthusiastically embracing system change.

Formal collaborations between JJ-CW.

The community partnership's and increased knowledge of other programs in the community.

Coordinated Response (program development): Importance-5; Group's Depth of Learning/Understanding (scale of 1-5 Not Deep/Deep)-5; System's Depth of Learning/Understanding (scale of 1-5 Not Deep/Deep)-don't know.

WP Strategy: Developing a runaway education program; Develop coordinated response that addresses the safety and needs of youth that have run away from home/placement; Develop a coordinated response that addresses the safety and needs of runaway youth that are located.

Creating programs (such as MYS) to support our youth.

Missing Youth Services Program @ PH – Collaboration OPS-JAC-Juv. CA's office-community providers.
Proactive prevention.

Project Harmony, New Missing Youth assessment.

MYS – stakeholders that serve youth

Culture: Importance-4; Group's Depth of Learning/Understanding (scale of 1-5 Not Deep/Deep)-4; System's Depth of Learning/Understanding (scale of 1-5 Not Deep/Deep)-2.

Changing mindset of how we view runaways (bad kids vs. victims).

What is really going on in the family instead of blaming the youth.

Youth Centric

Holistic approach to serving and supporting youth.

Thinking creatively to resolve warrant issues without violating trust and/or relationships.

Group's Learning about System (problem status): Importance-4; Group's Depth of Learning/Understanding (scale of 1-5 Not Deep/Deep)-4; System's Depth of Learning/Understanding (scale of 1-5 Not Deep/Deep)-1.5;

Volume of missing youth within our own community.

If youth and family are not system involved, resources are difficult to find and limited.

Informative (speakers) of current services.

Essential Ingredient: Critical to have a supportive entity to convene and keep things moving (OYS).

Crisis Response Team specific to youth;

Educate/expand out to the community the shift in understanding what runaway youth are;

Deepened partnerships beyond what is in the room;

Have a dedicated hotline for runaways;

- Feedback Survey – Handed out

Next Meeting: Thursday, December 13th, 8:30am-10am, UNO Barbara Weitz Community Engagement Center, Room 221

OYS 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**.