



**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
    - a. Present: Margaret Vacek, Andrea Wright, Vicki Brewer, Tom Hanks, Dwite Pedersen, Luke Cortese, Shelly Salter, Keith Miller, Shelby Anderson-Holt, Karla Dush, Janee Pannkuk, Debora Faga
  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.

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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**.

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:

- Shelly will send out information book from JDAI to WG members (to Karla/Debora for distribution)
- 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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