



**Operation Youth Success
Runaway Taskforce Notes**

Thursday, March 12, 2020

8:30am – 10:00am

UNO Barbara Weitz Community Engagement Center, Room 128

Runaway Taskforce Purpose Statement

The Purpose of the Runaway Taskforce is two-fold:

- Prevent youth who are exhibiting runaway risk factors and behaviors from entering the juvenile justice system, by ensuring that appropriate community resources exist and meet the needs of youth.
 - Ensure the justice system is effective, compassionate and empowers youth and their families to succeed while building an environment of mutual trust and accountability.
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- Welcome and Introductions
 - Present: Tracy Scherer, Taylor Newton, Nicole Seymour, Shelly Salter, Rosy Htu, Jim Hubbard, Colleen Roth, Teffany Murphy, Shawne Coonfare, Cara Stirts, Deshone Lynch, Kim Hawekotte, Jill Anderson, Rebekka Hall, Krynn Pekny, Keenan Page, Karla Dush, Debora Faga
 - Activity
 - Approve work plan
 - Asked for volunteers for small committee for strategy 1 action step 2.
 - Map what does the coordinated response look like then go back and decide how RED is being addressed in this step
 - Strategy 1 action step 1 – We have looked into Douglas and Dodge Counties; have had Fremont in to present their information – follow up with Douglas and Dodge to see how they address RED, do they even track this information and, if so, what are they doing with it? Find out if Lancaster County is doing anything under their CBA funding.
 - Discussed implementation step Data Walk; by July 2020 look at the data we have available and discuss what further data we may need
 - Decide on common definitions so we are comparing apples to apples
 - Add a column for RED so we are being intentional about addressing it throughout the work plan for each and every strategy
 - Add Strategy 3: Develop a communication and training plan to educate the community on this population
 - Community Partnership Vision Discussion
 - How can we reach the community so that we can work on the preventative piece
 - In 2020 we are trying to expand and bring more community partners together to bridge that gap, so when we get to 2021 we can have decided what a true community response looks like that is family-focused and truly about the community
 - Discussed having a neutral body holding the purse strings
 - Need to decide on the model before we start deciding how all the pieces are going to work
 - Start with the central navigation part (hub)

- Connect with organizations in the community that are already doing some of this work and bring them together in the model we decide on
 - Heartland Family Service is doing this type of work with Rosy and Shaw with the refugee population
 - Family driven and focused
 - Start with runaways, non-system involved youth, in a specific zip code possibly 68111
 - Douglas County Community Response Team is made up of 14 organizations, who are a lot of the usual players; no case management, it's a navigation service
 - We wouldn't be duplicating efforts because, with this, we're looking at having the trust builders in the community working with families not just navigating to services
 - Where will the funds come from?
 - Are we able to incorporate the Reception Center into this initiative?
- Decision Making/Next Steps
 - Include Runaway training participants in discussion of where we are headed
 - Revisit the training and communication piece
 - Tracy will follow up with members to invite them to join sub-committees for the following:
 - Meeting to discuss the OPD Data position
 - Incorporating the Reception Center
 - Training and communication plan
 - Kim will follow up with Lancaster County regarding RED data/their community response
 - We will not meet in April due to the Speaking for Children Conference. This will also provide time to have the aforementioned meetings
- Feedback Survey – Handed out

Next Meeting: Thursday, May 14, 2020, 8:30am-10am, UNO Barbara Weitz Community Engagement Center, Room 128

OYS 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**.