



**Operation Youth Success
Prevention Work Group Notes**

Wednesday, February 19, 2020

3:00-5:00 PM

Omaha Home for Boys, Wurdeman Learning Center

Prevention Work Group Purpose Statement

Reduce system entry and recidivism by strengthening community support and increasing access to preventative services.

1. Welcome and Introductions

- a. Present: Kyle Kinney, Andrea Wright, Ronda Newman, Reshea Bristol, Kyra Larsen, Fratina McCraney, Fred Ross, Melissa Schaefer (by phone), Karla Dush, Debora Faga

2. Activity

- a. 2-1-1 Helpline Presentation-Fratina McCraney, Supervisor, 2-1-1 Helpline
 - i. 24-hour information referral helpline (United Way of the Midlands); main goal is to refer people to agencies
 - ii. Direct services: Rent deposit and utility deposit assistance, funded through Omaha World Herald Goodfellows Charity (rent and utilities) and Common Fund of the Heartland (only for utilities)
 - iii. All service resources are zip code based, but they do try to obtain other demographic information
 - iv. If they take an application for financial assistance they do require more information; applications are all done over the phone and the applicant sends in documentation
 - v. Do have transportation assistance through Lyft; one-time round-trip ride for medical, employment or food needs
 - vi. Went 24/7 last October
 - vii. Added text messaging about a year and half ago (text their zip code to 898211) and recently updated their website and are also looking for funding to add an App
 - viii. Have provided 2-1-1 cards to OPD to give to families

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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**.

- ix. Try to assess caller's situations when they call in, in order to decide if the caller needs to be referred to a service or to take an application
 - x. They're in a week on/week off schedule right now: They take applications one week and then the next week the applications are processed; during the processing week they don't take any applications
 - xi. 2-1-1 gives the referral information to the caller and it's the caller's responsibility to connect with the referral; they do encourage the caller to call 2-1-1 back if they are unable to receive assistance from the referral
 - xii. Once they fill out the application and the documentation is received (they get 7 days to turn in their documentation), it takes approximately seven days to be approved or denied; the applicant is informed at application time that assistance is not guaranteed
 - xiii. They only call applicants if they are able to help. If they are not able to help, they do not call them, but encourage the applicant to call them back and check the status of the application
 - xiv. There is a lifetime cap of \$1,000 per person for Goodfellows funding; Common Funds have a yearly cap of \$500
 - xv. They do stop referring to agencies if they know the agency is out of money and, right now, there are no agencies that have assistance money available except for 2-1-1
 - xvi. Nebraska 2-1-1 shares everything with Iowa; serve the entire State of Nebraska, nine counties in SW Iowa and the quad cities area in Iowa
 - xvii. Only refer to other services if they know the applicant's needs fit the referral services abilities better or if 2-1-1 is in their processing week
 - xviii. They do a services update yearly
 - xix. Top needs: Utilities, housing, food, transportation, information services (if someone just needs a number to a service); top unmet needs: food, housing, transportation
- b. Follow up-Discuss potential dates for NE Helpline to present on Your Life, Your Voice at Boys & Girls Club and Urban League
- i. Your Life, Your Voice is geared toward youth, its anonymous, and you can chat, text, call or use the app (call is 24/7, text is noon to 1am, chat varies as to volume)
 - ii. www.yourlifeyourvoice.com is the nationwide website and all information can be found on there

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- iii. Aleah and Kyle will connect to discuss logistics of a presentation at Boys and Girls Club (date, time, who from Your Life, Your Voice will present, support needed from WG members)
- c. Work plan Updates
 - i. For the new members, quickly reviewed the work plan and copies were taken to look at for the next meeting in order to discuss updates
- 3. Announcements
 - a. OYS Updates
 - i. Steering Committee meeting is tomorrow morning in the Jesse Lowe Conference Room, 3rd floor, Douglas County Civic Center, 8:30am-11am
 - b. Member Updates
 - i. OHB has an Open House next Tuesday for the Residential Stabilization Program
 - ii. Nebraska Children's Home education classes will be starting for grandparents, "Raising Your Grandchildren", fatherhood classes are starting in April or May, both of these are no cost
 - iii. Teen Outreach Program (TOP) is looking for community projects for their teens; it's a nationwide program that is funded through DHHS
- 4. Next Steps
 - a. Meredith from Eastern Nebraska Community Action Program (ENCAP) is going to come to our next meeting and present information on their program
 - b. Your Life, Your Voice presentation at Boys and Girls Club: Aleah and Kyle
- 5. Feedback Survey – Handed out

Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 18, 2020, at the Omaha Home for Boys, Wurdeman Learning Center

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