



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. Present:
 - a. Margaret Vacek, Andrea Wright, Shelly Salter, Tom Hanks, Marlon Wofford, Dawn Cornelius, Lakeisha Phelps, A'Jamal Byndon, Janee Pannkuk, Karla Dush, Debora Faga
 2. OYS Updates
 - a. Continuing to work from home until April 30
 - b. CEC is also closed until at least the end of April
 - c. In May we'll hopefully be able to start holding some smaller in person meetings, but we may have to adjust some meetings in May also
 3. Member Updates
 - a. Detention population is at 80 right now, that's about where it's been for 3 years; 33 of the kids are on adult charges. Have some new data that is being worked on for the kids who are on adult charges to see how they can be moved more efficiently through the system. Biggest hang up right now is there aren't any placements taking kids except for YRTC who is required. Although Boys Town will take some, if they have been in detention for 14 days and have no symptoms. There may be 11 kids who can move in 5-7 business days.
 - b. There have been some changes during this time that, hopefully, will continue. When kids are released from probation intake to an ATD they used to have to go to a detention hearing after that. There was legislation passed a couple of years ago that allowed the kid to waive their right to that hearing if they were ok with where they were being placed. Families and youth were still having to come to the courthouse to sign the waiver because they couldn't come up with a different way to do it. Now, lawyers are being allowed to sign the document for them when

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they request that the hearing be waived. If we can show that there has been no negative impact from this change, it may be allowed to continue.

- i. Luke Cortese, JDAL's data person, is going to pull some data regarding specific changes that have been made in our court process, plus he's working on the Casey Foundation data as they have been gathering bigger COVID-19 information. Our hope would be, for the case processing pieces, to run through the Case Processing Committee to say, these are the changes we've made, this is how it impacted the kids. If we can say this change didn't result in any negative impact that we can see from regular case processing, then we can suggest that these changes continue once the pandemic is stabilized.
 - ii. The lawyers being allowed to sign the waiver for their clients is at least one data piece we can collect and we know there are others, so we're listening to other groups and getting what we can.
 - iii. Casey Foundation is requesting the following information: detention population on the first day of the month for January, February, March and April, the number of detention admissions for January, February and March, have we had any COVID-19 cases involving youth or staff in our detention facilities, are we able to break down this information by race and ethnicity, what categories do we use to represent race and ethnicity, and any positive stories in response to the pandemic.
 - iv. Luke is in charge of gathering the data for the State of Nebraska.
- c. RED Committee has switched the conference that is being planned in October to a virtual platform and have a lot of people/organizations that want to help; don't have everything planned yet, but will keep everyone posted as it happens.
 - d. Judge Kelley is retiring next week.
 - e. All Communities Outreach has incorporated doing family check-ins twice a week, still doing parenting classes via Zoom and Google Duo (it's a Google app), helping families get the resources that they need. Also holding a Mother's Day event on Saturday, May 9 from 10am – 12pm; asking for donations of cake mix with decorations, so they can have youth be able to make cakes for their mothers for Mother's Day; donations can be left at All Communities Outreach Services, 112 E. Mission Ave., Bellevue, NE.
 - f. Heartland Family Service (HFS) is starting a refugee food pantry at the Generations Center, so the refugee community has access to appropriate foods.
 - g. HFS is trying to find ways to serve the refugee population while keeping the distancing rule.
 - h. Restorative justice is taking a big hit; concerned about being able to sustain the program without more support.

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4. Work Plan Status
 - a. Draft approval
 - i. Added the RED column
 - ii. Provide support to the Family Council, invite them to be part of other work groups so we have the family element across the board.
 - iii. Continuing to support the JJC.
 - iv. In the process of getting additional guides printed. Funds were approved for the translation of the guide. Janee is working with Probation and the JAC to identify which languages they support. July 1st is when we are able to begin translation of the handbook
 - v. A'Jamal asked:
 1. How do we track any changes/outcomes regarding race that may be happening; how do we link our work plan back to RED
 2. There are a lot of other groups that would like to partner with us with regard to events we have planned.
 3. How do we get people in systems to talk to us; how do we survey our work for people who are already in the system?
 4. He suggested adding a number goal where applicable in our work plan. For example, Goal of one forum per quarter.
 - vi. One of this group's goals is to meet the families where they are; we would like to hold some of our meetings in the community, gather their feedback and engage community members, which is where S.A.C. (family council) is heading when we can get back to connecting to people
 - vii. Change OYS groups to OYS/shared JDAI groups
 - viii. Remember this is a fluid document and changes will be made as we go
 - b. Video vignette update
 - i. As soon as we have more mobility the vignettes will start being worked on. Youth Impact! will be the first one, but the JAC will kind of be done at the same time
 - ii. After that, the Families WG will decide which ones come next
 - c. Speak.Act.Change (A Family Justice Council – It Takes A Village)
 - i. Dawn sent a thank you letter to Pastor P and let her know the Family Council meeting was postponed; Pastor P has stated that they are still willing to have the meeting at Clair Memorial when we have an alternate date
 - d. Juvenile Justice Council
 - i. JJC members were asked for feedback on the use of isolation and the video vignettes.
 - e. Family Engagement 3.0 Training and Programming
 - i. Maybe do a repeat on the role of the GAL or CASA
 - ii. Would like to get input from people who have been in our system (start with our JJC members); maybe a panel discussion
 - iii. Do a restorative justice training (Heartland/Concord Mediation)
 - iv. It is a possibility to record these to share with the community

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5. Next Steps
 - a. Family Engagement 3.0 topics:
 - i. Have the JJC as a panel discussion
 - ii. Restorative Justice
6. Feedback Survey – Sent out

Next Meeting: May 19, 2020, 9am-11am, location and/or Zoom TBD

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