



Operation Youth Success Families Work Group Notes

Tuesday, May 21, 2019

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
 - a. Present: Margaret Vacek, Andrea Wright, Lakeisha Phelps, Eve Bleyhl, Christie Al-Nemah, Luke Cortese, Judith Gutierrez, Marlon Wofford, Shelby Anderson-Holt, Karla Dush, Debora Faga
 2. OYS Updates
 - a. Thursday is the Honk for Peace event in collaboration with Omaha 360's Harmony Week; OYS will be at 72nd & Ames from 6 pm to 7:30 pm, unless we are rained out
 - b. Building Commission is voting this week, Thursday at 9, on the Juvenile Justice Center
 - c. Eve received the Leadership of the Year Award this past month at the UNO School of Social Work for Public Administration
 - d. Lakeisha was recognized by Project Harmony for the Speaking of Children Award
 - e. Karen Sides Interest Survey for the Families WG was sent out last week and will be approved this week so, hopefully, she will be able to attend next month's meeting
 - f. Policy & Advocacy meeting was yesterday and Brad stated that next week DCYC will have the new sibling visitation policy in place, there will be no age restriction for sibling visits once the youth attains Level 4, which usually takes about 2 weeks

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**.

3. Upcoming Events

- a. World Refugee Day is on June 15 and there is an event at the Joslyn from 10 am to 2 pm
- b. On the first Friday in August, Benson First Fridays is hosting an art festival that is geared toward the refugee population; if you're interested in helping to plan or participating send Andrea an email and she will get you on the email list
- c. June 7th, National Reunification Day event at the Omaha Children's Museum

4. Juvenile Justice Council (JJC) Update

- a. Two of the members had their babies
- b. Several of the members did present on Youth Day at NJJA
- c. Two new members have joined, one of which is the first 16-year old
- d. They met with Project Everlast a couple of weeks ago about the prospect of collaborating with them regarding the statewide "juvenile justice councils" that are being talked about
- e. Still working on recruitment; planning another information meeting on June 15 for potential members
- f. Would like the Families WG to plan a drive, along the lines of what we have done in previous years but during the summer sometime (so we're not competing with other holiday drives), that would support the JJC; will make up a flyer that lists the basic needs and bring to next month's meeting
- g. They are also planning a bake sale
- h. Lakeisha and Jasmine did a live podcast last month through the Annie E. Casey Foundation

5. Family Council Status

- a. Marlon Andrea and Judith are the leads on that, but Andrea has not been feeling well since the last meeting and hasn't had a chance to follow up; she still has all her notes and will make some moves on that by next meeting
- b. Judith has talked to Carolyn Padilla at the Generations Center about connecting with some of the grandparents about becoming involved
- c. Marlon and Eve have a meeting this Thursday regarding the Council, and Marlon is hoping to be able to concentrate on this
- d. Suggestion was made to get a basic work plan together for the Family Council

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6. Video Status
 - a. Continue to look for funding opportunities
 - b. Youth Impact!'s steering committee has talked about doing a video of the team meeting process so Project Harmony is looking at doing a video on just that process, so we may be able to tie into that once it's done
7. Family Guide Distribution
 - a. More guides have been printed and were handed out
8. OYS Surveys
 - a. Need to take another look at the questions on our survey
 - b. Bring suggestions for question changes to next month's meeting
 - c. Need to stay on top of getting these handed out at the various points we discussed and bringing them back to the group
9. Breakout Sessions
 - a. Juvenile Justice Council
 - i. Create a strategic plan
 - ii. June 15th, 11 am – 1 pm, Informational Meeting
 - b. Family Justice Council
 - i. Look up ways to recruit parents, grandparents, extended family members
10. Feedback Survey – Handed out

Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 18, 9 – 11 am at Heartland Workforce Solutions

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