Operation Youth Success
Families Work Group Notes
Tuesday, January 15, 2109
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. Introductions

2. Updates
   a. OYS
      i. National Runaway Safeline Train-the-Trainer Training, February 28th, by invitation; being intentional about the attendees in order to continue to sustain the curriculum
      ii. JIPF Knowledge Exchange, January 28th, 2-4 pm, Douglas County Extension Office, 8015 W. Center Rd.; Shawn Coonfare and Cara Stirts will be presenting on diversion eligibility.
   b. Members
      i. Moving ahead with the runaway prevention program for the refugee population; Andrea will send the information for distribution
      ii. Nebraska Family Support Network (NFSN) is working with the National Copeland Center to bring WRAP facilitator training in Spanish
      iii. Systems of Care Region 6 Leadership Council – met at the end of last year and went over their strategic plan; will be taking back recommendations

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.
3. Juvenile Justice Council
   a. First pro-social activity was last week; they went to an Escape Room and they almost made it out
   b. Yesterday eight new people attended the meeting yesterday
   c. Lakeisha, Margaret and Karla met with Voices for Children’s Fellowship Program about their involvement
   d. Still working on building the membership; working toward sustainability.
   e. Keep it in mind if you know of anyone you think may be an asset and interested.
   f. Have come up with their mission, “Advocating for juvenile justice reform through lived experiences creating positive change,” strategic pillars (authenticity, compassion, empathy, equitability, resiliency and positivity) and have created a logo, which is still in progress.

4. Survey distribution (copy attached)
   a. Survey is geared toward the parent filling it out
   b. By next month we will have talked with the already identified agencies about distribution at their touchpoints
   c. If anyone is willing and able to distribute and collect the survey, please do so
      i. See follow-up for those who offered to distribute and collect
   d. Members identified can bring the surveys to the work group meeting each month

5. Materials review
   a. OYS’ Family Guide Douglas County Juvenile Justice System:
      i. The insert is extremely helpful for families to be able to keep track on their information on their system involvement; we need more copies and in different languages

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ii. NFSN, Court Liaison, JAC, DCYC, Probation, are all places to distribute
b. JDAI’s “A Guide for Kids in Nebraska’s Juvenile Court System” together with the
“What Now?” which includes QR codes that takes you to downloadable copies
for both the justice system and child welfare

6. Participatory Evaluation Report (attached)
   a. The “Formula for Engagement” section differs greatly from the other groups that
      have been through this evaluation process so far
   b. Would like to be able to have family participation in all of the OYS working
groups; how can the Families WG assist in this goal
      i. Promatora (sp?) training – train-the-trainer; made up of family members-
can we get them involved in this working group
   c. Recruitment needs to be intentional; how can we identify families that are no
      longer being served that would be willing to attend
   d. We need to communicate to the families with lived experience that their voice is
      important; although they may no longer be involved the juvenile justice system,
      their lived experiences is needed to make necessary changes to the system.

7. Work Plan Updates
   a. Broke into small groups and discussed the three different strategies using the
      Participatory Evaluation Report to review
      i. Strategy 1 group: Youth Council is live; f. is underway; focused on getting
         families to the table – need to focus on recruitment; we need to be
         intentional in order to get people to the table. Separate youth voice and
         parent voice. Monthly is ambitious – maybe quarterly focus on different
         parts of the work plan – and possibly don’t have to attend the entire
         meeting, attend the last hour to 45 minutes and the focus would be on
         the work plan during that time. Let them know how the information is
         going to be used to implement change.
      ii. Strategy 2 group: a. talked about that earlier; b. need to have a
          leadership conversation about the video – print family guide and add QR
          code to link to the guide; how can we all learn more about engaging
          families; talked about an annual OYS event to attract the community;
          make the QR codes into magnets; continue with the OYS quarterly
          newsletter.

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individualized support that empowers youth and their families to succeed and to build an environment of mutual
trust and accountability.
iii. Strategy 3 group: All the strategies are very similar and overlap; action items can be put into any of the strategies. Talked about if the strategies were each about different areas (youth, family, providers) with the action steps being about: receiving – sharing resources – training and educating. They would each be about a different area with results focus being consistent throughout.

8. Next Steps/Follow up:
   a. Dwite offered to distribute and collect surveys at DCYC
   b. Vicki offered to distribute and collect surveys at the JAC
   c. Tom offered to distribute and collect surveys at Probation
   d. Lakeisha and Eve offered to distribute and collect surveys at Youth Impact! and NFSN
   e. Andrea offered to have staff providing Parenting/Family Support distribute and collect surveys at HFS

9. Feedback Surveys – Handed out

Next Meeting February 19, 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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Operation Youth Success 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 enter our juvenile 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.

