Runaway Taskforce Purpose Statement
The Purpose of the Runaway Taskforce is two-fold:

- Prevent youth who are exhibiting runaway risk factors and behaviors from entering the juvenile justice system, by ensuring that appropriate community resources exist and meet the needs of youth.
- Ensure the justice system is effective, compassionate and empowers youth and their families to succeed while building an environment of mutual trust and accountability.

Welcome and Introductions
- Present: Cassandra Dittmer, Rebekka Hall, Jim Hubbard, Julie Mason, Krynn Pekny, Cara Stirts, Taylor Newton, Janee Pannkuk, Karla Dush, Debora Faga

Activity
- Discussion on how do we implement a program similar to the HFS refugee program
  - Prevention program for all youth
  - Able to give referrals for non-system involved
  - What agencies do we need to partner with? Is it possible to be able to house at some of these agencies?
    - Girls, Inc.
    - Urban League
    - Latino Center of the Midlands
    - Center for Holistic Development
    - Project Harmony
    - Boys & Girls Club – North & South
    - YES
    - YMCA
    - Northstar
    - OPL
    - CSI
    - Indian Health Coalition
    - Independent Living Specialist
  - What system points need to be at the table?
    - OPD
    - OPS
    - MYS
    - Heartland Family Service
  - How do we include students and families?
    - Need to be able to meet kids on the streets and families in their homes
    - Need to be able to build and have the “trust factor”
    - Community acceptance – people that they know
    - Be located near the families
  - What is the referral process?
    - Reach out to the parent for parental consent to be able give their name to the provider
Need to assess what direction to go; creating a new program or partner with people who are already doing the work?

Have several missing youth advocates who can go to the homes?

What are the conversations that need to be had?
  - Funding?
    - Would need to apply for a grant

Co-chair nominations
  - If anyone has more nominations please email Tracy or Karla

Updates
  - OYS
    - Catherine Rivier’s last day with OYS is tomorrow
    - CBA applications are in first advisory committee review right now; December 5th Steering Committee meeting will be focused on CBA recommendations
    - The last two modules of the Reimagining Juvenile Justice training are next week

Decision Making/Next Steps
  - Karla will send out an email with some bulleted talking points that those making reaching outs can reference when inviting them to next month’s meeting
  - These contacts will be made by members for next month’s meeting:
    - Rebekka Hall - U-Turn
    - Karla Dush - Urban League and Latino Center of the Midlands
    - Jim Hubbard – Independent Living Specialist
    - Julie Mason - Girls, Inc.
    - Taylor Newton - YES

Feedback Survey – Handed out

**Next Meeting:** Thursday December 12, 2019, from 830am-10am, UNO Barbara Weitz Community Engagement Center, Room 128

**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.