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

Activity
- Review last meeting’s activity of the Participatory evaluation with Terra Luna (evaluation report attached)
- Next Steps
  - Broke out into small groups to discuss the different current strategies on the work plan
  - Strategy #1: Develop a runaway education program that seeks to prevent runaway behaviors (similar to the DARE program)
    - Need to remove the DARE program as an example
    - Part of the grant that is going to be implemented by bringing NRS in
    - The resource list has been created, how do we disseminate? Possibly revisit the idea of a handout.
  - Strategy #2: Develop a coordinated response that addresses the safety and needs of runaway youth, when youth have run away from home/placement
    - Take ‘placement’ out because these are non-system kids
    - Need to push back the target dates
    - Looked at the identification of guardian/law enforcement and how that information is shared – connecting these for a more coordinated response
    - Take out the language of creating a safety plan, changing it to a family plan
    - Pushed back target dates to the spring
    - Added another action step under developing the matrix/educational tool
    - What are some options when that youth in on the run as opposed to when the youth returns
    - Talked about community response
    - Change strategy to: “Develop a coordinated response to address the safety and needs of youth when youth have run away.”
  - Strategy #3: Develop a coordinated response that addresses the safety and needs of runaway youth, once they have been located
    - Family engagement
    - Identify respite care
    - Similar comments between #2 and #3
  - Strategy #4: Support collaborative efforts that ensure continuity of services through communication sharing amongst and within necessary professionals and entities
Hoping the Sherwood funded OPD Analyst can be the central position for communication for all the organizations

- We need to communicate the work and successes being made by this task force and other groups toward the goals; “we” being the backbone and the task force itself
- Identify the speaking points and spaces to share those points
  - The communication piece of all the strategies needs to start with us as a group

Workplan
- National Runaway Safeline (NRS) Grant Updates
  - Train the Trainer: Let’s Talk Runaway Prevention (am) and Solution-Focused Crisis Intervention (pm)
  - February 28, 9 – 5, at the CEC; lunch will be provided
  - Areas that NRS can offer support with grant outcomes, etc.
    - Certificates, survey/evaluation, data collection, etc.
  - Update from small breakout group
    - List of agencies to invite (handout attached)
      - Thirty (30) total attendees
      - Target agencies that serve minority youth
      - Yellow highlighted are the ones we would reach out to (one seat per yellow)
      - Blue highlighted may be covered by one of the other listed agencies
    - Discuss invitation plan
      - Who has contacts with identified agencies?
        - Everyone please take a look at the list and see if you have contacts
        - Lt. has already reached out requesting identification of SROs
        - Can there be a shared file that this group can access that lists who has been contacted, who has responded, etc.
        - By next meeting, we need to have a list of attendees
      - Bullet points to include when reaching out
        - Karla will, by next Tuesday, have the talking points that need to be stressed (because this training requires some real commitment from attendees) and will create a google doc that everyone can access
        - Strongly encourage
        - Need to have RSVPs fairly quickly
    - Potential barriers, etc.
      - Short time frame

Updates
- OYS
  - Families WG “Pack the Closet” Drive through December
- Member

Decision Making/Next Steps
- Karla Google doc of attendees and talking points

Feedback Survey – Handed out

Next Meeting: Thursday, January 10th, 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.