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: Christine Henningsen, James Hubbard, Catherine Hall, A’Jamal Byndon, Ben Salazar, Juliet Summers, Jennifer Potterf, Kenya Love, Karla Dush, Debora Faga

II. Announcements
   a. OYS Updates
      i. Prevention WG came up with QR codes for several different hotlines (handout attached)
      ii. Runaway Task Force’s National Runaway Safeline Training
      iii. JJPF Knowledge Exchange today, 2 pm at the Douglas County Extension Office; Shawne Coonfare and Cara Stirts will present on diversion eligibility
      iv. Application process has opened for unused CBA funds in the current year’s funding period
   b. Member Updates
      i. Kids Count Release Data will be presented Wednesday morning at 8:30; may be rescheduled due to weather
      ii. School to Prison Pipeline Community Forum was held last Thursday; was originally scheduled for Tuesday but was re-scheduled due to weather

III. Activity
   a. DCYC Sibling Visitation Policy-Brad
      i. Brad agreed to set up a meeting outside of this one, because he wasn’t able to attend today, to discuss the policy

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.
b. Ceiling view of Legislative Bills-Juliet and Christine (handout attached)
   i. LB 1112 (one area addressed is minors cannot be detained for risk to self) goes into effect July 1st this year
   ii. LB 354 has a hearing scheduled on Thursday
   iii. LB 132 (Senator Pansing Brooks) (adult criminal justice system) – eliminates mandatory minimums for minors charged in adult court
   iv. LB 226-Senator Quick (services) and LB 485-Senator Lowe (fence) – competing bills for funding for youth rehabilitation centers
   v. LB 484 is also Senator Lowe’s bill – any assault on staff at YRTC would be a felony
   vi. Senator Wishart has a bill out there that would eliminate the use of mandatory overtime in all state 24/7 facilities
   vii. LB 230 (Senator Pansing Brooks) addresses the use of room confinement; would eliminate it unless there is an imminent threat of harm and would require parental as well as legal notification
   viii. LB 231 (Senator Pansing Brooks) requires automatic appointment of legal counsel for all youth facing juvenile proceedings statewide
   ix. LB 354 (Senator Pansing Brooks) would make juvenile record sealing automatic upon successful completion of probation

c. OYS State of the System Update-Jim and Karla
   i. Tabled to next meeting

d. Juvenile Justice Council update-Karla (handout attached)
   i. Next meeting is tonight; Juliet is planning on attending the meeting to go over some of the legislative bills with the group

e. NFSN-Detention Hearing Liaison position-update-Karla
   i. Tabled to next meeting

IV. Follow up: Update from external meeting on sibling visitation-Brad and Christine

V. Feedback Survey – Handed out

Next Meeting: Monday, March 25, from 8:30am-10am, Barbara Weitz Community Engagement Center, Marion Ivers Board Room, Room 128

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OPS SAFE Schools Hotline

Omaha Public Schools' students, parents, staff and community members can speak with a Boys Town National Hotline counselor for help with depression, anxiety, suicidal thoughts, substance abuse, relationship issues, violence or to report a concern. Free/Anonymous-24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

National Runaway Safeline

The National Runaway Safeline provides crisis intervention to youth and families in crisis across the nation through its 1-800-RUNAWAY hotline and digital services such as live chat, email and forums at 1800RUNAWAY.org. These services are free, confidential and available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Nebraska Family Helpline

The Nebraska Family Helpline makes it easier for families to obtain assistance by providing a single contact point 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Your Life, Your Voice

"It's ok to ask for help. You don't have to have to face your problems alone."

