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
  o Present: Tracy Scherer, Cassandra Dittmer, Julie Mason, Taylor Newton, Rebekka Hall, Rosy Htu, Renault Brown, Janee Panakuk, Karla Dush, Debora Faga

- Activity
  o National Runaway Safeline Training Follow up meeting
    - Debrief
      - Recap of training
      - Reported that many of the training participants had utilized pieces of the training
      - KVC reported that the NRS Resource cards have been very useful and that NRS has provided them with toothbrushes that have the 800 number on them to give to the youth at no cost
      - Project Harmony has been handing out the NRS Resource cards also
      - Would like to collaborate with Project Harmony to hold trainings for other agencies
      - Participants requested various supplies to help with the training
  o Presentation on Missing Youth Risk Assessment (MYRA) - Cassandra with KVC (PowerPoint presentation attached)
    - KVC stands behind the idea of applied knowledge
    - KVC Nebraska: Missing youth – in 2016 185 incidents of missing; age range 8-18; average age 15.75
    - Nationally 800,000 youth go missing in the U.S. each year
    - KVC breaks down missing youth into 2 profiles: Runaway profile (pushed to run) and Friends profile (pulled to run-missing people they care about so they go stay with them)
    - 2018 launched the MYRA (predicting risk to go missing and risk when missing)
      - There hasn’t been anything available to predict who is going to go missing
      - Gathering missing youth data and looking at strongest predictors to go missing
      - Have identified 13 risk factors; of youth who went missing, an average of 4 risk factors were endorsed
      - Risk factors increase when youth “sleep rough” and when they are age 12 or younger
      - Youth age 12 and under, have identified 10 risk factors with an average of 2 risk factors being endorsed
      - MYRA Next Steps Matrix (attached)
        - Have created a tip sheet for caregivers
        - Encourage risk reduction
        - Practice targeted intervention
        - KVC is in the process of MYRA being validated
Most Important: of 39 critical incidents for missing child, 36 were rated high risk to go missing (92%)
What’s next?
- Validate the Next Steps Matrix
- Deep dive into the youth MYRA doesn’t detect
- Collect and evaluate data to inform our work
- KVC Health Systems implementation
- Collect input and feedback from community
No plans to share the tool at this time, but once a deeper evaluation has taken place the possibility is there

- Review on Family Engagement Data by zip code from the Missing Youth Services (MYS) program - Taylor N.
  - Top seven reported zip codes via MYS intakes (handout attached)
  - 68111 is the top reported zip code
  - These zip code areas need centers for youth to be able to go to engage in activities they are interested/engaged in

- List of agencies that can foster community response – NE Family Helpline has an in-house map that a counselor can access for a particular zip code/area, but it is only accessible by the counselor (this information was relayed by Krynn and further discussion will occur at the next meeting)

- Work plan - discuss next steps – tabled to next meeting

- Decision Making/Next Steps
  - What questions do we need to ask to find caregivers who are willing to work with this task force?
  - Collaborate and apply for funding
  - If any member knows of someone who might like to join the task force, please bring them to the next meeting; if you are interested in becoming a co-chair or would like to nominate someone, please email or call Tracy or Karla

- Feedback Survey – handed out

**Next Meeting:** Thursday November 14th, 2019, 8:30am-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.
Missing Youth Services (MYS):
Reported addresses via MYS intakes
October 2018 - October 9, 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zip Code</th>
<th>County</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>68111</td>
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<td>68137</td>
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KVC Nebraska

Missing Youth Risk Assessment

Next Steps Matrix

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HIGH RISK TO GO MISSING</th>
<th>LOW RISK TO GO MISSING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LOW RISK WHEN MISSING</td>
<td>LOW RISK WHEN MISSING</td>
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**Next Steps:**
- Provide the youth with National Runaway Safeline information
- Provide the caregiver with "Reducing Risk to go Missing: Tips for Caregivers"
- Complete a Risk Management/Safety Plan specific to risk to go missing

**Next Steps:**
- Provide the youth with National Runaway Safeline information
- Provide the caregiver with "Reducing Risk to go Missing: Tips for Caregivers"
- Complete a Risk Management/Safety Plan specific to risk to go missing

**Youth Support**
1. Behavioral Assessment
2. Targeted individual plan to decrease risk factors, increase protective factors, and reflect youth's goals
3. Monitor progress and adjust services as needed
Knowledge
providing a foundation (but not a solution)
KVC Nebraska: Missing Youth