We hope you will share your ideas on ways we can improve system coordination, communication and outcomes for youth and families in the juvenile justice system. This information is voluntary and confidential. If you would like to visit with us further, please contact us at 402-554-6339.

Follow us on Facebook:
http://www.facebook.com/OYSOmaha

Website:
https://operationyouthsuccess.org/
Parents/Guardians, based on your experience.....

How can we make sure to include you in your youth’s case?

How can those working in the juvenile justice system build trust with you and your family?

Share with us ways to help make sure that you and your family are treated fairly in the juvenile justice system?
Operation Youth Success Families Working Group Participatory Evaluation Report

Report Overview
This report summarizes the results from the participatory evaluation process of the Operation Youth Success Families Working Group in November 2018. Working group members identified four outcomes from their work over the course of the year, then rated each outcome on:

- The importance of achieving the outcome
- The depth of the outcome for the group
- The depth of the outcome for the juvenile justice system.

The report also explores how the outcomes align with the working group’s work plan and possible next steps. The evaluation activity and report were done by the OYS developmental evaluation (DE) team from TerraLuna Collaborative.

Families Working Group Purpose
The purpose of the OYS Families Working Group is to empower families to better understand the system and engage in their youth’s care.

OYS Families Working Group Outcomes

**Outcome #1: Action**
- Meeting deliverables such as the Juvenile Justice Council, the Family Guide, and the Heartland Family Service Refugee Runaway grant.
- These actions create the "sense that it's not just a group that talks but is doing"

**Level of importance**
1 Low 2 3 4 5 High

**Depth of impact on the group**
1 Low 2 3 4 5 High

**Depth of impact on the system**
1 Low 2 3 4 5 High

**Outcome #2: Empathy for Families**
- Genuine concern making change for youth and their families.

**Level of importance**
1 Low 2 3 4 5 High

**Depth of impact on the group**
1 Low 2 3 4 5 High

**Depth of impact on the system**
1 Low 2 3 4 5 High
Outcome #3: Communication & Collaboration
• Open communication, feedback, and focus
• Realizing that “behind the scenes, people are doing the work for the families”
• Engagement and collaboration are critical to change

Level of importance
1 Low 2 3 4 5 High

Depth of impact on the group
1 Low 2 3 4 5 High

Depth of impact on the system
1 Low 2 3 4 5 High

Outcome #4: Knowledge
• Developing awareness and knowledge
• “The more I think I know, the less I actually do”
• We have lots to learn from those with lived experiences

Level of importance
1 Low 2 3 4 5 High

Depth of impact on the group
1 Low 2 3 4 5 High

Depth of impact on the system
1 Low 2 3 4 5 High

What Families Working Group Members are Saying...

“The Working Group is being intentional with engaging families.”

“Family and youth are essential in sharing their lived experience.”

“I have found new community connections.”

*Too soon to rate
Outcomes alignment with the Workplan
This section of the report explores how the task force’s outcomes align with their work plan.

Intended outcomes

Of the 5 outcomes the identified, one aligned very closely with one of the three strategies the group identified in the work plan:
• Outcome #1, “Action” aligned with Strategy #2, “Provide youth and families tools and information to advance their knowledge in the juvenile justice system.”

Unintended outcomes

The task force also identified three unintended outcomes that emerged from the task force’s work in the past year:
• Outcome #2: Increased empathy for families
• Outcome #3: Communication & collaboration
• Outcome #4: Knowledge

Formula for Engagement
During the evaluation activity, the group identified an important pattern of how engagement in the group happened. Opportunities to learn in the context of humanizing relationships drove increased empathy; empathy drove a sense of urgency with a focus on what’s important; and the commitment to that sense of urgency that individuals found within the group drove engagement in the group. The culture this group has built on this formula of learning => empathy => direction with urgency => engagement is valuable, not only for the group’s own strategies but for the OYS initiative as a whole.

Questions to guide the next steps
This section provides four questions to guide the working group as it explores next steps.

Question #1: How could the working group create more opportunities for learning in the context of humanizing relationships to drive empathy, trust, and engagement across the Douglas County juvenile justice system?

Question #2: How might the working group scale the Juvenile Justice Council and what are the most important parameters to consider?

Question #3: How might the working group share how it has been successful with other OYS workgroups and task forces?

Question #4: How can the working group use what it has learned about engagement to drive strategies 1 and 3 in the work plan: “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,” and “Identify engagement opportunities for youth and families across the system.”