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.

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Operation Youth Success
Families Work Group Notes
Tuesday, December 17, 2019
9:00-11:00 AM
Heartland Workforce Solutions

Purpose Statement: Empower families to better understand the system and engage in their youth’s care.

Families Working Group Charter

- Empowering families to better understand the system
- Engage youth and families
- Seek help when needed

- Introductions and Welcome
  - Present: Margaret Vacek, Christy Al-Nemah, Judith Gutierrez, Lakeisha Phelps, Andrea Wright, Marlon Wofford, Lakyra Johnson, Dwite Pedersen, Bridget Battafarano, Karla Dush, Debora Faga

- Updates
  - OYS
    - The last Steering Committee meeting on December 5, covered the CBA funding
    - Kim Hawekotte has been selected as the Deputy County Administrator for Juvenile Justice
    - Peg Stevens has been appointed as one of the new juvenile court judges
    - There will likely be a second Reimagining Juvenile Justice training in 2020
    - Possibility of OYS sponsoring some grant writing training in 2020, TBD
    - OYS is also exploring the possibility of having some type of funding for small grants for the work groups, again TBD
  - Member
    - The legislative session coming up in January is a short session. February 27th is Black and Brown Day and they would like to get 150 youth there to present to the legislature; there is a leadership training for the identified
youth February 13th. Judy and Marlon volunteered to help with the planning and to go – Lakyra will check to see if she can be involved; if you would like to volunteer please let Margaret know. Margaret will look for more information on this event and distribute to the group.

- Banisters Academy has seven different programs. Lakyra works with the Family Navigator group, which is a pilot program; Bridget spoke about the Goal Setting program which is a mentoring program.
- PromiseShip will be done by the end of the year; Judy will be starting with St. Francis after the first of the year
- JJC has had some challenges since their last meeting, but they are working through it; the support in the groups is great. The younger group’s main challenge is keeping from re-offending; the older group’s challenge is more emotional and mental support.

- Workgroup and Work Plans for 2020
  - Strategy 1
    - We do not have the families represented in these meetings. Talked about making the January meeting the planning meeting for subsequent months - to go to where the families are; partner with other organizations in the community to make this happen?
    - Make sure we are intentional when we start out; we need to make sure there is a need when we go. Make sure they know what we are going there for and what our intention is.
    - We need to be mindful of their time. Go into existing events instead of creating new ones.
    - Need to stay true to this group’s mission, don’t get into the weeds.
    - Find some good educational pieces; find some ways to engage the disengaged parents.
    - Bring your ideas to the January meeting: agencies, events, times, etc.
    - This strategy could then morph into the Family Council.
  - Strategy 2
    - Tabled to next meeting
  - Strategy 3
    - OYS submitted a CBA grant to have the Family Guidebook translated into different languages. The advisory committee and OYS Board approved

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the grant; It will now go before the County and the Crime Commission for final approval

- Follow Up
  - All members let Margaret know if you are interested in helping out with Black/Brown Day
  - All members bring ideas to January’s meeting regarding Family Community Meeting details as discussed in strategy 1

- Feedback Surveys – Handed out

Next meeting: January 21, 2020
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**Operation Youth Success** is bringing people together to decide what aspects of juvenile justice in Douglas County need to change and how that change will happen.