



**Operation Youth Success
Policy and Advocacy Work Group Notes**

Monday, July 22, 2019

8:30-10:00 AM

UNO CEC Room 128

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: Margaret Vacek, Shawne Coonfare, Jim Hubbard, A'Jamal Byndon, Christine Henningsen, Ben Salazar, Janee Pannkuk, Karla Dush, Debora Faga

- II. Announcements
 - a. OYS Updates
 - i. If anyone knows of youth or families with lived experience, the Families WG's Juvenile Justice Council is still recruiting and is getting the Family Council up and running
 - ii. The Young, Gifted & At-Risk Youth Conference will be August 5-9, at Trinity Lutheran Church; the Prevention WG (August 7th), Families WG (August 6th), NFSN (August 9th), Sherwood (August 8th) and OYS (August 5th) are providing food each day; looking for volunteers to help each day
 - b. Member Updates
 - i. South Omaha Juvenile Justice Forum meets monthly and has been very well attended. Have been intentional in their meetings and are using a "system map" that was developed by JDAI and discussion has, so far, focused on system points and trying to understand how it works and what needs to change.
 - ii. A'Jamal would like to have this group support a community discussion on the ACLU report "From the Classroom to the Courtroom," August 27th at 6pm; looking for input as to who should be at the table.
 - iii. Christine will be presenting to the School-Based Arrest Task Force at their next meeting on LB 390

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**.

- iv. Through the Eyes of the Child Summit being held September 28-29 opens up today to the public for registration

III. Activity

- a. DCYC Sibling Visitation Policy update
 - i. The new sibling visitation policy started July 1st
 - ii. Discuss tracking of data to know the impact that sibling visitation is having
 - 1. How do we discuss what changes we feel need to be made to the DCYC handbook?
 - 2. Reach out to Brad to see what action items have been followed up on and what changes may be in the works (Christine will follow up with him on that); may be waiting to make necessary changes all at once instead of piece by piece
 - 3. The folks who have a stake in it, need to be at the table when the discussion happens
 - 4. Is there a way to make constructive changes without necessarily having to go to the law (legislative bills)
- b. Define process on how we vote on/against bills as a Policy/Advocacy workgroup during legislative time as well as defining a process to recommend possible new legislation
 - i. If a person speaks to the legislature, it needs to be made clear whether you're speaking in your personal capacity or on behalf of an agency; if speaking on behalf of an entity or an agency do you need to be registered as a lobbyist?
 - ii. If OYS work groups want to support/oppose bills, the Steering Committee needs to give their blessing; timing can be an issue in that respect
 - iii. Issues bubble up from the various work groups to this group
 - iv. Important to have the right people at the table when discussing these items
 - v. Continue to monitor existing bills and decide on bills we want to support/oppose
 - vi. Bring before Steering Committee and give them a timeframe to give their approval on the issue; if no approval given, then personally people can give their support/opposition outside of 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**.

- vii. Monitoring implementation of bills that have passed should also be part of what this group does
 - c. Update on carry-over bills and interim studies (handout from March meeting attached)
 - i. Set for hearing:
 - 1. Senator Hansen has one set for September 13 on cash bail and bonds for misdemeanors
 - 2. Senator Lathrop has one set for September 27 on issues related to juvenile justice, specific to sex-offender registries
 - ii. Carry-overs:
 - 1. Mandatory minimum
 - 2. Solitary confinement
 - 3. Police questioning of youth
 - 4. Teacher/student physical contact
 - d. Terra Luna Participatory evaluation results and work plan next steps
 - i. Tabled to next meeting

IV. Feedback Survey – Handed out

Next Meeting: Monday, September 23, 8:30am -10am, Barbara Weitz Community Engagement Center, Marion Ivers Board Room 128

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**.