Prevention Work Group Purpose Statement
Reduce system entry and recidivism by strengthening community support and increasing access to preventative services.

- Welcome and Introductions
  - Present: Ronda Newman, Brandy Gustoff, Lakeisha Phelps, Kyle Kinney, Fred Ross, Karla Dush, Debora Faga

- Announcements
  - Member Updates
    - On December 9th Project Everlast, Heartland Workforce Solutions and ENCAP started a 3-month transportation pilot for 16-26 year olds for education and employment needs: the young people call them at 402-384-4670, they vet them to make sure they’re eligible, then let ENCAP know the young people are ok to go, then the young people contact ENCAP directly and set up the transportation themselves. Transportation requests are completed between 8:30am-5pm and need to be planned two days in advance. Eligibility is determined by meeting Project Everlast eligibility requirements (history of: foster care, juvenile justice system, homelessness, victim of sex-trafficking, etc.)

- Activity
  - Share Resources – please let us know if there are some resources you know about in the community that still have funds for Utilities or Financial Assistance
    - Possibles: Heartland Family Service, Together, Inc., Family Housing Advising Services, some schools
  - Debrief Boys & Girls Club 2nd Community Forum
    - Mental health issues, not in the “traditional” sense, but be able to have access to someone to talk to when problems arise

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.
- Suggested: Your Life, Your Voice would be an option for that
  - Mentors
  - Activities: drive-in movies, kick ball, community cookouts/block party, marathons, a clothing drive, community basketball games
    o Debrief Urban League-2nd Community Forum on November 6th
      - (handout attached)
      - Talked a lot about problems with 211
      - Economic assistance
      - LaDonna Jones-Dunlap asked if we would help coordinate a resource fair there
    o Adjustments to work plan
      - Overlaps: mental health, 211 problems, lack of funds at the resources
      - Warm hand off from Helpline
      - They have protocols for during and after working hours; looks different during work hours (easier), than after hours
      - If basic needs can be met, that is a preventative measure to crime
- Next Steps
  o Figure out a plan to assist in letting the helplines know when resources are out of dollars, so they stop referring to those and direct to other resources
  o Invite someone from 211 to come speak with our group and share feedback from the forums with them. Ronda will contact Bradley Ekwerekwu
  o Karla will invite Darniece Amos from DHHS, Economic Assistance
- Feedback Survey – Handed out

Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 15, 2020, at OHB, Wurdeman Learning Center

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Operation Youth Success
Prevention Work Group Notes from Forum
Urban League, 30th and Lake Street
November 6, 2019

Resources

- Unable to access – Scattered System
  - 211 – Never help – Constant loop
  - Housing
    - Shelters
    - Program Requirement
    - Housing vs. Home
      - Options
      - Location, location, location
      - Fresh start still living geographically or even in house where trauma occurred
  - Hardship Assistance
    - Utilities
    - Pledge for Service at Salvation Army is demeaning??
  - Food
    - Pantry lines and ability to wait – Heart ministries
- We need a graduated process for benefits (Cliff effect)
  - Health Care
  - Child care
  - SNAP
  - Confusion around children earning income (education)

Case management options – CLIENT CHOICE

- Workers with lived experience/ empathy
- Want to work with people that “look like me”
- Options for where to go and “places for change”
  - Lack of options= forced to comply
  - Stability of system and turnover
- Need Holistic Family Approach
Poverty

- Pay Day Lending
- Barriers
  - Background – Criminal/ non-criminal history
  - Evictions
  - Credit ratings
  - Transportation
    - UBER
      - transport for 3rd shift
      - Corporate subsidy??
      - Cannot UBER under 18 – options??
    - Transit system
  - College Readiness
    - FAFSA
      - Parents – money trauma – hard conversations
      - Complexity of relationships
      - EducationQuest – Provider
- Trauma around poverty and finances
- Parents working multiple jobs
  - Parental accessibility
  - Time
  - Can we find more ways to come to them where they are at – not just in crisis, but for help and prevention

Extra areas of discussion:

Desire to develop a voice around advocacy (youth, family, community)

Resilience + Voice for youth

Social Media Bullying – Culture shift, education