



I am pleased and honored to submit the 2018—2019 Operation Youth Success (OYS) Year In Review report. As we reflect upon another thriving year of service, we celebrate the steadfast efforts of the youth-serving professionals who are the champions and change-makers of juvenile justice system reform in Douglas County. Of particular importance is our relationship with the members of this effort, without your collaborative alliances and partnerships, system reform effort progress could not be achieved or possible. As we develop our year in review snapshot, we highlight the initiative’s greatest stories of the year and share a vision for what is to come.

*Janeé Pannkuk*, Executive Director, OYS.

**Operation Youth Success continues to convene community stakeholders under a shared vision and goal:**

*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.*

There is an intentional interconnectedness between each task force, work group, subcommittee, and governing body. The membership and community are kept abreast of the actions and progress via various communication loops, including email communications, monthly meeting updates, public meeting announcements, meeting notes, quarterly newsletters, social media, and quarterly Juvenile Justice Provider Forum knowledge exchanges.

**OYS Policy & Advocacy Work Group**

Engaging, encouraging, and supporting DCYC with changing current sibling visitation policy that would allow for youth who are detained to have visits from their siblings regardless of their age.

Discussion of possible summits to educate the community on upcoming bills.

Provided legislative bill updates to the OYS working group; this information was posted on the OYS website for the public as well as a link to Voice for Children with automatic updates.

**Families Work Group**

Started a Juvenile Justice Council comprised of young adults, ages 19-26, with lived experiences in the juvenile justice system. These young men and women have shared their voice with senators, community policymakers and providers to advocate for positive changes in juvenile justice. A couple of them also participated in a live podcast with Annie E. Casey Foundation.



We have created a Parent Survey to gather feedback on how the system can better engage the parent.

Started an annual Pack the Closet Drive, where items are collected for an identified agency serving families.

In progress are video vignettes of the various system points, which

will help educate families on such as well as the development of a family council.

*“The child who must be brought into the court should, of course, be made to know that he is face to face with the power of the state, but he should at the same time, and more emphatically, be made to feel that he is the object of its care and solicitude.”*

*Judge Julian Mack, “The Juvenile Court,” Harvard Law Review, 1909*

**Runaway Task Force**

Increased collaboration between Law Enforcement, County Attorney, and YES House resulted in a new process for youth who have active warrants and are receiving services from the YES House. This included allowing the youth to continue to receive services and identifying a safe, private place for the youth, LE, and YES staff could meet to discuss the warrant, etc.

Through collaborative efforts between Heartland Family Service and Law Enforcement, a pilot began on missing youth from the Karen refugee population. HFS was awarded a grant to expand this pilot and can now receive referrals directly from LE, Schools, Community liaisons, Families,

Faith-Based Organizations, etc. The family and youth are paired with a cultural ambassador who speaks their native language and together determines the needs that HFS can assist the family with.

Identified the Let's Talk Runaway Prevention Curriculum as a best practice. The Taskforce received a grant that brought in the National Runaway Safeline to present its curriculum to over 30 community members. All attendees are now train the trainers and are equipped with the skills to implement the training within their agency.

**Prevention Work Group**

Completed a matrix of services that physically exist in the 68111 area as well as 1-page fliers, which will serve as a quick, easy read for families.

Three community forums were held in the 68111 area to share the identified resources with the community and also engage them in a discussion on what they feel is needed, what has worked for them, what barriers exist in obtaining needed resources.

A QR code with four different hotline numbers was created and disseminated to schools, community providers, families, probation, diversion, placed on the OYS website, etc.

**School-Based Arrest Work Group**

Partnered with Omaha South High, Norris Middle School, McMillan Magnet Middle School, and King Science Technology/Magnet Middle School during their parent-teacher conferences and offered a resource fair to families. Community providers spoke with students and families about their services. The feedback given was very positive, and all stakeholders stated they would like to participate in something similar in the future.

**Schools Reentry Work Group**

Developed a Re-enrollment District contact list as well as an Out of Home Placement Contact List for parents/guardians, students, school personnel, placements, etc. to assist in getting the student re-enrolled and improve communication between all parties.



