**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

- Introductions

- OYS Updates
  - Steering Committee meeting this Thursday, 8:30 am – 11 am, Jesse Lowe Conference Room, 3rd floor Civic Center
  - Runaway Safeline Training, Thursday, February 28th; 22 different organizations with a total of 32 people are attending

- Member Updates
  - WRAP training will be held training (webinar training next month and following, there will be a facilitator training)
  - Sanctuary House is now up and running
  - One Oak, a level 3 school is starting up this week (OPS, Millard, Ralston, Papillion, Plattsmouth)
  - Lakeisha-Juvenile Justice Youth Council update
    - Last meeting was rescheduled

**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.
- Right now the focus is getting their first newsletter out and getting WRAP training done
- One of their members testified on a legislative bill and represented very well
- Voices for Children came and met with them
- Next Wednesday they will participate in Black and Brown Legislative Day in collaboration with Urban League. They will learn about bills, meet Senators, learn more about what a work day looks like in the legislature, etc.
- One of the members, who has been on both sides, is meeting with a Senator to help draft a bill to allow EBT purchases of diapers, formula, etc.
  - Legislative Bills-Margaret
    - LB 55 – allows for 15-year olds to either rent or buy property
    - LB 332 – youth adult bridge to independence act
    - LB 167 – prohibits conversion therapy
    - LB 461 – would strengthen the sealing of juvenile records, would automatically seal upon successful completion of probation instead of waiting
    - LB 459 and LB 460 – fingerprinting requirements
    - There is a bill out there dealing with the restriction of solitary confinement
    - One bill to do away with SROs and another to prevent peace officers from being SROs
    - LB 174 – deals with increasing the funding of the Office of Violence Prevention
    - LB 651 – deals with CBA funding being used for services that directly deal with youth and families
  - CBA mini grant: video-Margaret
    - Were able to complete an application to move forward with the video vignettes

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• Presentation: Doris Moore, Center for Holistic Development
  o Service ages span from age 0 to 99
  o Main service is outpatient mental health counseling (3 full-time counselors in the office and contracted counselors)
  o Get referrals from anywhere, they do accept private insurance; majority of clients are Medicaid clients and they do offer a reduced rate for these clients because they cannot bill Medicaid
  o Real Talk is in several of the middle schools (King, Morton and McMillan) as an after-school program; goal is to increase social skills and help students with goal setting
  o Urban Youth BOLT (Building Our Leaders Today) – critical thinking skills is what this program focuses on; this program has been in existence for about 10 years; 10-week program that serves 13-17 year olds
  o Kids Squad – a collaborative effort with Child Saving Institute, Lutheran Family Services that works with pre-schoolers who are exhibiting challenging behaviors
  o Parenting with a Purpose – use Circle of Security and Nurturing Parent curriculum; strong parents produce strong children
  o Grand Friends – a mentoring program (mentees are ages 19-30); used the national standards to set up their program, and they recruit from all over
  o Do a lot of outreach (Black Family Health and Wellness is one of them) focusing on mental health issues

• Activity: Work Plan (updated work plan attached)
  o All the strategies were inter-related; action steps can be applied to all
  o Increased participation and engagement - how will you measure the engagement of people?
  o Makes sense to keep the youth and the parents separate
  o Educational opportunities – what do we want to support or help with?
  o Need to keep in mind that our purpose is to empower families, so we need to be purposeful in this
  o Continue with having presenters at the meetings, with the commitment from the members of sharing with the families; keep a running list of the presenters throughout the year to review at the end

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Decision Making/Next Steps
- Karla will incorporate discussion items into the work plan and email it out to the group before the next meeting; if anyone else has ideas please send them to Karla
- Before the next meeting, each member should send, to either Margaret or Karla, at least one item to be added/changed in the work plan; Karla will send out an electronic copy of the work plan to everyone as a reminder

Feedback Surveys – Handed out

Next Meeting: March 19, 2019, 9am-11am, at Heartland Workforce Solutions

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