Flyer created by Operation Youth Success-Prevention Workgroup Jan. 2019
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LB #</th>
<th>Sponsoring Senator</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Committee &amp; Hearing Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LB 132</td>
<td>Pansing Brooks</td>
<td>Eliminates mandatory minimums for minors charged in adult court</td>
<td>Judiciary</td>
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<tr>
<td>LB 226</td>
<td>Quick</td>
<td>Appropriates funds to the YRTC for staff training, evidence-based programming, reentry services, evaluation of facility effectiveness</td>
<td>Appropriations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB 230</td>
<td>Pansing Brooks</td>
<td>Restricts the use of “room confinement” for minors in government-run facilities so it can only be used when there is an imminent threat of harm</td>
<td>Judiciary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB 231</td>
<td>Pansing Brooks</td>
<td>Requires automatic appointment of counsel for all youth facing juvenile proceedings statewide</td>
<td>Judiciary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB 354</td>
<td>Pansing Brooks</td>
<td>Makes juvenile record sealing automatic upon successful completion of probation, clarifies the process for youth to request their records be sealed if they weren’t previously</td>
<td>Judiciary</td>
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<tr>
<td>LB 390</td>
<td>Pansing Brooks</td>
<td>Requires any school that has an SRO to have a model memorandum of understanding defining the role and purpose of the officer in the school environment; all administration, staff, and officers must undergo training in teenage development, implicit bias, and disability.</td>
<td>Judiciary</td>
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<tr>
<td>LB 391</td>
<td>M. Hansen</td>
<td>Requires <em>Miranda</em> warnings given to minors be in developmentally appropriate language and requires if a minor asks for a parent/guardian, interrogation cannot continue until they are present.</td>
<td>Judiciary</td>
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<tr>
<td>LB 484</td>
<td>Lowe</td>
<td>Makes any assault on staff at YRTC a felony</td>
<td>Judiciary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB 485</td>
<td>Lowe</td>
<td>Appropriates $2 million to build a fence around YRTC-K</td>
<td>Appropriations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LB 510</td>
<td>McCollister</td>
<td>Closes a loophole so that youth don’t have to register as sex offenders if adjudicated in juvenile court</td>
<td>Judiciary</td>
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<tr>
<td>LB 589</td>
<td>Chambers</td>
<td>Prohibits active law enforcement officers from serving as school resource officers</td>
<td>Judiciary</td>
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<tr>
<td>LB 595</td>
<td>Albrecht</td>
<td>Defines and expands the availability and use of restorative justice processes in the juvenile justice system</td>
<td>Judiciary</td>
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<td>LB 631</td>
<td>Morfeld</td>
<td>Takes mutually consensual teenage sexting out of the criminal code so it can’t be charged as felony child pornography; also creates a new offense of sexual extortion (i.e. “revenge porn”)</td>
<td>Judiciary</td>
</tr>
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One of the strategies included in the Families Work Group, Work Plan is the creation of a Juvenile Justice Council. This fit well within the workgroup’s purpose statement of empowering families to better understand the system and engage in their youth’s care. So often, the conversation centered on the need to create a meaningful and purposeful way in which to bring information from those with lived experiences to the table and glean from the lived experiences ways in which to improve the juvenile justice system.

Operation Youth Success is about bringing people together to decide what aspects of juvenile justice in Douglas County need to change. The charter of the Families Work Group is empowering families to better understand the system, engage youth and families and seek help when needed. Strategies to increase youth and family participation and involvement, in all OYS activities to increase trust and transparency as a means to engage and bring more voices to the table has been central to the work that we do. The work group developed recruitment strategies and reached out to former system involved youth and their families.

On October 22, 2018, the Juvenile Justice Council held its first meeting with the young adults who expressed interest. This meeting provided an overview of the responsibilities, commitment and goals. Six young adults came to the initial meeting with excitement, active participation and motivation to help improve the juvenile justice system in Douglas County. Since inception, the council has met on four occasions and continue to evolve and further develop the work they seek to prioritize. The Juvenile Justice Council utilizes the role of the Nebraska Family Support Network, young adult, who also has lived experiences and trained in the wraparound model, to serve as the council lead and to support the other young adults by creating an agenda and minutes for each meeting and helps guide healthy discussions. This has been a huge asset to the process.

Productive and focused dialogue has ensued during these meetings and includes topics such as visitation in detention, youth voice and decision making during time in care, house rules and expectations of the members of the Juvenile Justice Council, and the mission. Below are several findings from the authentic conversations held during council meetings.

House Rules and Expectations

1. Youth come first/stay focused on the youth and families
2. Can’t reoffend
3. Judgement free zone
4. Remain confidential
5. Trust in one another/support each other by lifting up one another
6. Accountability
7. Value everyone’s input
8. Stay committed
9. Engage
10. No Drama
11. Be a “100”
Mission: Advocating for juvenile justice reform through lived experiences; creating positive change.

Pillars we will operate from include:

- Authenticity
- Compassion
- Empathy
- Equitability
- Resiliency
- Positivity

Below is a draft logo the young adults have created and are in process of further refining it to meet the expectations of the council members.
Visitation in detention

A focus group was conducted during a Juvenile Justice Council meeting to obtain input from youth on the status of detention visitation. Below are comments and quotes from the young adult discussion and based on their previous and lived experiences.

-“Sometimes siblings are better support and role models than their parents”.
-“I was sad when I didn’t get to see my Mom”.
-“Visitation for me was on Sundays and Wednesdays when church services are held and often unable to attend or had to choose which to attend, church or visitation”.
-“I would go a couple weeks without seeing my family because of other commitments during the visitation schedule”.
-“When my parent showed up 11 minutes before the scheduled visit they were not allowed to have visitation”.
-“I recall getting ready for my family to come visit and then when they are turned away because of a bus schedule or other conflict, that kills your whole mood”.
-“It often causes conflict in your own family when you go for long periods of time without seeing or talking with family”.
-“Why wouldn’t you want to see us close with family”?
-“We are all in there hurting for one reason or other”.
-“We don’t know what families are going through”.
-“I feel like the rules need to be changed”.
-“Special visits depend on who you are and who you know”.
-“Rival gang members have become roommates and friends”.
-“How am I to adapt to my family when I get home and if we feel like strangers”. “It was weird going home to my siblings after not seeing or talking to them”. “I felt like a stranger”. “It felt weird”.
-“Can we look at ways to work on family and improving our relationship with family members”?
-“Video conferencing would not work. We are kids. We need hugs”.