



**Operation Youth Success  
Policy and Advocacy Work Group Notes**

Monday, January 27, 2020

8:30-10:00 AM

**UNO, Barbara Weitz Community Engagement Center, Room 128**

Policy and Advocacy Work Group Purpose Statement

The purpose of the OYS Policy and Advocacy Work Group, is to codify best practices and change policies that hinder the juvenile justice system, including coordinating policy-related action items that arise in the work groups.

- I. Welcome and Introductions
  - a. Present: A'Jamal Byndon, Jessica Coffman, Shawne Coonfare, Christine Henningsen, James Hubbard, Margaret Vacek, Janee Pannkuk, Karla Dush, Debora Faga
  
- II. Announcements
  - a. OYS Updates
    - i. JJPF if this afternoon, 2-4 pm, at the Douglas County Extension Office; Urban League of Nebraska and the Nebraska Urban Indian Health Coalition will be presenting on their services and the support they provide the community
    - ii. Kim Hawekotte is the new Deputy County Administrator for Juvenile Justice; she's 3 weeks in and may come to this work group meeting at some point in time
    - iii. Colleen Brazil, Project Harmony, and Andrea Wright, NE Family Support Network, were selected to present at the upcoming NJJA Conference
    - iv. Janee Pannkuk and Kira Kaltenbach, with the SOGIE Task Force, were also selected to present
    - v. The next Steering Committee meeting is February 20, 8:30 am, in the Douglas County Civic Center, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor Jesse Lowe Conference Room; they may be looking at our proposal for advocating on legislative bills

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### III. Activity

#### a. Legislative Bill Updates

- i. LB254 (McCollister) Adopt the Fair Chance Hiring Act, placed on final reading 3/12/19 (in favor)
- ii. LB230 (Pansing-Brooks) Provide for room confinement of juveniles as prescribed (reduction of solitary confinement), placed on final reading 1/27/20 (in favor)
- iii. LB132 (Pansing-Brooks) Change penalties for certain felonies committed by persons under nineteen years of age, placed on general file 5/23/19, and LB 1117 Change sentencing provisions for crimes committed by a person under twenty-one years of age and change provisions relating to jurisdiction over juveniles, Judiciary Committee hearing 2/13/20, (talked about writing a letter in favor)
- iv. LB231 (Pansing-Brooks) Right to Counsel, which has stalled, under debate, needs 33 votes to return to floor (in favor)
- v. LB940 (Pansing-Brooks) Change a provision regarding the sealing of juvenile records, just came out of committee (in favor)
- vi. There are a bunch of YRTC bills right now that will probably be bundled into one or two bills, none of which has been set for hearing yet (table this one until we get an update)
- vii. LB941 (Hunt) Create the Nebraska Youth in Care Bill of Rights (if the youth is in out-of-home care, under child welfare or probation you have the same rights as any other youth; permitted to attend religious services and activities of the child's choice to be balanced with the rights of the child's biological parents, free from unreasonable search and seizure, free from discrimination, reasonable visitation with biological family, etc.), hearing on January 30 (in favor)
- viii. LB147 (Groening) Change the Student Discipline Act to provide for use by a teacher or administrator of necessary physical contact or physical restraint and provide procedures and grounds for removal from a class in response to student behavior is on the floor but in filibuster and there are 10 pending amendments on it; under debate, needs 33 votes to return to the floor (against)
- ix. LB998 (Merman) is on providing teacher training and Margaret is going down with her co-worker who is testifying on it today regarding tools and

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strategies to prevent kids from being removed from the classroom (in favor)

- x. LB1095 (McDonnell) Authorize counties containing a city of the metropolitan class to establish juvenile justice programs, Judiciary Committee hearing 2/6/20 (table this one until we get an update)
  - xi. LB1169 (Cavanaugh) Create the Nebraska Integrated Juvenile Data Governing Body and the Nebraska Juvenile Justice Information System, Judiciary Committee hearing 2/6/20 (table this one until we get an update)
- b. 2020 Calendar Schedule
    - i. Change the meeting schedule to meet monthly through April in order to be able to weigh in during the legislative session, then take a short break and start back up again meeting every other month starting in July and through the end of the year
  - c. 2020 Working Plan Updates
    - i. Strategy 1: Have done the first action step. Add “identify barriers” and the JJC has identified barriers to youth; need to identify family barriers. Would like Kim Hawekotte to attend these meetings and also the co-chair meetings.
    - ii. Strategy 2: 1<sup>st</sup> action step change to ongoing and add sending out the Policy notes to the co-chairs, so they have them. 2<sup>nd</sup> action step change target date to June 2020. 3<sup>rd</sup> action step stays. 4<sup>th</sup> action step will be moved to Strategy 4 and changed from explore to implement and changed to January 2021.
    - iii. Strategy 3: Codify national best practices for youth and families involved or at risk of becoming involved in the juvenile justice system, which eliminate systemic barriers: Action Step A: change from runaway to detention as runaway has been completed. Action Steps B Action Step C add. Action Step D: ask Mary and Joy
    - iv. Strategy 4: Action Step A: Tap into what other advocacy agencies are already doing and share information through other agency events. Action Step B: Action Step C: create an event to share information on legislative bills; include senators?
  - d. Status of Advocacy Guidelines Memo-OYS
    - i. Recap: If a Senator requests OYS to testify at a hearing or to write a letter taking a position, the individual who gets the request would have to get it

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in writing, present it to this work group, we would decide to accept or deny the invitation and whether in favor or against; we then would have to notify the Steering Committee of our determination and the reasons why we made the decision and they have one week to respond. If there is no comment that represents an assent; if the majority of the Steering Committee is opposed to taking a position, we could still provide information in a neutral capacity. If testifying in a neutral capacity, we have to notify the Steering Committee, but don't have to get permission.

- ii. Janee suggested taking it to the Exec Team, having them put in their feedback and then notifying the Steering Committee, instead of taking it to the Steering Committee as a whole; since time is a consideration it might speed up the process. She would like to bring it up to the Exec Team on a call and have Christine sit in on it; 2/12 would be the first available call date.
- e. Community Tour Updates-OYS
  - i. This work group feels that these are more of a "scared straight" type of practice, which is not considered a best practice
  - ii. It was originally brought to this group by Chris Rodgers. He has not brought it up recently; Janee will ask in Exec Team call this week.
- f. Follow Up Items
  - i. Christine will join the Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> Exec Team call
  - ii. Janee will follow up with Chris on the community tours
  - iii. Christine will present legislative updates and our process of advocating guidelines to the February 20<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee meeting
  - iv. Karla will make updates to the work plan with the suggested edits

#### IV. Feedback Survey – Handed out

**Next Meeting:** Monday, February 24, 2020, 8:30am to 10am, at the Barbara Weitz Community Engagement Center, Marion Ivers Board Room, Room 128

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