



Operation Youth Success Families Work Group Notes

Tuesday, February 18, 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: Margaret Vacek, Lakeisha Phelps, Dawn Cornelius, Michelle Salter, Judith Gutierrez, Andrea Wright, Dwite Pedersen, Marlon Wofford, Rodney Evans, DeShone Lynch, Vicki Brewer, Christy Al-Nemah, Tom Hanks, Janee Pannkuk, Karla Dush, Debora Faga
 2. OYS Updates
 - a. Steering Committee meeting this Thursday, 8:30 – 11 am at the Jesse Lowe Conference Room, 3rd floor, Douglas County Civic Center
 - b. 2nd Reimagining Juvenile Justice cohort training coming up this summer; the curriculum will be the same as last fall's training, but the target attendance will be different
 - c. School-Based Arrest Task Force meeting today at 4pm in the UNO CEC Room 128; Deputy Chief Gonzalez will be attending to give us an update on their school-based arrest data
 - d. There is some movement on the video vignettes; hopefully this spring the ones surrounding Youth Impact! and the JAC will be started
 3. Member Updates and Events
 - a. NJJA Conference in Kearney, May 6-8
 - b. First Annual RED Conference coming up October 29-30, location TBD
 - c. If you are working with any kids who have gang associations, MAYS is recruiting now for the Hoods to the Woods trips, first and third weeks in July. A total of 20 kids are needed for each trip, ages 12 to 19; this will be the 4th year they have done this.

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.

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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**.

- d. Probation has started using QR codes for surveys; if people don't want to fill out an actual survey they can scan the code and it takes them to a survey that they can answer on their smart phone
4. Follow up items
- a. Family Council update
 - i. Had a meeting last week to brainstorm some ideas
 - 1. Have some suggestions for names for the group; looking for feedback
 - a. Family's Thoughts & Voices
 - b. Speak Your Voice – Parents-Grandparents-Aunt/Uncle
 - c. Justice Talk / Justice Speaks
 - d. Speak Up
 - e. Share Your Voice
 - f. Talk & Walk
 - g. Claim Your Voice
 - h. **Speak-Act-Change (A Family Justice Council – It Takes a Village)** / the work group favored this one
 - 2. Have talked to some GALs about coming to present and answer questions
 - 3. Looking at mid/late March for the first meeting – tentatively Thursday, March 26
 - 4. Get a flyer made up and out to the group so it can be distributed well in advance of the meeting
 - a. Include information on food and child care
 - b. Do not include stipend information but will discuss at the meeting
 - b. Juvenile Justice Council update
 - i. Had an informational meeting
 - ii. LB132 (Pansing-Brooks) which changes the penalties for certain felonies committed by persons under nineteen years of age, was discussed at length; the Council sent a letter of support that included their suggestions about the bill. Christine Henningsen read their letter at the hearing, which was well received.
 - iii. Black and Brown Day registration is closed, but Lakeisha had several members of the Council express an interest in attending; can we make that happen?
- c. Rodney – Parent's night meeting (for our first community forum)
 - i. Last meeting we talked about going into the community and partnering with agencies for a parent's night in order to answer questions they might have with their child's involvement in the juvenile justice system
 - ii. Possible subjects to discuss:
 - 1. What is a Guardian Ad Litem and what are they supposed to do?

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2. Have a police representative come and answer questions about the arrest process.
 - iii. There is a parent that reached out to Rodney about setting up another event, he will speak with her and ask if there is a topic she would like to hear discussed
5. Work Plan – approve revisions
 - a. Printed work plan has not yet been updated; will update and get sent out to the group
6. Juvenile Justice 3.1
 - a. Topics of interest:
 - i. Have the planning office come and talk about property development in North Omaha
 - ii. Get an overview on the progress of the legislative bills pertaining to juvenile justice
 - iii. Juvenile Justice Center update
 - iv. Please email Margaret with other suggestions as they occur to you
7. Next steps and follow up
 - a. Marlon will work on the Family Council flyer and send the information to Rodney by next Tuesday; then Rodney will have it ready to go by the following Friday
 - b. Dawn will talk to the Pastor at Clair Memorial United Methodist Church to see if we could use their space for the Family Council meeting on 3/26
 - c. Lakeisha will talk to the JJC members who expressed an interest in attending Black and Brown Day and get back to Karla and Margaret with a firm number; Margaret will reach out to Jo Geils with the Coalition and see if we could obtain an extra table
 - d. Karla will update the work plan and send to the work group
 - e. Rodney will advise a tentative date for Parent's night meeting, as well as a topic of interest
 - f. All members email Margaret with their suggestions for Juvenile Justice 3.1 (presenters to share information at our Families Work Group meetings)
8. Feedback survey – Handed out

Next Meeting: March 17, 2020, at Heartland Workforce Solutions, 5752 Ames Ave

WEAR GREEN!

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