Have made incredible progress in working with probation, schools, and out-of-state placements in refining and having a workable process/procedure for youth re-entering schools. Communication is at an all-time high between all the stakeholders, some procedures are already being used, and initial survey results are being reviewed, with follow-up questions being worked on. An initial phone call with key stakeholders is being coordinated.

A Re-entry forum is in development for October 2019. This will include Probation, all school districts, out of home placements, and DCYC. The forum will be an opportunity for individuals to speak to their current re-entry processes as well as allow for time to network and build relationships with each other as we move into the next school year.

### Data

Challenges being addressed is that data exists for nearly all areas within the JJ space, but it is not accessible in a single source and is often problematic. Systemic analysis and reporting work continue to be explored and forged to promote system reform efforts.



### Other

Two Douglas County Teams participated in the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform at Georgetown University Racial & Ethnic Disparities (RED) and LGBTQI Certificate Programs.

The RED team is comprised of system stakeholders (Douglas County RED Coordinator, County Commissioner, PromiseShip, DCYC, County Attorney, JDAI Coordinator, UNO Center for Justice Research. This team's efforts include efforts to investigate the number of system engaged status offenders, racial & ethnic disparities among the identified status offenders, seek to reduce the identified disparities, and increase public conversations and awareness.

The LGBTQI Certificate Program team is comprised of system stakeholders (JAC, Probation, Juvenile Court, DCYC & OYS) and community partners (PromiseShip & Black and Pink). This team's capstone project is to: 1) Provide LGBTQI training to system partners, community entities, and community members. 2) Develop a policy template that can be utilized and implemented by all system stakeholders. 3) Begin data collection in an appropriate fashion at DCYC,

JAC, Probation Intake, and PromiseShip. This data will assist the continued development of future policy and training.

### Community Based Aid

Nebraska's Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program aids in the establishment and provision of community-based services for juveniles who come in contact with the juvenile justice system. The Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program is governed in statute via *Title 75, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 1, Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program.*<sup>1</sup>

Participation in the program requires that Nebraska counties develop, adopt, and submit to the Nebraska Crime Commission an approved comprehensive juvenile services community plan and an application for funding as outlined in the annual Request for Application. The procedures outlined in this document are intended to govern the distribution and management of Community-based Juvenile Services Aid funds by Douglas County. Any revisions to these procedures must be approved by the Nebraska Crime Commission.



### Advisory Council

The Board of Commissioners appoints a 7-member Advisory Council to review requests and make recommendations to the community team in the development of Douglas County's annual application for Community-based Juvenile Services Aid funding. Membership does not overlap with Community Team membership. New members participate in orientation provided by grant staff regarding the Community-based Juvenile Services Aid Program and adhere to the expectations and responsibilities outlined in Appendix A. Members serve for terms of four years, except that four of those appointed were appointed for initial terms of two years. Vacancies shall be filled in accordance with County Board policy.

### Community Team

Per state statute and regulatory guidance, the comprehensive juvenile services plan and annual application for CBA funds must be developed by a community team, comprised of members who represent the interests of the county and consist of individuals serving the community in the roles listed in the community planning resources, and formed to oversee the planning and implementation of services developed and provided within each community or region. The Steering Committee of Operation Youth Success serves as Douglas County's community team.

### The fiscal Year 2019 Award Summary

Category	Requested Amount	Match Share	Total Project Cost
A. Personnel	\$528,255	\$77,376	\$528,255
B. Consultants/Contracts	\$1,260,601	\$72,000	\$1,260,601
C. Travel	\$498	\$0	\$498
D. Operating Expenses	\$26,548	\$52,390	\$228,314
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT</b>	<b>\$1,815,902</b>	<b>\$201,766</b>	<b>\$2,017,668</b>
% Contribution	90%	10%	100%

### Work Group Attendance and Survey Feedback

#### OYS Workgroup 12-Month Summary (July 2018 - June 2019)

(OYS WGs ONLY - not including Steering Committee; or JDAI Shared WGs: DMC, Data, Case Processing) (Backbone Staff and TerraLuna NOT included in counts)

