Operation Youth Success
Families Work Group Notes
Tuesday, December 18, 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

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. OYS Updates
   a. Runaway Task Force received funding to bring the National Runaway Safeline training to Omaha, February 28 at the CEC
   b. Nebraska Families Support Network received funding for a liaison position to support families at the courthouse
   c. Heartland received a 3-year grant to work on the issue of runaways in the refugee community; position starts in January
   d. JDAI and OYS will no longer share the Case Processing working group, but the Families Work group will become a shared group

3. Upcoming Events
   a. NJJA Conference, May 1-3; registration opens early in 2019

**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.
4. Pack the Closet
   a. Still collecting items, personal hygiene and cleaning products, through the end of December

5. Youth Council Progress
   a. Meeting twice a month at UNO CEC
   b. Have ground/meeting rules set and are in the process of creating a mission
   c. Lakeisha Phelps is the coordinator of the group and will help guide it
   d. Very high-energy group
   e. Any members who would like to attend any of the meetings, please let Margaret or Karla know and they will get the information to you

6. Terra Luna Participatory Evaluation
   a. Broke out into small groups, then came together to discuss:
      i. When you hear about changes, i.e. the JJC, it makes me proud to be part of the effort.
      ii. Knowledge: Importance-4.5, How deep is the effect on this group?-4, How deep is the effect on the system?-2
          • The more we know, the less we know.
          • Awareness of different people, groups and perspectives.
          • We have a lot to learn from those with lived experience.
      iii. Increased Communication/Collaboration: Importance-5, How deep is the effect on this group?-4, How deep is the effect on the system?-3
          • Discussion and feedback and focus.
          • Open communication.
          • Behind the scenes people are doing the work for the juveniles.
          • Engagement and collaboration are essential.
      iv. Empathy for families: Importance-4, How deep is the effect on this group?-5, How deep is the effect on the system?-3
          • Empathy for family.
          • Genuine concern for changes needed and in making the changes.
      v. Action: Importance-4, How deep is the effect on this group?-3, How deep is the effect on the system?-1

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• Even though it may be slow, there is actual action being taken.
• TerraLuna observation: Provide youth and families tools and information to advance their knowledge in the juvenile justice system.

a. Opportunities:
• How do we work across and navigate differences within the system and how well it works; system v. families.
• Name and own our successes.
• Assist in identifying youth and families on Steering Committee.
• Use feedback to make system change.
• Bring youth and families to other work groups.
• TerraLuna observations: Identify engagement opportunities for youth and families across the system. Increase youth and family participation and involvement in all OYS activities.

b. Where do we go from here?:
• Nebraska is behind on some ideas – grass roots efforts
• How can we expedite change, and then sustain it

a. TerraLuna will provide a detailed synopsis of the above points

7. Next Steps:
   a. Shelly will send out information book from JDAI to WG members (to Karla/Debora for distribution)
   b. All members bring material to the next work group meeting that they are aware of that are handed out at probation, court, etc.

8. Feedback Surveys – Handed out

Next Meeting: January 15, 2019, 9am-11am, at Heartland Workforce Solutions

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