



**Operation Youth Success
Families Work Group Notes**
Tuesday, January 21, 2020
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
1. Introductions
 - a. Present: Christy Al-Nemah, Lakeisha Phelps, Vicki Londer, Sarah Fehringer, Judith Gutierrez, Dwite Pedersen, Rodney Evans, Karla Dush, Debora Faga
 2. OYS Updates
 - a. 2020 Nebraska Juvenile Justice Association Conference – Colleen Brazel, Project Harmony, and Andrea Wright, Heartland Family Service, will present on Finding Missing Juveniles, Now What?; Janee Pannkuk, OYS, and Kira Kaltenbach, SOGIE Task Force, are presenting on Supporting All Youth-LGBTQ/GNC Douglas County; Keith Miller, TerraLuna, is presenting on Engaging the Live Experience of the Juvenile Justice System.
 - b. 2020 Black and Brown Nebraska Youth Advocates (flyer attached) – Leadership Training at UNO CEC, Thursday, February 18, 10am-3:30pm; Legislative Day at the State Capital, Thursday, February 27, 8am-8pm
 - c. Juvenile Justice Councils: The first Council has been going for about a year now and includes youth ages 19-26 who have had contact with the juvenile justice system. Now have a second Council geared toward ages 14-18; one of the rules of the groups is that you cannot reoffend and, unfortunately, all of the younger group members reoffended, so we're looking at changing things up with the younger group. We are still recruiting, so if you know of any youth who might benefit and would be interested, please contact Lakeisha or Karla.

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.

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**.

3. Member Updates and Events

- a. St. Francis has now completely taken over all the case loads
- b. NFSN now has a contract with St. Francis
- c. Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP) Conference for youth coming up the first week in February
- d. Metro Area Youth Services (MAYS) is gearing up for their summer programs

4. Work Plan Updates for 2020

- a. Strategy 1 – Marlon Wofford is the person who will be getting this up and running; will get a meeting set up with Marlon to figure out how to recruit – Karla, Judy, Lakeisha, Rodney and Dwite are willing to attend and support Marlon.
- b. Strategy 2 – Keep and continue all Action Steps; continue recruitment and funding efforts
- c. Strategy 3 – a. Submitted a CBA grant for translation of the Guidebook into different languages, it was approved in the first and second rounds and is now awaiting Nebraska Crime Commission approval – need to get more printed and distributed to schools, probation, DCYC, etc.; b. Still trying to get funding for the vignettes; c. Courts are not open to having this position back – remove this action step.
- d. Strategy 4 – a. Have provided trainings (Family Engagement 1.0 and 2.0), would like to continue with 3.0, partner with agencies and entities to connect and find out what types of educational items families would like to have; b. Continue with this action step

5. Next Steps

- a. Set up a meeting with Marlon – Judy will follow up with Marlon to get a date and time set, and will let Karla, Lakeisha, Rodney and Dwite know
- b. Rodney will talk to their parent’s group to see what, if any, topics families might like information on and if
- c. Karla will follow up with Margaret about printing more of the Guidebook
- d. Lakeisha will let everyone know about the next JJC meeting time and more information about the WRAP conference

6. Feedback Survey – Handed out

Next Meeting: February 18, 2020, at Heartland Workforce Solutions, 5752 Ames Ave

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