- 2016
  - 185 incidents of missing
  - Age range 8-18; average age 15.75
~800,000

Children go missing annually in the U.S.
If all of the runaway youth in the U.S. lived in one city, it would be the 5th largest city in the country.
Demographics

- 13-17 Years Old
- Detachment
- Emotional/Behavioral Difficulties
- S, P, V Abuse
- Bi-Sexual
- Poor Parenting Practices
Every year, 800,000 children are reported missing nationally. Of those children:

- 45% ran away or thrown out
- 43% miscommunicated or misunderstood plans
- 8% lost or injured
- 7% abducted by family members
- 2% abducted by nonfamily

Source: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
Numbers do not add up to 100 due to multiple reports per child.
substance abuse; offending; self harm; depression; sexual assault; detachment; homelessness; sexual exploitation; sex trafficking; physical assault

Immediate Risk When Missing.
smoking; marijuana use; suicidal thoughts; suicide attempts; STDs; lower income; use of public assistance; arrest; lower education; selling drugs; greater depressive affect.
Profiles of Missing Youth

Runaway Profile:

- Leave in response to personal or placement-based difficulties
- More likely to go missing with other youth
- Stay away shorter periods of time
- Less likely to return voluntarily
- More likely to commit offenses
- More likely to sleep rough
- Likely have multiple episodes of Missing
Profiles of Missing Youth

Friends Profile:

- Leave to spend time with friends or family
- More likely to go missing alone
- Stay away longer periods of time
- More likely to return voluntarily
- Less likely to commit offenses
- Less likely to sleep rough
- Have fewer incidents of missing
KVC Nebraska: Missing Youth

× 2016
  × 185 incidents of missing
  × Age range 8-18; average age 15.75
× 2017
  × 284 incidents of missing
  × Age range 8-18; average age 14.94
× 2018
  × 118 incidents of missing
  × Age range 8-18; average age 15.71
KVC Data

- 88% Missing 1+
- 68% Delinquent Behavior
- 68% Poor School Engagement
- 65% Age 15-18
- 64% Behavioral/Mental Health Dx
- 55% Abuse Exposure
Missing Youth Risk Assessment

predicting risk to go missing and risk when missing
Strongest Predictors to go Missing

- Gone Missing 1+ (88%)
- Mental Health Dx (.43)
- Alcohol or Drug Use Issue
- Delinquent Behavior (.46)
Accumulation of Risk to go Missing

- 13 identified risk factors
- Of youth who went missing, an average of 4 risk factors were endorsed
Strongest Predictors of Risk when Missing

- Slept "Rough" when Missing
- Age 12 or Younger
Accumulation of Risk when Missing

Of youth who went missing, an average of 2 risk factors were endorsed.

10 identified risk factors
MYRA Next Steps Matrix
Responding to Risk

Low:Low
At the time of assessment the youth exhibited low risk to go missing and low risk when missing. Because there is low risk, we take low level of action to prevent an incident of missing.

High:Low/Low:High
At the time of assessment the youth was high risk to go missing or high risk when missing. Because there is moderate risk, we take moderate level of action to prevent an incident of missing.

High:High
At the time of assessment the youth was high risk to go missing and high risk when missing. Because there is high risk, we take a high level of action to prevent an incident of missing.
National Runaway Safeline Information

- Available 24/7
- Available via text, chat & phone
- Home Free Program
- Identify safe and sheltered place to stay
- Listen; explore options
- Mediate between youth: caregiver(s)
Reducing Risk to go Missing:
Tips for Caregivers

- Create family cohesion
- Create family support
- Get involved in school
- Set future goals
- Nurture self-esteem and efficacy
- Keep youth healthy
Risk Management/Safety Plan

- Warning signs
- Youth coping skills
- Family response
- Preparing environment
Targeted Intervention

- Facilitate a Functional Behavior Assessment
- Create a treatment plan to address function of going missing behavior
- Reduce harm or eliminate missing behavior
- Monitor and adjust treatment plan
- Engage the larger team
Learned: Doing

- How our risk clusters in programs
- Most frequently endorsed risk factors across the agency
- Knowledge and skill enhanced within program staff to mitigate risk
- Knowledge and skill enhanced across all departments to mitigate risk